



Phase 1 of ‘The Grove’ includes 10 buildings:

Apartments available in Sept.

Construction is proceeding at a rapid pace on Taylor County’s newest and largest residential development – “The Grove Apartments” – located at 2640 Byron Butler Parkway.

“Work on the clubhouse (amenity building and leasing office) is close to being dried-in, so we will be starting on the interior buildout shortly,” stated Todd Cohen of Prospect Real Estate Development Group.

“Meanwhile, you can see that we have commenced vertical construction (framing, trusses and roofs) for five of the first eight residential buildings in Phase 1, with the final three building foundations to be completed in the coming weeks,” Cohen added.

“We remain on track to have the apartment homes available for leasing and occupancy by Sept. 1,” Cohen said.

Each apartment building will house between 16-24 units and vary from two to three stories, according to Cohen.

“We expect one building to be delivered roughly every 25-30 days starting in mid-September, with the last building in Phase 1 ready for occupancy by late February 2024,” he stated.

“We are also hoping to start construction on Phase 2 well prior to Phase 1 being completed,” Cohen added.

According to Cohen, Phase 1 consists of 10 different buildings (eight residential buildings, a clubhouse and amenities building and a maintenance and car wash building).

Prospect Real Estate Development Group Chairman Richard Zahn was joined by city officials in turning the ceremonial first shovel of dirt during a groundbreaking ceremony held in October 2022.

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Once both phases are completed, The Grove is projected to include 344 new “luxury, upscale” workforce and family residential housing units at “competitive rental rates, with many amenities that do not currently exist in the local market.”

National Day of Prayer



Faith leaders from across the community gathered at Rosehead Park Thursday to lead services observing the National Day of Prayer. Dozens of supporters attended, joining in prayer for the community, the schools and the country. A hotdog lunch was served afterward.

City may not fill public works director position

The City of Perry is seeking to fill a number of open positions -- ranging from police and code enforcement officers to city attorney -- but is not yet actively looking to fill the vacancy left by former City Public Works Director Chester McAfee.

The decision not to replace McAfee, who resigned on March 9, prompted questions about accountability from Councilwoman Venita Woodfaulk, who complained about mowing, yard debris and white goods pick-up in her area of the

city at the city’s April 25 meeting.

According to City Manager John Hart, the city has three vacant police officer positions, as well as a records clerk position and is interviewing candidates

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For vacant city attorney post

City to interview 2 attorneys on May 9

The city council is scheduled to interview two candidates for its vacant city attorney position at its Tuesday, May 9 meeting.

At the city’s April 25 meeting, Mayor Shirlee Hampton announced two attorneys had applied for the vacancy, including local attorney Charita Hope Demps and C.

Jackson Latner of Plano, Texas, originally of Tallahassee, who states he is “transitioning back to the Florida Panhandle.”

Former City Attorney Ray Curtis clarified his final day with the city would be Friday, April 28 at 5 p.m.

On a motion by Woodfaulk and second by Brynes, the council voted

5-0 to interview the two candidates, eventually agreeing to do so at their next regular meeting on May 9.

In a letter to the council, Demps states she has 22 years of complex litigation experience in Georgia and Florida, including

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County must buy .01 credit for \$5,000

1st Ave. paving needs small mitigation credit

Due to an apparent “rounding error,” the county has been required to purchase an additional 1/100th of a mitigation credit to offset the identified environment impacts associated with the upcoming 1st Avenue widening and resurfacing project in Steinhatchee.

In January, the Taylor County Commission agreed to purchase 0.20 freshwater and 0.26 saltwater mitigation credits from the Florida Gulf Coast Mitigation Bank at a combined cost of \$148,000 for the 1st Avenue project.

The funds will come out of the \$2.6 million the

county will receive through the Florida Department of Transportation’s (FDOT) Small County Outreach Program (SCOP) and County Incentive Grant Program (CIGP).

The process of securing the necessary environmental permits, including the need for mitigation credits, has significantly delayed the project, which has been in the design phase since late 2020.

According to County Engineer Kenneth Dudley, the county’s original credit purchases were presented to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and the Suwannee

River Water Management District (SRWMD) in order to finalize their permits.

“The regulatory agencies determined that rounding of mitigation areas within the calculation understated the impact and required the purchase of an addition 0.01 saltwater mitigation credits,” Dudley said in a memorandum to the commission prior to its April 18 meeting.

Dudley noted that the additional 0.01 credit will cost \$5,000.

“As before, the project’s permit status will remain unauthorized absent

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Night with a Champion

Former FSU Heisman-winning quarterback and New York Knicks basketball player Charlie Ward (left) is pictured with Pastor Ricky Bolden (center) and former TCHS football coach Elmer Coker (right) during Tuesday night’s FCA “Night of Champions” at New Home Baptist Church.



Project will include construction of a third lane

Contractor’s Road resurfacing enters design phase

The state-funded resurfacing project on Contractor’s Road near Georgia-Pacific’s Foley Cellulose Mill has officially entered the design phase. The project is a partnership between the county, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), which is providing the funding necessary to resurface the existing two-lane roadway, and Georgia-

Pacific, which is expected to offer additional funding to construct a third lane to help alleviate traffic congestion near the mill. At its April 18 meeting, the Taylor County Commission approved a \$101,065 “not to exceed” proposal from North Florida Professional Services, Inc., (NFPS) to provide design services on the project. The county has an ongoing

professional engineering services contract with NFPS approved in 2020. The cost of the design work will come out of the \$1,033,614 the county will receive for the Contractor’s Road project from FDOT’s Small County Outreach Program (SCOP). The county approved a reimbursement agreement ➔ Please see page 3



The work on Contractor’s Road, which has now entered the design phase, is the result of a partnership between Taylor County, the Florida Department of Transportation and Georgia-Pacific.

Attorney candidates outlined work history, education

ATTORNEYS
Continued from page 1
numerous civil and criminal trials, work in consumer credit, liens/garnishments, bankruptcy, construction negligence, juvenile deprivation, divorce law, real estate closings and torts. Demps graduated from

the University of Florida Levin College of Law in 2000, ranking in the top 35% of her class, and is a member of the Florida and Georgia Bar. In November 2017, Demps left Atlanta and re-established Demps Law (formerly known as Demps Law Group from 2002-2004) as a small, mobile

private practice to develop clientele in Perry and continue representation of clients in Georgia. In the non-profit sector, Demps currently works for Refuge House, Inc., in victim advocacy as an injunction attorney for survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual violence and

stalking. “Although I have not been employed in city management, my diverse management and legal background makes me a good fit to handle the task. I am very comfortable with constructive confrontation and greatly capable of handling fast-paced, high-stress environments,”

Demps said. “Court litigation, dispute resolutions and collaborative leadership are skills that I developed under fire over time and execute efficiency. Most notably, I am a strong, self-motivated lawyer who is committed to living, thriving, and working in the City of Perry,” Demps wrote.

“Since returning to my hometown six years ago, I have contributed to this community as a caring professional and a proud resident. I am planted here, and my work reflects that as seen with Refuge House victim advocacy, the North Central Florida Boys & Girls Club Executive Board, Christian Tabernacle Church pastoral outreach, the Taylor County School Board’s grievance committee, COVID 19 Commemoration Day planning committee, Taylor County Citywide Prayer Initiative, Dreamers & Doers mentorship, and the Juneteenth Pageant training. One of my greatest assets to this job - if selected - is my commitment to the care and development of the city and people of Perry.”

In his letter to the council, Latnner stated he has been

practicing as a government lawyer for over five years – as a criminal prosecutor, civil litigator and general counselor. “Although I have spent most of my life in Texas, I am originally from Tallahassee. My wife and I – with our two young children – are transitioning back to the Florida Panhandle. I continue to serve the Potter County Attorney’s Office and Commissioners Court on a remote basis,” Latnner wrote.

Working with the Potter County Attorney’s Office since July 2018, Latnner has served as deputy county attorney, providing counsel to the commissioners court, supervising four division chiefs, six trial attorneys and support staff, following a one-and-a-half year stint as civil division chief advising various elected officials and department heads.

Latnner also served as misdemeanor prosecutor for one and a half years, in addition to running his own law office specializing in family, business and consumer protection law since July 2020.

He is a member of the Texas and Florida Bar, having graduated from Texas A&M’s School of Law in 2017.

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Half-Time Members:
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NATIONAL NURSES WEEK - MAY 6-12

National Nurses Week begins each year on May 6th and ends on May 12th, Florence Nightingale's birthday. These permanent dates enhance planning and positions National Nurses Week as an established recognition event.

As of 1998, May 8 was designated as National Student Nurses Day, to be celebrated annually. And as of 2003, National School Nurse Day is celebrated on the Wednesday within National Nurses Week (May 6-12) each year.

The nursing profession has been supported and promoted by the American Nurses Association (ANA) since 1896.

Each of ANA's state and territorial nurses associations promotes the nursing profession at the state and regional levels. Each conducts celebrations

on these dates to recognize the contributions that nurses and nursing make to the community.

The ANA supports and encourages National Nurses Week recognition programs through the state and district nurses associations, other specialty nursing organizations, educational facilities, and independent health care companies and institutions.

A Brief History of National Nurses Week

- **1953:** Dorothy Sutherland of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare sent a proposal to President Eisenhower to proclaim a "Nurse Day" in October of the following year. The proclamation was never made.

- **1954:** National Nurse Week was observed from October 11-16. The year

of the observance marked the 100th anniversary of Florence Nightingale's mission to Crimea.

- **1974:** In January of that year, the International Council of Nurses (ICN) proclaimed that May 12 would be "International Nurse Day." (May 12 is the birthday of Florence Nightingale.) Since 1965, the ICN has celebrated "International Nurse Day."

- **1978:** New Jersey Governor Brendan Byrne declared May 6 as "Nurses Day." Edward Scanlan, of Red Bank, N.J., took up the cause to perpetuate the recognition of nurses in his state. Mr. Scanlan had this date listed in Chase's Calendar of Annual Events. He promoted the celebration on his own.

- **1981:** ANA, along with various nursing organizations, rallied to

support a resolution initiated by nurses in New Mexico, through their Congressman, Manuel Lujan, to have May 6, 1982, established as "National Recognition Day for Nurses."

- **1982:** In February, the ANA Board of Directors formally acknowledged May 6, 1982 as "National Nurses Day." The action affirmed a joint resolution of the United States Congress designating May 6 as "National Recognition Day for Nurses."

- **1982:** President Ronald Reagan signed a proclamation on March 25, proclaiming "National Recognition Day for Nurses" to be May 6, 1982.

- **1990:** The ANA Board of Directors expanded the recognition of nurses to a week-long celebration, declaring May 6-12, 1991, as National Nurses Week.

- **1993:** The ANA Board of Directors designated May 6 - 12 as permanent dates to observe National Nurses Week in 1994 and in all subsequent years.

- **1996:** The ANA initiated "National RN Recognition



Day" on May 6, 1996,

to honor the nation's indispensable registered nurses for their tireless commitment 365 days a year. The ANA encourages its state and territorial nurses associations and other organizations to

acknowledge May 6, 1996 as "National RN Recognition Day."

- **1997:** The ANA Board of Directors, at the request of the National Student Nurses Association, designated May 8 as National Student Nurses Day.

Construction on apartments is planned over two phases

APARTMENTS

Continued from page 1

The multi-family gated apartment village is being constructed on a 22.5-acre parcel located between U.S. Hwy. 19 and Old Dixie Highway behind the Holiday Inn Express.

Construction is planned in two phases and was made possible in part by 10 years worth of ad valorem tax and natural gas

utility incentives granted by the City of Perry, which will not begin until a certificate of occupancy is issued once the final unit is completed.

Upon completion of both phases, The Grove is projected to include 344 new "luxury, upscale" workforce and family residential housing units.

Developers say the project will provide "workforce housing in a

luxury environment" at competitive rental rates with many amenities that do not currently exist in the local market.

Rents will be competitive with local market values when the project is released, and tailored to meet the needs of working families, Prospect officials said last year, adding that the gated community would feature a swimming pool and upscale clubhouse.

Contractor expects design work on project to take 6 to 7 months

CONTRACTOR'S ROAD

Continued from page 2

with FDOT last year for the resurfacing project.

"Under their not-to-exceed proposal, it will be NFPS's responsibility to evaluate the current condition of the roadway and to undertake all aspects required to prepare the construction plans and associated specifications that will govern improvements to provide a structurally-suitable roadway that is also compliant with current design and safety requirements," County Engineer Kenneth Dudley said in a memo to the

county commission prior to the April 18 meeting.

The scope of the project includes the reconstruction and resurfacing of approximately 0.57 mile of Contractor's Road from Foley Road (County Road 30) to the end of the county's maintenance (approaching the scale house).

Additionally, the proposed work will include a third 12-foot-wide lane, the cost of which will be covered by Georgia Pacific.

"This lane was requested by Georgia-Pacific representatives to alleviate staging of vehicles onto Foley Road as vehicles are waiting to enter the business by providing added

queuing space," Dudley said. "GP will support the proportional cost share of the project's added lane."

According to Dudley, the project will also include improvements to stormwater management components, shoulders, sidewalks, signage, pavement markings and roadside protection devices.

"NFPS anticipates beginning design services once their proposal is approved and completing such activities within six to seven months," Dudley said.

The commission approved the design proposal as part of its consent agenda at its April 18 meeting.

1st Avenue work will include 12-foot lanes, new sidewalk

MITIGATION CREDIT

Continued from page 1

this purchase," Dudley said, recommending the commission make the purchase in order to allow the project to move forward.

The commission unanimously approved the purchase as part of its consent agenda during the board's April 18 meeting.

The scope of the 1st Avenue project is to resurface and widen approximately 1.2 miles of the roadway from its current 19- to 20-foot varying width to a full 24-foot-wide travel way, Dudley said.

Additionally, improvements will be made to a large box culvert and roadway protection devices, as well as the construction of a new sidewalk.

According to Dudley, after the county's engineering contractor, Causseaux Hewett And Walpole, Inc., brought the design to near-completion, they began discussions with FDRP and SRWMD staff concerning the project's permitting obligations.

"Those discussion reached an unfortunate conclusion of the necessity to acquire wetland mitigation credits for associated dredge-

fill activities," Dudley said.

Once the county receives its permits and the design is finalized, and the completed plans will be presented to the commission along with an advertisement to seek construction firms to complete the

project.

In January, Dudley expressed concern that due to the unexpected cost of the mitigation credits, the remaining FDOT funds may not be enough to complete the project once it goes out for bids.

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VBS June 25-30
New Home Baptist Church invites youth to play their way through Vacation Bible School and learn that following Jesus changes the game. Registration is underway for the “Twists & Turns” VBS that will kick off Sunday, June 25, and continue through Friday, June 30. Classes will be held at 6 p.m. nightly. Registration is available online at <http://www.nhbcperry.com/vbs>.

VBS at Calvary will launch students on a cosmic quest

Calvary Baptist Church will launch kids on a cosmic quest where they’ll have a blast shining Jesus’ light to the world during a “Stellar” themed Vacation Bible School (VBS).
The adventure will begin Sunday, June 4, and continue through Thursday, June 8, starting at 5 p.m. nightly.

“Our VBS program is designed to help children discover the joy of following Jesus through engaging lessons, fun activities and memorable experiences. From the stars in the sky to the light of the world, our VBS program will teach your child how to let their light shine for Jesus,” organizer said.

“Our experienced and dedicated team of volunteers will guide your child through a week-long adventure filled with games, crafts and exciting lessons. Each day, your child will have the opportunity to learn about a different aspect of Jesus’ light and how it impacts their daily lives.”

Obituary



Hazel Levon Crowder

Hazel Levon Crowder
Hazel Levon Crowder left her Earthly home to enter heaven’s gates April 30, 2023, in Tallahassee.
She was born in Chicago, Ill., on Feb. 2, 1930.
While we are missing the greatest piece of our family, she has lived her life to honor the Lord and has boldly proclaimed the faithfulness and goodness of God for 93 years.
If anyone ever needed prayer, they knew to call Grandma, and she would answer the phone, even at 4 a.m. to pray.
She would not go to bed without praying out loud for her family.
She has been the cornerstone of our family, and while we can’t imagine life without her, she is exactly where she has longed to be.
She always spoke so readily about Heaven and being healed, able to walk the streets of gold without physical handicap. It was an honor to grow up under the guidance of such a Christian woman.
No matter what life threw at anyone, you always turned us to the Lord. We love you and will see you again one day.
She was predeceased by: her parents, Burl and Pearl Yeoman; her beloved husband, Horace Crowder Sr.; her sister, O’Dean Jones; and a baby great-grandson, Joshua Price.
Her survivors include: daughters, Levonne Price and Robin (Glen) Vickers; son, Ben (Martha) Crowder; her grandchildren, Jeff Jr., Shannon, Libby, Micah, Destany, Bethany, Megan and Kaity; and great-grandchildren, Tres, Kaylee, Sybil, Tristian, Malachi, Max, Hazel Grace, Judah, Ezra, Caleb and awaited Hannah Faith.

Also surviving are her two brothers, the Rev.

John Yeoman and Cloyce Yeoman, and numerous dear nieces and nephews.
Graveside services were held at Pineview Memorial Gardens in Perry on Monday, May 1, at 3 p.m. with the Rev. John Yeoman, the Rev. Dan Yeoman and the Rev. Randy Yeoman officiating.
She fought a good fight, she finished the race, she kept the faith. Welcome home thou good and faithful servant.



Lewis Edward Love

Lewis Edward Love
Lewis Edward Love, 74, of Perry passed away on April 29, 2023.
Funeral services will be held Saturday, May 6, at 11 a.m., at Mt. Olive M.B. Church, followed by interment at Springhill Cemetery.
Viewing will be held Friday, May 5, from 5-7 p.m., at the church.
He is survived by: his loving wife, Christine G. Love; two sons, Sean Love and Christopher Love (Cathy) of Perry; six daughters, Ruby Love, Tonya L. Bell (Clinton), Daisha Love of Perry, Barbara L. Purvis (Thomas) of Kingsland, Ga., Lorene L. Shields (Brian) of Savannah, Ga., and Vtoshas Love-Cabell of Austell, Ga.; three brothers, the Rev. Ernest Gent of Perry, Henry Lee Gent (Alethia) of St. Petersburg and Ronald Moore (Eve) of McAlpin; and two sisters, Lillie Mae Gent and Joann Nelson of Perry.
He also leaves behind 27 grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, a host of nieces, nephews, friends and his best buddy, Blaque.

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Jack Nathaniel Moore

Jack Nathaniel Moore
Jack Nathaniel Moore, 88, was born Nov. 7, 1934, to Oral Moore and Jessie Bell Fleming in Albany, Ga. He passed on April 25, 2023.
He had a passion for helping people. In his free time, he enjoyed fishing and gardening.
He is survived by: his wife, Ramona D. Moore; sisters, Lorene Hughes, Sandra White, Diane Holly and Judy Jenkins; sons, Willie Moore, Jack Moore Jr., Kevin Moore, Herbie Hunter and Dewayne Hunter; daughters, Suanne Moore, Linda Hunter, Tamika Hunter and Elizabeth Akowgu; and a host of in-laws, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.
Public visitation will be held Friday, May 5, from 5-6 p.m. at Trinity Funeral Home.
Celebration of Life services will be held Saturday, May 6, at 12:30 p.m. at St. Peter P.B. Church, followed by interment at Springhill Cemetery.

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Mattie Frances Whiddon English
Mattie Frances Whiddon English, 86, died May 3, 2023, at her home in Eridu.
A graveside service will be held at Lake Bird Methodist Church on Friday, May 5, at 2 p.m.
Family will receive friends on Friday starting at 1:30 p.m. at the church.
The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Lake Bird Methodist Church Cemetery Fund in honor of Mrs. English.
Burns Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.



By Sarah Hall

Our spiritual grow is a constant work in progress

Happy Mother’s Day
Preparing for Mother’s Day – saluting one of the most precious creations of almighty God on May 14, 2023, mothers!
Celebrate with lots of LOVE!
Renewing Hope
“According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to.” (2 Peter 1:3 KJV)
Our spiritual growth in Christ is a constant work in progress.
While God perfects us, it is His desire that we work with Him in developing Spiritually.
God has provided us with everything that we need, and we should use what He has given us to bring glory to Him as well as help one another.
We can only escape the corruption of this world and resist yielding to the flesh and falling back into our old sinful patterns by applying our spiritual power daily. Always praying and hoping for the best.
So, as we go about our daily routines conducting our lives, carrying out our parental and business obligations, remember to keep hope alive!
Prayer Focus/ Praying Together
Please keep these friends in your thoughts and prayers: Jerry and Cynthia Buggs, Teresa M. Ross, Betty Haney, Carl and Mary Alice Williams, Jean Ester Lee, Mother Laura Jenkins, Cherrie Sutton, Shawanda Massey, Gaye Register and Annie Mae Porter.
In Bereavement
Please keep these families in your prayers: the Rev. Tony O. Graham, pastor of Antioch M.B. Church, in the loss of his father-in-law; the families and friends of the late Jack Nathaniel Moore; and the families and friends of the late Pricilla Ruth Knapp, formerly of Perry.

Memories
Our precious memories remind us who we were in that moment in time. Revisit the times in our lives that determines who we are and who we were meant to be. Memories help keep us alive!
Wise Words
Sometimes the right phrase at the right time says it all.
Celebrating You!
There is no one else like you.
You have gifts that only you can give the world.
You have blessings others can only receive through you.
The Lord designed every detail of who you are.
He looks at you and loves you because you are His creation.
Others look at you and love you too.
Because they see who He had made you to be.
City Wide Mission Ministry
The City Wide Mission Ministry will meet Sunday, May 7, at 2:30 p.m. at St. Peter P.B. Church, the Rev. Cedric Spradley, pastor.
President Sister Irene Barnes invites all members and interested persons to attend.
A Prayer for Peace
Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.
O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.

Midway celebrates 62nd Homecoming this Sunday

Midway Baptist Church will hold its 62nd annual Homecoming celebration on Sunday, May 7.
Services will begin at 10:45 a.m. Special music will be provided by Latter Reign.
Everyone is welcome to attend, and dinner on the grounds will follow the morning service.

The church is located at 187 E. Roberts Aman Road.

St. Johns Christian Fellowship

Sunday Services

Sunday 11:00 a.m. Service
6050 Pucket Road
(Intersection of Puckett and Golf Course Rd.)
Pastor Cody McNeese

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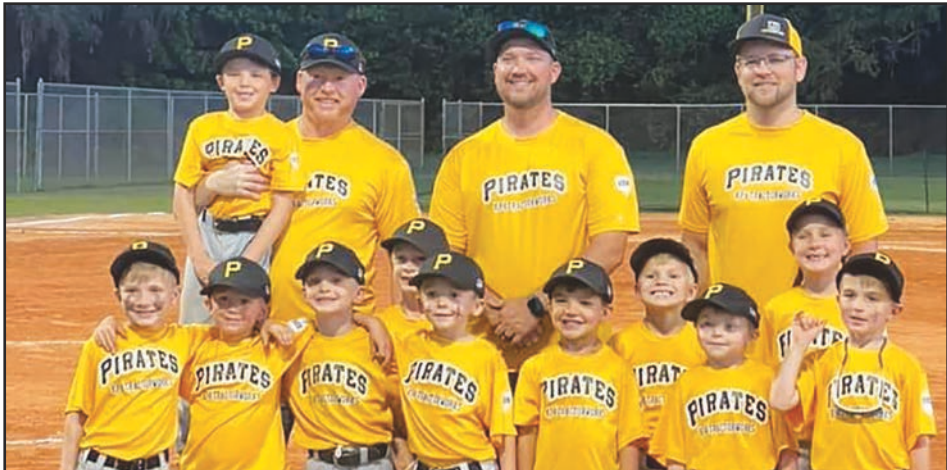
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TCBA 6U T-ball first-place Rays



TCBA 6U T-ball second-place Pirates

Keaton Beach Fishing Report

Optimist Tourney is Sat.

By PAT MCGRUFF onemorecast@gtcom.net

Well, the Perry Optimist Club Tourney is this weekend, Saturday, May 6, with big money (\$2,500) being paid out for the biggest trout.

They will be paying cash for the top five places in trout, three places for redfish and largest flounder, plus many door prizes at the weigh-in.

Entry fee is \$50, and there will be weigh-ins at three sites (Keaton, Steinhatchee and Econfinia).

Go to: www.optimistclubperryfl.com for complete information

We had a limit of trout today (Wednesday), and the bite didn't start until the W-I-N-D did. We brought in 10 trout and threw back one over 20 inches, as we already had a 19.5-inch trout

in the cooler.

We lost a couple more big trout, including one that looked to be 5-6 pounds, from 5.5 feet of water late in the tide.

All our trout ate live pinfish fished under a Back Bay Thunder, and most were in 3.5 to 5.5 feet of water.

We also landed two keeper redfish — one 22 inches, and the other 25 inches for Matt Mann (previously from Perry) now residing in Ocala with his wife, Bridget.

The water is surprisingly clear all the way to Yates Creek, then it has outstanding stain from around Warrior Marker to Fenholloway.

Once you move out to 5-6 feet of water the stain subsides, and you should be able to find the color water you prefer to fish thanks to the BLOW from this past weekend.

FEED TIMES				
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
5	5:52 AM	11:50 PM	7:45 PM	12:14 PM
6	6:30 AM	12:40 AM	8:52 PM	1:07 PM
7	7:14 AM	1:35 AM	10:00 PM	2:04 PM
8	8:06 AM	2:34 AM	11:06 PM	3:05 PM
9	9:07 AM	3:37 AM	----	4:08 PM
10	12:07 AM	4:39 AM	10:14 AM	5:10 PM
11	1:00 AM	5:39 AM	11:23 AM	6:08 PM
12	1:45 AM	6:36 AM	12:32 PM	7:02 PM

TIDE TABLES				
F	5	High	2:38 AM	3.4
	5	Low	8:32 AM	1.0
	5	High	1:56 PM	3.7
	5	Low	9:24 PM	-0.5
Sa	6	High	3:19 AM	3.4
	6	Low	9:01 AM	1.1
	6	High	2:20 PM	3.9
	6	Low	10:01 PM	-0.6
Su	7	High	4:02 AM	3.3
	7	Low	9:33 AM	1.3
	7	High	2:49 PM	4.0
	7	Low	10:42 PM	-0.7
M	8	High	4:48 AM	3.2
	8	Low	10:06 AM	1.3
	8	High	3:22 PM	4.1
	8	Low	11:28 PM	-0.6
Tu	9	High	5:38 AM	3.0
	9	Low	10:43 AM	1.5
	9	High	4:00 PM	4.0
W	10	Low	12:19 AM	-0.4
	10	High	6:36 AM	2.8
	10	Low	11:28 AM	1.6
	10	High	4:45 PM	3.8
Th	11	Low	1:20 AM	-0.3
	11	High	7:46 AM	2.7
	11	Low	12:30 PM	1.8
	11	High	5:43 PM	3.4

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TCBA Champions!

The Taylor County Baseball Association (TCBA) has wrapped up the majority of its 2023 Babe Ruth youth baseball season and crowned champions in three age divisions.

Congratulations to 2023 6-and-under (6U) Teeball League Champions Blount & Sons Septic Rays, coached by BJ Nawlin, and 6U runners-up the Kerry Puhl Lawnworks Pirates, coached by Billy Joe Wigglesworth.

In the 8U Coach Pitch League, the RB Logging Yankees, coached by Reece Borklund, were crowned champions after edging out the Cruce Logging Mariners, coached by Cori Johnson.

In the 10U Minor League, the County Line Land Clearing Dodgers, coached by Lee Coulliette, won the championship game over the second-place Huddle House Braves, coached by Matt Cruce.



TCBA 10U first-place Dodgers and second-place Braves

'Dogs fall to Baker Co. to end season

The top-seeded Baker County Wildcats broke open a close 1-0 ballgame by scoring a combined eight runs during the 4th and 5th innings on the way to a 10-0 win that eliminated the Taylor County Bulldogs from the District 2-4A baseball tournament Tuesday night in Glen St. Mary.

The Wildcats (19-6) advanced to the championship game to face #2-seeded Wakulla (16-10), who eliminated Suwannee (9-14), 7-3 in the other semifinal game on Tuesday.

Baker scored a single run in the bottom of the 1st inning, and the score remained 1-0 until the bottom of the 4th, when the Wildcats pushed three runs across to lead 4-0.

Baker County broke the game open with 5 more runs in the bottom of the 5th and tacked on a solo run in the bottom of the 6th to end the game by the 10-run "mercy rule," while holding the Bulldogs to just two hits and no runs.

Talen Aibejeris (1 for 3) and Jaret Fuller (1 for 3) were the only Bulldogs to manage a hit, as Baker County's pitching staff held Taylor County scoreless through six innings, walking only two batters and giving up one baserunner on an error, while recording 14 strikeouts.

Fuller and Ethan Tuten combined to pitch 5-2/3 innings, giving up six hits and 10 runs (6 earned) on nine walks, while striking out 11.

Fuller allowed six runs on five hits and five walks while striking out two in 2-1/3 innings, while Tuten pitched 3-1/3 innings, allowing four runs on one hit and four walks while striking out nine.

Taylor County's defense committed six errors in the field.

The Bulldogs ended their 2023 season with an impressive 14-8 record, despite a roster dominated by freshmen and sophomore players.

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Jimmy Bowden
Chief Instructor/Owner



Do-Si-Do with the Salty Bobbers

By DEBRA BUTLER
Columnist

The Salty Bobbers square dancing group based in Steinhatchee recently celebrated its sixth anniversary.

Don Stipp, the group's founder, was previously commuting to Gainesville every day for work. After work, he would dance with a group in Gainesville before heading home to Steinhatchee.

Upon his retirement and not wanting to drive back and forth to Gainesville to dance, Stipp formed Salty Bobbers, which meets every Tuesday evening at the Steinhatchee Community Center.

Square dancing has roots that date back to the 17th century in Europe. Although the style of dance has been prevalent for years, many older generation square dancers are aging out, causing attendance to drop. This makes it difficult for many dance groups to gather, as a minimum of



The Salty Bobbers meet at the Steinhatchee Community Center every Tuesday from 7-9 p.m. All ages and all skill levels are welcome.

eight people are needed, including "four guys and four gals," said Stipp. There is hope that the trend of declining participating is changing, as younger dancers are beginning to join – including one as young as 10 who recently participated in Salty Bobbers activities.

As of 2018, one middle school in the United States still taught square dancing as part of its physical education curriculum. Not only was the required class an excellent way to hone social skills, but students also benefited from the coordination needed and following instructions

to avoid losing their place. Unbeknownst to many, square dancing is Florida's official state dance. A July 2022 article from "Country Dancing Tonight" states that square dancing is the official state dance in 28 out of 50 states. Typically more popular among the southern states,

square dancing "is strongly associated with American culture, thanks to the romanticized image of the American cowboy." Anyone is welcome to attend the Salty Bobbers gatherings. Stipp says, "We even have something for beginners."

There is no mandatory fee to attend, but donations are requested to help compensate Charlie Pergrossi, a square dance "caller" from Fanning Springs, a little something for his time and gas. Most other professional callers would require a specific dollar amount for his/her services. The Salty Bobbers meet at the Steinhatchee Community Center every Tuesday evening from 7-9 p.m. For more information about the Salty Bobbers, contact Don Stipp at 954-616-7701.

Debra Ann Butler graduated from Eckerd College, where she majored in humanities, minored in journalism and was a member of Phi Alpha Theta. She is now a graduate student at Johns Hopkins University in pursuit of a MA in writing. Butler and her husband live in Steinhatchee, where she enjoys cooking, raising orchids, tending chickens and fishing.



'Pawty' on Friday, May 12

A benefit gala for animal advocacy groups "A Hound to Hold" and "PAWS (Pets Are Worth Spaying)" of Steinhatchee will be held Friday, May 12, at the Steinhatchee Landing Club & Chapel. Tickets are \$75 per

person and includes dinner and two drink tickets. "Join us for a Polynesian-inspired gala with roasted pig, plantains, black beans and rice and pineapple upside down cake. Hula dancers will fill the stage. Make sure you wear your

best Hawaiian-themed outfits," organizers said. A silent auction will be held in the Magnolia room to further benefit the two non-profit organizations. A Hound to Hold, is a local non-profit that benefits abandoned animals by getting them the care they need whether it be medical, shelter and food. PAWS has greatly impacted the Steinhatchee community by offsetting the cost to have stray cats and dogs neutered/spayed. To purchase tickets, please email anna@fiddlersonthriver.com or call (352) 356-7026.

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Calling all strong women!

The public is invited to spend an afternoon "celebrating the strong women of Steinhatchee" at a "Nauti Nosh" planned for Sunday, May 7 from 2-4:30 p.m. at the Steinhatchee Community Center.

There will be a special guest speaker, hors d'oeuvres, tea bar, games, prizes and photo booth.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 12 and under.

The event is hosted by the Steinhatchee Stingrays Recreation Association (SSRA), and proceeds will go to helping the not-for-profit organization dedicated to upgrading existing recreational facilities, build new sports facilities and purchasing equipment for additional activities for the children, youth and families of Steinhatchee.

RSVP on the Steinhatchee Stingray's Facebook page or by calling (352) 210-3050. Tickets can be purchased by Zelle, Venmo or CashApp.

End of School Bash set May 19

Steinhatchee Stingrays Recreation Association (SSRA) Inc. will hold an "End of School Bash" on Friday, May 19, from 5:30 until 9 p.m. at the Steinhatchee Community Center.

The "End of School Bash" will include a "Family Fun & Glow Dance Night."

Proceeds will help upgrade existing facilities, build new facilities and purchase equipment for additional activities.

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CITY OF PERRY CELEBRATES ARBOR DAY



(Top right) The City of Perry celebrated Arbor Day by planting citrus trees at Rosehead Park. The trees were donated by Billy Wayne and Valerie Murphy from Murphy Citrus Nursery, Inc. (Top left) Shown are: (front row, left to right) City Manager John Hart, Joe Demps, Alex Griffin, Stephanie Bailey and Penny Staffney; and (back row, left to right) Mike Roberts, Michael Hughes, Drew Williams, Amy Lovett, Valerie Murphy and Billy Wayne Murphy.

Taylor Gymnastics welcomes 344 competitors for AAU 3rd qualifier

On April 15-16, Taylor Gymnastics hosted the AAU North 3rd Qualifier, welcoming 344 competitors traveling from as far away as Daytona Beach to Tallahassee. Gymnasts competed in all four events, with five sessions on Saturday and four sessions on Sunday, followed by an awards ceremony held at the First Baptist Church Student Center.

Several local businesses greeted gymnasts with street signs and true Southern hospitality, Taylor Gymnastics' LaDonna LaValle said.

"Our girls' competitive team was excited to host a meet at our home gym. We want to thank our community for their support and our parents/volunteers for helping the entire weekend. We heard all positive feedback from guests and they hope to return to Perry next year," she said.

Attending gyms included: Bard, Sun Country, Gymnastics Unlimited, North Florida, Fleming, Ancient City, Taylor Gymnastics, Main Street, Fit Club, Daytona, MMATC, OC, World Class and Coastal Elite.

Results for local competitors included:

- Level 2: **Jasmine Pizarroz**, first on vault and floor and **Breleigh Ellis**, first on beam.
- Level 6: **Sydnee Lee**, first on bars, beam and all-around and **El Grubbs**, first on vault and floor.
- Level 7: **Copelyn Johnson**, first on bars, beam, floor and all-around.

beam, floor and all-around.

- XCEL Silver: **Emilia Sirmones**, first on bars, beam, floor and all-around.
- XCEL Gold: **Reece Williamson**, first on vault, bars, beam, floor and all-around and **Paisley Thomas**, first on beam, floor and all-around.
- XCEL Platinum: **Emily Fee**, first on vault, bars, beam, floor and all-around.

Taylor Gymnastics will be heading to the state competition on Saturday, May 20, in Tampa.

Remember when...
Cruisin' with Tom

The truth is I'm scared.

The last time I went on a cruise with the Class of 1982 was in 1982. Now, 41 years later, my classmates are talking about going on another cruise.

This isn't the first time the Class of 82 has boarded a cruise ship together since our senior year. We spent a year planning a reunion cruise in 2002 – 20 years after the first one.

I was part of the planning committee, but at the last minute – and for reasons I won't discuss for fear of falling out with some of my classmates who still don't believe me – I backed out.

My classmate, Jackie Alexander Flowers, who is "supposed" to be one of my dearest friends, told the other classmates not to believe my story about a major emergency. Instead, she said I backed out because I couldn't find my karate suit. In fact, during one of our planning meetings in 2002, Jackie asked me, "Ant, are you taking your karate suit?"

If only she knew the truth.

You see, Tom Collins, a rigged casino and a karate suit are all part of the memories of my senior cruise back in 1982.

I first met Tom Collins a few hours after our ship set sail. I don't recall which classmate introduced me to my intoxicating friend, but it didn't take long for me and Tom to develop a love-hate relationship that still exists today.

The first night of the cruise, I put on my fashion forward Chinese-tailored suit and decided to explore the ship with a few glasses of Tom. Our first stop was a casino that I had stumbled on before the ship pulled out of the dock.

Four hours later, I walked out of the casino without half of the money I had entered with. Normally, I would have been upset. But, because I had come to the casino with Tom, I laughed it off and headed to the lounge to meet a few classmates.

When I walked into the lounge, the first thing I noticed was Jackie lying on the floor holding her own glass of Tom.

"Jackie, what are you doing on the floor?" I asked.

"Tom did it," she laughed. Then, she looked up at me and asked, "Why are you wearing a karate suit?"

"It's not a karate suit," I explained as I sat on the floor beside her. "I saw somebody wearing a suit like this on Soul Train."

"You didn't see that on Soul Train," she said, laughing out loud. "You must have been watching Kung Fu."

The next morning, I woke up on the floor of my cabin wearing a Chinese-tailored suit that a truckload of Tide could not revive. Even though my hangover prevented me from remembering anything about the previous night, after I cleaned up, I vowed to forget everything.

When we arrived back in Perry, my mother was anxious to hear about the cruise. I made sure to tell her only the "repeatable" parts of the trip.

"Well, I'm glad you had a good time," she said as she watched me unpack my luggage. "Where's your karate suit?"

I told the truth. "I must have left it in the Bahamas."

"Well, you'll never see that outfit again."

As I think about the possibility of cruising again with my classmates, I hope my mother was right. I would hate to step on the ship and hear someone yell, "That's his karate suit that's been hanging in the Lost and Found for 40-some years."

If that happens, I'll need a gallon of Tom. Forget the ice.



By
ANTHONY WHITE
anthonylamarwhite
@yahoo.com

Spring Book Sale set May 13

The Friends of the Taylor County Public Library will hold its Spring Book Sale on Saturday, May 13, from 8 a.m. until 12 noon. Books (and other items) will be 25 cents or five or six for 25 cents. A small selection of items will be priced as marked. Magazines will be 5 cents

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Mrs. Lincoln (Maude) Murphy would be honored during a special Mother's Day event at New Home Baptist Church with the unveiling of her handmade crocheted picture of the Last Supper.



How will the writers’ strike affect the shows, movies you’re watching?

By MARK VIOLA

At 12:01 a.m. Tuesday morning, the Writers Guild of America (WGA) officially went on strike, which, depending on how long the strike ultimately lasts, could have major effects on all forms of television and film production.

The strike has already shut down multiple productions, and hopefully, for everyone involved -- including us viewers at home -- it will not last as long as the last work stoppage, which lasted more than three months from Nov. 5, 2007, to Feb. 12, 2008.

What is the strike about?

In two words: money and streaming. Much of the disagreement stems from the writers’ stance that they are not getting their fair share in the new world of streaming, both in the amount they are paid and structural changes in productions that the WGA claims have resulted in their members being treated like they are part of a “gig economy” instead of a union workforce.

The WGA has spent the past several months negotiating a new contract with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP), the trade association representing Hollywood’s major film and television studios. Those negotiations failed to reach an agreement before the deadline, and it doesn’t seem like the two sides are close at all to a compromise at this time.

Back in 2008, when the last contract was negotiated, Netflix had only just begun offering movies online in addition to its DVD mailing service. Amazon was dipping its toe in offering streaming films, and Hulu launched a week before the strike began.

Today, streaming is king, and all of the major studios and networks have embraced the change in one form or another.

Television

The first impacts directly noticeable to viewers arrived when most of the late night talk shows immediately went dark this week, with no writers to help pen the hosts’ opening monologues and other segments.

Back in 2007, several of the late night shows stayed in production -- or came back on air after two months -- without writers, in an attempt to support the rest of their crews, who were without work with no show to make. A few of the hosts got into hot water, as they were WGA members themselves

and even coming up with comedy bits is considered writing.

Another show immediately going into reruns this week is “Saturday Night Live,” which is on hiatus until the strike is over.

As for scripted shows still in production, the impact to viewers won’t be immediate, but they’re also on the way.

The strike deadline was known, and likely productions have been stockpiling scripts to keep work going for at least a little while. According to reports, all of the scripts for the second season of HBO’s “House of the Dragon” have been written, and production is expected to start on schedule.

That doesn’t always work with sit-coms, which are often re-written and edited even as filming is underway, resulting in shows like “Night Court” reportedly either shutting down production or likely to soon.

However, even if production is able to continue on some shows, there will be little flexibility to adjust as they go, since, in most cases, the showrunners are writers and WGA members, meaning that while they are required to continue working on the shows as producers (due to that guild’s own work agreement with the studios), as striking writers, they can’t make any edits to the scripts as they are being filmed.

Fortunately for television, especially network television, the new strike is happening at a much more advantageous time of the year, arriving at the tail end of their traditional spring season when many productions will already have the scripts in hand for any remaining episodes.

Back in 2007, the strike occurred right in the middle of the fall season and lasted well into the start of the spring season, resulting in many shows losing episodes. As one example, the fourth season of “Lost” ended up being only 12 episodes instead of the scheduled 16 due to the lost production time. I’d imagine streaming services will see less of an impact as they tend to have a less rigid release schedule for their shows, so if certain seasons are delayed a couple of months, it won’t feel like as big an upheaval as if the networks are unable to start their shows as usual in the fall, which is possible depending on how long the strike lasts.

Movies

Due to the long production time involved

in making movies compared to episodic television, it’s unlikely viewers will see much impact from the strike for a while. But, rest assured, there will be impacts and there already have been.

Reports started last week that intense bidding wars were breaking out between studios attempting to get a few more finished scripts in hand before the strike began.

However, like with television, scripts are often edited and changed while production is underway, resulting in a better product in the end. For movies in production during the strike, that will not be an option, at least not by anyone with WGA membership.

Yahoo Movies had an interesting write-up recently about major movies impacted by the 2007-08 strike, and there were a few surprises included on the list.

The one I knew was “Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen,” which only had a loose outline instead of an actual script when the work stoppage began. Therefore, director Michael Bay moved forward with creating the various action sequences he wanted in the movie, and after the strike

ended, he hired writers to find a way to string them together into a movie. Even Bay later admitted the resulting movie was “crap.”

One movie I was not aware had been impacted until the Yahoo Movies article was “Quantum of Solace,” which in my opinion is the least successful of the James Bond movies starring Daniel Craig. Well, it turns out one of the reasons was that the film’s script arrived just two hours before the strike began, and according to Craig, it was “bare bones,” leaving it up to the actor to write many of his own scenes. “A writer I am not,” he was later quoted as saying.

Hopefully, those are lessons learned for producers this time around, but it is Hollywood, so who knows what will happen if the strike lasts long enough to potentially push some of next year’s tent-pole features out of their pre-scheduled release dates.

As I said before, hopefully the strike ends soon with the writers getting their fair share, everyone else getting paid because work is back up and running, and us viewers getting quality television and movies to watch.

THIS WEEK IN THEATERS AND STREAMING AT HOME

By MARK VIOLA

The domestic box office finally got a major shot in the arm last month with the surprising hero: Mario.

The animated “Super Mario Bros.” movie is by far the year’s biggest hit to date, breaking numerous records over its first four weekends in theaters.

Although it will likely not lead the weekend box office take this week thanks to the arrival of the new “Guardians of the Galaxy” movie, Mario has already proved he can collect the coins.

The film is already the highest-grossing video game adaptation ever at the domestic box office, breaking that record in just five days after delivering the largest five-day opening ever for a movie that opened on a Wednesday (\$204.6 million). Also, its \$92.5 million second weekend and \$59.9 million third weekend are both the highest ever for an animated film.

Worldwide, “Super Mario Bros.” crossed the \$1 billion mark last Sunday, becoming just the fifth movie to accomplish that feat since COVID shut down theaters in 2020.

Jumping back to the domestic box office, the power of Mario lifted the month of April to great heights with a total of \$901 million, making it the third highest-grossing April ever.

This year’s total was

behind only 2018 and 2019, which both had the benefit of an “Avengers” movie kicking off the summer blockbuster season a week early during the last weekend of the April (instead of the usual first weekend of May).

Speaking of May, let’s get to this week’s movies.

In Theaters

This weekend marks the official beginning of the summer blockbuster season, and like pretty much every year (not counting when COVID had everything closed), the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) is kicking things off.

“Guardians of the Galaxy, Vol. 3” is presumably the last MCU film that will be written and directed by James Gunn, who has taken over the DC Universe for Warner Bros. The story picks up with the Guardians still reeling from the events of “Avengers: Endgame.” However, when a new threat arises, one with a personal connection to one of the Guardians, they will have to come together and fight like they’ve never done before if they want to both survive and save the galaxy again. Although I’ve enjoyed many of the recent MCU more than most, there’s no denying the franchise is in need of a genuine hit, and if anybody can pull that off, it’s Gunn. Here’s hoping for the best.

The film is rated PG-13 for intense sequences of



violence and action, strong language, suggestive/drug references and thematic elements

“Love Again” is a romance in which a young woman (Priyanka Chopra Jonas, “The Matrix Resurrections”) tries to ease the pain of her fiancé’s death by sending romantic texts to his old cell phone number and forms a connection with the man (Sam Heughan, “Outlander”) the number has been reassigned to.

The movie is rated PG-13 for some sexual material and some strong language.

Paramount+ “Death’s Roulette” is a thriller from Mexico in which seven strangers wake up in a mansion in the middle of nowhere, where they discover they are part of a twisted game. They will have 60 minutes to choose one person to die; otherwise, all of them will be murdered.

The movie is not yet rated.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 21 – May 7

“The Diary of Anne Frank”

The Monticello Opera House presents “The Diary of Anne Frank” for one final weekend.
The final showings of the production, which opened April 21, will be Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m.
The production, drawn from previously-unpublished portions of Anne Frank’s famous memoirs, follows Anne’s precarious coming-of-age time as she and her family hide in a secret annex space above her father’s former office in Amsterdam, while the Nazis are daily deporting Dutch Jews to their deaths.
Each day of these dark years, Anne’s voice shines through: “When I write I shake off all my cares. But I want to achieve more than that. I want to be useful and bring enjoyment to all people, even those I’ve never met. I want to go on living even after my death!” This is a new adaptation for a new generation.
The event will feature a 34-banner traveling exhibit in the downstairs Perkins Performance Hall entitled “Let Me Be Myself” The Life Story of Anne Frank. It shows the story of Anne Frank and contains statements of young people who had experiences with exclusion and discrimination, and serves as an inspiration to think about the consequences of Anne Frank’s story for today’s society.
The doors and bar will open at 7 p.m. for the evening showings and at 1 p.m. for the Sunday matinee.
Tickets are \$23 for the show and may be purchased by calling (850) 997-4242 or online at <https://www.monticellooperahouse.org>. Tickets will also be available for purchase at the door.

April 21 – May 7

“Tick, Tick... Boom”

Theatre Tallahassee presents “Tick, Tick... Boom,” the autobiographical musical by Jonathan Larson, the Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning composer of “Rent.”
The story follows an aspiring composer who questions his life choices on the eve of his 30th birthday. His girlfriend wants to get married and move out of the city, his best friend is making big bucks on Madison Avenue, and yet Jon is still waiting on tables and trying to write the great American musical.
Remaining showtimes are May 5-6 at 8 p.m. and May 7 at 2 p.m. General admission tickets are \$15.
For more information or to purchase tickets, visit <https://theatretallahassee.org/> or call (850) 224-8474.

May 12-21

“Kiss Me, Kate”

The Quincy Music Theatre presents the stage musical, “Kiss Me, Kate,” opening May 12 and running through May 21.
Passions run high as leading lady Lilli Vanessi and her ex-husband, actor/director Fred Graham, battle onstage and off in a production of Shakespeare’s “Taming of the Shrew.”
With romance, comedy, sophistication and behind-the-scenes hijinks, “Kiss Me, Kate” combines the irreverent humor with musical numbers, including: “So In Love,” “Wunderbar,” “Tom, Dick or Harry,” “Too Darn Hot,” “Brush Up Your Shakespeare,” “I Hate Men,” “Always True to You (In My Fashion)” and “Another Op’nin, Another Show.”
Showtimes will be May 12-13 and 19-20 at 7:30 p.m. and May 14 and 21 at 2:30 p.m.
Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$17 for seniors and military personnel and \$15 for students.
For more information or to purchase tickets, visit <https://quincymusictheatre.com/> or call (850) 875-9444.

May 13-14

Tallahassee Ballet’s 50th Anniversary

Tallahassee Ballet’s spring performance, which will celebrate the organization’s 50th anniversary, brings both original works and the classics to the stage with live music on May 13-14 at Ruby Diamond Concert Hall.
The concert, which will be performed Saturday, May 13, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, May 14, at 2:30 p.m., will include “Swan Lake,” Acts II & IV, as well as four world premiere contemporary works, such as “O Fortuna” from “Carmina Burana” with members from the Tallahassee Community Chorus.
For more information, call (850) 224-6917 or visit <https://www.tallahasseeballet.org/>.



MCU breaks the F-bomb barrier

By RANDI RODRIGUEZ

Get ready for some F-bombs in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU), because “Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3” is about to drop some serious language. According to star Chris Pratt, this will be the first movie in the MCU to contain the naughty word.

“I do drop the first F-bomb. Take that, Samuel L. Jackson,” Pratt told Variety on the red carpet, clearly relishing his newfound status as the MCU’s foremost potty mouth.

He also confirmed that the line was not scripted, proving that even superheroes have a naughty streak.

“Everyone’s been trying to improv F-bombs for 10 years, and finally one made it in,” Pratt boasted, adding that he was just trying to make the crew of the movie laugh when he said the word during filming.

Hey, we all have our own ways of blowing off steam. But how did the F-bomb make it into the final cut?

As the story goes, Kevin Feige talked to James Gunn and said, “Listen, you don’t want to be the guy who is known for having the first

F-word in your movie,” Pratt explained on Jimmy Kimmel Live.

“And James is like, ‘Yes I do! Don’t you know me? That’s exactly what I want!’ And so they kept it in,” Pratt said, even admitting that it wasn’t the first time he’s tried to sneak the expletive into a movie.

“Oftentimes, if you drop an F-bomb, you know it’s not going to make the cut, but you’re just doing it to make people laugh, which is also an indication to let them know that you’re probably done with this scene,” he explained. “But guess what? They put it in the movie.”

So what does this mean for the rest of the MCU? Will our beloved Avengers start cursing up a storm in future movies?

Not so fast, as Pratt explained, “With a PG-13 movie, you typically get two sh- words and maybe you can get one F-word. So everyone’s always fighting for it, throwing out an improv to try to get it in there...for years.”

But while the MCU may be cautiously dipping its toe into the world of adult language, another expletive-ridden franchise is going full steam

ahead. That’s right, I’m talking about Deadpool.

As stated on People.com, Disney Chairman and CEO Bob Iger confirmed that the Deadpool movies will remain R-rated, even after Disney’s acquisition of 21st Century Fox’s film and television assets for a whopping \$71 billion.

“We will continue in that business,” Iger said, adding that “there’s certainly popularity” with those films. However, he emphasized that the R-rated films would be carefully branded and marketed separately from Disney’s other properties, so as not to confuse the consumer.

So there you have it, folks. The MCU is growing up and getting a little bit more foul-mouthed, while Deadpool will remain the king of cursing.

You can reach us at MajorGeek@Geekscloset.com with suggestions and comments. Let us know if you read this week’s article and get 10% off your next purchase! Follow the writer at Geekscloset.com or Visit us at our store: Geeks Closet, 129 N. Jefferson St., Perry, FL, 32347.

Hart fields complaints on trash, mowing, signs

PUBLIC WORKS
Continued from page 1

for a part-time code enforcement officer.

Last week, Hart reported the city’s new wastewater superintendent began work Monday, adding that the city was setting up interviews with two applicants for its vacant water plant superintendent post.

Those two positions have been vacant since mid-March following the resignation of Water Plant Superintendent Jerald “JL” Lee, who turned in his two-week notice on March 1 after four years of dedicated service to the city, including five months pulling double duty and overseeing both the city’s water and wastewater treatment plant while the city’s wastewater treatment plant supervisor was out on leave due to illness.

At its upcoming May 9 meeting, the city council is scheduled to interview two applicants for its vacant city attorney position, including local attorney Charita Hope Demps and C. Jackson Latnner of Plano, Texas.

According to Hart, the city recently filled a sanitation truck driver position and is accepting applications for code enforcement officer.

However, after initially advertising internally, the city has not made a move to fill one of its top administrative level positions – public works director – choosing instead to absorb those duties internally with supervisors and crew leaders over each department (water, wastewater, gas, solid waste, street and parks/recreation).

At the city’s most recent meeting, Woodfaulk presented a list of concerns from her district and questioned who was in charge of holding various departments accountable for certain tasks that were previously handled by the public works director.

“I will be emailing you the list, but why has trash not been picked up in Zone 4 in the last two months?” Woodfaulk asked. “I saw the guys picking up litter on the side of the road yesterday, but the right of ways have not been mowed, and the yard debris, trash, junk items, mattresses, leaves and limbs have not been picked up.”

Public Works Department Secretary - Dispatcher Danielle Ondash explained that the crews were still working their way around the city picking up white goods (refrigerators, furniture, etc.) and had not made it through Zone 4 yet, adding, “They are still working on it. Sometimes it takes 3-4 days to get all those junk items picked up.”

Ondash said City

Sanitation Department crews were also running behind on picking up yard debris, adding, “They are working overtime on that.”

“They have got to make it a priority to get over there, because I am getting fussed at,” Woodfaulk stated.

“So, is there any accountability...Is anyone checking behind them to make sure that these things are being done?

– Councilwoman Venita Woodfaulk

“I’d like to educate everybody – on what happens constantly up and down my road – and that is separating yard trash from white goods. They have to stop and separate it out, and it takes a long time,” Councilman Ward Ketring said. “I don’t know how we educate people on that. I’m afraid it will get to the point where it all is going to end up in the regional landfill together and we are going to end up having to go up on the tipping fee prices because the limbs and leaves has other things mixed in with it.”

“If you could figure out how to do that, you would be a multi, multi billionaire,” Councilman Bill Brynes said.

“The guys were out yesterday picking up litter, but how is it going on the right-of-way mowing?” Woodfaulk asked.

Ondash said city inmate work crews work “in a circle” mowing around the city continuously.

“They cleaned Thomas Demps Lane, but they did not go any further. Zone 4 has not been cleaned,” Woodfaulk stated. “I am going to come take you (Hart) for a ride. I invite any of you to take a ride in Zone 4 and see what I am talking about.”

“It is the same thing in my zone,” Councilwoman Diane Landry stated.

“Everywhere,” Brynes commented.

“John, I think you may want to consider doing something different, because this has not really worked out that well to me,” Mayor Shirlee Hampton commented.

“If it was up to me, we would not pick up big items,” Hart replied. “You would haul your own big items away if it was up to me, and we (city) would pick up what is in your garbage can and yard debris only.”

“That is not really an answer either,” Landry interjected. “If I buy a new sofa and want it delivered, and they are not going to pick the old sofa up, what am I supposed to do with it? They may set it out front for me, but that is it.”

City Finance Director Penny Staffney reminded the council that McAfee had ordered two new knuckle boom loader trucks to help city crews pick up white goods and yard debris in a more timely manner, adding, “but they will not be here for a while, and it is not going to change until they get here and get drivers in them.”

“Are we going to hire anyone for Chester’s position?” Woodfaulk asked Hart.

“Not at the moment,” Hart replied.

“You all are going to have this place running over with constituents,” Woodfaulk stated. “Why are we not hiring anyone for Chester’s position?”

“I want to get the water and wastewater superintendent positions filled first,” Hart explained. “If I can get good leaders in those two positions, along with Anthony (Willoughby) in gas, I don’t know if we have a need for a public works director.”

“Who is giving them the destinations and where to go?” Woodfaulk asked.

“They know,” Brynes interjected.

“Danielle and Anthony have been overseeing a lot of that. They are doing their rounds,” Staffney commented.

However, Woodfaulk complained that there is currently no accountability for city crews not

performing tasks.

“It is not Danielle. She can send them out there all day long, but if the job is not being completed, that is where my problem is coming in,” Woodfaulk complained. “I asked more than a month ago for them to go around and see where lime rock needed to be laid.

“In Zone 4, only two houses got lime rock laid in front of them, like where potholes are washed out on the right-of-ways,” she added.

“You pull up to an intersection, and you can’t see what is coming. It doesn’t make any sense. I know we are a member of Tree City, USA or whatever, and they have certain regulations, but we don’t have to be a member of that group. Our safety is more important.”

– Councilwoman Diane Landry

“So, is there any accountability...Is anyone checking behind them to make sure that these things are being done?” Woodfaulk asked.

“I understand,” Hart replied.

“Do we still have both inmate crews?” Hampton asked.

“Yes, they are pretty much on the mowers,” Staffney answered.

“Are they mowing and picking up at the same time?” Woodfaulk asked.

“I would hope so....or a

day or two after,” Staffney replied.

“That is not being done,” Woodfaulk stated. “They are picking up litter, but not mowing. I am just trying to get an understanding here, because I am getting fussed again and again.”

“The people need to know. It needs to get coordinated,” Staffney said.

“If I clean up my yard and then look at the right-of-way, there is paper and trash and grass that needs to be cut, that is not fair to those living in this area,” Woodfaulk added. “I just want some accountability.”

Later, Brynes asked city staff to take action on running natural gas lines down Lacour Lane, which prompted some discussion about the poor condition of the road.

Stating it was the “most important thing” and “top of the list,” Brynes also brought up the Shirley Scott Park sign, which he said “has been torn to pieces and needs to be fixed.”

Ketring continued the string of council member requests that would normally have been assigned to the public works director, by asking staff to look into the need for a four-way stop.

“I call it the Pizza Hut bypass – between Puckett and Hwy. 19. A lady brought up the need for a stop sign at the intersection of Pine Road and Cypress Road due to speeding and the bus stopping at that intersection.

Hampton then requested the city look into cutting back foliage or installing a four-way stop on Bay Street and Quincy Street behind Wells Fargo.

“I had to pull out into the street because I could not see anything and almost got hit. He (homeowner) suggested a four-way stop there, but something has to be done,” Hampton said.

“I asked about people planting on city right-of-way, and I was told that the policy was you can do it until we need it, and when we need to we will take it up,” Landry said. “No. That is our right-of-way, and there should not be any plantings on city right-of-way. You can’t see due to the foliage.

“So my recommendation is -- cut the stuff.”

– Councilwoman Diane Landry

“You pull up to an intersection, and you can’t see what is coming. It doesn’t make any sense. I know we are a member of Tree City, USA or whatever, and they have certain regulations, but we don’t have to be a member of that group. Our safety is more important,” Landry added. “I would recommend we change our policy on that, if we have one. The vegetation is in your line of sight, and you can’t see.

“I have a neighbor who has something planted on a corner lot, and I suggested that it be removed. A city employee went down there and looked and said they could see just fine, but they are sitting in a truck up here, and I am in a sedan down here, and I can’t see. So my recommendation is -- cut the stuff,” Landry stated.

Contacted after the meeting, Hart explained he has crew leaders heading up the city’s Street, Sanitation (garbage, yard debris and white goods pick-up) and Park departments, while the Water, Wastewater and Gas departments each have a supervisor.

He added that each inmate work crew is supervised by a city employee crew leader with DOC training.

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