

# On the record

## Sheriff Padgett answers questions posed by Clerk of Court Murphy

Taylor County Sheriff Wayne Padgett sat down with a Taco Times reporter Monday to answer a list of questions and concerns, some of which were submitted by Clerk of Court Annie Mae Murphy on behalf of public citizens.

Padgett began by providing a copy of a letter from the county's auditor (CPA Powell & Jones) stating, "There were no reportable findings in the current year," and "The prior year's findings were substantially corrected in the current year."

"In our opinion, the sheriff complied, in all material respects, with the aforementioned requirements for the year ended Sept. 30, 2017," the independent accountant's report stated.

"We have reviewed

information regarding our audit with the sheriff and have provided him with

appropriate documentation as requested. We very much enjoyed the challenges



*'Just because you put on a set of stripes or bars, it does not exempt you from doing the job of a deputy.'*

-Sheriff Wayne Padgett

and experiences associated with the audit of the office. We appreciate the overall high quality of the financial records and personnel in the Sheriff's Office. We also appreciate the helpful assistance, professionalism and courtesy afforded us by these employees," the March 30, 2018 audit letter concluded.

Padgett and Taylor County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) Chief Deputy Chuck Mincy then answered a list of questions Murphy attempted to deliver to Padgett at an Aug. 1 budget hearing.

At that Aug. 1 meeting, county commissioners narrowly decided – in a split 3-2 vote – to set a proposed millage rate reflecting a nearly 7% property tax

→ Please see page 2



### Off to a good start

(Top) When a Taylor County Elementary School student's family was involved in a "fender bender" on the way to school Monday, the girl was afraid she'd be late the very first day. Perry Police Department Sgt. Jay Ricketson assured her it would all be okay -- and volunteered to give her a personal escort to class. (Bottom) Taylor County Elementary School Resource Officer Darell Upshaw (right) handed out hugs and high fives to returning students like Khai Williams.

# Bad odor prompts investigation at GP mill, 'bad valve' to blame

Georgia-Pacific Foley Cellulose mill officials report they have identified and corrected the source of an unusual odor reported by local citizens on Monday.

In response to questions from members of the public regarding a strong and unusual odor – that some compared to a cat

"marking its territory" – Foley Cellulose Mill Public Affairs Manager Scott Mixon issued the following statement:

"We received several questions and concerns on Monday about an unusual odor noticed by residents in our community. Primarily, we want to assure the

community that there is no danger to the health of nearby residents.

"We initiated an immediate investigation and found the source of the odor to be pulping condensate from an open valve. The valve is attached to a new piece of equipment recently installed for one

of our capital improvement projects," Mixon added.

"Although we identified and corrected the problem, we are evaluating the new equipment in detail to make sure there are no other issues related to this problem. We apologize for the concern and inconvenience," Mixon concluded.

## Bat-wielding 'main aggressor' and another female:

# Two more charged in battery, burglary case

Two additional suspects were charged in the battery case that resulted in the firing of former Taylor County Sports Complex

Director Pat Dew.

Christopher Michael Porter, 39, and Ashli Hudson, 28, both of Greenville, were charged

with burglary and battery charges one day prior to Dew's Aug. 5 arrest. Arrest documents allege Porter was the main aggressor in the confrontation.

Incident reports released late last week by the Taylor County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) provided a more complete picture of the events surrounding Dew's Aug. 5 arrest, which stemmed from an alleged

attack on two victims at their home on Highway 221.

TCSO Deputy Jordan Thigpen was dispatched to the scene at nearly 3 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 4. The two victims, a male and female, reported "their door had just been kicked in and four suspects had recently left the residence headed to an unknown location."

They identified two of

the suspects as Porter and Hudson, but said they did not know the other two individuals (later identified as Dew and companion Aida Kay Beach).

The male victim stated he and his girlfriend "had been riding in the woods three to four hours earlier that evening when they drove up on what they believed was a stranded vehicle" with three people (Hudson, Dew and

Beach) riding in it, Thigpen reported.

The female victim stated she recognized Hudson, and that she and her boyfriend "decided not to become involved with Hudson because they did not associate with her or anyone she hangs around."

She also stated that she and Hudson exchanged

→ Please see page 3

# County to light up park & ramps, but not roads

After hearing from a variety of residents during a lengthy public hearing, county commissioners voted 4-0 in favor of using

Tourism Development Council "bed tax" revenues to purchase, install and maintain electrical service to lights at the Keaton Beach Boat Ramp and adjacent Keaton Beach Coastal Park, as well as the Steinhatchee Boat Ramp.

Commissioners tabled a proposal to install approximately 10 additional lights along Keaton Beach Drive between the boat ramp and Hodges Park after hearing various concerns -- including the potential

impact on the county's budget if residents in other areas of the county were to request the same services.

"After listening to input from citizens, I motion that we approve funding for a minimum number of lights at the Keaton Beach Boat Ramp, Coastal Park (located adjacent to the boat ramp) and Steinhatchee Boat Ramp," District 3 Commissioner Steve Spradley said.

Spradley's motion included funding the purchase, installation and monthly fees using revenues from the local option "Tourist Development Tax" -- also referred to as "tourist

tax" or "bed tax" -- which is a 5% charge on any revenues generated from rentals or room rates paid for a period of six months or less.

"Soon after I was appointed to fill this seat I was approached by more than one resident at Keaton Beach about this issue. Unbeknownst to me, former Commissioner Frank Russell was trying for over a year to secure funding for lighting at Keaton Beach," Spradley said.

"I asked staff to reach out to Tri-County Electric and get some preliminary cost estimates and we identified

→ Please see page 11

# Feagle seeking third term as 'full time' commissioner

County Commissioner Pam Feagle is seeking a third term as Dist. 4 representative.

"It is my honor and privilege to serve as a full-time county commissioner. I love my job, and I am grateful for the trust and confidence that the people have placed in me. I am seeking re-election so that I can continue to lend my voice, passion, energy and leadership on issues that will help make Taylor County a better place to live, work and play. I have worked

very hard for District 4 and Taylor County. I strongly believe that every elected public servant should go beyond what is required and do everything possible to make our community a better place. I have done this. My results speak for themselves," Feagle said.

During her first two terms, Feagle said, "I have fought hard and fostered the creation of many new jobs through: Amrouch Salty Snacks (they took the place of Synder Lance Chips, AmTech Less-



Pam Feagle

Lethal, Popeye's, Taco Bell, a soon-to-be assisted living facility and a soon-to-be

→ Please see page 3





# 'Some felt I required too much'

## ON THE RECORD

Continued from page 1

increase, after hearing from a number of local citizens who packed the board room to speak in favor of paying higher taxes rather than cutting the sheriff's budget.

"We have been talking about these issues and the calls we get. Board members get calls. The public has called irate -- a lot of them -- over some issues, and we tried to put together a list of questions the public is asking. If the sheriff would come back to the podium, we would like to give him this list so everybody can have an answer to what you have called me or board members about," Murphy said.

"Y'all going to put me on trial? I am trying to do a good job and that is what y'all trying to do? Y'all going to put me on trial? Then let's get on with the program. Then let's get it done!" Padgett exclaimed while quickly moving from the back of the room toward the podium.

"You are not a county commissioner (pointing at Murphy). You don't have no right to ask me no questions. I am here to address the board. You understand what I am saying?" Padgett stated. "Let's go! Let's get it! Let's get it done!" Padgett shouted while banging on the podium.

Padgett originally declined to answer the specific questions compiled by Murphy, however, speaking through Mincy, he did offer to meet one-on-one with the public, press or anyone who had questions or concerns regarding his budget or operations.

"The sheriff has nothing to hide. If anyone has a question or concern, they are welcome to come ask," Mincy said. "The sheriff submits to an annual audit, and we are financial transparent. The sheriff gave the board the opportunity to ask him any question they had for him or about his budget on Wednesday.

"He answered every question they asked of him to the best of his ability. If any Taylor County citizen has further questions or concerns of their sheriff and the manner in which he is operating his office, he welcomes them to please come by his office and meet with him personally or schedule an appointment for him to come visit with them," Mincy added.

Following the Aug. 1 meeting, the newspaper

obtained the list of questions from Murphy and scheduled a meeting with Padgett, who sat down for an interview on Monday, Aug. 13.

A summary of his responses are as follows:

### How many current open positions do you have?

"We have six now. We had five when the question was asked, but we lost one this morning when we had a deputy resign to take a construction job that will pay him more than double what he makes with us," Padgett replied.

### When I got here I told them to bring their work boots, because we fixin' to get to work.

— Sheriff Wayne Padgett

"We have one opening at dispatch, two at the county jail and three law enforcement positions currently unfilled, but they are frozen pending a final decision by the county commission concerning the sheriff's budget," Mincy said.

### Are you still funding 100% of your employee's dental?

"That is a policy that I inherited when I took office, so we will continue to fund our employees' dental insurance until the new county insurance policy year kicks in later this year. At that point we will no longer be paying for our employee's dental insurance, bringing us in line with other county departments," Padgett responded.

### How many administrative staff positions do you currently have?

"Eight. The same number of administrative (not sworn law enforcement) positions that were in the office under the previous administration," Padgett said, adding that he has adjusted the job duties and responsibilities of the eight administrative staff positions since taking office in January 2017.

### Are you furnishing any of your civilian staff with a take-home vehicle?

"I am. My secretary is currently using a car that was seized in a drug forfeiture case under the previous sheriff. We have been working on getting a sub-station open in

Steinhatchee, and that requires her to do a lot of running around for errands as we work to paint and renovate, hook up water and sewer and electric," Padgett said. "She lives on the south end of the county and is helping me coordinate all of that, so it makes sense to make this car -- which gets good gas mileage -- available to her."

"This saves the taxpayers money by allowing her to use this compact car," Mincy said. "This is a cost-saving measure that benefits the department because we do not have to pay out mileage reimbursement."

### How much do you pay to contract out the Sheriff's Office payroll services?

"It costs us \$10,315 per year," Padgett said.

"When the sheriff took office, we looked at what it would cost to implement this new system versus the old way, which was very time-consuming and involved paper time sheets that each employee had to fill out and keep up with before they were reviewed and signed off on by each supervisor. Paper was shuffled up the chain of command to the finance department, where it was manually calculated every two weeks on a spreadsheet," Mincy responded.

"The jail was on a manual time clock system, and each card had to be reviewed by the shift supervisor. It all added up to a lot of man hours. So at the end of the day, this manual process was taking two or three days of time to process.

"Under this new web-based payroll application, each employee has a computer log-in or biometric scanner (fingerprint scanner at the jail). It reduces the amount of supervision it takes to process payroll, as well as eliminating the possibility of fraud, error or abuse.

"It takes away the possibility of manipulating a time card or a time clock. This freed up 30-40 man hours per pay period every two weeks, plus now every employee can go online and see what their current accrued sick leave, vacation time or annual leave balance is and request time off through this application," Mincy added.

"It was a cost-effective change for the better. If this was not saving us time and money, we would not have purchased and implemented it. All of the modern, forward-thinking agencies have gone this route. This is a very similar system -- but a

different vendor -- to the one used by the state of Florida for all state agencies, who have seen significant cost savings by making this transition," Mincy added.

"It reduces the amount of paper we have to print, reduces the amount of time and man hours it takes to do payroll and eliminates errors," Mincy added. "And it allows supervisors to monitor hours worked and any overtime accrued so that it can be eliminated by the end of each pay cycle."

"We are using technology to reduce man hours, eliminate overtime and reduce the amount of office supplies needed to get the same job done -- just like our new policy and procedures management system and training videos, which are now all done electronically."

"This also allows our employees to take advantage of direct deposit," Padgett added.

### Is Marty Tompkins a full-time employee and, if so, how many hours does he have obligated to Lafayette County as the Emergency Services Director? Does it cost the taxpayers any money to use his vehicle?

"I don't know what he puts in over there (Lafayette County), but I do know what he puts in over here with me," Padgett said. "He is on salary with me and works an average of 50-60 hours per week with the Taylor County Sheriff's Office."

### Some of it is due to my work ethic. Some have retired. Some left for more money or better insurance or another career. Some did not like me or felt like I required too much of them, but we are working now.

— Sheriff Wayne Padgett

"I also know he has saved this county over \$100,000 at the County Jail by reducing the amount we spend in inmate medical expenses and monthly prescription medications," Padgett added. "We were spending over \$10,000 per month,

and we have managed to keep it down under \$5,000 per month. Thanks to him (Tompkins) we have got a handle on that."

"By better managing our inmate medical expenses and overseeing our two part-time paramedics, he (Tompkins) has significantly lowered our jail medical expenses," Mincy said.

"He has always worked two jobs since I have known him. He was working two jobs when I took office," Padgett said. "He is a salaried employee and he may work from 12 midnight to 8 a.m. for us, but as long as he gets done what I ask him to get done, I don't have a problem with what he does on his time off. He works hard for us and does a terrific job."

"As far as his truck, the only time he takes it over there (to Mayo) is when I send him over there to work with the Lafayette County Sheriff's Department for training or other official business. When he is going to work over there (for Lafayette County EMS), he takes his personal vehicle," Padgett added. "As long as he works 40 hours per week or more for us, I don't see a problem."

### What is the number of employees who have resigned or retired since you took office in January 2017.

"As of today the number is 24, but it was 23 when the question was asked," Padgett said. "We have had quite a bit of turnover, which is not uncommon when you change administrations following someone that has been in this chair for 20 years."

"Some of it is due to my work ethic. Some have retired. Some left for more money or better insurance or another career. Some did not like me or felt like I required too much of them, but we are working now," Padgett said.

"Following the sheriff's direction to install adequate supervision and accountability, we reviewed every employee's work product and found that some were not performing to the sheriff's expectations," Mincy said. "This led to some reassignments and gave other employees an opportunity to fill those positions, as well as a chance to meet the high expectations set by the sheriff when it comes to performance."

"We can't answer why each employee left. Those questions would have to be asked of the former employees themselves," Mincy added.

"We brought in a new work ethic and a different philosophy on how a law enforcement officer and this agency should function," Mincy said.

"When I got here I told them to bring their work boots, because we fixin' to get to work," Padgett added.

### For those who had been employed for more than 10 years, how were their salaries absorbed into your budget?

"I am not sure if I know what that question means," Padgett said. "When people leave, that money goes back

into the budget and can be used in different areas. I can tell you that we had to pay out a lot in unused sick leave, vacation and annual leave when some of these people who had been here a long time either retired or resigned."

"We changed our policy during our first year to protect our budget," Mincy added. "It was crippling our operations budget and our ability to do business because there used to be a very high limit or cap on the amount of leave time you could accrue -- which had to be paid out when someone left."

### Have you paid for someone to go to law enforcement or corrections school? If yes, how many? Have all of them been certified?

"We paid for one of our corrections staff who wanted to go to school to get trained and work on the road, but we paid for it out of our education fund," Padgett explained. "We paid for her to go to school and now she is a deputy on the road. In fact, she is one of our School Resource Officers (SROs)."

"Her tuition was paid for by the sheriff's education fund, which is funded by court fees and fines -- not county taxpayer money," Mincy said. "We must invest in our employees in order for our employees to invest in us."

"We hired another employee under the Field Training Officer (FTO) program with the understanding that he complete his training and pass the state exam upon completion," Padgett said. "Yes, we tried to help some people. And, we will continue to try to help people, because it helps us when we already know their work ethic," Padgett added.

### When questioned about the number of "command" level staff added to the top part of his organization since taking office, Padgett replied, "I promised people that if they elected me, I would put people where they needed to be."

"I appointed a supervisor over Steinhatchee, because I heard we needed someone to be available to answer questions down there," Padgett said. "I was told by a county commissioner to get myself set up to run Emergency Management, so I assigned my chief deputy to oversee that department."

"I have more lieutenants now than there were before -- I have one in Steinhatchee and one over each shift rotation -- but other than those two extra lieutenants, we have about the same rank structure as there was before," Padgett added.

"But, we are also getting more drugs off the street and making more arrests than ever. We are putting people in jail and seizing more drugs," Padgett said. "Just because you put on a set of stripes or bars, it does not exempt you from doing the job of a deputy."

Quoting from "ROOTS: A Historical Perspective of the Office of Sheriff" by Sheriff Roger Scott, Dekalb County, Illinois, Padgett concluded the interview by stating, "One of the two characteristics that sets the sheriff's office apart from other law enforcement agencies is the direct accountability to citizens through the election of sheriff."

"The office of sheriff is not a department of county government. It is the independent office through which the sheriff exercises the powers of the public trust.

"No individual or small group hires or fires the sheriff, or has the authority to interfere with the operations of the office," Padgett continued to quote. "Elected sheriffs are accountable directly to the constitution of their state, the U.S. Constitution, statutes and the citizens of their county," he concluded.

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# School board approves tentative budget

With no comment from the public, the Taylor County School Board voted to tentatively adopt its 2018-

19 budget, along with a proposed slight millage rate decrease for the district, during a public hearing held

July 31.

The audience was silent when Board Chairwoman Brenda Carlton called for

discussion on both the budget and millage. District Financial Director Ashley Valentine gave a brief

summary of the detailed overview of the budget she first presented to the board at its July 24 meeting. For

a complete breakdown of the budget, refer to the July 15 issue of the paper. ➔ Please see page 12



## Early voting underway

The Taylor County Supervisor of Elections Office has seen a busy start to early voting for the Aug. 28 primary election. Early voting kicked off Monday, Aug. 13, and 79 people cast their ballots on the first day, according to Supervisor of Elections Dana Southerland. By Tuesday afternoon, 135 people had voted early, in addition to 581 mail-in ballots received by Southerland's office. The 716 total ballots cast so far represent 5.97% of the county's 11,993 active registered voters. The early voting period will continue every day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Saturday, Aug. 25, at the election office located at 433 U. S. 19 N. in Perry.

# Earlier confrontation led to violent attack

## BATTERY

Continued from page 1

expletives with one another as she and her boyfriend drove away.

The victims stated that a few hours later they observed a vehicle pull into to their yard.

"(The male victim) said he opened the door to see who it was and observed Porter as he made entry onto his walkway leading to his doorway. He said that Porter suddenly and swiftly kicked in his door while he had it cracked open and was standing in front of it. He said Porter entered his home with an aluminum baseball bat in hand and held him against the kitchen sink with the bat at his throat. He said that while he was being held against the sink with the bat, two other females (Hudson and Beach) entered his home, jumped his girlfriend and began hitting her repeatedly. He stated that Porter began hitting him in the face a few times before head butting him. He said a guy only known to him by the nickname 'Duge,' (later known to this officer to actually be 'Dew'), held him against his will while Porter grabbed (the female victim) by the hair of her head and slung her to the floor and against the fridge. He said he was able to get free of 'Dew' and made his way to his bedroom, retrieved his handgun and yelled at them as they 'hailed expletive' and left the residence," Thigpen reported.

The female victim's statement mirrored the account her boyfriend gave the deputy. She stated Porter, "who was not involved in the incident that occurred on the dirt road" busted into the residence with an aluminum baseball bat.

"She said the three individuals from the dirt road incident suddenly entered into the residence as well. She said that she did not know two of the three individuals before the incident on the dirt road. She stated the other three individuals accused them of jumping on Hudson earlier in the day. While Porter had (the male victim) against the sink with the bat, she stated that Hudson and the other girl (Beach) began hitting her multiple times in the head until she managed to get up and snatch one of the girl's necklaces off while 'throwing fists' at both of them in any way to get them off of her. She advised

she attempted to get to (the male victim) because she was scared that Porter was going to hit him with the bat. She stated that the bigger guy (Dew) held (the male victim) back against the sink, when suddenly Porter came at her and grabbed her by her hair and hit her in the face an unknown amount of times," Thigpen reported.

After interviewing the victims, Thigpen and Sgt. Benji Dorman then went to a residence on Adolph Kemp Road to interview Hudson and Porter.

Porter told the officers he had been with another individual "all evening and that he had been at the bar. He stated he didn't remember what happened before he got back to his residence."

He also denied having a baseball bat when questioned.

Hudson stated she had been picked up earlier in the evening by Beach and "some guy she did not know. She stated that she and Beach, and the guy she did not know went riding around in the woods when suddenly (the victims) showed up while they were stopped in the road and suddenly (the female victim) began beating on her to the point Beach had to pull her off. She stated that once she returned to her residence with Beach and the white male she did not know, she immediately got a shower and went to bed. She stated she had not been anywhere else during the evening after riding in the woods," Thigpen reported.

The next day, Thigpen and Dorman continued their investigation by interviewing Dew and Beach.

"I began speaking with Dew separately from Beach on his front porch to determine what had occurred. He stated that Hudson had been beat up while they were out riding dirt roads and having a good time. He stated they had stopped to look at the stars when (the victims) showed up and (the female victim) began to call Hudson many names...Dew stated the girl then began to beat up Hudson while they were standing outside of the vehicle. He stated that (the female victim) forced Hudson against the car for reasons unknown to him while she was beating her up. He stated that he immediately drove Hudson home after the incident and nobody ever called the

law," Thigpen detailed in his report.

Dew's account to the deputy continued, "Shortly after arriving at Hudson's residence, Porter showed up and began talking with them and also began yelling at him because he thought he may have been involved. He stated that after all that happened, Porter stated, 'Well, let's go find out what happened.' Dew stated they left Hudson's and Porter's residence and drove around in the woods for an unknown amount of time. Dew said that while riding around, Hudson stated, 'I want to know why I was jumped.' He stated that later in the evening they went over to (the victims' house). He advised the situation became foggy after they arrived at the residence, however, he advised they were 'simply going to see what the problem was.' He stated he was the last to exit the vehicle after arriving at (the victims') residence. He stated that he entered the home after everyone else had gone in and observed a lot of fighting, 'hitting and punching.' He stated that at one time after entering the residence, both Porter and (the male victim) came at him due to some amount of confusion. He stated that at some point during that time both Porter and (the male victim) blamed him for unknown reasons. He

did state, however, at some point he 'strong armed' someone, which he believed was Porter, but was slightly unsure," Thigpen related.

When interviewing Beach, Thigpen said she stated "she, Hudson and Dew had been riding in the woods on the evening of Aug. 4 when they stopped to look at the stars. She said another vehicle approached and that Hudson thought she knew the individuals in the vehicle when they pulled up. She said she stated to Hudson to just get in the car and not worry about it, as they began to drive off.

She added that they had just got on their butts and began to drive off...when the unknown female (later identified as the female victim) came to Hudson's side of the vehicle and yanked her out of the car. Beach was asked why the incident was never reported, and she stated that she thought the whole incident 'just ended here.' She stated after the incident they returned to Hudson's house and began drinking more when a white male (Porter) drove up that she did not know at the time. Beach was then asked what they did

after Porter arrived at the house. Beach stated she did not know what they did after Porter arrived because she had been drinking and was very intoxicated. She stated she had a bottle of tequila in her car while Patrick was driving them around as they were having a good time."

Thigpen concluded his incident report by stating, "Based on my findings, Porter was arrested for burglary/battery and aggravated battery and Dew, Hudson and Beach were all arrested for burglary/battery."

# Arrest made after downtown theft

Surveillance video helped officers identify a thief who stole an umbrella from a downtown courtyard last week, and a "diligent" investigation led to a swift arrest.

Backdoor Bistro owners

reported the theft last Tuesday morning; later that day, officers came in contact with the suspect, Undrea Holmes, 48, and took him into custody. He was charged with burglary to structure (unarmed) and dealing in

stolen property.

"Officers were also able to track down who he sold the umbrella to – that person (Thomas R. Dixon, 40) was also arrested for dealing in stolen property and the umbrella was recovered,"

Perry Police Department Capt. Gene Franklin said.

"Officers were very diligent in working the case, and that led to a quick conclusion," he said.

Ptl. Coven Phelps took the lead in working the case.

# 'I will continue to give more than 100%'

## FEAGLE

Continued from page 1

assisted living facility and a soon-to-be new apartment complex."

She noted that she has "promoted the following improvements to our community's amenities: Forest Capital Hall renovation, Mandalay, Keaton Beach and Steinhatchee boat ramps, re-opening of Hickory Mound, Hodges Park renovation, Sports Complex girls baseball fields and concessions, construction of the Shady Grove Community Center, resurfacing Johnson Stripling Road and Roberts Aman Road, and paving

of Agner Acres Road and Aucilla Landing Boat Ramp Road."

Also during her time on the commission, Feagle said she has "opposed any tax and fee increases; supported local law enforcement to rid our county of illegal and prescription drug trafficking and abuse; fought to keep Taylor County roads open to the public; led the measure against 'fracking' to protect our beautiful county; named two bridges in honor of local veterans; stayed connected with you through 64 town hall meetings; supported housing renovations and new home construction for low income families through the SHIP/CDBG programs; and supported

county employee wage increases, with the last increase in December 2017 of three percent to all."

Feagle concluded, "I am available to all citizens, and I respond to requests promptly. I have always made my contact information public and have received and followed up with more than 1,000 calls. I am not lazy and will continue to give more than 100 percent. You are my priority. District 4's vote and support is very important to me so that I can continue to represent my constituents in the best way possible by bringing more jobs, working hard and being a commissioner

that is available."

Feagle has been married to her husband, Richard, for 36 years and has four children: Tammy Stewart (Gil), Eric Slaughter (Joni), Jarad Feagle (Crystal) and the late Bradley. She has four grandchildren: Abby Anna Stewart, Mabry Stewart, Hunter Slaughter and Marshall Slaughter.

"My parents were the late Edgar Adams and Bea Padgett Foskey. I retired from 27 years in the healthcare industry, served on the Perry City Council for four years, with one year serving as mayor. I have served on numerous civic boards and I currently serve as county commission chair," she noted.

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**PAM FEAGLE**  
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## Constitutional Amendments

What will you see on the ballot in November?

**Editor's Note:** Florida voters will be asked to decide whether to approve 13 proposed amendments to the state's constitution during the Nov. 6 election. Through November, Perry Newspapers, Inc., will provide information about each proposed amendment to help educate our readers. Information on earlier amendments can be found in previous editions of the **Taco Times** as follows: Amendment 1 (Aug. 1); Amendment 2 (Aug. 8).

### Amendment 3

**Ballot Summary:** This amendment ensures that Florida voters shall have the exclusive right to decide whether to authorize casino gambling by requiring that in order for casino gambling to be authorized under Florida law, it must be approved by Florida voters pursuant to Article XI, Section 3 of the Florida Constitution. Affects articles X and XI.

Defines casino gambling and clarifies that this amendment does not conflict with federal law regarding state/tribal compacts.

**Sponsor:** Voters in Charge

**Background:** Currently, gambling in Florida is governed through a mix of legislative acts, Florida Supreme Court decisions, constitutional amendments and a series of negotiated arrangements between the state and the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Poker rooms are allowed in pari-mutuel facilities -- dog and horse tracks, as well as jai alai locations -- across the state, as they are not considered casino games under Florida law, because "the participants play against each other instead of against the house."

Other card games, casino games and slot machines, however, are prohibited at non-tribal facilities in the state -- except in Miami-Dade and Broward counties, where slot machines were authorized by a constitutional amendment approved by Florida voters in 2004.

As for gambling on tribal facilities, the Seminole Tribe negotiated a Class III gaming compact with the state in 2010. The agreement, approved by the Florida Legislature and signed by then Gov. Charlie Christ, allowed the Seminole Tribe to offer blackjack at five of its facilities through 2015. Additionally, the tribe shared a portion of its revenue with the state.

→ Please see page 5

## Letters to the Editor

# Amendment proposals lead to 'queasy feeling'

Dear Editor:  
What follows is an exercise in futility, however as one who tries to follow and understand how government works, I would be remiss if I didn't bring to light some

important information. The Aug. 1 edition of the **Taco Times** contained an excellent synopsis of Amendment 1 to the state's constitution which will be on the ballot during the Nov. 6

election. At first glance, my reaction was, "Oh no, another homestead exemption! When will it end?" But as one digs deeper in to the analysis provided, you get that queasy feeling in your gut.

Over the past month or

so, what has been some of the biggest stories in our local paper? The balancing of the budgets of the County Commission, the City Council and the School District. All of them started off with deficits. The School District and the City

managed to squeak by, but if you have been following the story, but hell broke loose at the County Commission workshops, with the end result looking like a probable tax increase. But I digress.

The article stated that 906 parcels will be affected in

Taylor County. The Florida Association of Counties estimates that the City will lose about \$18,000 in revenue (although the City says the number will be closer to \$30,000) and the County will

→ Please see page 5

## Commissioners are thanked for 'no' vote

Dear Editor:  
Commissioners Feagle and Page, THANK YOU for voting against higher taxes. Working through a budget is a much harder endeavor than simply voting higher taxes on working men and women and businesses.

and discuss their questions "one-on-one."

The upshot -- we overbuilt and taxpayers have been called on repeatedly to subsidize the hospital. We don't want this repeated with the Sheriff's office.

Answering budget questions publicly is regarded as "government in the sunshine." After all, it's our hard-earned money "paying the bills." We need to have confidence in how the money is being spent.

I wanted to be at the 10 a.m. hearing, but was working. As a small business owner I'm responsible for providing jobs for a number of people, whether employees or contractors.

However, I will find a way to attend the future hearings. Thanks again for your vote.

Don Curtis

## Sowers of the Seed thankful for donors

Dear Editor:  
The Sowers of the Seed Steinhatchee Food Pantry was established in 2016 through Fellowship Baptist Church, and generous donations of time and money from local businesses and individuals. The pantry serves 90 to 100 neighbors from Taylor County and Jena the second Tuesday and Wednesday of each month. Our community is blessed with having supportive people, businesses and organizations.

We welcome Sam and Harry Patel to our community. They are the owners of Steinhatchee Drug and Cheeks Pharmacy in Cross City. We appreciate the services they provide and wish to thank them for their donations and support of our Sowers of the Seed Food Pantry. We urge our friends and neighbors to patronize our local businesses.

Sincerely,  
Sowers of the Seed Volunteers



BY DELORES LEGGETT WALKER

## When life hands you lemons...

The past few weeks have reminded me of the age-old adage, "When life hands you lemons, make lemonade," or as my sweet niece Sandra advised, "Make a lemon pie...it's sweeter!"

As so many of you know, my precious husband of 57 years left this world on July 19 for his heavenly home. His journey ended, but I'm learning my new normal has just begun.

While I can't imagine just what this new version of "normal" contains, I am certain there remains a multitude of joys and sorrows, ups and downs, wins and failures for me.

One of the most gratifying aspects of my life is the genuine love of family and friends who have surrounded me with encouragement and support. With these heroes in my corner, there is absolutely no time to ingest the sour taste of disappointment. So, let's squeeze out the bitter juice of a few lemons and see what we can create.

First of all, the trip we took cross-country in July brought a whole new perspective to my mind, as I met with folks who've read my books. As a writer, when you meet those who appreciate your work, it has the potential to motivate you to improve your craft. As I talked with them about their reaction to stories birthed from my imagination, new stories emerged.

Along with this, I learned the only way to appreciate the diverse beauty of America is to drive. From the woodlands of North Florida, we traveled across rivers, deserts, mountains, small communities and large cities.

One adventure was a wrong turn in Texas that nearly caused us to end up in downtown Dallas. As the traffic whizzed past at 80 mph, I knew "this Dorothy wasn't in Kansas anymore!"

Thank the Lord my daughter Vickie was driving and took to the racetrack of Dallas traffic like a seasoned pro. She navigated the car with skills beyond my ability.

When we posted the photo of our excursion through the streets of Dallas, some chuckled and said we were lost. Vickie's measured response was, "We weren't lost, we knew we were in Dallas!"

We meandered down Route 66 with the windows open and sang songs made famous by the Beach Boys. When we turned north, we entered the Grand Canyon to gaze in wonder at the phenomenon forged by nature - or according to some folks, a blast from outer space!

A special treat was when I set foot on a site my Native American relatives revere as a holy place. I stood in awe and ran my finger across the engraved name of my family's Apache tribe. Closing my eyes, I imagined the long-ago journey they endured to reach this spot high above the crater floor.

Just when I didn't think anything could compare with what we'd already seen, we rounded a curve and were literally stopped in our tracks by a humongous elk with velvet-covered antlers.

Then we descended downward as we drove the south rim of the crater that took us into the desert land where temperatures reached 114 degrees. I marveled at the horses and cattle that stood on the barren land, wondering in concern, "What on earth do they eat?"

By the time we set foot on the shores of the Pacific Ocean, we had traveled over 3,000 miles and had changed from the usual Florida summer attire to long pants and a jacket to ward off the bite of the Northwest.

The air floated across the ocean's vast waves to chill our toes at the water's edge. We stayed at a friend's beach house that was built in 1900. I must say I conjured up a whole lot of "Who done it" stories as I touched the objects from the past decorating the quaint cabin.

Though our adventure was cut short due to my sweetheart's death, the trip opened up a world of possibilities, including an opportunity to talk with a Christian movie producer about my "Promise Trilogy."

So, stay tuned. I'll give you an update as soon as possible.

Plus, I need to tell you about our tornado scare in Nebraska!

My Afterthought is this: "Don't throw out the lemons that could bring you some of the sweetest moments in life!"



Delores and daughter Vickie on the famous Route 66.



Delores at the Grand Canyon



Delores and Vickie at the edge of the Pacific Ocean

### Taco Times

Wednesday, August 15, 2018

123 S. Jefferson Street  
Perry, Florida

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

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The Taco Times welcomes Letters to the Editor reflecting responsible opinions and views on the news. Please submit letters by Monday at 5 p.m. The Taco Times reserves the right to refuse publication of letters which are libelous or irresponsible. Name may be withheld if circumstances so require, but all letters submitted should be signed by the writer and accompanied by a phone number for verification.

We look forward to hearing from you! Our address is Perry, Newspapers, Inc., P.O. Box 888, Perry, Florida 32348. e-mail: newsdesk@perrynewspapers.com

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# Amendment would prohibit legislature from expanding gambling

## AMENDMENTS

Continued from page 4

In 2015, a new 20-year compact was negotiated between the tribe and Gov. Rick Scott, adding craps and roulette at seven locations, and further giving the tribe exclusive rights to blackjack.

However, the legislature rejected the new compact in 2016, instead attempting (and ultimately failing) to pass its own gambling bill. Because expanding gambling outside of tribal facilities would violate the state's agreement with the tribe, the legislature has been attempting to create a new deal separate from the governor's, which would allow for such an expansion.

Meanwhile, the tribe successfully sued the state, alleging that pari-mutuels had been allowed to offer "banked" card games -- in which players bet against

the house -- which were supposed to be exclusive to tribal facilities.

In 2017, in an attempt to put an end to the lawsuits and appeals on both sides -- as well as to restart the revenue payments to the state -- Scott and the tribe negotiated yet another deal. Under the new agreement, the tribe agreed to renew payments through the 2018 legislative session as long as the legislature took "aggressive enforcement action" to shut down the banked card games in dispute.

In a separate lawsuit, the Florida Supreme Court ruled against six counties, including Gadsden County, which had held local referendums approving slot machines at pari-mutuel facilities within their borders, declaring that outside a constitutional amendment, only the legislature could

authorize such referendums.

The 2018 legislative session ended once again without an approved gambling bill. Talk of holding a special session to hammer out a bill prior to the November election -- and possible passage of Amendment 3 -- failed to generate enough support among legislative leaders to schedule one. Instead, Scott and the Seminole Tribe signed another agreement in April under which the tribe agreed to continue its monthly revenue sharing with the state through the 2019 legislative session.

Following the gaming expansions approved in Scott's various agreements with the Seminole Tribe, the revenue sharing totals around \$300 million annually to the state.

**Analysis:** If Amendment 3 passes, citizens' initiatives

would become the only method of authorizing casino gambling in Florida beyond its current levels. This would in effect prohibit the legislature from passing a bill to expand gambling. The legislature would also be unable to place a proposed constitutional amendment for voters to consider by referendum to expand gambling. Any such amendments would have to be the result of a citizens' initiative.

The amendment's language specifically states that the prohibition on legislative action does not "limit the ability of the state or Native American tribes to negotiate gaming compacts pursuant to the Federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act for the conduct of casino

gambling on tribal lands, or to affect any existing gambling on tribal lands pursuant to compacts executed by the state and Native American tribes pursuant to IGRA."

Unlike Amendments 1 and 2, which were placed on November's ballot by the Florida Legislature, Amendment 3 was a citizens' initiative spearheaded by the campaign "Voters in Charge."

According to the Florida Department of State Campaign Finance Database, the campaign has raised a total of \$27.2 million to date from a number of companies and organizations opposed to the expansion of gambling in the state. The largest contributors include Disney Worldwide Services, Inc., with \$11.7 million in

contributions, the Seminole Tribe of Florida with \$6.78 million and Ink No Casinos, Inc., with \$754,000.

On the opposite side, two political action committees have formed to oppose the amendment. "Vote NO on 3" is chaired by Isadore Havenick, vice president of West Flagler Associates, which owns Magic City Casino in Miami. The company has to date contributed \$525,000 to Vote NO on 3.

Meanwhile, "Citizens for the Truth About Amendment 3, Inc.," is chaired by Daniel Adkins, head of Mardi Gras Casino and Race Track, which donated \$500,000 to the committee. Elevated, LLC, a Tallahassee entity with gaming interests, has donated another \$500,000.

## 'That is how government works'

### PROPOSAL

Continued from page 4

lose around \$131,000. So, on the surface, long before next year's budget discussions begin, the revenue figures for the budget folks are already down. NOTE: This amendment does not affect school districts.

However, if you read the article closely, it also states the legislature included language that "requires the legislature to appropriate money to make up the lost revenue for those counties considered "fiscally constrained" -- which includes Taylor.

And this folks, is where things get dicey -- another promise of the legislature. Let me remind you of a few others. The Florida Lottery money was going to boost education spending because it was additional funds. As

I understand things, the legislative appropriation for school funding (in relative terms) has gone down since 1988 when the lottery was instituted.

Item #2 - Just a few years ago, there was a ballot amendment, passed by the voters, for funds to be appropriated for the state to purchase environmentally sensitive land. As I recall, at least in the first year after the amendment passed, that did not happen.

Item #3 - In a recent article in the business magazine, **Florida Trend**, we are reminded that Governor Scott and the legislature authorized \$25 million in emergency funding for vaccine development and testing for the Zika virus to universities and private entities here in Florida in the fall of 2016. The funds were awarded, progress was made,



and then, all of a sudden, this past Spring, Gov. Scott and the legislature eliminated them -- just as a breakthrough was made in the research. Since Zika wasn't front-page news anymore, you can guess what happened.

So, as far as this writer is concerned, I take anything involving funding promises from the legislature with a grain of salt.

And now, for the really bad news, dear friends and neighbors. Even if EVERY voter in ALL 29 fiscally constrained counties voted "NO" to Amendment #1, it would only take a majority of the voters in the three largest counties to vote "Yes" and it would pass. And they probably don't have the budget issues that all the small rural counties have.

And that is how government works.

John Singer

Taylor County School Board  
District 4

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AD VALOREM TAX EXEMPTION:

Why Voting YES Is Important for the Future of Taylor County






**Taylor County voters have the power to encourage job growth, the expansion of existing industry, and provide an incentive to attract new industry on August 28, 2018, by voting YES to allow the Taylor County Board of Commissioners to continue granting Ad Valorem Tax Exemptions for existing expanding businesses or new businesses that are creating new jobs. The program authorizes Taylor County to grant qualifying businesses a temporary county Ad Valorem (property tax) exemption of up to 100% on new capital improvement and/or equipment purchases for up to 10 years.**

**THE BOTTOM LINE**

Everyone in our community loves Taylor County; there's no doubt about it! The Ad Valorem Tax Exemption program is a way to show we want our current businesses to grow and we want new jobs for our children. The defeat of this business incentive would severely limit the ability of existing businesses to grow and discourage new businesses from locating in our community. **Bluntly, not having this tool in our toolbox is the equivalent of tying a wide-receiver's primary hand behind his back and expecting game-winning touchdowns.**

**STRAIGHT TALK**

- Ad Valorem Tax Exemption program will not increase taxes for Taylor County residents. It is a tax exemption program, not a new tax on residents or businesses.
- The Exemption program has two critical benefits:
  - **Existing Businesses:** the Exemption is a major incentive for existing businesses in our county to expand - which means more jobs and healthy, growing businesses in our county to keep current jobs thriving.
  - **New Business:** The majority of the counties we compete with for new businesses have the Ad Valorem Tax Exemption program in place as an incentive tool. **Not having this tool puts our county at a real disadvantage** - and makes other counties more attractive to new businesses.

**THE DETAILS**

- The Exemption benefit cannot exceed a 10-year period.
- The program does not exclude qualifying business from school taxes or taxes levied by any other entity.
- All Exemptions require approval by the Taylor County Board of Commissioners.
- Qualifying companies must meet specific criteria to be considered.
- Only new buildings and new equipment built or purchased to accommodate new employees are eligible; this does not apply to existing buildings or equipment; land is not eligible for the exemption.
- The Ad Valorem Tax Exemption does not affect school taxes; **the Exemption only applies to the countywide Ad Valorem tax (property tax) that is already in existence.**

**How You Can Help: Vote YES!**

Ad Valorem Tax is how the Exemption is worded on the ballot. It denotes the topic, but does not include the word Exemption.





## Prayer Walk

Sunday's Prayer Walk for the Taylor School District had more than 100 participants, with groups staged at each campus. (Above) Staff from Pre-K and Taylor Accelerated School gathered with volunteers for prayer and fellowship; (right) members of the Impact Taylor prayer group with staff at Big Bend Technical College (BBTC). "We would like to thank everyone for their willingness to pray for our schools. We trust the Lord for a good school year. Also, thanks to the many others who were praying even though they were unable to attend Sunday," said Character Education Now Director Paul Nawlin, who organized the event.



## Gilbert Macias Methodist Church welcomes concert pianist, Bible teacher

Gilbert Macias will be at First United Methodist Church Saturday, Aug. 18, at 6 p.m.

Macias is a concert pianist and Bible teacher from Miami. He will be presenting a program from Jonah 1:1-5 entitled, "Say Yes to the Lord: The importance of submission and obedience to the will of God."

He will conclude the program on Sunday morning at the 11 a.m. worship service.

All are welcome to join us. For more information, please call 584-3028.

The church is located in downtown Perry on Jefferson Street.

## Are you worn out, or invisible? Bible study slated for women on Wednesday evenings

Lorie Small will teach a seven-week Bible study for women in the community beginning Wednesday, Sept. 5, at First Presbyterian Church, 310 Plantation Road.

The classes, which will follow Family Night Supper at 5:45 p.m., are slated to begin at 6:45.

The study is entitled "Brave," and chapters suggest sentiments common with women, such as "I Am Worn Out" and "I'm Invisible."

If you are interested in participating, please contact the church office at 584-3826 now so the correct number of study guides can be purchased in advance.

## Family and Friends Day program is this Sunday at Triumph the Church

Triumph the Church and Kingdom of God in Christ invites the public to worship with them at their annual Family and

Friends Day Program this Sunday, Aug. 19, at 3 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

## Obituary

### Bernie Joe 'BJ' McGuire

Bernie Joe McGuire, affectionately known as "BJ", 57, died Sunday, August 12, 2018, at his home in Tallahassee.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 18, at Beggs Funeral Homes (3322 Apalachee

Parkway) in Tallahassee.

Bernie was born in Perry on Nov. 9, 1960, to William E. and Kitty L. McGuire. He lived in Tallahassee for the past 33 years.

Bernie was a truck driver for National Carriers, a Baptist and an Air Force veteran. He was an avid fisherman, hunter and lover of the outdoors. Most

weekends he could be found camping with his family, hunting with friends or fishing to his heart's content.

He is survived by: his wife, Amy Huff McGuire; his son, Henry McGuire; his daughter, Latasha McGuire; and his brother, Walt McGuire. He was also an uncle to a host of nieces and nephews.



## Save the date

The Mercy Mountain Boys Great American Veterans Tour comes to Perry on Sunday, Sept. 15, with a special appearance at First Church of God. The free event will begin at 6 p.m. The Lake City-based trio will be promoting "Operation Rucksack," a project that supports homeless veterans. For more information, visit online [www.MMBband.com](http://www.MMBband.com).

## Share your good news



Church news? Please e-mail [newsdesk@perrynewspapers.com](mailto:newsdesk@perrynewspapers.com) to place FREE church announcements.

## 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.

## Are you "helping" God change your husband?

By SHERYL H. BOLDT

Often, my husband, Bert, will come home from work and almost immediately head to the bedroom saying, "I'm going to go change." To which I teasingly reply, "Good. I've been praying for you to change!"

As playful as our back-and-forth is, we wives often pray for our husbands. And being the helpful servants we are, we often lend God a hand by pointing out to our husbands the specific areas he needs to work on. Unfortunately, the more "helpful" we are, the less good it does.

Have you read Proverbs 21:9, lately? Or do you tend to skip that verse? In case you've haven't read it lately, here it is in the Amplified Bible Classic version. But I warn you, it's not going to be your favorite verse. (It sure isn't mine.)

"It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop [on the flat oriental roof, exposed to all kinds of weather] than in a house shared with a nagging, quarrelsome and faultfinding woman."

I warned you, didn't I? And no ... your husband didn't put in a request to have that verse added to the Bible. Nor did he contact me to include it in this week's column.

All kidding aside, it's obvious that the reason this verse is one of our least

favorites is because it's a painfully convicting description. Not every day, of course, but certainly on the days when we're end-of-our-rope frustrated.

Regardless of how frustrated we are, we'd much rather be the wife described in Proverbs 31:12 (AMPC): "She comforts, encourages, and does him only good as long as there is life within her." Instead, we behave in ways that cause our husband to want to escape from our presence. He'd rather live on the roof, exposed to sweltering heat, torrential rain and blizzards than be inside his home ... with us. Wow! That stings.

I'm not saying our husbands never drive us to the point that we want escape. But, if you commit to hear me out for the next couple of weeks, I promise I'll try not to marginalize your frustration. I've found, however, that I never find lasting satisfaction when I disrespect Bert. No matter how much I try to justify my actions.

Until next time, think about the two verses I quoted in this week's column. Next, I'll share one of the best verses to help you be the wife your husband will enjoy living with.

Sheryl H. Boldt is the author of the blog, [www.TodayCanBeDifferent.net](http://www.TodayCanBeDifferent.net). You can reach her at [SherylHBoldt@gmail.com](mailto:SherylHBoldt@gmail.com).

## Church Directory

**APOSTOLIC**  
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Pastor: James L. Erby • Bishop: James E. Box  
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apostoliclightupc@gmail.com  
1012 S. Washington Street, Perry, FL  
<http://www.apostoliclightupc.com/>



**First Baptist Church**  
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First Kidz: K-5th  
5:25 P.M. supper (Fellowship Hall)  
6:00-7:15 P.M. Program  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.  
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Wednesday: 6:00 p.m.  
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Reserve space for your church in the Church Directory.  
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## Back the BLUE Music Benefit



The Perry Police Department (PPD), Chamber of Commerce and City of Perry are partnering for the first "Back the Blue Music Benefit" planned Saturday, Sept. 29, at Rosehead Park. All proceeds will benefit PPD charities (the Tim Murphy Benefit Fund, Shop with a Cop and Taylor County Special Olympics). The musical line-up will feature the Bryan James Band and Andy Pursell. Gates will open at 4:30 p.m. and stage entertainment will run from 6-10 p.m. Admission will be \$5.

## Elks Lodge to host Biker Bash & Jeep Jam Sept. 15

The Perry Elks Lodge invites residents to "save the date" for two upcoming fund-raising events planned Saturday, Sept. 15:

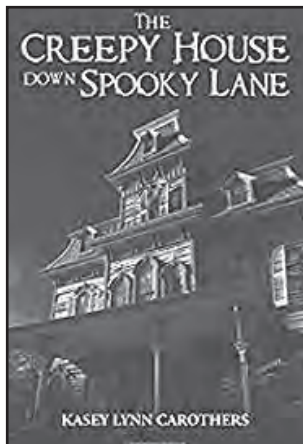
- Cornhole Tournament: Two-person teams, double

elimination format; registration is \$30 per team with a 1 p.m. start time for the first 32 teams to register.

- Perry Elks Lodge Biker Bash & Jeep Jam
- Poker Run: Registration

begins at 9 a.m., \$20 per Jeep or motorcycle (lunch included); 10 a.m. bike and Jeep parade.

For more information on either event, please call (850) 838-5190.



## Mayo author will be guest speaker

The Friends of the Taylor County Public Library will present guest author Kasey Lynn Carothers of Mayo on Monday, Aug. 27, from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Carothers has written the young adult mystery, "The Creepy House Down Spooky Lane."

There will be light refreshments and a door prize. The program will be held at the library (403 N. Washington St.), and is free and open to the public.

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## Kick-Off Classic is Friday night at Dorsett

The Taylor County High School (TCHS) football team is looking forward to Friday night with great anticipation, as they will finally be able to release some aggression on players in a different color jersey.

The Bulldogs have been holding full-contact practices since last Monday, which has given coaches a week to evaluate players and to get an idea of what to expect for the upcoming season.

When Bulldogs' Offensive Coordinator Toney Powell was asked

about his expectations for the offense, he replied, "I'm excited about the upcoming year, I actually think we are deeper than we were last year and feature a lot of talent all the way across the board. After losing a bunch of seniors last year, I figured we were going to be in more of a rebuilding process this year, but I believe we will pick up right where we left off."

Coach Powell was asked what his offense would most likely feature and responded, "This year we are looking to run the ball

a little bit more than last year to help balance out our offense, but it still will be an up-tempo, no-huddle, fast-paced offense, so get your popcorn ready, it's going to be a show!"

Powell predicted Demari Stephens could have a break-out year and will "soon be on everybody's radar," along with returning athletes such as Robert Glanton and Zoe Roberts, who will hopefully pick up where they left off from last year.

Also looking to help out the wide receiver corps is Devontae Glover, Sante Harris and Na'Jeh Glanton, while John "Buddy" McGrew will return at tailback in the backfield with new quarterback Dacorian Bellamy.

Robert Glanton will get some playing time at quarterback and running back as well throughout the season.

First year Offensive Line Coach Bronson Sweatt is fired up about the "special group" he has, and has high expectations of his three seniors, which include Travis Day, Nathan Hendry and Greg Warf.

Coach Sweatt is counting on these guys to lead the way, along with 6-2, 230 lb. freshman Drew McElveen, who has proven to be very talented at a young age and will be expected to start on the varsity squad during the upcoming season.

Tony Hinkle will be another important factor on the line, according to Coach Sweatt, who says Hinkle

has the excellent ability of being able to anticipate the snap and get a good jump off the ball.

Travis Day has been very impressive during his four-year career as a Bulldog and has shown a lot of growth both physically and mentally.

Coach Sweatt described Day as a guy that "finishes every play and continues to grind until the whistle blows."

The expectations are just as high on the other side of the ball, as Defensive Coordinator Doug Cain will be returning eight players who saw significant playing time last year to his defensive scheme.

"This is a very hard-working group of guys that are dedicated to their responsibilities and their teammates. As a coach, I couldn't be more excited about their work ethic or the way they come together as a team," said Coach Cain.

The defense will be led by experienced and talented linebackers Cade Johnson, Kavan Thomas and Glover, who will all be seniors this season, backing up defensive linemen Nathen Heartsfield and Michael Sparrow, who will anchor the defensive line for the Bulldogs.

The defensive secondary is coached by Mark Ellis and is expected to be led by Robert Glanton and Sante Harris, with some help from Glover from time to time.

Coach Ellis said, "I'm



While the Bulldogs are expected to lean on their offensive line and rushing attack this year, quarterbacks Dacorian Bellamy and Robert Glanton (above) will keep defenses honest through the air.

really looking forward to getting to coach this group of guys who have been working hard all summer. Not only are they hard working, they're very coachable guys that listen and are willing to learn, which I believe will give them the edge on the field Friday night."

To see the Bulldogs sporting their new jerseys - which were designed by the late TCHS Assistant Coach Brett Bassett - show up at Dorsett Stadium Friday night at 7 p.m. to watch the Bulldogs play host to Ocala-Forest in their annual pre-season Kickoff Classic

game. Admission to all games this season has been reduced from \$7 to \$5.

TCHS Football Schedule	
8/17	- Forest (7 p.m.) <i>(Pre-Season Classic)</i>
8/24	- Bradford (7 p.m.)
8/31	- Clearwater Academy International (7 p.m.)
9/7	- @ Wakulla County (7:30 p.m.)
9/14	- 7:30 @ Fort White
9/28	- 7:30 Dixie County
10/5	- 7:30 @ Jefferson County
10/12	- Williston (7 p.m.)
10/19	- @ Newberry (7:30 p.m.)
10/26	- Lighthouse Private Christian Academy (7 p.m.)
11/2	- @ Suwannee (7 p.m.)



A Bulldog receiver hauls in a sideline pass in practice last week, when Taylor County opened fall practice in helmets and shorts.

## Welcome to Golf Camp



The Taylor County High School (TCHS) golf team held a golf camp at the Perry Golf & Country Club (PGCC) this past week with all proceeds going toward their upcoming season. The PGCC is very wet and play is limited on some holes, however it still managed to host 10 campers. Matthew Wallat, Hardy Jandula and Kady Puhl were the members of the golf team helping with the camp, along with TCHS golf team coach Jay Carson.

## Blount gains 21 yards in limited preseason action

Detroit Lions' runningback LeGarrette Blount had five carries for 21 yards in the Lions 16-10 loss to the Oakland Raiders in their preseason opener last Friday night.

Blount got the start, but didn't get many carries, as Detroit took it easy on a number of their first-string players, including quarterback Matthew Stafford, who did not even take a snap.

Blount was efficient with the few carries he received and made it out of the game injury-free before letting rookie Kerryon Johnson take control of the backfield.

Blount carried the ball on the first two plays of the

Lions' opening possession, tallying five yards before sharing snaps with Johnson on the second series.

Blount once again received the first two carries of the Lions' third possession, including busting off a 13-yard run, his best of the night.

Blount, Johnson and Ameer Abdullah, who are battling for touches in a talented and crowded backfield, each averaged more than four yards per carry behind an improved offensive line that did not feature all five starters.

Regardless of how touches are ultimately distributed when the regular season begins, the theme will remain the same in

Detroit: develop a rushing attack.

The Lions' offense hasn't produced a 100-yard rushing game by a runningback since Reggie Bush back in 2013. The team looks to change that this season after picking up talent in free agency and the draft to produce depth at the tailback position.

Blount and the Lions are slated to host the New York Giants this Friday at 7 p.m.

The Giants fell in week one to the Cleveland Browns, 20-10, but managed to hold the Browns to 50 yards rushing on 33 carries while allowing 333 passing yards and three touchdowns from quarterbacks Tyrod Taylor and Baker Mayfield.

## Chamber golf scramble delayed again to Aug. 31

The Perry-Taylor County Chamber of Commerce has been postponed for a second time due to heavy rains that have impacted the Perry Golf and Country Club.

According to Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Dawn Taylor, the chamber has moved its 25th annual Chamber Golf Scramble back two more weeks to Friday, Aug. 31.

The scramble was originally set for Aug. 10 and was moved to Aug. 17

last week before several more inches of rain over the weekend led to pushing the annual fundraiser two more weeks into the future.

When the scramble is finally held, Hardee's will provide all golf scramble players with breakfast and sponsor a "Hole in One" challenge, giving each golfer a chance to win one free combo meal per week for an entire year. Lunch will be provided

by Goodman's BBQ.

There will be prizes for "Closest to the Pin" and "Longest Drive" as well as a raffle drawing for prizes following the scramble.

For more information, contact the Chamber at (850) 584-5366.

## Cane pole tournament scheduled for Saturday

Take a kid fishing Saturday, Aug. 18, during the first "Kids' Cane Pole Fishing Tournament" at Rosehead Park.

Registration will begin at 9 a.m., and the fishing contest will be open from 10-11 a.m.

Participants will be divided into two categories: ages 7 years old and under, and ages 8 years old and up. Worms will be provided,

and a limited number of cane poles will also be available.

Awards will be presented for the "most fish," "largest fish" and "smallest fish."

Adult supervision is required.

The event is being sponsored by Tobacco Free Florida, the Florida Department of Health in Taylor County and Wilson's Bait & Tackle.

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8/15-8/17 SPB

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7/18-8/31

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**LEGALS**

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

**CIVIL DIVISION**  
Case #: 18-411-CA  
Teresa Davis, Plaintiff,  
-vs.-  
Estate of Carl R. Michael; Unknown Heirs, Devisees, Grantees, Assignees, and All Other Persons Claiming by and Through, Under, Against The Named Defendant (s); if living, and all Unknown Parties claiming by, through, under and against the above named Defendant(s) who are not known to be dead or alive, whether said Unknown Parties may claim an interest as Spouse, Heirs, Devisees, Grantees, or Other Claimants; Defendant(s).  
COMPLAINT TO QUIET TITLE  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Florida Statutes 49.10 in Civil Case No. 18-411-CA of the Circuit Court of the 3rd Judicial Circuit in and for Taylor County, Florida, wherein Teresa Davis, Plaintiff and Estate  
→ Please see page 11

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8/15 NFCC

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All applications must be completed and delivered to the Taylor County Administrator's Office, Ted Lakey, 201 E Green St, Perry, FL, 32347. Applications must be received no later than August 31, 2018, at the close of the business day (5:00 p.m.).

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



(Left to right) Zakiyah Griffin, Lisa Griffin, Chiquita Kornegay, Cedric Kornegay, Lucretia Gaines and Zay Gaines preparing hamburger and hot dog lunch bags for participants at the second annual Back to School Carnival hosted by the Mt. Olive Community Foundation Saturday, Aug. 11.



Lametris McBride fashioned a braid style for Kemani Coverson.



Erika Williams (left) and Lisa Griffin (right) are shown helping young girls pick out backpacks that were given away during the event.



Areon Mitchell and Harper Bryan



Lillie Greene volunteered with the Clothing Closet. Participants had the opportunity to "shop" for free new and gently-used clothing.



Pastor DeMarrio Bryant looks on as young participant visit with Perry Police Department K-9 Ptl. Ricky Dice and his K-9 partner "Kolt."



Superintendent of Schools Dr. Danny Glover Jr.



The Rev. William Bolden (right) shared a laugh with City of Perry firefighters who were among the community agencies represented at the carnival.



Inflatable slides were a hit with students.



Bruce Tayco (left) and Minister Cletis Reaves manned the grill.



(Above and top right) PPD K-9 Ptl. Ricky Dice and K-9 "Kolt" demonstrated the dog's "capture" talents with help from PPD Ptl. Jamin Cephus. Organizers said the second annual event "was a great success." Volunteers came from various ministries within Perry, neighboring counties and local governmental agencies, including Dr. Danny Glover and members of the Taylor County School Board. "It's always a great feeling to see everyone working together as we serve the community," Mt. Olive M.B. Church Pastor DeMarrio Bryant said.



(Seated) Archie Nesbitt and (left to right) Latavia Williams, Chanda Manning, Joseph Lamb and Omar Sellars were among the hundreds who gathered at the Mt. Olive M.B. Church grounds for the Back to School celebration.



Tonya Bell with the Healthy Start Coalition was one of the vendors for the community event.



# Lights proposal prompts requests from other areas

## RAMPS

Continued from page 1

the Tourism Development Tax as a possible funding source,” Spradley added.

“I have had more input from the public on this than I have had on our budget. That is what led to this public hearing,” Spradley added. “We have asked Tri-County to be here to answer any questions. The biggest concern I have heard is that we install low-impact lighting.”

“Did you survey the residents of Keaton Beach Drive?” Chairwoman Pam Feagle asked.

“I talked to all but one of the eight full-time residents, and all but one were in favor. Mr. Sadousky at the point said he could take it or leave it,” Spradley responded. “But, he already has lighting there at Hodges Park.”

Spradley said he also talked to many other Keaton Beach residents – including those who live on the “back side” along Marina Road – who were in support of lighting Keaton Beach Drive, adding that the only negatives he received were concerns about there being “too much lighting” and possibly impacting sea turtles.

When the hearing was opened to the public, part-time Keaton Beach resident Mike Hunter stated he was “very much in favor” of additional lighting.

“I spoke to many part-time residents down there and they are all in favor – especially for more lights at the ramp,” Hunter said. “The Tourism Development Council promotes our beaches area. Many people ride down there to the point (Hodges Park). It needs to

be lit up.”

Another part-time Keaton resident, William Simpson, stated he was in favor, “as long as it is conservative.”

“We have numerous lights at Hodges Park now that are not working and have not been for years. The only functional light down there is by the playground. There are two that have not been on for years,” Simpson said. “But, the park is closed at night, so we don’t need to have that much lighting.”

“I do not want one by my house. If you do install lights, they need to be for security, shining straight down and not flood people’s yards. We don’t need it to be lit up like daylight. Let’s keep it conservative,” Simpson added.

Cedar Island resident Ursula Miller took the podium to state, “I’m all about safety, but how do we pick and choose who gets flood lights? We are in a crisis with the sheriff’s budget. Should we not calm down and table this until after the budget?”

“These same (tourism tax) funds could provide for more security or first responders down there. A lady died on the water this summer. We need an ambulance – not lights. If we light up Keaton, then we need to light up Cedar Island, Dark Island and Steinhatchee – all the way up into the whole county,” Miller stated.

Keaton property owner Randy Hathcock addressed the board next, stating, “Mike Hunter, Frank Russell and I went to Tri-County last year. This has been a three-year ordeal. It is not something that is just coming up now. We have put a lot of effort into it. Why can’t we light up this

area using bed tax money?

We need to do something at Keaton Beach. We have already lost our restaurant and our marina. We need to do something down there before we lose it all.”

Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Development Council (TDC) Executive Director Dawn Taylor spoke in favor of the proposal, stating the TDC board voiced support for the project last year.

Taylor disputed Miller’s assertions that TDC funds could be used for law enforcement at the beaches, stating that in 2016 the statute was changed primarily to allow certain counties with large spring break crowds to hire security for special events, but contended the wording does not allow for rural counties to provide for regular, ongoing security during the year.

“But, I am in favor of this for the safety and security of our beaches area,” Taylor added.

Steinhatchee resident Barry Cantrell addressed the board, stating, “I am not sure that street light funding should come from the TDC. I am not sure what lighting can do to increase tourism. I have my own light at my house that I pay for. The Steinhatchee School has one, the marina has one, but the boat ramp closes at dark, and vehicles should not be parked there at night. “My solution is to fix the existing lights you have, and let individual property owners install lights if they want them – do not use tourism tax money to do it.”

Steinhatchee resident Carolyn Wiley was the next to speak, stating, “My opinion is that there are many residents who would

appreciate this type of lighting. There are widows and disabled persons in Steinhatchee who can not afford it. If we are going to light up these high-dollar homes, we need to take care of everyone. All citizens deserve the same consideration and level of service.”

“We should grease all of the wheels and not just these that are squeaking. There are many residents who pay to install and maintain their own security lights. Unless we are doing it for all, we don’t need to do it for some,” Wiley stated. “I am opposed to lighting one area and not all. There has to be a way to help these widows who are afraid to go outside of their house at night. I would guess there is a lot more tourism in Steinhatchee than there is in Keaton Beach.

Tri-County Electric Cooperative CEO Julius Hackett spoke next, first commending the board for gathering public input and then stating that there are a wide range of lighting options.

“We selected street lighting with .8-foot candles,” Hackett said, adding that the recommended Philips Lumec – LED Outdoor Lights (dusk to dawn photocells) are “dark sky” lights. Hackett said the proposed lights would provide enough lighting for general security, but are more “straight down” lighting.

Hackett also suggested residents call the number on the pole if they see a light that is not working.

According to Hackett, installing new lights carries a significant up-front cost of \$200 per light, \$100 for a cantilever arm, \$100 per

fixture for labor and \$75 if a pole is needed – \$475 each – in addition to a monthly \$11.40 fee.

Based on the estimates given by Hackett, it would cost the county approximately \$4,000 to install 10 lights (with arms and labor) along Keaton Beach Drive, as well as another \$3,400-\$4,000 to purchase and install LED lights and poles at the Keaton Beach Ramp (4 poles and lights) and Coastal Park (5 poles and lights).

Feagle asked Hackett if Tri-County had a program to assist low-income persons with a courtesy light.

“No, we do not currently,” Hackett responded.

“Would you consider it?” Feagle asked.

“We would have to subsidize those lights with some sort of income from other customers, so you gotta be careful with that sort of thing,” Hackett responded.

“We have heard concerns about lighting possibly intruding on nearby houses. Some vapor lights will light up the world, but these will not be that kind of lights and should not affect neighbors,” Spradley pointed out.

“These do project some sideways and forward, but it depends on the pole location,” Hackett said. “The light is focused on the ground, and they do come with a shield that you can install behind the light to provide some partial shielding.”

Spradley stated the county’s engineer recommended four lights be installed at the Keaton Beach Boat Ramp and five at the Coastal Park which provides additional parking across the street.

Spradley also pointed out Hodges Park has two lights owned by Tri-County, but two others were funded under a grant and are owned by the county.

“We could retro-fit those to Tri-County lights if you would like,” Hackett offered.

When questioned by Commissioner Malcolm Page, Spradley stated there are 20 power poles along Keaton Beach Drive. “My thoughts are we could skip every other one and put up 10 lights.”

“Then eight or nine more at the board ramp and coastal park?” Page asked. “What is the total figure?”

Spradley stated the “number has moved around a little,” adding that the total up front installation cost was estimated to be \$9,000.

“I think it is a legitimate expenditure to light up the boat ramp and those two poles at Hodges Park by transferring them to Tri-County, but if you want a light in your yard, you can connect to Tri-County and get one for just \$11.40 per month,” Page said. “I have worked with that (Tri-County) board for years, and they are not gonna give away electricity.”

“When I had rental houses I paid for my own lighting and installation, as well as the monthly fee. I think I feel like every person who can afford to have a house down there at the beaches can afford to pay for a light, or go to Home Depot to buy one and pay the electric bill like everyone else,” Commissioner Jim Moody said.

“If we do one, we are gonna have to do for all of

⇒ Please see page 12

## 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.

**Aug 2:**  
James L. Stoudmire, 33, 500 S. Warner Ave, VOP, Dep. Wimberley, TCSO.

Justin S. Viola, 26, 1120 Buckeye Nursery Rd., VOP, Dep. Wimberley, TCSO.

Edward Lee McLeod, 30, 4370 Fortner Cir., VOP, Dep. Wimberley, TCSO.

**Aug. 3:**  
Norma Lamp, 55, P.O. Box 763, back for court, Officer Maiullo.

Raymond Lowe, 53, Tallahassee, VOP, Officer Basch.

Brian McMillan, 33, Pensacola, knowingly driving with license suspended, Dep. Thigpen, TCSO.

Ashli V. Hudson, 28,

Greenville, burglary battery, Dep. Thigpen, TCSO.

**Aug. 4:**  
Christopher M. Porter, 39, Greenville, burglary battery, aggravated battery, Dep. Thigpen, TCSO.

Theron Mock, 40, 1800 Grand Island Ln., VOP, writ of bodily attachment, Sgt. Dorman, TCSO.

Stephen Martin, 69, Jacksonville, domestic violence, battery, Dep. Thigpen, TCSO.

Willie Joe Oliver, 67, 103 Dupont St., felony driving with license suspended, FTA, Ptl. Smith, PPD.

**Aug. 5:**  
Patrick Dew, 48, 1018 N. Page St., burglary battery, Dep. Thigpen, TCSO.

Aida Kay Beach, 44, 1018 N. Page Rd., burglary battery, Dep. Thigpen, TCSO.

**Aug. 6:**  
Dustie Erin Beach, 38, 504 Judson Dr., sentenced to 30 days, Judge Blue.

Quental Harris, 34, 226 Pace St., revoke pretrial release, sale of methamphetamine, Judge Parker.

Dennis August, 49, 910 W. Homer J. Smith Ave., out of county warrant, Ptl. Dice, PPD.

Teon Davis, 25, 311 2nd St., trespassing on property other than structure, Det. Norris, PPD.

Michael Fiffia, 30, 106 N. Hinley St., trespassing on property other than structure, Det. Norris, PPD.

Sherri Grambling, 44, 714 Roys Rd., Steinhatchee, FTA, Dep. Chewing, TCSO.

Charles Alton Medders, 45, Madison, knowingly driving with license suspended, Ptl. Chaffin, PPD.

**Aug. 7:**  
James Elliott Hollon, 18, Marianna, Fla., FTA, Dep. Wimberley, TCSO.

Undrea Holmes, 48, 131 E. Pace Dr., burglary to structure, dealing in stolen property, Ptl. Phelps, PPD.

Jordan Alysse Dixon, 23, 293 Paul Poppell Rd., out of county warrant, no valid drivers license, Officer Fenton.

James William Chapman, 39, 2845 Foley Cut Off Rd., domestic battery by strangulation, aggravated battery, domestic violence, Officer O’Connor.

**Aug. 8:**  
Jordan Janinda, 29, 1417 Springfield St., writ of bodily attachment, Officer Jones.

Ronald Carter, 39, 3617 Hwy. 98 W., dealing in stolen property, theft, possession of cocaine, possession of drug paraphernalia, Ptl. Smith, PPD.

Johnny Boss, 47, 15033 Gulf Way, warrant arrest, Officer Schram.

Jeremy Nix, 34, 5105 Roping Lane, burglary battery, criminal mischief \$200 or less, Dep. Thigpen, TCSO.

Christopher Benton, 35, 3159 Leroy Lyons Rd., possession of firearm by convicted felon, possession

of methamphetamine, Sgt. Vinson, TCSO.

**Aug. 9:**  
Jacob Fowler, 31, 220 Leon Ward Rd., introduction of contraband into county detention facility, possession of less than 20 grams cannabis, trespassing on property other than structure or conveyance, resisting officer without violence, Ptl. Bass, PPD.

Norman Wynn Leverette, 48, Silver Springs, out of county warrant, Officer Schaub.

Jessica Edwards, 38, 2140 Woods Creek Rd., FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia, Dep. James, TCSO.

**Aug. 10:**  
Thomas R. Dixon, 40, 200 Goff St., possession of ammo by convicted felon, dealing in stolen property, Det. Norris, PPD.

Ronnell Walker Jr., 31, 404 N. Washington St., false imprisonment, domestic battery by strangulation,

tamper/harass victim/informant, resist/obstruct/oppose officer, Ptl. Cephus, PPD.

Logan Dewayne Austin, 23, 107 Douglas Dr., FTA, Ptl. Chaffin, PPD.

**Aug. 12:**  
Bryan Douglas Kilpatrick, 49, 3103 S. Byron Butler Pkwy., domestic battery, resisting officer without violence, Dep. Wimberley, TCSO.

**Aug. 13:**  
William Gerald Fernandez, 26, 2460 Woods Creek Rd., domestic violence, Officer Fenton.

## LEGALS

(Continued from page 9)

of Carl R. Michael; Unknown Heirs, Devises, Grantees, Assignees, and All Other Persons Claiming by and Through, Under, Against The Named Defendant (s); if living, and all Unknown Parties claiming by, through, under and against the above named Defendant(s) who are not known to be dead or alive, whether said Unknown Parties may claim an interest as Spouse, Heirs, Devises, Grantees, or Other Claimants are defendant(s), THE TAYLOR COUNTY COURTHOUSE, LOCATED AT 108 NORTH JEFFERSON, PERRY, TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA, the following described property as: THE NORTH ½ OF LOT 6 BLOCK 45 STEINHATCHEE SUBDIVISION, IN SECTION 25, TOWNSHIP 9 SOUTH, RANGE 9 EAST, TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA.

ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE FIRST DATE OF PUBLICATION. If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator; 173 Northeast Hernando Street, Room 408, Lake City, Florida 32056; (386) 758-2163 adamail@jud3.flcourts.org at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification of the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711. Annie Mae Murphy

## LEGALS

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT Taylor County, Florida Submitted By: ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF: CHANA M. WATSON, Attorney at Law P.O. Box 1356, Cross City, FL 32628 (352) 578-2014 (352) 578-2647 FAX 8/8, 8/15, 8/22, 8/29

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

Case No.:11-425DR  
Carlton Jerry Denton II, Petitioner, and Laura Marie Wright-Smith, Respondent, NOTICE OF ACTION FOR Supplemental Petition to modify parental responsibility, visitation, or parenting plan/time - sharing schedule and other relief. TO: Laura Marie Wright-Smith 3138 Ma Dixon Rd., Perry, FL 32347 YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for modification of parental responsibility and other relief has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Carlton Jerry Denton II whose address is 479 Crosby Rd., Adel, Ga. 31620 on or before Sept. 7, 2018, and file the original with the clerk of this Court at 108 N. Jefferson St., Ste. 102, Perry, FL 32347, before service on Petitioner or immediately thereafter. If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition. Copies of all court documents in

## LEGALS

this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court’s office. You may review these documents upon request. You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court’s office notified of your current address. (You may file Designation of Current Mailing and E-mail Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915.) Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed or e-mailed to the address on record at the clerk’s office. WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or strikings of pleadings. Dated: August 3, 2018 Clerk of the Circuit Court By: Terri Young Deputy Clerk

## PUBLIC MEETING

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN Please take notice that the Three Rivers Regional Library Board will hold a Budget Meeting on Wednesday, August 29, 2018, at 3 p.m., at the Lafayette County Public Library, in Mayo, Florida. All interested persons are invited to attend and be heard. Please be advised, that if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at such hearing, that person will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he/she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and

## LEGALS

evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. “Person with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact (386) 294-1600 (Voice & TDD) or via Florida Relay Service at (800) 955-8771.” 8/15

**Notice is hereby given to PAMELA BLUE NEAL** Unless payment is made on 2004 BUICK RENDEZVOUS VIN:3G5DA03E04S542081 for tow and storage charges on 08/07/2018. Vehicle will be auctioned on the 18th day of SEPTEMBER 2018 at 10 am at Thomas Chevrolet 2128 S. Byron Butler Pkwy, Perry, FL (850) 584-6221 per F.S. 713.78. 8/15

## TDA 18-022

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that EB 1EMIFL, LLC the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number, year of issuance, description of the property and the names in which the property was assessed are as follows: Certificate Number: 513 Year of Issuance: 2015 Description of Property: Parcel Number: R04646-050 Homehaven Subdivision, Lot 14 Block 4 Containing .19 acres, more or less. Recorded in Taylor County official record 683, page 204. Section 25 Township 04 Range 07. Assessed with mobile home. Name in which assessed Michael

## LEGALS

Jerrells 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 17th day of September, 2018 at 11:00 o’clock a.m. Dated this 15th day of August, 2018 Signature: Annie Mae Murphy Clerk of Circuit Court Taylor County, Florida 8/15, 8/22, 8/29, 9/5

## TDA 18-021

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that EB 1EMIFL, LLC the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number, year of issuance, description of the property and the names in which the property was assessed are as follows: Certificate Number: 854 Year of Issuance: 2015 Description of Property: Parcel Number R06313-425 Kinsey Woodland Subdivision, Lot 85 Containing 1.00 acres, more or less. Recorded in Taylor County official record 305, page 289. Section 16 Township 06 Range 07 Name in which assessed: Diane Clifford 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 17th day of September, 2018 at

## LEGALS

11:00 o’clock a.m. Dated this 15th day of August , 2018 Signature: Annie Mae Murphy Clerk of Circuit Court Taylor County, Florida 8/15, 8/22, 8/29, 9/5

## TDA 18-023

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that EB 1EMIFL, LLC the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number, year of issuance, description of the property and the names in which the property was assessed are as follows: Certificate Number: 5538 Year of Issuance: 2015 Description of Property: Parcel Number: R04854-000 Milldale Subdivision, Lots 4, 5, 6 & East ½ of lot 7 Block 2 Containing .60 acres, more or less. Recorded in Taylor County official record 328, page 684, 685, 686 & 751. Section 25 Township 04 Range 07 Name in which assessed Jerry Gruver Cruise 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 17th day of September, 2018 at 11:00 o’clock a.m. Dated this 15th day of August , 2018 Signature: Annie Mae Murphy Clerk of Circuit Court Taylor County, Florida 8/15, 8/22, 8/29, 9/5



# Lights will be funded through local bed tax

## LIGHTS

Continued from page 11

them in Steinhatchee, Dark Island, Cedar Island, etc.," Moody said. "I am like Malcolm and in support of doing the boat ramps and Hodges Park," Moody added.

"Of the seven or eight homeowners I talked to, three have had guns stolen out of their vehicles. You could say they should have locked their doors, but they did not," Spradley said.

Spradley also stated he did not want to see a "snaggle-tooth look" resulting from just some scattered homeowners deciding to install lights.

"That is a justification to have them all done. Call it beautification because we want to create an aesthetically appealing look," Spradley said.

Moody asked if the bed tax could be used to pay the monthly bill for each light pole.

Assistant County Administrator LaWanda Pemberton replied that the 4th and 5th cent (out of the total five cents) could be used, but added, "Next year those funds are already pledged or earmarked for parks operation, the sports complex, Forest Capital Hall, Hodges Park and other tourism-related expenditures."

Feagle suggested the board install lights at the Keaton Beach Boat Ramp and Hodges Park, "and come back at a future time to look at lighting down the road."

"My first priority is the boat ramp and coastal park, where people are just getting off the water and loading their boats right at dark," Spradley said. "It is dangerous and a security issue. We could address the rest later, but this is a public hearing and you have heard what the public has said."

"I own property down there and would love to have lights, but in light of recent budget talks, I am not sure this is what we need to do

right now," Feagle said.

"There is a good chance if we get the RESTORE Act funds from the oil spill, there is the possibility we could use some of that money to install the lights and then we could use bed tax money for the monthly cost," Moody stated.

"Steinhatchee and Keaton are overrun with people. Those areas are generating revenue for the county. We owe it to those areas to light them up," Keaton Beach property owner Howie Woods said. "People are parking in the ditches up and down the road. Steinhatchee and Keaton are different than other areas because they attract more people. Where you have added people, you have added risks."

Feagle again suggested the county install additional lighting at just the county-owned parks and boat ramps, adding, "then we can come back later and do the rest of the beaches and Steinhatchee or let everyone pay for it."

"We need to do this down there. This is our biggest tourism draw and resource, but anything is a plus," Woods said.

Courtney Grade resident William Wright suggested the county use boat ramp fees to pay for the ramp lighting.

"We receive about \$40,000 per year in boat ramp fees and it goes into a fund that helps pay for the boat ramp attendants, County Administrator Ted Lakey stated, adding that some of the funds go to help pay for a deputy during scallop season.

"We may break even or have a little bit left over," Lakey added.

"If you want a light, buy a light. I don't see a business down at Keaton Beach," Windell Ezell stated. "If a resident down there wants a light, they can pay \$11 per month to get one. The same thing goes for Steinhatchee."

"I do feel for the boat ramp, but people need to get out of the water before



Commissioners voted to use bed tax money to install lights at Keaton Beach and Steinhatchee boat ramps, as well as the Keaton Beach Coastal Park that provides additional parking at Keaton. County staff is also looking to repair or replace county-owned lights at Hodges Park (above) that have not worked in some time.

dark," Ezell added. "With the current financial conditions and the tentative raising of budgets, I don't think we need to mess with lighting at this time. I recommend against it."

"This is a public hearing. We are not required to take action. We have heard from everyone more than once. We can either move on or defer to Commissioner Spradley," Page said.

"We have no consensus," Spradley replied.

"I am going to close the public hearing," Feagle said. "We are not going to vote tonight."

"I am prepared to vote on the boat ramp and Hodges Park," Spradley interrupted. "I am not for kicking the can down the road. I may not be a county commissioner in three months."

"This is bed tax money. I don't think anyone here spent a night in a local motel, RV lot or any place for less than six months," Spradley stated. "This money would not be coming out of local tax dollars. That is why we went with bed tax money."

"I need to be clear. This will not raise taxes. It is funded by the bed tax,"

Spradley said before making a motion to install lights

at the Keaton Beach and Steinhatchee boat ramps, as

well as the Keaton Beach Coastal Park.

## Final hearing set for September

### BUDGET Continued from page 3

27-28 edition of the **Perry News-Herald**.

Overall, the district's budget totals \$50.9 million – although that number is temporarily inflated by \$14.3 million due to the ongoing construction of the new Perry Primary School.

Valentine warned the board at the July 24 meeting that while the district is projected to meet its reserve goals in 2018-19, cuts may be needed to do the same in 2019-20.

Meanwhile, Taylor County taxpayers should be getting a small tax break this year, with the state lowering the district's "required local effort" property tax millage rate – which the district

does not control – from 4.289 to 4.1650 mills. This is expected to reduce the district's tax revenues by \$190,000 compared to the previous year.

The school board's other millage rates are expected to stay the same, including:

- the basic discretionary fund millage of 0.748 mills,
- the basic discretionary fund millage of 1.5 mills, and

• a 0.25 mill additional discretionary levy up for renewal by Taylor County voters.

This brings the school board's total millage rate for the district to 6.663 mills – a slight decrease (1.8%) from last year's total millage rate of 6.787. According to Valentine, the board will vote to approve the final budget in September.

**Best price in town!**



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### How to Vote Your Mail Ballot

Examine your ballot and read the ballot instructions carefully before voting. Using black or blue completely fill in the oval next to the left of your choice like this:




- Do not vote for more candidates than the number allowed in each race as indicated by the "Vote for" statement (for example: "Vote for One") or your vote in that race will not count.
- DO NOT: sign your name on the ballot
- DO NOT: use tape to repair a damaged ballot
- DO NOT: tear or cut any portion of your ballot
- DO NOT: erase any markings, if you change your mind about a choice you have made, please call the Supervisor of Elections office at 850-838-3515 and ask for another ballot
- DO NOT: make any stray marks on your ballot
- DO NOT: circle the oval or the candidate's name, completely fill in the oval next to your choice
- DO NOT: mark the oval with checkmarks, X's, or dashes

If you do any of these things, or change your mind about your vote in a race after you have marked your ballot, don't hesitate to ask for a new ballot. Otherwise your vote may not count.

You do not have to vote in every race on the ballot. Only mark the races in which you would like to vote, you may leave all other races blank. The races that you have marked will be tabulated. If you vote for more than one candidate in a race that states "Vote for One" only that contest will be affected; any other contests in which the allowed number of candidates are selected will be counted.

Be sure you sign the Voter's Certificate located on the backside of the return envelope.



The Supervisor of Elections office verifies each and every signature on a returned mail ballot. If you feel your signature has changed and needs to be updated please call the elections office at 850-838-3515 so that a voter registration update application can be mailed to you immediately. If your signature does not match the signature of record, you risk your mail ballot not being counted.

Those individuals holding a Power of Attorney for someone may NOT sign the Voter's Certificate of a mail ballot. If the voter is unable to sign their signature, please contact the Supervisor of Elections office for instructions on updating the voter's signature to an "X" as their mark and the proper way to document the "X" on a vote by mail ballot.

All mail ballots must be received in the Supervisor of Elections office no later than 7:00 pm on Election Day. Mail ballots that are postmarked on election day or prior but not received before the 7:00pm Election Day deadline will not be tabulated.

Taylor County  
Supervisor of Elections  
*Dana Southerland*  
(850) 838-3515  
www.taylor-elections.com

## Kids' Cane Pole Fishing Tournament

A FREE, FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT!

# Saturday, August 18

Registration begins at 9 a.m.

Fish: 10-11 a.m.

Rosehead Park

Age Groups: 7 & under / 8 & up

WORMS PROVIDED, Other bait welcome

Limited number of cane poles available

AWARDS for most fish, largest fish and smallest fish

\*\*\*\*Adult Supervision Required\*\*\*\*





