



Leon Holden said he experienced severe chest pains and evidently blacked out before he crashed his vehicle into the back of another car and careened into a thicket of woods.

Pastor injured in crash

A local pastor, traveling to Gainesville to visit a church member in the hospital there, sustained serious injuries in a two-vehicle crash Monday in Dixie County.

Leon Holden, pastor of First Baptist Church in Steinhatchee, sustained several cracked ribs and a crushed (T-3 neck) vertebrae in the wreck, which happened around 1 p.m. as he was nearing Cross City.

"He said he had a really bad chest pain and grabbed his chest. He leaned forward and that's all he remembers...he blacked out. They are hoping to get him up and walking today,

and the main thing is finding out about the chest pain. They have ruled out a heart attack," Holden's mother, Diane Miller, said Tuesday.

"He had his truck on cruise control, and he was just entering the area where the speed limit drops down to 45 miles per hour. Evidently the car ahead of him slowed down, but he didn't because he blacked out. He rammed into the back of the car and then went off the road. His truck was so far back in the woods, it's a miracle he made it out of the crash. You can see where the truck went between two pine trees that were so close,

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Leon Holden (left), shown with wife, Sarah, serves as pastor of First Baptist Church in Steinhatchee.

Sheriff, DMH ask for more county funds

Before the first county budget workshop began on Monday morning, county staff had managed to trim Taylor County's projected \$1.2 million budget deficit by almost \$300,000 – leaving commissioners tasked with finding just under \$900,000 in cuts to be able to adopt a balanced budget and avoid a tax increase.

However, that projected budget shortfall ballooned back up to \$1.6 million during the first of four scheduled budget workshop sessions Monday morning, after Doctors' Memorial Hospital (DMH) representatives requested

commissioners allocate one-half of the county's annual one-cent sales tax revenues (\$714,000) to "keep the doors open" by funding capital improvements like replacement ambulances, operating room lights, air conditioning units and other equipment.

While county commissioners expect to see a slight increase in the county's tax revenues next fiscal year, the board has some hard decisions to make in order to balance the 2018-19 proposed budget – which includes a 3% increase in expenditures

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What races are on your Aug. 28 primary ballot?

In addition to the four local races that will appear on the Aug. 28 primary election ballot, Taylor County voters will be asked to help narrow the field for those running for five additional state or federal offices – including Florida governor.

The deadline to register to vote or make any changes to

your party affiliation in time for the primary election is July 30.

"If you need to register to vote or would like to make a party change, you must do so before the voter registration books close," Taylor County Supervisor of Elections Dana Southerland

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Airport logging project stirs debate

More than 94 acres of timber are being logged at Perry-Foley Airport to clear airspace obstructions and make room for a possible solar farm on the property.

However, the decision to award the bid to H.B. Tuten Logging was not without controversy, as Commissioner Malcolm

Page objected to the fact the county did not conduct an appraisal on the value of the timber prior to advertising for bids. Page ultimately voted against accepting the bid, but the measure passed 4-1.

Tuten Logging was one of two firms to bid on the project, but according to

County Grants Director Melody Cox, the second bid from The Forestry Company was not in compliance with the bid documents.

At its March 20 meeting, the commission voted 3-0 to approve a request for bids for the sale and cutting of 36.5 acres of mature planted pines and approximately 58

acres of non-mature pines and miscellaneous timber at the airport.

The request also called for the areas to be converted into grasslands. In April, Page said he had received several complaints from local loggers about the project and suggested the commission separate the bid

package to advertise the tree clearing and land conversion into two separate bids.

By then, however, the bid package had already been advertised, and the board took no additional action.

The commission received the two bids at its May 7 meeting. Tuten's bid included paying the county

\$87,852 for the purchase and cutting of the 36.5 acres of mature pines, and another \$87,852 for the 58 acres of miscellaneous timber. The cost to convert the same two parcels to grassland were \$132,600 and \$207,400 respectively.

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Cruce wants to continue legacy of public service

Republican candidate Roy Douglas "Doug" Cruce said his family has a long history of public service to the community, and he hopes to continue that legacy by serving as the next Dist. 4 representative on the county commission.

"It is time for a change, and I want to be the voice for smart growth, lower taxes and defending the



Roy 'Doug' Cruce

financial interests of the constituents of our community," Cruce said.

"It is time for new ideas, effective and efficient leadership, as well as smart growth for our community -- with honest wages to keep citizens and young adults in our county," he said.

"If elected, county citizens will be fully informed regarding future taxes or financial changes, and they will be asked for opinions and participation before the new taxes or changes are implemented by the board, or I will vote no," Cruce said.

He also said he would work for: "a true veterans memorial park for all that served; maintaining and cleaning roads in our district; and I will

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Another piece of Perry's history disappears

More than a century of history was reduced to piles of rubble and dust Tuesday with the demolition of the 113-year-old building located at the corner of Main Street and Washington. The two-story brick structure, built in 1905, was best known locally as the location of the former Western Auto. The roof of the building had collapsed in some areas, leading to a massive mold infestation -- prompting construction workers to don ventilators before even entering the building.

Sheriff's \$702,322 request is pared down to \$454,669

The Taylor County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) initial budget request for the upcoming 2018-19 budget year initially totaled just over \$1 million more than the current year budget, however that increase has been pared down to \$454,669.

Almost half of the initial \$1 million increase (\$476,000) will be offset by state funds (paid to the Taylor County School Board and passed along to the county) to help cover the cost of providing eight (including four new) school resource officers (SROs) as mandated by the Florida Legislature under a recently-passed school

safety bill. Approximately \$122,000 of the budget increase is to cover a 3% salary increase approved by the county commission for all employees after last year's budget was adopted.

County staff worked with TCSO representatives last week to adjust Padgett's proposed budget increase down from \$702,322 to the current \$454,669 – a reduction of nearly \$250,000 – by removing one requested new position and trimming several other areas.

The remaining \$454,669 increase includes: \$300,000 for employee (family)

insurance premiums, \$69,412 to fund a new patrol deputy position, \$54,000 in increased fuel costs and \$31,257 in state-mandated insurance premiums for Deputy Robert Lundy.

"One officer per school?" Commissioner Pam Feagle asked, referencing the cost of funding additional SRO positions.

"One officer per 1,000 students is what the law says," Sheriff Wayne Padgett replied.

"So, we have more than 1,000 students at the high school?" Feagle asked. "Why do we need two officers at one school?"

"We have two there now and it is my understanding that (Superintendent of Schools) Danny (Glover) wants to keep two there. He says it has really helped him," Padgett explained.

"We are going to have one school resource officer cover both the Pre-K and alternative school," TCSO Major Marty Tompkins said, explaining that the two schools are considered to be on one combined campus "which will help it equal out."

"Every year in the past the sheriff's department buys

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Insurance discussions dominate commission's first budget hearing

SHERIFF, DMH

Continued from page 1

over the current year budget adopted in 2017.

Heading into budget workshops, the county's \$893,539 General Fund budget deficit consisted of increased budget requests from various county departments (\$205,514), the Taylor County Sheriff's Office (\$454,669) and other constitutional officers (\$112,439).

County Finance Director Dannielle Welch began by presenting an overview of the county's budget, which included the following highlights:

- If the county's millage rate (property tax rate) were to remain the same, commissioners were told to expect a slight 1.5% increase in general fund ad valorem (property) tax revenues -- including \$142,999 in the county's General Fund and \$19,224 in the MSTU Fund -- due to the small increase in the county's gross taxable values.

However, those additional revenues are more than offset by requested budget increases, including:

- DMH Board members submitted a letter and a \$714,000 request to help fund capital improvements and equipment replacement (see related story).

- The Taylor County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) requested a \$454,669 increase to help cover the cost of paying a larger portion of employee health insurance premiums (\$300,000), one new patrol deputy position salary and benefits (\$69,412), additional fuel costs for increased patrols (\$54,000) and payment of \$31,257 in family medical insurance costs for Deputy Robert Lundy, who was disabled in a service-related shooting several years ago.

- A 3% salary increase and associated benefits approved last year after the budget was finalized resulted in increases totaling \$280,000 spread out among the many individual county departments and constitutional offices (Sheriff, Clerk of Court, Tax Collector, Property Appraiser, Supervisor of

Elections).

- County insurance premiums are projected to increase 2.1% this year (approximately \$45,000), but the initial projections were much worse. According to the county's health insurance agent Joe Albritton of Albritton Insurance, the county had a claims loss ratio of 106.6, adding that "any number above an 80 indicates an operating loss to the insurance company and results in an adjustment to rates."

Albritton told commissioners the county has two different plans -- as TCSO employees are covered under a separate policy since electing to rejoin the county's insurance last year.

Due in large part to six "large open claims" (five within those covered by the county's plan and one covered under the TCSO plan), the county's plan showed a 97.1% loss ratio and the TCSO plan operated at a 137.3% loss -- resulting in an initial proposed rate increase of 23.6%.

However, according to Albritton, the county's insurance committee was successful in structuring its plan to include a "one-time safety net" over the past six years that protected the county against any one-time large rate increase.

"The final offer from the insurance company -- after a small change in the pharmacy coverage -- is a 2.1% increase in premiums," Albritton told commissioners.

"The strategy you had in place for the past six years was successful, but it has now been used. That safety net the insurance committee built in was a pretty strong strategy, but it is now gone."

In an effort to avoid even larger premium increases, both county plans will also see an increase in the three-tiered prescription medicine co-pays from \$10-\$30-\$50 to \$10-\$35-\$70.

Albritton said that the change would impact 7.8% of the covered county employees, and those employees would see an additional \$20 per prescription increase that would amount to \$80 per

year if prescriptions were filled three months at a time (four times per year).

According to Albritton, this change reduced the county's projected premium increase by \$67,000.

Due to a lack of claims history (since switching from another plan), the small number of employees covered (79) and a very large open claim, Albritton explained that the TCSO plan was initially facing a 63% premium rate increase.

"Typically, before the TCSO came onto the county's plan they would receive a 12-14% manual rate increase each year due to the low number of employees. We made some changes to their plan, but we are still in the process of transitioning them into the county's plan," Albritton said.

After some changes to the TCSO plan -- including dropping morbid obesity health coverage and raising the three-tiered prescription medicine co-pay plan from \$10-\$30-\$50 to \$10-\$35-\$70 -- the insurance company settled on a 4.7% increase to the TCSO insurance premiums.

"The reason the carrier (United Healthcare) is doing this is because that one large open claim will close out in October and will be reinsured so it drops out of your history. When you pull that one claim out it drastically affects the claim history and drops it significantly down," Albritton said.

"The sheriff does not have the same safety net you have built over the past six years because we just took on his policy in October," Albritton said.

"So the sheriff's plan is not exactly the same as the rest of the county?" Commissioner Pam Feagle asked.

"They are not apples to apples or apples and oranges.

It is more like an apple-orange fruit salad or hybrid," Albritton said. "We did not want to make any drastic changes, so we are slowly moving toward combining the plans and taking baby steps."

Albritton detailed differences between the two plans (see related story), stating that combining the two plans this year would have resulted in an 8.4% increase and cost the county \$211,000 more, while saving the TCSO \$76,000 -- a \$135,000 negative impact to the county budget.

"We are moving in the right direction. You are starting to net out the large claims and preparing for changes in the pharmacy coverage, which puts us in a very good position going forward," Albritton added.

"So, basically you and the insurance committee have weighed all of these options and this is the best one?" Feagle asked.

"The plan you had in place did its job. Now you have to start over with another 3-5 year plan. We don't know what that strategy will look like, but for the current year, this is the best we could come up with," Albritton answered.

The county opened its series of budget workshops Monday with a four-hour session that included presentations from Welch, Taylor County Development Authority (TCDA) Executive Director Scott Frederick, Taylor County Sheriff Wayne Padgett, DMH Board Chairman Ken Arnold, Supervisor of Elections Dana Southerland and Clerk of Court Annie Mae Murphy.

Additional workshops are scheduled for 9 a.m. on Thursday, July 19, Tuesday, July 24, and Thursday, July 26.

BIG BEND WATER AUTHORITY NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT BUDGET AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING AND PUBLIC BOARD MEETING

The Big Bend Water Authority ("Authority") will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, July 24, 2018, at 5:30 p.m. at 1313 1st Avenue SE, Steinhatchee, Florida.** The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comment and consider the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2018-2019. The public is also free to state any objections to or support of the budget and rates. The Authority's Board of Directors ("Board") will consider adoption of the budget and rates with any amendments it deems advisable following the public hearing. A summary of the budget is provided below:

BUDGET:

Income:

Water:	\$832,557.00
Wastewater:	299,499.00
Other receipts:	166,574.00
Total Income:	\$1,298,630.00

Expenses:

Operations:	\$834,522.00
Debt Services:	464,108.00
Total Expenses:	\$1,298,630.00

Water & Wastewater Rate Structure: The rates are unchanged from the prior year.

Current Base Rates (up to 3,000 gal. min.)

Customer Classification	Water	Wastewater
Residential	\$31.75	\$42.57
Light Commercial	\$31.75	\$42.57
Heavy Commercial	\$49.37	\$68.05

Rates per thousand gallons or portion thereof (all classifications)*

Amount	Water	Wastewater
*3001 - 6000	\$2.80	\$3.92
*6001 - 9000	\$2.94	\$4.12
*9001 - 12,000	\$3.08	\$4.32
*12,001 and up	\$3.21	\$4.53

WATER METER - NEW INSTALLATION - CONNECTION FEES:

- **COMMERCIAL - WATER ACCOUNT: \$1600.00 (INC. BFP) BASED ON 5/8" METER, 1" OR ABOVE UPGRADE TO BE DETERMINED BASED ON COST OF MATERIALS. (INC. DOUBLE CHECK VALVE)**
- **SINGLE FAMILY HOME - WATER ACCOUNT: \$1600.00 (INC. BFP) BASED ON 5/8" METER, UPGRADE TO 1" OR ABOVE TO BE DETERMINED BY BASED ON COST OF MATERIALS (INC. DOUBLE CHECK VALVE).**
- **RECREATIONAL VEHICLE PARK: \$480.00 PER R/V SITE PLUS:**
 - CONNECTION AGREEMENT REQUIRED WITH AUTHORITY
 - DEVELOPER PAYS ALL COSTS FOR WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FROM MASTER METER TO R/V SITES.
 - ALL INFRASTRUCTURE TO BE DESIGNED TO AUTHORITY SPECIFICATIONS.
 - ALL INFRASTRUCTURE TO BE DEDICATED TO AUTHORITY CONNECTION AGREEMENT.
 - PER INFRASTRUCTURE SUBJECT TO INSPECTION AND APPROVAL BY AUTHORITY PRIOR TO ACCEPTANCE.
 - MASTER METER REQUIRED AND SIZED PER CONNECTION AGREEMENT.
- **NEW SUBDIVISION - \$1600.00 PER HOUSE PLUS:**
 - CONNECTION AGREEMENT REQUIRED WITH AUTHORITY
 - DEVELOPER PAYS ALL COSTS FOR WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FOR SUBDIVISION.
 - INDIVIDUAL METERS REQUIRED FOR ALL HOMES.
 - ALL INFRASTRUCTURE TO BE DESIGNED TO AUTHORITY SPECIFICATIONS.
 - ALL INFRASTRUCTURE TO BE DEDICATED TO AUTHORITY CONNECTION AGREEMENT.
 - PER INFRASTRUCTURE SUBJECT TO INSPECTION AND APPROVAL BY AUTHORITY PRIOR TO ACCEPTANCE.
 - AUTHORITY, AT ITS SOLE DISCRETION, MAY REQUIRE MASTER METER FOR NEW SUBDIVISION IN ADDITION TO INDIVIDUAL METERS.

SEWER - NEW INSTALLATION - CONNECTION FEES:

- **COMMERCIAL - SINGLE STATION SEWER ACCOUNT: \$6500.00, ADDITIONAL COST MAY BE REQUIRED DUE TO DISTANCE TO FORCE MAIN.**
- **COMMERCIAL - DUAL STATION SEWER ACCOUNT: \$20,000.00, ADDITIONAL COST MAY BE REQUIRED DUE TO DISTANCE TO FORCE MAIN.**
- **RESIDENTIAL - SINGLE FAMILY HOME - SEWER ACCOUNT: \$6500.00, ADDITIONAL COST MAY BE REQUIRED DUE TO DISTANCE TO FORCE MAIN.**
 - CONNECTION AGREEMENT REQUIRED WITH AUTHORITY
 - DEVELOPER PAYS ALL COSTS FOR WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE INCLUDING COLLECTION SYSTEM, (COMMON LIFT STATION), AND EXTENSION TO EXISTING FORCE MAIN.
 - ALL INFRASTRUCTURE TO BE DESIGNED TO AUTHORITY SPECIFICATIONS.
 - ALL INFRASTRUCTURE TO BE DEDICATED TO AUTHORITY CONNECTION AGREEMENT.
 - PER INFRASTRUCTURE SUBJECT TO INSPECTION AND APPROVAL BY AUTHORITY PRIOR TO ACCEPTANCE.
- **NEW SUBDIVISION \$2500.00 - WITH COMMON AREA LIFT STATION - PER HOUSE PLUS:**
 - CONNECTION AGREEMENT REQUIRED WITH AUTHORITY
 - DEVELOPER PAYS ALL COSTS FOR WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE INCLUDING COLLECTION SYSTEM, (COMMON LIFT STATION), AND EXTENSION TO EXISTING FORCE MAIN.
 - ALL INFRASTRUCTURE TO BE DESIGNED TO AUTHORITY SPECIFICATIONS.
 - ALL INFRASTRUCTURE TO BE DEDICATED TO AUTHORITY CONNECTION AGREEMENT.
 - PER INFRASTRUCTURE SUBJECT TO INSPECTION AND APPROVAL BY AUTHORITY PRIOR TO ACCEPTANCE.

RE-READ METER (CUSTOMER REQUESTED): \$25.00 (IF NO ERROR)

TEMPORARY TURN ON: \$75.00 PLUS WATER USED

LATE PAYMENTS: AFTER 15 DAYS FROM DUE DATE: \$5.00

- 40 DAYS FROM BILLING DATE LATE: DISCONNECT

RECONNECT: LESS THAN 60 DAYS: \$50.00
MORE THAN 60 DAYS: \$150.00

NSF CHECKS: \$25.00

- AFTER SECOND OFFENSE: CASH OR MONEY ORDER ONLY

DEPOSIT - WATER (RESIDENTIAL): \$50.00 SEWER (RESIDENTIAL): \$50.00
DEPOSIT - SEWER (COMMERCIAL): \$250.00 SEWER (COMMERCIAL): \$250.00
TRANSFER/SERVICE FEE: \$150.00 (NON-REFUNDABLE) WHEN OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY HAS CHANGED

IRRIGATION METERS: \$ 525.00 PLUS \$ 50.00 DEPOSIT PLUS: CUSTOMER MUST HAVE AN ACTIVE WATER METER WILL BE BILLED SEPARATELY FROM OTHER ACCOUNT/ACCOUNTS. THE MINIMUM MONTHLY BILL WOULD BE \$31.75.

BACKFLOW PREVENTERS - BASIC: \$25.00
5/8": STANDARD AND INCL. IN THE CONNECTION FEE
1": ADDITIONAL \$25.00, 1" TESTABLE: ADDITIONAL \$80.00
LARGER THAN 1": BY QUOTE ONLY

NON-STANDARD INSTALLATION: RATES MAY VARY DUE TO MATERIAL COSTS
1" PIPE: \$1.50 PER FOOT
2" PIPE: \$3.00 PER FOOT
TRENCHING: \$50.00 PER HR
LABOR: \$55.00 PER HR (PER PERSON)

A meeting of the Authority's Board of Directors ("Board") will be held immediately following the public hearing at approximately 6:00 p.m. Members of the public are encouraged to attend and provide comment at the budget hearing and meeting, which may be continued to a date and time certain as announced at the hearing and/or meeting and noticed. For more information, including a copy of the budget and agenda, please visit the Authority's website (<http://www.bigbendwaterauthority.com>) or contact Cindy Wood at 352.498.3576. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations at the hearing and/or meeting should contact Cindy Wood at the contact information provided above. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at (800) 955-8770 for aid in contacting Cindy Wood at 352.498.3576 at least two (2) days prior to the date of the hearing and meeting.

If anyone chooses to appeal any decision of the Board with respect to any matter considered at a meeting, such person will need a record of the proceedings and should accordingly ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made that includes the testimony and evidence upon which such appeal is to be based.

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DMH board asks county for half of its sales tax revenue to 'help us keep the doors open'

Doctors' Memorial Hospital (DMH) Board Chairman Ken Arnold and several board members attended the county's Monday budget workshop to call on commissioners to "help us keep the doors open" by committing a portion of one-cent sales tax revenues to pay for future capital improvements and equipment needs.

Arnold thanked commissioners for their past support and pointed out the one-cent sales tax was previously used to repay a bond issue that funded the construction and equipping of the new hospital.

The local option one-cent sales tax -- which generates approximately \$1.4 million per year -- made the final payment on the bond issue that funded construction of the new DMH facility in December 2017.

Over the past 15 years, excess one-cent sales tax revenues -- above what was needed to make the bond payment -- have been used to purchase and replace equipment at the hospital.

However, when the county renewed the one-cent local option sales tax for another 20 years last year, commissioners earmarked 25% of the proceeds (\$350,000) for Taylor County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) capital expenditures.

The remaining 75% of one-cent sales tax revenues (just over \$1 million) is currently scheduled to fund capital outlay needs and other equipment purchases for various other county departments.

Joined by DMH CEO Tom Stone, along with DMH Board Members Isadore "Izzy" Rommes, Bill Brynes and Pat Barbaree, Arnold thanked the county for its past support and called for the county to help DMH with its future capital improvement needs.

"You continued the one-cent sales tax. Please don't abandon your support of the hospital. Make a portion of these revenues available to the hospital for capital improvement needs similar to what you have done in the past," Arnold said.

Arnold told commissioners the hospital is now 15 years old and much of the equipment has "reached the end of useful life" while other pieces of equipment have "reached technical end of life, meaning that they are no longer supported by the manufacturer. This is particularly important because replacement/repair

parts are either obsolete or difficult to obtain," Arnold told commissioners.

"Taylor County has been blessed to have a hospital to provide quality healthcare to its citizens. The hospital is also a very important element for potential economic growth in our community," a letter from the DMH Board stated.

"DMH is a valuable asset to this community, and it is important that the hospital continues to change and progress as the healthcare environment changes," DMH officials stated.

Arnold pointed out that DMH formed a partnership with Tallahassee Memorial Hospital (TMH) in 2013. Despite the benefits for both facilities, the partnership has been unable to generate enough revenue to reach a break-even financial position nor generate the funds needed to make major capital improvements and improvements to the facility.

"During these years, administration and staff have made great strides in significantly reducing costs each year," but unfortunately during the same period, DMH has continued to experience reductions in net revenue that outpace the cost savings."

Since partnering with TMH in December 2013 through the 2017 fiscal year, DMH has shown a combined operating loss of \$2,581,000. Under the terms of the partnership, TMH has contributed \$1.3 million to DMH operations to offset one half of those losses.

"DMH's Five-Year Capital Replacement Plan currently calls for a minimum of \$1.1 million per year. This plan includes equipment that has reached or exceeded its useful life and equipment additions or replacement to improve technology that will enhance the services we currently offer or provide for new services," DMH Board members said.

"The Board of County Commissioners has funded various current and past years' equipment replacement through excess sales tax collections. The DMH board is requesting the county assist DMH in creating a permanent reserve fund managed by the county, to be used for the sole purpose of supporting the future capital needs of DMH," the letter states.

"It is our understanding the loan to build the hospital has been paid in full and there is excess sales tax funds held by the county. We

request that a DMH capital replacement fund be created using excess sales tax to fund the account. The DMH board further requests that the county designate funds from the one-cent local option sales tax or other sources which would be placed in a DMH capital replacement fund to be used for the sole purpose of the capital needs of DMH in the future.

"These funds are necessary to maintain the integrity of the hospital's infrastructure and provide our community with a sustainable quality medical facility not only today, but long into the future for those generations to come."

DMH requested that the estimated \$360,000 remaining in the county budget from 2017 one-cent sales tax collections (after the last bond payment was paid) be made available to DMH for its most pressing capital purchases, which Stone said would likely be a new ambulance to replace a 2012 model with more than 200,000 miles.

"When we split the one-cent sales tax, the county gets 66.7% and the city receives 33.3%, why is it split 60-40?" Commissioner Malcolm Page asked. "If the city would help contribute their portion it would make a big difference."

"Have you approached the city to see if they are willing to help by donating their third of the one-cent sales tax revenues?" Page asked.

"We have not yet, but we can pursue that," Arnold replied.

"That would help tremendously if they would put up \$400,000 to our \$600,000 and get you to the \$1 million that you need," Page said.

According to Stone, some of DMH's most pressing needs include a replacement AC chiller estimated to cost \$300,000, a back-up electrical generator and operating room lighting (\$180,000).

"One half of the one-cent sales tax generates how much?" Page asked.

"About \$700,000-750,000," County Finance Director Dannielle Welch replied.

"Twenty-five percent of that is dedicated to the sheriff's office for capital outlay," Page pointed out.

"Keep in mind that all of the other county department's capital outlay purchases are budgeted to come out of the remaining one-cent sales tax revenues," Welch said.

"Keeping the hospital

open is also very important," Arnold said.

"It certainly is. I could be the next patient out there," Page commented.

"When do you think you could approach the city about agreeing to contribute their portion?" Page asked.

"I would say as soon as possible," Arnold replied.

"I would hate to pass something saying we would do something contingent upon the city doing

something," Page said. "That would be like pointing a gun at them and would not be fair."

"We are not asking for exotic stuff. Just meat and potatoes stuff to keep our small rural hospital open," Arnold said. "We are not asking for any new taxes, just what you have graciously provided in the past to help us provide healthcare to this community."

"By having this equipment

here, we are able to attract specialty physicians to come here and provide services locally. This is good for the hospital, good for the patient and the patient's families, because they do not have to travel to Tallahassee to be with their loved one as they have surgery," Arnold added. "If we don't have the money to purchase this equipment, these specialty physicians can't offer these services here."

City begins budget talk with a \$100,000 deficit

City Finance Director Penny Staffney gave council members a somewhat improved outlook for upcoming budget talks, stating they are likely to begin with a \$100,000 deficit target.

"It's not as bad as first blush, which was somewhere around \$250,000. But we sat down and went line item by line item and trimmed some larger items. So you're looking at about \$100,000-ish to come up with," Staffney told the Perry City Council at its regular

meeting last week.

"It certainly wasn't a pretty picture (last year) when we were looking at a \$300,000 deficit. We'll be making less painful decisions," Mayor David Sullivan said.

"This is a working budget. At your next (regular) meeting, you'll have to set the maximum millage rate you could adopt. Remember, you can set that number and then always go lower. But once it is set, you can't go higher," City Manager Bob Brown said.

Contacted Tuesday,

Staffney said she had been "working on the budget daily, and I hope to present a balanced budget for the council's review at their next meeting. I believe \$100,000 is achievable, and we are not proposing a millage increase."

The city council's next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, July 24. The council will hold a special meeting this Saturday, July 21, at 2 p.m. to interview city manager candidates. Both meetings are open to the public.

Weather prevented helicopter transport

PASTOR
Continued from page 1

they crushed the sides of his truck. But he didn't hit either one. When we got to the scene, the driver in the other vehicle was standing outside his car and didn't have a scratch on him," Miller said.

"They had called the helicopter to take Leon to Gainesville, but the weather was bad, so he was transported to the trauma center by ambulance. He said he remembers waking up in the truck and the airbag had exploded, but he couldn't move.

"They were supposed to start Vacation Bible School (VBS) at the church last night (Monday), but it was cancelled. They plan to have it running tonight," Miller said.

"If anyone wants to help run VBS, that would be appreciated," she added.



Leon Holden's truck veered off the highway and into a thick stand of woods. The truck was nearly completely obscured by surrounding brush.

Most of TCSO increase due to family insurance

SHERIFF'S
Continued from page 2

new cars. Is that not in this budget?" Commissioner Steve Spradley asked.

"We are going to use our portion (25%) of the one-cent sales tax revenues (\$350,000) to purchase vehicles and equipment," Padgett replied.

When questioned about the \$54,000 for additional fuel costs, Padgett replied, "We are doing more patrolling, and the price of gas is going up. It just takes more gas. Plus we have four more SRO officers who will have cars."

"Every deputy has a car and drives it to and from home, and I understand that, because they need to be able to respond in the case of an emergency, but we don't know if gas prices will be up or down. I guess \$54,000 in fuel costs is a best guess," Commissioner Malcolm Page said.

County Administrator Ted Lakey asked if the TCSO budget could be reduced by the amount of capital outlay purchases that are now going to be paid out of one-cent sales tax revenues, but Tompkins explained that the capital outlay expenses were already absorbed within the

budget last year when the TCSO's \$1.3 million budget increase (including \$508,000 in capital outlay) was cut.

"It was not in this year's budget. We used one-cent sales tax money," Tompkins said.

Most of the TCSO's remaining requested budget increase (\$300,000) is part of Padgett's effort to reduce the amount of health insurance premiums paid by employees with plans that cover spouses and children.

"Most of our increase is due to family insurance premium costs," Sheriff Wayne Padgett told commissioners. "Hopefully, one day we will all be on the same plan."

Monthly health insurance premiums for TCSO individual policies are \$130 more per month (\$826.72) than what other county employees pay (\$696.42) -- despite the fact TCSO individual policy holders have a \$1,000 (single) and \$3,000 (family) deductible -- compared to a \$500 and \$1,000 deductibles for other county employees with similar coverage.

The TCSO has 79 covered employees under its plan, while the county has 124.

That gap is projected to

grow even larger this year, as TCSO health insurance premiums are projected to increase 4.7% (from \$826 to \$865 for individuals and from \$2,488 to \$2,604 per month for family coverage).

Other county employees (including constitutional officers) are projected to see a 2.1% increase in monthly health insurance premiums (from \$696 to \$710 for individuals and \$2,096 to \$2,139 for family coverage).

In an effort to avoid even larger premium increases, both plans will also see an increase in prescription medicine co-pays from a \$10-\$30-\$50 plan to a \$10-\$35-\$70 plan. The TCSO group plan will also no longer include morbid obesity coverage.

"I am very confident that the TCSO rate will go down," insurance agent Joe Albritton said, explaining that prior to the "one big open claim," the TCSO plan would have qualified for a rate decrease.

During the TCSO presentation, Tompkins said that \$300,000 of the requested increase would be used to pay a portion of TCSO employee insurance premiums to "equalize" them with other county employees "so they can afford family

insurance."

County departments and constitutional officers currently cover the following portion of health insurance premiums for county employees: Employee Only (100%), Employee + Spouse (89%), Employee + Child(ren) (91%) and Employee + Family (85%).

The TCSO currently pays 100% of each employee's individual health, dental and life insurance premiums, but employees must pay the entire difference if they opt for additional coverage for Employee + Spouse (\$1,198.75 more per month), Employee + Child(ren) (\$711 more per month) and Employee + Family (\$1,662 more per month).

"How many employees do you budget 100% of the family insurance premiums for?" Clerk of Court

Annie Mae Murphy asked. "Because the county has no employees that we pay 100% of the family plan premium cost. He (Sheriff Padgett) pays 100% of all employees' dental and 100% of some employees' family health coverage, and you (county) do not. County employees have to pay for their own dental."

Padgett stated he did not know the answer to Murphy's question, stating he would research the issue.

"All we are doing is trying to get to the same rate that you pay for employees with family coverage," Tompkins said.

"His individual (premium) rate is more (\$856 compared to \$710), so if you are considering this, you should pay the same amount you do for other employees," Murphy suggested.

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"That is why we are advocating blending the two groups together, so that we are all on an equal playing field," Tompkins stated.

The discussion over combining the policies continued at the commission's Tuesday morning meeting, with the board agreeing to hold a special meeting following its Tuesday, Aug. 24, budget workshop to make a final decision for this year.

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homeowners nor rental insurance covers damage caused by flooding. Most business insurance policies exclude flood damage. Only flood insurance protects you in a flood event.

Last year, heavy rain and storm surge from Hurricane

Irma caused widespread flooding throughout Florida. Of the nearly 3 million households who registered for assistance from FEMA, only 226,199 homeowners reported having a flood insurance policy.



NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

Many Floridians who did not have flood insurance and lost property because of flooding caused by the hurricane experienced financial hardship.

You have worked hard for your home, property and business; purchasing a flood insurance policy is one way you can protect your future.

A single-family residential building can be insured up to a maximum of \$250,000 and its contents up to \$100,000. Renters can cover contents up to \$100,000. Non-residential property owners can insure their building up to

\$500,000 and contents up to \$500,000.

Floridians who live in low-to-moderate risk areas can purchase an annual flood insurance policy for as little as \$500. To find an agent who sells flood insurance or to learn more about the National Flood Insurance Program, call 800-427-4661 or visit www.FloodSmart.gov.

Hurricane season began June 1. NFIP flood insurance policies have a 30-day waiting period before the policy becomes effective so don't wait, buy now.

Flood insurance policies cover you 365 days a year

and can provide assistance even if a flood event is not a presidentially declared disaster. Without flood insurance, you may be left without any insurance coverage when you need it most.

For more Hurricane Irma recovery information, visit www.FEMA.gov/IrmaFL.

Follow FEMA and the Florida Division of Emergency Management on Twitter at @FEMARegion4 and @FLSERT. You may also visit FEMA and the Division's Facebook pages at [Facebook.com/FEMA](https://www.facebook.com/FEMA) and [Facebook.com/FloridaSERT](https://www.facebook.com/FloridaSERT).

Letters to the Editor

Sponsors, spectators thanked after Keaton Beach fireworks

Dear Editor,:

First, we want to thank all the folks who waited patiently until Saturday, July 7, when we were finally able to shoot fireworks at Keaton Beach.

We hope you all enjoyed them.

Thank you Mr. Dan Cassell, Taylor County Fire-Rescue Chief, for all the help with the permitting process. We would also like to thank Taylor County Sheriff Wayne Padgett and the Taylor County Sheriff's Office for keeping an eye out for us.

Thank you Spyridon Aibejeris and Jack Woods for helping load the trailers and get them into position

for the shoot. Spyridon also made the arrangements with Mr. Jackson, the property owner, for us to use his property to shoot from.

A big shout out to Mr. Jackson and his family. If not for them, the fireworks could not have happened. We think it's the perfect spot.

Also thanks to J.R. Poppell of JR's Fireworks for taking time to deliver all the stuff we bought for the fireworks shoot.

And last, but certainly not least, a great big thank-you to all of those who contributed: Benjye Tuten of Tuten Logging, Barry Hart of Hart's Honey, Mark Roberts of Robert's Lumber, Billy Grant of Perry Auto

Supply (NAPA), Walt and Paula Sessions of Walter B's Store, Trey Howard of Howard Law and Bud Helm of Cashway.

You all helped make it happen.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
James and Lisa Faulkner

Woman seeks help from the community

Dear Editor:

I am a 61-year-old disabled woman who lives alone, except for when my disabled sister comes to stay with me so I can care for her.

My husband passed away 19 years ago, and, as I am unable to work, I have no income except for a small amount of Social Security each month, which is not enough to cover normal living expenses.

I moved to Perry to take care of my ailing mother, who passed away a little over a year ago. I find I have no one to turn to for help with a simple problem I have.

I live in a trailer, and the only doors into my home are extremely damaged, making it nearly impossible to get in and out. I struggle with these doors on a daily basis and am worried if there is a fire or other emergency, I would have a hard time exiting my house.

I have reached out to every available assistance program in Perry. For example, I have reached out to the Suwannee River Economic Council, Habitat for Humanity, Red Cross and many others. Each told me to call someone else, or that they couldn't help because I lived in a trailer and not a home.

In addition to social organizations, I reached

out to all of the churches in Taylor County. I went through the phone book, and each church declined to help me. We received only three return phone calls to our pleas, and each said they could not help.

I understand that these organizations have many to help, and that they cannot fix everything. But I am not asking for a lot, just help installing two new doors, and I am at a loss for what to do. I fear living in this condition will harm me and my sister in the future.

I am deeply concerned over the lack of help I have received, and the lack of basic empathy by these organizations for my situation. I understand that there are many elderly, disabled people like me living in trailers in Taylor County, and I am concerned they are receiving the same treatment.

I ask the citizens of Taylor County to help a fellow community member. I have lived in Taylor County since I was a little girl and am proud to call myself a Taylor Countian. If you know of anyone who can help with my situation, or any other organizations I can call, please let me know.

Sincerely,
Charlotte
(850) 371-2888



By DELORES LEGGETT WALKER

Memories linked to the forests

I suppose my memories of Daddy will forever be linked to the strength and beauty of hardwood trees. Chances are the aroma of timber on his clothing was forged in my memory when he held me for the first time.

This memory is triggered every time I see the rough exterior of a solid oak tree or smell the fragrance of freshly-cut wood.

As I was weed-eating around the oak trees in my yard today, an image of Daddy formed in my mind.

The solid strength of the trees -- with their abundance of green leaves rustling in the breeze and strong limbs providing shelter for squirrels and birds -- were perfect parallels of my Daddy's care for his family.

My Daddy, Theodore Leggett, was a woodsman with every shred of his being. He cut timber all over Taylor, Dixie and Lafayette counties, and never lost the connection and respect for God's forest land.

I know he harvested prime timber from the time he was a teenager, having heard his stories of adventures when Taylor County was renowned for its bounty of hardwood and timber camps dotted the North Florida coastline, but I was introduced to his world in 1944.

Not long after my birth my parents bought a house on Center Street in Perry. Daddy's small timber business enjoyed a growth spurt. Up until that time, he and my two brothers, Bobby and Ted, were the company staff. But, the additional work required Daddy to hire additional men to help. Our backyard became a small timber yard, so I was engulfed in the beloved fragrance of cut timber every time I walked outside the house.

I imagine it would be unheard of

nowadays to run a timber business in your back yard due to safety reasons, but as far back as I can remember no one every suffered an injury or voiced a complaint.

As for me, I knew better than to cross the imaginary line Daddy had drawn, designating the area we were allowed to play and the area his sawmill occupied.

When I visit Perry, I always make the turn off of Hwy. 27 onto Center

Street and let my memories replay the times I attended the Church of God or visited Ellison's Store.

Then I arrive at Five Points Intersection and savor the corner of property that holds most of my memories about Daddy. I let my mind wander to the days when the sound of log trucks rumbled in and out of our backyard, loading and unloading some of the most beautiful and fragrant pine, oak and sweet-gum trees imaginable.

But, most of all, I listen for Daddy's deep voice calling out instructions or bursting into a genuine belly laugh when something one of the guys said struck his funny bone!

My brother, sister and I recount some of Daddy's adventures in the woodlands of Taylor and surrounding counties in our book, "Daddy's Supper Tales."

He was bigger than life to us, and we could never record all his tales, but I figure he got a kick out of our attempt to do so.

My Daddy and trees will always share a connection. That connection has endured the test of time and remains crystal clear, no matter how many years separate us.

My Afterthought is this: When someone has touched all five of your senses, their existence can never be erased.



Daddy, Mama and brother Bobby at the Carbur Timber Camp in Taylor County.

Taco Times
Wednesday, July 18, 2018
123 S. Jefferson Street Perry, Florida P.O. Box 888 (850) 584-5513

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The Taco Times (ISSN 07470967) is published each Wednesday by Perry Newspapers, Inc., 123 S. Jefferson Street, Perry, Florida 32347. Subscriptions are \$35.00 per year or \$49.00 out of county. Periodicals postage paid at Perry, Florida 32348. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the TACO TIMES, P.O. Box 888, Perry, FL 32348.
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.
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Give me a "B-U-L-L-D-O-G-S!"

Taylor County Middle School cheerleaders hosted a Summer Cheer Camp on campus July 10-12, assisted by several Taylor County High School varsity cheerleaders. The groups coordinated three "fun-filled" days of cheers, stunts and team building activities. Shown above are: (front row, left to right) Amyricale Bailey, Addison Bethea, Ashton Mauldin, Chariah Williams and Caroline Lilliott; (second row, left to right) Lauren Wallat, Kayla Edwards, Arabia Lewis, Jha'briya Thomas, Journey Brown, Victoria Davis, Madyson Robinson and Destiny Herring (back row, left to right) Erica Taylor (varsity cheer), Ny'Kasha Britt (varsity cheer), Leah Harris, Tanner Nix, Brylee Mock, Natalie Eastman, Macy Dean, Allison Brantley, Molly Lundy, Jessicka Phillips, De'Asia Oliver (varsity cheer) and Abbyanna Stewart (varsity cheer). Sponsors are Chandra Bowden and LaDonna LaValle.

Political forum planned July 27 in Steinhatchee

Steinhatchee AARP Chapter 4064 is sponsoring a political forum on Friday, July 27, at 6:30 pm. at the Steinhatchee Community Center.

Candidates running for the office of county commissioner, District 3,

have been invited to share their concerns and ideas for improving the district.

Additionally, candidates will also be asked how they intend to work with other commissioners to better the county.

Also on the agenda will

be the Dixie County school board race for District 5. (This district covers the Jena area. Most of the Steinhatchee area middle and high school students attend Dixie County schools because they are much closer than the

schools in Perry.)

The public may ask questions after each candidate has stated his or her ideas, and the moderator will also introduce additional subjects.

Light refreshments will be served.

Military Actions

Matthew R. Adkins

U.S. Air Force Airman Matthew R. Adkins graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Adkins is the son of



U.S. Air Force Airman Matthew R. Adkins

Donna S. Driver of Mayo and William B. Adkins of Perry.

He is a 2016 graduate of Lafayette High School in Mayo.

Savannah N. Griffin

U.S. Air Force Airman Savannah N. Griffin graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Griffin is the daughter of Nichole Griffin of



U.S. Air Force Airman Savannah N. Griffin

Montgomery, Ala., and Gary Griffin of Perry, and granddaughter of Nleean Griffin, also of Perry.

She is a 2015 graduate of Robert Lee High School in Montgomery.

Veal earns BS nursing degree

Sarah Veal of Perry has received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Western Governors University (WGU).

The online, nonprofit university held commencement ceremonies earlier this year to celebrate the recent graduation of more than 15,000 students from across the country.

WGU has recognized 8,938 undergraduate and

6,734 graduate degree recipients who have completed their degrees since Jan. 1. Their areas of study include business, K-12 education, information technology and health professions, including nursing.

The average time to graduation for those earning a bachelor's degree was two years, four months. The average age of graduates is 38.

Fun Run benefits Taylor County Special Olympics

Special Olympics of Taylor County is hosting a "Family Fun Run" Saturday, July 28, at Rosehead Park. Registration for the one-mile run/walk will start at 6

a.m. and the run will begin at 7 a.m.

The cost is \$10 for adults

and \$5 for children. All proceeds benefit the local Special Olympics program.

DRIVER SAFETY

AARP Real Possibilities

Local class is planned Aug. 4

An AARP Driver Safety Class will be offered Saturday, Aug. 4, at the Perry Shrine Club located at 1050 Courtney Rd.

The cost is \$15 for AARP national members and \$20 for non-members.

Participants may be eligible to earn a multi-year discount on their auto insurance. (Please contact your auto insurer for details on savings.)

Space is limited, so pre-registration is encouraged. To register, please call Peggy Williams for details at (850) 838-0697.



Meet the scouts Aug. 3

Local Girl Scouts will hold an "Introduction to Scouts" meet and greet at the Rosehead Park Splash Pad Friday, Aug. 3, from 6-8 p.m. "Parents and children are invited to come play and find out more about Girl Scouts," organizers said.

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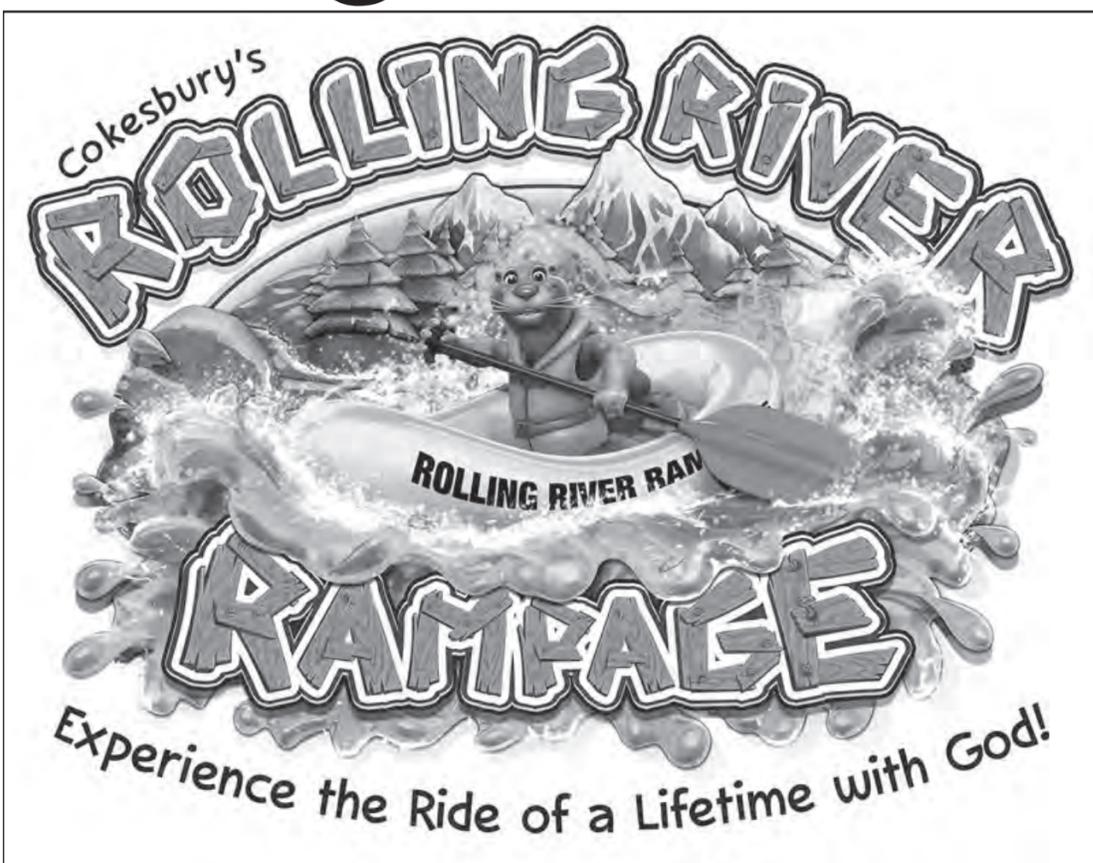
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GLAD TIDINGS

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

Choosing the good part

"Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

--Luke 10:41-42

By DANIEL COPELAND

Making choices is a fundamental component of what it means to be human. We consider, we appraise, we compare and inevitably we choose.

We make hundreds or thousands of choices a day, and even when it seems that we are not making choices, we are being carried along by a strong current of choices we have been making leading up to that moment.

We can't always predict what the outcome will be of all these many choices we are making. It's hard to perfectly weight the cost/benefit of one direction over another, and it's even harder to sense the accumulating result of all the little choices we continuously make day by day.



Daniel Copeland

Imagine if you could make just one monumental choice, at the very outset of your rational existence, which would determine all the rest like a cascading flow of dominos.

If you could make such a choice, what would it be? Perhaps it seems to you that life can't be reduced so simply to a single choice, but maybe that intuition is wrong. Maybe part of what makes us feel broken in our human experience is a kind of fragmentation that occurs when we have divided interests.

When our hearts are divided, life and decision-making can become quite complicated. We may find ourselves "worried" and "bothered" about many things precisely because too many things are important to us. Too many things seem "necessary."

The words of the Lord can seem out of touch with the complexities of the lives we live, can't they? How can "only one" thing be necessary? How can all of life's concerns be reduced down to one monumental choice, like two men choosing their portion of an inheritance, or like two men going down separate paths on a divided road?

I suppose it shouldn't surprise us. The Lord said a lot of things like this that seem out of touch with our sensibilities or contrary to our intuition, and usually without explanation. It's as though he intends to leave us with but one simple choice: Either we believe him, or we don't. In truth, that choice really is a monumental one. It's the kind of choice that can unify and simplify and harmonize all other choices that lay before us. It is, we might say, the one choice that is necessary.

Daniel Copeland serves as a teaching elder at St. Johns Christian Fellowship Church, located at 6050 Puckett Road in Perry. He may be reached at: 4thegospel@gmail.com.

'Action-packed adventure' begins Sunday

Westside Baptist Church invites local youth to come aboard the "Rolling River Rampage" Vacation Bible School planned Sunday, July 22, through Wednesday, July 25. Programs will be held from 5:30-8:30 p.m. nightly at the church, located at 3255 Hampton Springs Ave. "Rolling River Rampage VBS" is billed as an action-packed adventure. "We will take rafters on a white-water rafting adventure to experience the ride of a lifetime with God. Along the way, children discover that life with God is an adventure full of wonder and surprise, and that they can trust God to be with them through anything. Relevant music, exciting science, creative crafts, fun recreation and memorable Bible stories will help kids know that God is always with them as they ride the rapids of amazing grace," volunteers said. Registration is available online via the church's Facebook page.

'VBS in the Park' set July 28

Three local churches invite you to join them for "VBS in the Park" Saturday, July 28, at City Park from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The free, one-day Vacation Bible School (VBS) will feature a water slide, crafts, pizza, music and dancing. The event is being sponsored by Southside Baptist Church, Midway Baptist and San Pedro Baptist Church. Everyone is welcome.

Obituaries

Carol Jean Howell

Carol Jean Howell, 80, died July 13, 2018. Carol was born April 6, 1938, in Perry, to Olan Murphy and Evie (Hodges) Murphy.

Carol loved spending time with her family, cooking and gardening. She was an active and founding member of Community Church of Perry, where she led the choir in singing.

Carol was preceded in death by: her husband of 60 years, Pastor Franklin Dennis Howell; her son-in-law, Clay Callaway; her parents, Olan and Evie (Hodges) Murphy; and her brother, Marvin Murphy.

She is survived by: two children, Carol Denise (Howell) Callaway and Eric Howell and his wife, Vera; seven grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and one brother, J. Fred Murphy and his wife, Imogene; as well as a host of nieces and nephews.

A graveside service was held Sunday, July 15, at 2 p.m., at Indian Springs Cemetery with the Rev. Mason Callaway officiating. The family received friends from 5-7 p.m. on Saturday, July 14, at Burns Funeral Home of Perry. Additionally, the family received friends on Saturday, July 14, at Carol's residence from 10-2 p.m.

All arrangements are under the direction of Burns Funeral Home of Perry. Friends may sign the online guest book at www.joepburnsfuneralhomes.com.



Oakley Slaughter, reading his Bible

Virgil Oakley Slaughter

V. Oakley Slaughter, 95, a fifth generation Floridian, died Saturday, July 7, 2018, at his home in Columbia, Tenn.

Born April 22, 1923, in Bradenton, he was the second son of Robert Eugene Slaughter and Annie Lorene Smith Slaughter. On Nov. 5, 1943, he married the love of his life, Althea Murray Carter Slaughter. Following 70 years of marriage, Althea preceded him in death in 2014. Oakley was a lifetime member of the Church of Christ, worshipping most recently with the Smyrna Road congregation in Lewisburg, Tenn.

Survivors include: his son, Bob Slaughter (Pam) of Columbia, Tenn., and daughters, Candace Blankenship (Claude) of Brentwood, Tenn., and Debby Rowley (Alan) of Melbourne, Australia. He has 10 grandchildren living from coast-to-coast in the United States and in Australia and 24 great-grandchildren.

Oakley was also survived by: his sister, Dora Ella

Sheffield of Florida; and his sister-in-law, Priscilla Holbert of Virginia; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents and wife, Oakley was preceded in death by: his brother, Cyril O (Buck) Slaughter; his sister, Dorma Jean Slaughter; and his eldest son, Richard Greg Slaughter.

As a Christian, his first priority in life was always the will of God. He was a faithful man of God, serving as an elder in three congregations and teaching Bible classes. He never missed an opportunity to encourage others in their love for and obedience to the Lord while remaining a humble and dedicated servant himself.

Oakley was a grocer by occupation. He started work with his local A&P Food store when he was just a youngster, working with them part-time when he was a student and full-time after graduating from high school. He returned to A&P after serving in the U.S. Navy, seeing active duty in WWII, including involvement at Normandy in the D-Day invasion.

He worked with A&P in numerous roles over a 43-year career, after which he became the owner of Towne Square Grocery in Perry.

The store opened many avenues of ministry for Oakley as he reached out to people in all walks of life. He retired from his career at 69.

The honorary and active pallbearers were: Oakley's grandsons Mike Rapp, Trace Blankenship, Chris Alley, Kevin Demoff, CJ Blankenship, Jon Blankenship and Chris Blankenship; great-grandson, Blaine Hendry; and dear friends, Buster Collins and Roscoe Brannon.

The family visited with friends Monday, July 9, from 5-8 p.m. at Williams Funeral Home in Columbia, Tenn., and on Tuesday, July 10, from 12-1 p.m.

A funeral service was held Tuesday, July 10, at 1 p.m. with Earl Campbell officiating. Interment followed at Polk Memorial Gardens.

A special thanks to Oakley's friends far and wide who spent time visiting with him, calling, sending cards and church bulletins, and holding him in their prayers.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Evangelism Missions, Stewartville Church of Christ, PO Box 93, Cloverdale, Ala., 35617, Attn: Wayne Barrier.

Williams Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements.

Online condolences may be offered at www.williamsfh.com.



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Reaves signs to play for Broncbusters

After a spectacular four-year tenure with the Taylor County High School (TCHS) football team, Chris Reaves has signed a scholarship to play for the Garden City Community College Broncbusters, who won the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) championship in 2016.

Reaves will make his way to Garden City, Kan., on July 28 and will begin practice for Head Coach Jeff Sims immediately following his arrival on campus.

The Broncbusters went 8-4 last season, while going 5-2 in the Kansas Jayhawk Community College conference.

In 2017, Garden City outscored opponents 35-23 and boasted a 5-1 record away from their home stadium.

In 2016, Garden City had their first undefeated season ever, going 11-0 and winning the NJCAA national championship.

The Broncbusters held opponents to less than nine points a game on average, while averaging 29 points per game on offense.

Reaves will show up on campus with some impressive high school stats and looks to continue to add

to those at the next level.

Reaves played both defense and offense at the varsity level each of his four years at TCHS, and was a crucial factor on both sides of the ball since his freshman year.

In 2014, his freshman year, Reaves racked up 17 receptions for 672 receiving yards to go with a touchdown, as well as 192 yards rushing with two touchdowns.

Reaves even participated in a couple series at quarterback his freshman season and threw for 342 yards and three touchdowns.

As a freshman defensive back at TCHS, Reaves recorded 41 tackles and two interceptions.

In his sophomore season (2015) Reaves accumulated 38 tackles and four interceptions defensively.

Reaves primary role offensively as a sophomore was at receiver, where he piled up 1,024 yards of through the air to go along with 15 touchdowns.

In 2016, Reaves had another big season at receiver, hauling in 12 touchdowns and 940 receiving yards.

Defensively, his junior year, Reaves recorded 29 tackles to go with three interceptions.

Reaves alternated between quarterback and wide receiver his senior season (2017) and compiled some impressive offensive stats, including: 424 passing yards and five touchdowns, as well as 357 yards rushing with three touchdowns while

playing quarterback.

While lined up at receiver, Reaves grabbed 14 touchdowns to go along with 880 receiving yards.

During his final senior season, Reaves racked up 30 tackles and picked off three passes.

Reaves was named first-team All-State and first-team All-Big Bend three out of his four seasons at TCHS.

During his career, Reaves was the Bulldogs' biggest threat in the kick return game, returning one kickoff for a touchdown to go along

with three punt returns for touchdowns.

Reaves will have to work hard to earn a starting position during the month of August before Garden City plays their first game Sept. 1 against Dodge City Community College.



Chris Reaves (above) lays out to make a diving, highlight-reel catch of a Joshua Mixon pass for a touchdown during the Bulldogs' 2017 game against Union County. (Photo by Amy Kallschmidt Sadler)

Bulldogs now 9-1 in summer 7 vs. 7 matches

The Taylor County High School Bulldogs' football team is less than one month away from hosting the annual Kickoff Classic, which will be held on Aug. 17 against Class 6A Ocala-Forest.

The Bulldogs have a 9-1 record this summer in "7 vs. 7" matches and have defeated teams from Trenton (24-6), Hamilton County (24-0), Dixie County (18-12), Oak Hall (16-8), Mayo

(31-6) and Suwannee County (30-0).

Taylor County also defeated Fort White twice by scores of 15-12 and 18-13, and their only loss of the summer has come against

Wakulla County (24-20).

The Bulldogs were slated to compete in a "7 vs. 7" tournament in Dixie County yesterday (Tuesday), but results were unavailable as of press-time.

Teams that were expected to attend included: Newberry, Santa Fe, Trenton, Fort White and the host team (Dixie County).

Results of the "7 vs. 7" tournament will be included

in Friday's edition of the **Perry News-Herald**.

After the pre-season Kickoff Classic, the Bulldogs will officially kick off their 2018 regular season against Bradford County on Aug. 24.



Golf team will host camp

The Taylor County High School (TCHS) golf team will host a golf camp on Aug. 6-8 at Perry Golf and Country Club (PGCC), with all proceeds benefiting the TCHS 2018 golf team.

In a fun and organized atmosphere, participants in the camp will learn the basics of putting, chipping, driving, golf course etiquette, sportsmanship and the rules of golf.

Campers will need golf clubs and a water bottle each day. The camp is limited to the first 20 youth to sign-up and pay.

The camp is open to boys and girls from ages

8-16. Cost of the camp is \$30.

For more information, contact Mark or Lori Wiggins by calling (850) 843-2324 or (850) 843-0878.

How to get Porky on your plate

By **TOBY BENOIT**

There are few critters that I enjoy hunting more than feral hogs.

They are wary, large, destructive, have no bag limits and in most places can be hunted year-round — not to mention they are delicious to eat.

We are surrounded by great hog hunting, and although I've taken porkers in several Southern states, none provided any better opportunities than I find right here at home.

My preferred method of hunting is establishing a bait station in an open area near thick cover and feed them up until they begin to visit the site daily.

Then, I select an ambush location depending upon the direction of the wind (stay downwind, as their noses are incredible) and pass a broadhead-tipped arrow where it will do its job. I'll pass up the largest, stinking boar in the group to take out the 80- to 100-pounders for my cooler, as they provide the best eating.

And fine dining is the whole point of all of the effort! I've prepared wild pork in a variety of ways -- in fact just about any way you would prepare commercially-raised and store-bought pork.

Except, to my taster, wild pork is far better. It possesses a much better flavor, is far leaner and you have the satisfaction of dining of truly organic protein derived from your own skills.

But, wild pork does come with a caution as they can be

carrying some undesirable parasites, most significantly, swine brucellosis.

Swine brucellosis does not affect the edibility of the meat, but wild pork should be thoroughly cooked to an internal temperature of 160 degrees. The prolonged heat will kill any unsavory parasites or potential diseases, whether they exist in your meat or not. The point is not to take any chances, and never serve your wild pork rare.

One Thanksgiving I brined an 18-pound bone-in hindquarter for 24 hours, then smoked it for 18 hours until it reached an internal temp of 185 degrees. I then pulled the meat right off the bone and served pulled pork BBQ sandwiches right alongside the turkey. At the end of the day, we had leftover turkey, but the hog meat had vanished!

I'm clearly a huge fan of cooking wild hog meat, but I have to stress the importance of taking precautions when butchering and handling the raw meat as well. The bacterium "brucella suis" may not only be contracted via ingestion, but humans can contract swine brucellosis if blood, fluid or tissue from an infected animal contacts with the eyes, nose, mouth or a skin cut.

Although few humans die of such an infection, the disease can be chronic and debilitating. If an avid hog hunter gets sick with flu-like symptoms, remember to inform the doctor of any recent contact with a wild hog.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends the following precautions when field dressing feral hogs:

Wear eye protection and rubber or latex gloves when handling carcasses.

Avoid direct contact of bare skin with fluid or organs from the animal.

Avoid feeding raw meat or other parts of the carcass to your dogs.

Wash hands as soon as possible with soap and warm water for twenty seconds or more and dry hands with a clean cloth.

Thoroughly cook the meat (internal temp 160 degrees as previously mentioned) and be aware that freezing, smoking, drying and pickling do not kill the bacteria.

With just a bit of awareness and proper caution, there is no reason not to harvest and partake of that harvest in order to feed your family the best-tasting pork you can provide.

In fact, here is a great recipe that was featured in my 2014 cookbook, "Carnivore Country" that my own family has enjoyed

for many years:

Wild Hog Jambalaya
 ¼ cup olive oil
 1 onion, chopped
 ½ green pepper, chopped
 ¼ tsp garlic powder
 1 can tomato paste
 1 can tomato sauce
 2 cans of water
 ¼ tsp black pepper
 1 tomato, sliced
 3 cups wild hog meat, browned
 24 shrimp, peeled and veined

In a large cast iron skillet, heat the oil and brown the pepper and onion. Add the garlic powder, tomato

sauce, tomato paste, pepper, thyme, water and tomato and stir well. Let the mixture simmer for about ten minutes the add in the hog meat and simmer for another ten minutes before adding the shrimp and cook until the shrimp are pink and done. Serves six to eight.

As always, if you have any feedback, suggestions or even just want to share a good hunting story, give me a shout at RebelYellOutdoors@gmail.com.

God bless and good hunting!



Toby Benoit with a hog he killed during a recent hunt. "There are few critters that I enjoy hunting more than feral hogs," Benoit said. He also offers one of his favorite recipes for wild hog jambalaya.

Commission agrees to three-year contract for firm to maintain river navigation lights

County commissioners have agreed to pay a contractor \$28,500 over the next three years to maintain marine navigational aids at the entrances to four local rivers along the Taylor County coastline.

Ken's Concrete Pumping Service, Inc. will receive \$9,500 annually (\$2,375 per quarter) to maintain river entrance lights to aid boaters in navigating to and from popular fishing locations along the Taylor County coast.

At its May 7 meeting, the county commission approved funding \$4,750 for the last two quarters of the

current fiscal year for river entrance light maintenance of boating navigational aids.

The contract for "Taylor County River Light System Maintenance Services" will cover maintenance to the wooden support structures and navigational lights at the entrances of the Fenholloway, Econfina and Aucilla rivers, as well as Spring Warrior Creek.

"Work shall consist of inspecting, testing and maintaining Taylor County's four river entrance lights. These lights are located at the mouths of the Aucilla (Gamble Point), Econfina and Fenholloway

rivers, as well as the mouth of Spring Warrior Creek. The lights and structures will be inspected and maintained each quarter during the contract period (three years)," according to the scope of work.

The contractor will also be "on call" to repair river entrance lights as needed. If major functional or structural repairs to the lights are deemed necessary, a written estimate must be generated prior to work being performed.

Each river entrance light consists of a Pharos Marine Automatic Power Class "C" single lift assembly aid to

navigation package. The rugged, compact, aluminum self-contained unit is designed with LED flashing lantern powered by a solar power system and battery.

The contract calls for written reports to be submitted to the assistant county administrator each quarter detailing the performance and condition of each river entrance light and any replacement parts used, as well as the condition of the wooden structures.

The county advertised for bids in late 2017, but received only one proposal by the Dec. 7, 2017, deadline.

The lone bid from Pine Island Group LLC – totaling \$125,000 for the three-year period (\$10,416.66 per quarter) – was opened Dec. 12.

Commissioners opted to re-advertise for bids after determining that the lone bid was significantly over the budgeted amount.

On Jan. 16, 2018, the county completed the re-advertisement for bids and received no bid proposals.

On Feb. 23 county staff sent a request for quotes to two more area contractors and received one proposal from Ken's Concrete Pumping Service,

Inc., which county staff recommended to the county for approval.

"The original bid was high, so we re-bid, but did not get a response. So we rejected the bids and decided to look local," Taylor County Extension Director Clay Olson told commissioners.

"We now have a quote from someone local to visit each navigational marker at least once a quarter to check the light bulbs and the solar panel to make sure they are working and to put up some day glow reflective tape to help make them more visible," Olson added.

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RISING STARS



Jones off to the races at world's largest rodeo

Haley Jones, a senior at Aucilla Christian Academy, has earned a position on the Georgia State National High School rodeo team and is in Rock Springs, Wyo., this week competing at the 70th annual National High School Finals Rodeo (NHSFR) in the barrel race competition.

This is the second time Jones has qualified for the NHSF Rodeo. The daughter of Chad and Coleen Agner, she will be attending Missouri Valley College (MVC) in Marshall, Mo., in the Fall to major in pre-med.

While there, she will be a member of the MVC rodeo team and will compete in the collegiate rodeo circuit.

This week's NHSFR -- the world's largest rodeo -- features more than 1,650 contestants from 43 states, five Canadian provinces, Australia and Mexico.

In addition to competing for more than \$200,000 in prizes, contestants will also be competing for more than \$350,000 in college scholarships and the chance to be named a NHSFR World Champion.

To earn this title, contestants must finish in the Top 20 -- based on their combined times/scores in the first two rounds -- to advance to Saturday evening's final round.

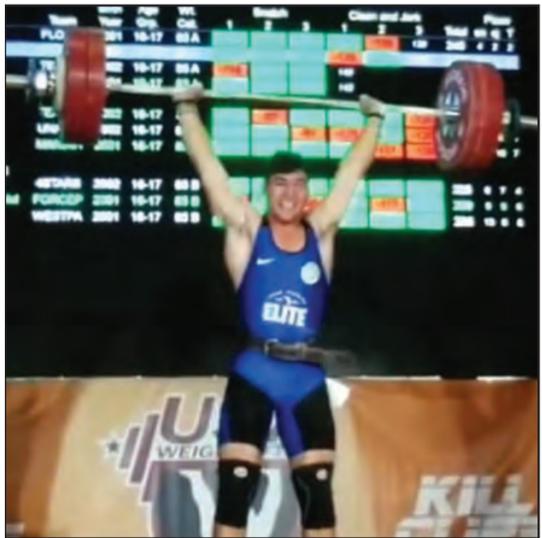
Along with the rodeo competition, contestants will have the opportunity to enjoy shooting sports, volleyball, dances, family-oriented activities, church services sponsored by the Fellowship of Christian Cowboys and shopping at the NHSFR trade show.

Daily results are available online at NHSRA.com.

Haley Jones, the daughter of Chad and Coleen Agner, is competing in barrel racing this week at the National High School Finals in held Rock Springs, Wyo.

Johnson wins fourth place at first national competition

Barnyard Crossfit's Cade Johnson, 17, recently took part in the USA Weightlifting Youth National Championships held in Grand Rapids, Mich., where he competed in Olympic-style weightlifting in two lifting events (snatch, and clean and jerk).



Cade Johnson, an incoming high school senior, is a member of Barnyard Crossfit.

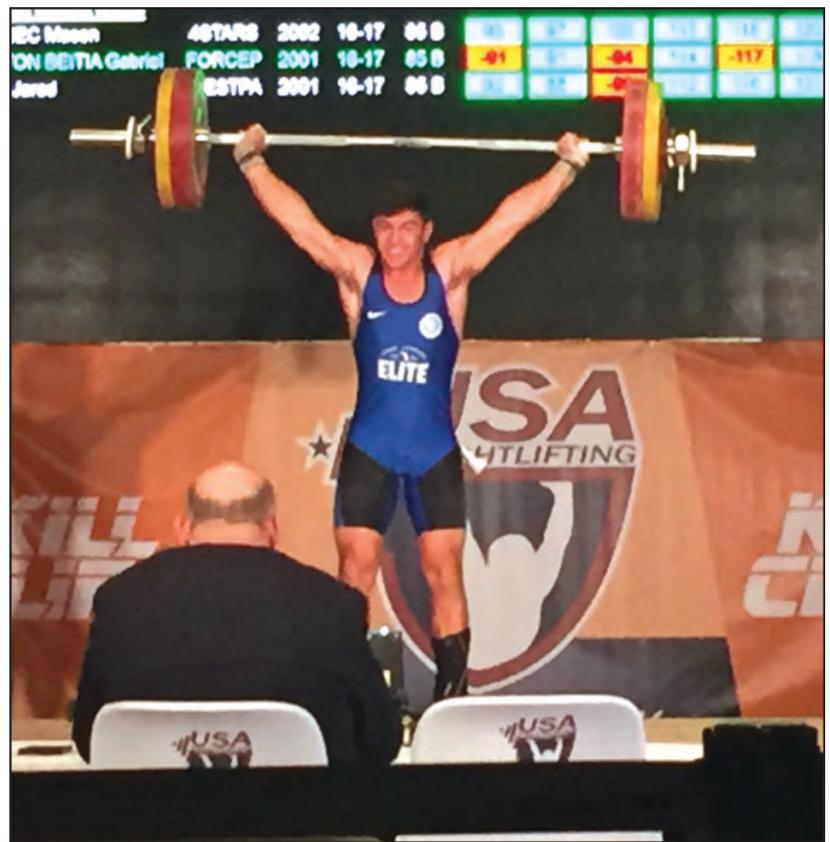
He totaled 250 kg (551 pounds), with an 111 kg (244-pound) snatch and an 139 kg (306-pound) clean and jerk in the 85 kg (187-pound) weight class.

This was Johnson's first national weightlifting meet, and he brought home a fourth-place finish against some of the strongest competitors in the nation.

Under the coaching of Candace and Orry Agner, Johnson has already earned a handful of first place finishes in Olympic weightlifting, including a fourth place finish at the 2018 state weightlifting championship held in April.

"His success truly reflects his dedication and hard work, as well as his love for the sport," his coaches said.

Johnson is the son of Richard and Alise Johnson of Perry.



Cade Johnson, the son of Richard and Alise Johnson, competed at the USA Weightlifting Youth National Championships held in Grand Rapids, Mich.



Taylor County's Hunter Harvey (left) wrapped up a week of competition Friday during the 26th annual International Finals Youth Rodeo in Oklahoma.

Harvey wins at international rodeo finals

Taylor County's Hunter Harvey won reserve champion (runner up) in team roping at the 26th annual International Finals Youth Rodeo (IFYR), which came to a close Friday, July 13, at the Heart of Oklahoma Exposition Center in Shawnee, Okla.

The world's richest youth rodeo awarded more than \$250,000 in prize money, championship saddles and buckles on Friday after the finals performance.

The IFYR commenced with more than 850 registered contestants and 1,411 event entries. After

two long-go's and 10 performances, the top 15 contestants with the highest averages from each event competed in the finals on Friday, July 13 for a shot at the championships.

"These athletes gave it their all this week, proving they deserve these hard-

earned titles," said Chris Dunlap, assistant director of the Heart of Oklahoma Exposition Center and International Finals Youth Rodeo. "With contestants from 33 states, Australia and New Zealand, the IFYR brings together the world's top youth rodeo

competitors. We would like to congratulate our champions and thank our sponsors, contestants and volunteers who made this event possible."

The International Finals Youth Rodeo, held annually since 1993, is a non-profit organization that presents

top high school athletes with a professional rodeo. The internationally-recognized IFYR is held annually at the Heart of Oklahoma Exposition Center. The event includes contestants competing in 10 events running simultaneously in three arenas over six days.



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LEGALS

demands against decedent's estate, on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served, must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE 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 FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE

LEGALS

Defendants.
NOTICE OF SALE
 TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I, Annie Mae Murphy, Clerk of the Circuit Court of the Third Judicial Circuit, in and for Taylor County, Florida, pursuant to the Uniform Judgment In Foreclosure entered in the above styled cause, will sell at public sale the following described property situate in Taylor County, Florida, to wit:
 Commence at the point of intersection of the East boundary line of the NW ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 27, Township 4 South, Range 7 East and the northerly right of way line of the Live Oak, Perry and Gulf Railroad and run S 65 degrees 58' 29" W, along said R/W Line, 838.11 feet to the Point of Beginning, thence from said Point of Beginning continue S 65 degrees 58' 29" W, along said R/W 317.80 feet; thence run S 02 degrees 03' 14" E, 86.27 feet to the north R/W line of highway 98; thence run N 65 degrees 58' 29" E, along said North R/W line, 316.71 feet; thence run N 01 degree 23' 14" W, 86.68 feet to the POB. Said parcel contains 0.58 acres, more or less.
 ALSO

Commence at the Point of intersection of the East boundary line of the NW ¼ of SE ¼ of Section 27, Township 4 South, Range 7 East and the Northerly Right of Way line of the Live Oak, Perry and Gulf Railroad and run S 65 degrees 58' 29" W 838.11 feet to the Point of Beginning; thence from said Point of Beginning continue S 65 degrees 58' 29" W along said R/W 317.80 feet; thence run N 02 degrees 03' 14" W 322.61 feet; thence run N 66 degrees 49' 59" E 319.91 feet; thence run S 01degrees 23' 14" E 318.96 feet to the Point of Beginning. Said parcel containing 2.18 acres and is located in the NW ¼ of SE ¼ of Section 27, Township 4 South, Range 7 East, Taylor County, Florida. Subject to covenants, restrictions and easements of record. Said sale shall be made to the highest and best bidder for cash pursuant to the Summary Final Judgment entered in the above styled cause and will be held at the following place and time:
 Taylor County Courthouse, East steps, 108 North Jefferson Street, Suite 102, Perry, Florida 32347, on Tuesday, the 14th day of August, 2018, commencing at the hour of 11:00 A.M.
 All interested parties shall be governed accordingly by this Notice.
 DATED this 12 day of July, 2018.
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 Truck drivers - Hauling timber Must have: clean CDL, experience log hauling. Drug test required. Offering: competitive wages, health insurance and paid vacation. Must live in Perry/Madison area. Contact Jay Asbel at (727) 457-6001.
 7/6-8/27

CHECK STATION OPERATOR
 The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is now hiring personnel for seasonal work at check stations during the upcoming hunting season. The check stations will operate on the following dates: Archery from 9/22 - 10/7/18 on Snipe Island, Spring Creek and Tide Swamp Units and from 9/29 - 10/14/18 on the Hickory Mound Unit; Muzzleloader from 10/26 - 28/2018 on the Snipe Island, Spring Creek and Tide Swamp Units, General Gun from 11/3- 11/18/18 on Snipe Island, Hickory Mound, Spring Creek and Tide Swamp; Youth Turkey from 3/9 -10/2019 on Snipe Island, Spring Creek and Tide Swamp, Spring Turkey from 3/16/2019 - 3/31/19 on Snipe Island, Spring Creek and Tide Swamp. Positions are available in Taylor County. Starting pay rate is \$8.25/hour. Apply at the Big Bend Field Office at 663 Plantation Road in Perry or call (850) 838-9027 for more information.
 7/18-8/31

LEGALS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION
 IN RE: ESTATE OF File No. 622018CP000344XXXXCX Division
BETTE DAVIS DIORIO a/k/a BETTE ANN DAVIS Deceased.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 The administration of the estate of BETTE DAVIS DIORIO, also known as BETTE ANN DAVIS, deceased, whose date of death was February 26, 2018, is pending in the Circuit Court for Taylor County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 108 North Jefferson Street, Perry, Florida 32348. The names and addresses of the ancillary personal representative and the ancillary personal representative's attorney are set forth below.
 All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or

OF DEATH IS BARRED. The date of first publication of this notice is: July 18, 2018. Signed on this 13 day of June, 2018.
 YOSHIMI O. SMITH, ESQ.
 Attorney for Ancillary Personal Representative
 Florida Bar No. 905151
 Beller Smith P. L.
 2101 NW Corporate Blvd., Suite 316
 Boca Raton, Florida 33431
 Telephone: 561-994-4316
 Email: ysmith@bellersmith.com
 Secondary Email: kayla@bellersmith.com
 PHILIP DIORIO
 Ancillary Personal Representative
 15 Sylvan Road
 Shelter Island Heights, New York 11965
 7/18-7/25

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA, PROBATE DIVISION.
 Case No. 2018-378-CP
 In Re: The Estate of: LOLA VIRGINIA GRANTHAM, Deceased.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 The administration of the estate of LOLA VIRGINIA GRANTHAM, deceased, whose date of death was May 26, 2018; File Number 2018-378-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 name and address of the co-personal representatives and their 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: July 18, 2018.
 SMITH & ASSOCIATES
 ATTORNEYS AT LAW, P.A.
 MICHAEL S. SMITH
 Attorney for Co-Personal Representatives
 Florida Bar No. 169621
 P.O. Drawer 579
 Perry, Florida 32348
 Telephone: (850) 584-3812
 Fax: (850) 584-7148
DEBORAH DIANNE HALE,
 Co-Personal Representative for the Estate of LOLA VIRGINIA GRANTHAM, deceased
 KARLA DALE WEEKLY,
 Co-Personal Representative for the Estate of LOLA VIRGINIA GRANTHAM, deceased
 7/18, 7/25

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA. CIRCUIT CIVIL DIVISION.
 CASE NUMBER: 62-2018-CA-000048
CONNIE MARIE SPEES and **TAMMY MARIE SPORER** F/K/A **TAMMY MARIE SPEES,** Plaintiff,
 -vs-
PATSY THORNTON and **CHARLES RASO, II,**

NOTICE
 Notice is hereby given that the Board of County Commissioners of Taylor County, Florida, will hold a Public Hearing to receive input on using Tourism Development Funds for the installation of street lighting on Keaton Beach Drive, the Keaton Beach Boat Ramp and the Keaton Beach Coastal Park and to hear any public concerns about safety or input to determine if Keaton Beach residents are in favor of street lighting on Keaton Beach Drive, the Keaton Beach Boat Ramp and the Keaton Beach Coastal Park.
 The Public Hearing shall be held at the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Room, Taylor County Courthouse Annex, Old Post Office Building in Perry, Florida, at the regular meeting of the Board, on MONDAY, AUGUST 6, 2018, AT 6:15 P.M.
 All members of the public are welcome to attend. Notice is hereby given pursuant to Florida Statute 286.0105 that any person or persons deciding to appeal any matter considered at this Public Hearing will need a record of the hearing and may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.
 The Public Hearing may be continued to one or more dates. Any interested party shall be advised that the date, time and place of any continuation of the Public Hearing shall be announced during the Public Hearing and that no further notice concerning the matter will be published.
 Dated this 12th day of July, 2018, by Annie Mae Murphy, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners of Taylor County, Florida.
 7/18, 7/25

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR BIDS
 The Taylor County Board of County Commissioners is soliciting bids for THE LEASING OF 296 ± ACRES FOR THE HARVESTING OF SAW PALMETTO BERRIES IN TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA. BIDS WILL BE FOR A PER POUND PRICE OF HARVESTED BERRIES. Qualified firms or individuals desiring to provide the requested services must submit their bid package in an envelope or similar package marked "Sealed bids for THE LEASING OF 296 ± ACRES FOR THE HARVESTING OF SAW PALMETTO BERRIES IN TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA" to the Clerk of Court, 1st Floor Courthouse, 108 North Jefferson Street, Perry, Florida 32347 to arrive no later than

Perry Apartments
 1, 2, 3 Bedroom Apartments
 \$500-\$700 monthly plus security deposit
 2273 S. Byron Butler Pky., Perry, FL 32348
(850) 584-6444

2 BEDROOM APARTMENT available. Credit check required. Applications available at Ware Oil. Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., call (850) 584-6666.
 WO

A TO Z FARM AND LAWN SERVICE
 Complete Lawn Services
 Licensed and Insured
 Land clearing, dozer work, tree trimming/removal, dump truck services, harrowing, bush hog mowing, rake work, dirt leveling.
 Call (850) 838-5996 or (850) 584-7972.
 AZ

WOODRIDGE APARTMENTS
 Accepting applications for 1, 2 and 3 BR HC and Non-HC accessible apartments. HUD vouchers considered. Call (850) 584-5668. 709 W. Church St., Perry, FL 32348. TDD 711. Equal Housing Opportunity.
 WA

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

Having a yard sale? Put it in the paper! Call (850) 584-5513

Advent Christian Village has immediate openings: LPNs & RNs at Good Samaritan Center skilled nursing facility.



Valid FL nursing license required.
 To apply: Visit www.acvillage.net/jobs to download an application or visit the Personnel Office at 10680 Dowling Park Drive in Dowling Park to fill out an application. Call (386) 658-5592 to inquire about the application process.




Full-time employment includes paid time off, competitive compensation package, access to on-site day care and fitness facility, and the opportunity to join a service-oriented Christian organization. Great working environment! EOE/DFW. Criminal background verification required.

September 21 & 22

2018 Smokin' in the Pines BBQ Festival

Get your "Kiss the Cook" apron ready, grab your favorite tongs and pick out your favorite recipe.

BBQ connoisseurs can rejoice! The wait is nearly over.

On September 21-22, at Perry's Forest Capital Park,

the annual "Smokin' in the Pines" BBQ Festival will once again bring a little smoke and spice to Taylor County.

With over \$10,000 to be awarded in cash and prizes, competition at the festival will be fierce.

"We're going to be paying out lots of cash!" Taylor County Chamber of Commerce President Dawn Taylor said.

In addition to the open BBQ competition, the People's Choice competition, and the Kidz-Que competition, this year "Smokin' in the Pines" has partnered with the National BBQ News to bring the "Sauces of Honor" Sauce Contest to the line-up.

While the competition gets saucy, festival-goers will be entertained by the many sights and sounds of the two-day event.

"There will be awesome country and southern rock music by nationally-known performers all weekend long, great vendors, crafts, food, a Kidz-Zone play area, BBQ sampling and much more!" Taylor said.



Start taste-testing your secret family BBQ sauce recipe. For the first time, festival organizers have partnered with National BBQ News to bring festival-goers a new "Sauces of Honor" contest to add to the event's many competitions.

General admission to the event is free.

More information on the festival, as well as

applications to sign up for the various competitions, is available at www.smokininthepinesbbq.com.

Information is also available at the Perry-Taylor Chamber of Commerce at (850) 584-5366.



Over \$10,000 in cash and prizes will be awarded during the festival. Applications to compete in any of the festival contests are available at www.smokininthepinesbbq.com

At the 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.

June 29:
James Kaleb Peacock, 23, 2726 Lakeside Dr., possession of analogs, Sgt. Vinson, TCSO.
Kenneth Earl Padgett, 41, 345 Bradshaw Blvd., possession of methamphetamine with intent to sell, possession of drug paraphernalia.

David Miles, 24, 2911 Golf Course Rd., possession of analogs, Sgt. Vinson, TCSO.

Chaddrick Ellis, 29, 112 S. Beverly St., 29, 112 S. Beverly St., assault on law enforcement officer, flee/attempt to elude police officer, knowingly driving with license suspended, false name to law enforcement officer, possession of less than 20 grams cannabis, resist/obstruct/oppose officer without violence, reckless driving, Ptl. Cephus, PPD.

Jeremy T. Cooper, 39, 1860 Ellison Gamble Rd., VOP-- burglary of structure/conveyance, Dep. Melvin, TCSO.

James Edward Moses, 33, 1213 Parkview St., out of county warrant, driving with license suspended or revoked, Trp. Clements, FHP.

Alfredo Roosevelt Graham, III, 21, 409 W. Cherry St., domestic assault, criminal mischief, Ptl. Mitchell, PPD.

June 30:

Dorothy Ann Archer, 50, 2257 Turkey Oak Rd., simple domestic battery, Dep. James, TCSO.

Florence Jan Williams, 25, 111 BelAir St., reemployment assistance fraud, Dep. Wimberley, TCSO.

Dustin Jameson Bain, 34, 101 Pine Tree Rd., DUI, refuse to submit DUI test, driving with license suspended, obstruction without violence, Sgt. Young, TCSO.

Jeffery Garner, 27, 803 Stephen Ct., VOP-- driving with license suspended or revoked, Ptl. Cephus, PPD.

Lance Devin Foskey, 31, 172 Jackson Rd., DUI, Officer O'Conner.

William Hardy Cruce, 37, 1428 Bernard Johnson Rd., FTA-- pre-trial, Ptl. Phelps, PPD.

James Earl Boyington, 81, 113 Temple Terrace, DUI, Trp. Swindle, FHP.

Jesus G. Sanchez, 19, 4562 Waldo Circle, DUI, Officer O'Conner.

Maria Teresa Davis, 35, Archer, retail theft of merchandise, Ptl. Cephus, PPD.

Kile Jackson Buchanan, 23, no address given, out of county warrant, Dep. Wimberley, TCSO.

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.

LOGGING

Continued from page 1

In a memo to the commission, Cox said the bid committee had met with Tuten Logging, and determined that the 36.5 acres would be sufficient for a potential solar farm, leaving the conversion of the remaining 58 acres for a later date. This would leave a \$43,104 profit for the county, which according to Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations, would have to be kept in a separate account for use at the airport.

However, at the commission's June 19 meeting, Cox said she had spoken with Tuten Logging again, and they had reached an agreement to convert just 25 acres to grassland, which would leave the county with \$73,000 in timber revenue after the cost of clearing the 25 acres.

Commissioner Jim Moody, who has been a strong advocate of the county pursuing a solar field at the airport, asked if the new proposal would leave enough room for that possibility.

Cox answered that it would, and the remaining property would be cleared of debris -- with the stumps left in the ground.

When Commission Chairwoman Pam Feagle asked if any board members had anything they wished to discuss, Page said he did.

"I want to first thank Benji (Tuten) for helping the county out," Page said. "This was the only viable bid, and I appreciate that. Now, I'm not a timber expert, but each of us as commissioners, we have a duty of care. If I had a tract

of timber like at the airport, what a prudent person would want to do is to have an appraisal done on the timber to be sold. Benji's price may be high, it may be low, it may be just right. We didn't do that.

"I'm not a lawyer, that's why we hire Mr. Bishop," Page said. "I'm not an accountant, that's why we hire Mr. Powell to audit our books. And, you can put this in the paper. We will not be doing our due diligence if we didn't ask for an appraisal -- it's not that expensive -- before we sold it. I've had complaints from other loggers that they didn't want to bid on (the project) because it had the land-clearing part in it. I said to staff early on that we should have split this thing up. It would have been simpler on Benji, and it would have opened it up to everybody.

"Benji already has a number on it," Page continued. "I don't want to put him at any disadvantage, because everybody already knows what he bid on it. I understand that."

Page suggested that since the timber was probably growing at a rate of 3-4% annually, the county could wait a year and then bid out the project again.

"That would give us time to get an appraisal, if this is what the board decides to do, and then you have something to base your decision on," he said.

"We spent many a hour (on the bid), and we were the only company that actually did it -- beating the bushes and coming up with an appraisal on that timber," said Tuten, who was at the meeting. "We offered almost \$2,000 an acre for the timber. That's

substantial."

"I'm thinking about what the press is going to say about us if we sold timber and didn't get an appraisal," Page said. "To me, it's just good business practice. I appreciate the time you put into it."

"But, you bid it out," Tuten said.

"You got an appraisal when you bid it out," Moody said. "All of those loggers could have bid."

"All the loggers that contacted me didn't bid on it because of the site work," Page said.

"If we got it backwards, we need to learn the lesson this time," Feagle said. "If it needs an appraisal, we need to be doing the appraisal and then going out for bids, instead of going out for bids and then let everybody know what his bid is, which is not fair to him."

"It's not fair, I agree," Page said.

"And then say, 'Oh no, we're not going to do that then, and we're going to stop and back up and change our mind and do an appraisal.' I agree with what you said. We should have gotten an appraisal. That would have been the right thing to do. But, I'm not sure it's fair to Mr. Tuten," Feagle said.

"It's not," Moody said.

Page asked County Attorney Conrad Bishop if it was proper to make changes to the proposal as suggested by Cox. Bishop answered that it was, adding that the county regularly negotiates with successful bidders to lower the cost of projects when there are not sufficient funds.

"I have to say, from the frustration as a county employee just getting people to bid on projects because

it is so cost-intensive," County Commissioner Steve Spradley said. "If we were to wait until next year and not accept the bid as it is, it's eventually going to get to where people are not going to bid at all. We just have to make those adjustments where we have an idea of what the property is worth before we put it out for bid. We have a bid, and I'd just hate to see us put people out and then the county has shot itself in the foot."

"We asked for the bid. We got the bid. We need to go with that bid," Commissioner Thomas Demps said. "Unless we have a reason to reject that bid, and I haven't heard a reason yet why we should reject it."

"Nobody's up here saying they'll give more money for that timber, that's for sure," Moody said. "People could have been right here in this audience."

Page then suggested just selling the timber outright, while leaving the site work for later, adding that he didn't see the "rush."

Cox said the FAA would not let the county leave the property "a mess."

As the discussion drew to a close, Page said he would "vote with the majority of this board...whatever you decide."

Moody made a motion to accept Tuten's bid and move forward with the project, with Demps offering a second to the motion.

However, when Feagle called for the vote, Page said, "I'm going to have to vote no. I vote no. Benji, it's nothing personal. I think we got it backwards, and I don't see the rush."

Moody's motion passed 4-1.

LEGALS

(Continued from page 11)
4:00 PM, local time, on Friday, August 3, 2018. All bids MUST have name and mailing address clearly shown on the outside of the envelope or package when submitted. Bids will be opened and respondents announced at 6:05 PM local time, or as soon thereafter as practical, on MONDAY, AUGUST 6, 2018 at the Taylor County Administrative Complex, 201 East Green Street, Perry, Florida 32348. The County reserves the right, in its

LEGALS

sole absolute discretion, to reject any or all bids, to cancel or withdraw this bid at any time or waive any irregularities in the bid process. The County reserves the right to award any contract(s) to the bidder/respondent which it deems to offer the best overall service, therefore, the County is not bound to award any contract(s) based on the quoted price. The County, in its sole and absolute discretion, also reserves the right to waive minor defects in the process and to accept the bid

LEGALS

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 the amount of five percent (5%) of the bid price. No faxed bids will be accepted. For additional information and a bid package contact:
Ted Lakey, County Administrator
201 E. Green Street
Perry, FL 32348
(850)838-3500, Ext. 7
ted.lakey@taylorcountygov.com

LEGALS

Bid packages may also be obtained from www.taylorcountygov.com
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, Taylor County Florida
TDA 18-020
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that Bishop Enterprises, LLC the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number,

LEGALS

year of issuance, description of the property and the names in which the property was assessed are as follows:
Certificate Number: 1546
Year of Issuance: 2012
Description of Property:
Parcel Number R10451-040
Section 30 Township 09 Range 10
Steinhatchee Subdivision, Lots 8
9 & 10 Containing .40 acres, more or less. Recorded in Taylor County official record 629, page 833.
Name in which assessed: David &

LEGALS

Ellyn Frankel
Said property being in the County of Taylor, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described shall be sold to the highest bidder at the courthouse door on the 20th day of August, 2018 at 11:00 o'clock a.m.
Dated this 18 day of July, 2018
Signature:
Annie Mae Murphy
Clerk of Circuit Court
Taylor County, Florida

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