

Taco Times

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Wednesday
 March 27, 2019
50¢
 Two Sections
 56th year, No. 13

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Collision caught on surveillance video:

Bicyclist injured in Hwy. 19 crash



The Sunday afternoon crash that seriously injured a Perry woman happened in a split-second as she attempted to cross U.S. Highway 19 on a bicycle. Bystanders said they saw the woman "flying through the air" before landing in the median located in front of Wilson's Bait & Tackle.

A local resident sustained severe trauma to the entire left side of her body when she was struck by a vehicle while crossing U.S. Highway 19 North on a bicycle Sunday afternoon.

Angela "Bruiser" Spanks remains in stable condition in a Tallahassee hospital where she reportedly faces multiple surgeries to her shoulder, arm, hip, leg and ankle.

The crash happened around 3:30 p.m. in front of Wilson's Bait & Tackle. Spanks was returning from a trip to the grocery store when she rode down Saxon Street, crossed the parking lot at Wilson's and continued across Highway 19.

Video surveillance of the crash shows Spanks had nearly made it across both northbound lanes when she was struck by a 2010 Honda

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Lakeland couple tries to lock out cops during traffic stop

The Perry Police Department (PPD) has stepped up traffic violation

enforcement in the past few weeks and, as a result, has seen an increase in drug

arrests, officials reported Tuesday.

One of those arrests involved a husband and wife from Lakeland who locked themselves in their vehicle and refused to comply with officers when they were ordered to exit the car.

It happened last Monday afternoon, March 18, when Ptl. Joel Mailly and his field training officer Sgt. Matthew Smith were monitoring traffic on U.S. Hwy. 19 North near Ash Street.

"They observed a Ford Fusion traveling 78 miles

per hour in a 55 mile per hour zone. The vehicle attempted to avoid being stopped by pulling into the parking lot of the gas station located near the intersection.

When officers approached the vehicle, the passenger (later identified as Dennis Allen York, 34) started to get out of the vehicle. That's when one of the officers saw him drop rolling papers on the ground. When they ran a check, they found out that (Dennis) York had an outstanding warrant from

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Dennis Allen York



Misty Michelle York

R/R crossing still closed

The railroad crossing -- which has been closed for nearly one week -- on Center Street remains closed to through traffic and local officials have been unable to get feedback from the railroad as to when the road

will re-open. "The city is working with state officials to resolve the issue and has not received any cooperation with railroad officials," city officials said Tuesday.

The crossing was closed last Wednesday with very

short notice given either to the public or local agencies. The crossing originally was slated to re-open Saturday.

During peak travel times (before and after school) traffic on Jefferson Street has been backed up in both directions.



Wanted man jailed after 4-hour chase

A Perry man wanted on two outstanding felony warrants led officers on a nearly four-hour chase Monday afternoon before being apprehended in the Taco Heights subdivision off Old Dixie Highway.

Mitchell Dewayne Mims, 33, had scratches on his head and was covered in dirt from running through the woods when he was taken into custody and transported to the Taylor County Jail. He is being held without bond

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Mitchell Mims, wanted on open felony warrants, led officers on a four-hour chase Monday.



MoonPie Princesses

Taylor County's newest royalty -- the 2019 MoonPie Princesses -- were crowned during ceremonies held Friday at Forest Capital Hall. Kelsea Croft (left), the daughter of TJ and Summer Croft, was named MoonPie Princess in the 7-8-year-old division while Tatum Padgett, the daughter of Cecil and Maria Padgett Jr., was crowned in the 5-6-year-old division. For more winners, please see page A-5.

(Photos courtesy Photoes, Frames & Trophies)

Two instructors join TCHS staff:

New leaders for JROTC

By CAITLYN BURCHETT
 Staff writer

Local school officials have selected two new instructors to lead the Taylor County High School (TCHS) Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) -- filling a void left by 1st Sgt. Eddie Smith, a 23-year veteran instructor who was killed in a car accident on Dec. 21, 2018.

After reviewing many impressive applications and conducting a number of thorough interviews, local school officials selected Kenneth Rosier to fill the non-commissioned officer (NCO) position and hired Lieutenant Colonel James Duthu to the Senior Army Instructor (SAI) position.

According to TCHS Principal Charles "Chuck"

Finley, the new JROTC leaders have a wealth of experience, are passionate about working with kids, have solid references and meet all credentials required by 6th Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) Brigade -- an Army unit that provides training support to ROTC and JROTC in Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Puerto Rico.

Rosier brings 27 years of instructional experience to the JROTC program, having previously served as a battalion and brigade master trainer. Rosier was also the senior Army instructor at Fitzgerald High School in Georgia for more than 10 years -- a program that achieved "Honor with Distinction" each year

under his leadership.

Rosier's instructor experience extends beyond the military branches, as he ran the Brighter Day Performance Leadership Academy after-school tutoring program in Valdosta, Ga., and served as Dean of Midwest College of Theology, also in Valdosta, Ga.

Rosier previously served 14 years as a field artillery soldier and as company first sergeant for five recruiting companies.

Rosier is now tasked with motivating the TCHS cadets to be better citizens, training and developing them into leaders and helping them understand the importance of education.

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Taco Times



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Weather

Wednesday 68° / 54°



Thursday 74° / 45°



County commissioners seeking new bids for Green Street sidewalk project

The Taylor County Commission is re-advertising a bid seeking firms interested in constructing a sidewalk along Green Street to connect existing sidewalks with both Taylor County Elementary School (TCES) and the soon-to-be completed Perry Primary School (PPS).

The county received two bids earlier this year for the state-funded project, but both came in well above the available budget. That, combined with the fact that one of the bidders was not pre-qualified to work on a Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) sidewalk project, led the agency to recommend the county re-advertise the project.

The commission applied for the funding to construct the sidewalk in 2013 through what was then called FDOT's Transportation Alternatives Program, but has since been

re-named the Local Agency Program (LAP). According to County Engineer Kenneth Dudley, the county signed a LAP agreement in 2016, which obligated the county to:

manage the FDOT-selected design consultant (Element Engineering), develop the bid package and select a construction contractor. The commission approved a second

agreement in August 2018 for the construction phase of the project, and subsequently approved the bid specifications for
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County applies for grant

More money needed for Steinhatchee boat ramp improvements

Due to delays in receiving a grant contract from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), proposed upgrades to the docks at the Steinhatchee public boat ramp have once again been pushed back to give the county time to seek additional funds.

with six "finger" docks on each side to facilitate people loading and unloading. The project also included the installation of new pilings, as well as a back railing for the main dock.

"There have been several staffing changes within the program at FWC, and the project contracts were finally going to be issued in April 2019," County Grants Director Melody Cox said in a memo to the county commission.

The original cost estimate for the project was \$303,257, which was to be funded through the \$231,257 FBIP grant, along with a \$72,000 local match from Taylor County. The local funds were included in the current county budget.

"It has been determined by the county engineer that the project costs have risen considerably, and there would be a budget shortfall of approximately \$147,240," Cox said.

According to County Engineer Kenneth Dudley, the project is now expected to cost around \$450,000 in construction and materials.

"The funding cycle is currently open for the 2019 FBIP, and staff is proposing submitting a grant application for the additional funds needed for the project," Cox said.

According to County Administrator LaWanda Pemberton, even if the county does not receive the new grant, it would not lose the funding already awarded in 2016.

At Tuesday's meeting, Commissioner Malcolm Page made a motion to
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Riverside Drive closed to through traffic

A section of Riverside Drive (State Road 51) in Steinhatchee in front of Sea Hag Marina has been closed to through traffic while the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) removes old pipes and installs a new drainage system in the area. According to FDOT Public Information Officer Tracy Hisler-Pace, the work is expected to be completed in late spring.

Sheriff thanks PPD for 'relentless pursuit'; Taylor, Mayo CI K-9 teams for assistance

4-HOUR CHASE

Continued from page 1

on two probation violation warrants (possession of a controlled substance and dealing in stolen property/trafficking) and a third charge of resisting an

officer. The incident began when Perry Police Department (PPD) officers Jesse Young and Chuck Geyer were first dispatched to an area near Huddle House on Highway 19 in reference to Mims' location.

"As soon as he saw the police officers approaching, he took off and ran into the woods off Lewis Drive. The woods are very thick, and there are also several residences in the area," PPD Capt. Gene Franklin said.

Deputies with Taylor County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) joined PPD in the pursuit along with K-9 teams from both departments.

Additional K-9 teams from the Taylor and Mayo Correctional Institutions also joined the search.

Later in the afternoon, officers received information that Mims was possibly in the Taco Heights

area. "He (Mims) was in a vehicle stopped by county officers and he fled on foot again. K-9 teams tracked him to Sara Street, where he was taken into custody," Franklin said.

Sheriff Wayne Padgett thanked the PPD "for its relentless pursuit, and both the Taylor and Mayo CI K-9 teams for their diligent assistance and quick response in apprehending the fugitive." He also thanked the citizens of Taylor County "who continue to assist in making Taylor County a great place to live."

Clarification:

A story in the March 22 edition of the **Perry News-Herald** on the Taylor County School Board voting 4-1 in favor of implementing the Guardian Program in local schools included a quote by School Board Member Deidra Dunnell.

The quote stated: "And she did it very emotionally," Dunnell interjected. "So, how do I know when someone enters campus that she is not going to be crying and trying to save herself more than her students?"

Dunnell's actual quote was: "And she did it very emotionally. So, how do I know when someone enters campus that she's not going to be crying, trying to save herself more or less her students?"

Dunnell contacted Perry Newspapers this week seeking a clarification.

"What I was trying to say was that she (school administrator) got emotional expressing concern about how she wanted to do the program," Dunnell said.

"That gave me concern about what would happen in the event something were to happen and would she be able to act," Dunnell explained.

"You are put in a role to defend. Would she be able to defend or would she be emotional?" Dunnell added.

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Cyclist airlifted to Tallahassee

CRASH
Continued from page 1

Accord.
“The impact was a center punch to the bicycle,” Perry Police Department (PPD) Capt. Gene Franklin said.
Spanks was thrown over the hood of the car, with her left elbow smashing through the windshield. The impact catapulted her body into the turn lane, where she landed on the concrete median.
The driver of the vehicle did not sustain any injuries, but was visibly distraught at the scene.
Emergency units from Doctors’ Memorial Hospital EMS, the City of Perry Fire Department and Perry Police Department arrived on scene within minutes of the crash. Spanks was able to respond as paramedics questioned her while working to

stabilize her for transport.
She was removed from the scene by ambulance and driven to the launch pad at Doctors’ Memorial Hospital, where she was then airlifted to Tallahassee.
“Overall, she sustained no head trauma, except for requiring stitches from where her head hit the concrete edge on the median,” Franklin said.
“This is being investigated as a traffic crash with great bodily injury. No charges have been made, but there are traffic violations that have yet to be determined,” he said.
Bicycle riders are reminded that if they are crossing a highway – not at a crosswalk – they are required to get off the bicycle and walk across the road at a 90-degree angle, Franklin added.



Bystanders comfort the distraught driver of a car that struck a bicyclist on Sunday afternoon on U.S. Highway 19 in front of Wilson’s Bait & Tackle. The victim’s elbow punched through the windshield, and the bicycle was broken into three pieces and scattered across the highway by the collision.

‘Our kids are extremely resilient, overcoming so much’

JROTC
Continued from page 1

“The program is designed to be a cadet-led program. With that said, my duties are to facilitate the cadets in their leadership roles with a productive outcome in their leadership decision-making process,” Rosier said.
As a Sopchoppy-native, Rosier said he is honored to be back in his home state.

“But, I am more honored to see a leadership that cares so much about the success of its students. I have dedicated my life to what my



Kenneth Rosier



Lt. Col. James Duthu

mother has instilled in me, be not about talking down to our youth, but lifting them up in every area of their lives. I have a passion for helping kids reach their maximum potential,” Rosier continued.

Duthu is a 1993 West Point graduate and retired Army officer. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and went on to serve as an Air Defense Officer, Platoon Leader, Battery Executive Officer, Battery Commander and Battalion Training Officer. Duthu also served as a program manager in the U.S. Army’s Acquisition Branch where he managed government and civilian engineers that developed and tested precision guided munitions and missile defense for the Army and Missile Defense Agency.

During his service, Duthu was stationed in Fort Hood

and Fort Bliss in Texas, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, Picatinny Arsenal, N.J., and Redstone Arsenal, Ala., and he has also been deployed to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq.

Duthu has more than four years of JROTC teaching experience, three years of Senior ROTC teaching experience and is certified by the U.S. Army Cadet Command.

As the SAI, Duthu will be responsible for developing, planning and executing curriculum designed to promote citizenship, develop leadership and life skills and improve health and physical fitness. Duthu is also tasked with managing the program budget, logistics and administration with the Taylor County School District and U.S. Army Cadet Command, mentoring and counseling cadets and coaching and sponsoring competitive teams.

“I am excited for the opportunity to serve as one of the new leaders for the JROTC program at TCHS. I have heard many great things about the JROTC program here and have been impressed by the maturity level and performance of the cadets in my short time here-- a true testament to 1SG Smith’s legacy,” Duthu said.

The JROTC cadets have persevered through the tragedy of Smith’s death and have been hard at work to follow the example he set.

The JROTC Drill team competed against seven other schools at the Area II Drill Meet in Ocala, Fla., on March 2 and emerged proud after the male and female Color Guards and male-mixed Armed Platoon qualified for the State Drill Meet. The leaders and cadets are now preparing for the competition and will be traveling to George Jenkins High School in Lakeland, Fla., on April 13 to participate.

In addition to the teams, the TCHS JROTC had four cadets compete in the Individual Armed Exhibition competition. Cadet Second Lieutenant Victor Pease placed first and Cadet Command Sergeant Major Jacob Wilson placed third. They will advance to represent Taylor County at the state competition.

“When 1SG Rosier and I arrived, the first thing we noticed is the kids were excited about the ROTC program. Our focus will be

to maintain and build on that excitement,” Duthu said.

Duthu and Rosier plan to bring back the Raider Physical Fitness team and The Air Rifle team.

“In addition, we want to organize the cadets into companies so there are more leadership opportunities and more mentorship between senior level cadets and new cadets,” Duthu said.

“The great thing about JROTC is that our major events are cadet-led so you get to watch them grow and excel as they progress through the program,” Duthu added.

According to Rosier, the duo is also going to reward and recognize small and major accomplishments of the corps of cadets.

“[We are] giving them a success story to tell other kids about the great opportunities that come with being in JROTC,” Rosier explained.

Duthu and Rosier said they will continue to model and build upon the program Smith has built, but they recognize they can never fill Smith’s boots.

“I know 1SGT Smith through the work and accomplishments he provided for this community and, not only to the cadets of the JROTC Program, but

to the students that walked the halls of this great school. Seeing how the cadets continued to carry out their daily duties is such a testament of the great leader Smith was,” Rosier said.

“Our kids are extremely resilient, overcoming so much. They wanted to continue moving forward with all of the special events

and competitions that 1SGT Smith had scheduled for them. With the help of some of our amazing parents, community members and staff here at the high school, we have been able to make that happen for them. The kids have done great at each of these events. They always make us proud,” TCHS Principal Finley said.

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SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

April 9, 2019

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Only those voters who are registered Republican will be eligible to vote in the April 9, 2019 election



VOTE BY MAIL BALLOT

Do you have a current mail ballot request on file?

Mail ballot request are only valid for two general election cycles. Many mail ballot requests expired immediately after the 2018 General Election. Your Supervisor of Elections office has now mailed all ballots to voters who currently have a valid request. Call the elections office at **850-838-3515** to make a request or visit our website at www.taylor-elections.com and choose the Vote by Mail link. **The last day to request a mail ballot for the Special Primary Election is Wednesday, April 3, 2019.**



ADDRESS UPDATES

If you have moved and you have not contacted your Supervisor of Elections office to make an address change, it is important that you do so as soon as possible. Florida law states you must vote in the precinct in which you are residing, this will ensure you receive the proper ballot when voting.

EARLY VOTING

Early voting will take place in the Supervisor of Elections Office which is located at **433 U S 19 N, Perry**, and will begin on **Saturday, March 30, 2019** and will continue through **Saturday, April 6, 2019** for eight consecutive days. Any registered Republican in the county may vote early in lieu of going to their precinct on Election Day.

PHOTO AND SIGNATURE ID REQUIRED

Photo and signature identification is required by Florida Law. If the picture ID does not contain the signature of the voter an additional identification that provides the voter’s signature shall be required. A voter information card is no longer accepted as a form of ID. The following is a list of accepted forms of identification a voter may present as proof of photo and signature.

- A valid Florida Driver’s License
- A valid Florida Identification Card (issued by DHSMV)
- US Passport
- Student Identification
- Debit or Credit Card
- Neighborhood Association Identification
- Military Identification
- Retirement Center Identification
- Public Assistance Identification
- Veterans Identification Card
- Concealed Weapons Permit
- Government Issued Identification (Federal, State, County, City)

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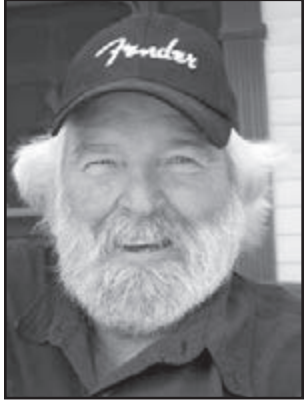
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Overall Common'tater

By Billy Blackman

I noticed blossoms on our peach trees today – pink noses protruding into an unpredictable world.

There are also green signs of life on the apple tree we planted last January.



Billy Blackman

A pair of squirrels returned from wintering at the creek to set up housekeeping above our driveway in the hollow walnut tree – a parental gesture in anticipation of their spring batch.

The narcissus are showing their stuff, and the buds on the Bartlett pear tree have

swelled and are ready to bloom.

My wife was in her herb bed this morning (on all fours), gently raking back the hay from atop the spearmint and thyme, removing her frost-proofing so that the afternoon sun may encourage new life.

Everywhere the sap is stirring.

They (trees, flowers, herbs and my wife) think that an early showing of optimism, though presumptuous, may sway nature to join their ranks and postpone the next frost until December.

I'm just as guilty of rushing things as they are. My sap has been stirring for two months now: The garden plot has been turned and harrowed since December, waiting with open arms for longer days.

But, there's just so much a person can do to a square of dirt. Idle days outnumber throttled ones.

Most of last January was spent thumbing through



a seed catalog, drooling over exaggerated fold-outs of what could happen if I planted "Hastings" seeds.

I had to re-harrow my plot to relieve myself.

Three weeks ago a letter came (bulk rate) from the editor of some dirt magazine promising to make a successful farmer/gardener out of me for a small subscription price.

I've always suspected offers promising to raise the dead, so a Farmer's Almanac

was bought with the subscription money instead. The almanac said that "root crops" should be planted when the "moon is in the earthly signs of Taurus or Capricorn and decreasing in light." We laid our potatoes to rest on Feb. 7 (impatiently early by most standards, which set Valentine's Day as spud day.)

Our eagerness may have cost the lives of two pecks of seed potatoes because they've yet to come up.

Yesterday I re-read a report sent to me by the Florida Cooperative Extension Service on the condition of our soil – I'd gathered 20 shovelfuls a month ago, mixed them together to get an average, and sent a sample (along with \$3) to Gainesville in a plain brown paper bag.

This report showed that poor harvest couldn't be blamed on the soil. That planted the cause directly on me. With that in mind, I turned in my almanac to "above ground crops" and read where Feb. 20 was a good day to plant bush beans and sugar snaps.

So on that day I laid off 10 rows, distributed fertilizer and worked it into the soil. We were about to drop seeds when the phone rang. I had to run into the house, cuffs filled with dirt and a fist full of bush beans, to answer it.

It was a salesman (also guilty of rushing things)

representing Somewhere Gardens, wanting to sell us a matching-set burial plot for half-price.

I understand his method: Die one – get one free. What I can't grasp is his timing. He should call on a cold and gray midwinter day, when a man with spring on his mind has nothing better to do than to think about death. Not on a day budding in rebirth, when a man has his cuffs full of contentment, a firm grip on a fistful of new life and a heart swelled and ready to bloom.

Billy Blackman is a former editor for The Havana Herald newspaper and has won several Florida Press awards for news photography, news writing, columns, political cartoons and newspaper design. He is a professional musician and horse farrier. His book, "Seasons In Beulah Land," is a collection of stories about rural lifestyles. It can be purchased at Amazon.com.

Letters to the Editor

'I do not like being called a thief for picking up trash'

Dear Editor:

As a citizen of Taylor County who has picked up discarded items or retrieved things from the side of the road and dumpsters outside of buildings, God only knows how many times I have heard, "Why did you bring that home?"

Sometime there is nothing wrong with the things salvaged.

Other times there are things that are in pieces, and some just need to be revamped.

But now, apparently you can be charged with petty theft and jailed if you take something from the trash at a roll-off site.

Many times you hear those in government griping about how much they spend on landfill fees.

Some businesses are required to recycle 20 percent.

Let's look at Goodwill and other community services.

There are needy people, such as those who are older and on a fixed income.

You might find a good appliance, although it might take two or three different ones to make one good one.

People throw good stuff away every day.

Everything I pick up is saving room in a landfill.

I may or may not need it, but my grandma always said, "Waste not, want not."

I do not like being called

a thief for picking up trash.

I am recycling to save it from filling up a landfill.

Therese Fletcher

LOCAL GOVERNMENT DIRECTORY

Superintendent of Schools
Danny Glover Jr.
317 N. Clark St.
850-838-2500

City of Perry Mayor
Alan Hall
214 N Center St.
850-584-8919

Commission Chairman
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U.S. Senator **Marco Rubio**
United States Senate
Washington D.C., 20510
202-224-3041

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716 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
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Florida Representative
VACANT
Will be determined in a special election to be held in April and June 2019.

U.S. Rep. **Neal Dunn**
300 South Adams Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301
850-891-8610

Governor **Ron DeSantis**
Capitol, 400 S. Monroe St.,
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Florida Senator
Bill Montford
58 Market St.
Apalachicola, FL 32320
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For more information about the Florida Legislature, visit: www.myfloridahouse.com or www.flsenate.gov



JUST MY



By PENNY WHITFIELD DIXON

Chasing cars for a good cause

I was the teenage Chairman for the March of Dimes, enlisting and inspiring other teens to run up to vehicles stopped at a big intersection on Highway 19/27 in Perry, Fla. circa 1963.

So, I have got THAT on my resume. Highway I-75 had not been built at that time. There were two main corridors coming into Florida, and one included a trip through Perry.

Our small town was known for its "gas wars," and many tanks were filled at one of the disproportionate number of gas stations by attendants who would also wash windshields as a courtesy.

But, I digress. We offered passing motorists a small bag of salted peanuts in exchange for a donation to the non-profit created to improve the health of mothers and babies.

We would have to hurry to explain the cause and complete the transaction before the light changed from red to green!

Very few turned us down. Many truckers gave generous amounts.

The sight of us running to every vehicle in wild abandon, with big smiles and hearty thank-you's, seemed to loosen the purse strings and weigh down the buckets.

Coins were of more value back then, but were tossed in as we begged for that very worthy cause.

Each year in the United States, more than 120,000 babies are born with a birth defect -- the leading cause of infant deaths. There are thousands of different birth defects

affecting the structure or function of every part of the human body.

The March of Dimes provides grants to researchers, with the goal of understanding the causes of birth defects and developing new ways to prevent and treat them.

At the end of the day, we went to our adult chaperone's house and rolled the coins.

I don't remember dollar amounts, but it took several of us quite a while to roll the bounty.

One particular scene of determination was burned forever into my mind that day.

Bonnie Jo Wells (Blume) only had one hand to use, having been born with that particular challenge.

But, she didn't let that spoil her participation. She managed somehow to roll coins just like everyone else.

She also played the cornet in the mighty TCHS band and later became a teacher despite that obstacle. Her tenacious spirit served her well!

Back then, I don't think I made the connection between the cause we were collecting for and the very real-life example of one of our peers meeting head-on and overcoming the challenges presented by a birth defect.

I rarely pass that intersection on my trips back home to Perry that I don't think of a bunch of wild, energetic teenagers "selling" dime bags of peanuts - often for a whole quarter or more - for the March of Dimes!

We had it going on!

Taco Times
Wednesday, March 27, 2019
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
Member Perry/Taylor County Chamber of Commerce.
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Your Government at Work

Perry City Council: meets second and fourth Tuesday, 5:30 p.m., Council Meeting Room adjacent to City Hall.

Board of County Commissioners: meets first Monday, 6 p.m.; third Tuesday, 9 a.m.; fourth Tuesday, workshop, 5 p.m.; County Annex.

Taylor County School Board: first Tuesday, workshop, 5 p.m.; third Tuesday, regular meeting, 5:30 p.m.; Alton H. Wentworth Administrative Complex

Sweeter than a MoonPie MoonPie princesses crowned



(5-6-year-old division) MoonPie Princess Tatum Padgett (third from left) and members of her court (l to r): first runner-up Kiley Kinsey, third runner-up Natalieigh White and second runner-up Morgan McKinney.



During the "What Bluegrass Means to Me" competition, Zyla Brooks (left) sported red boots and a red cowgirl hat, while Hannah Tomlinson modeled a "Little House on the Prairie" look.



(L to r) Lainey Lovett, Allison Parker and Ashton Sheffield were all smiles for the audience and judges.



(7-8-year-old division) MoonPie Princess Kelsea Croft (second from left) and members of her court (l to r): first runner-up Destiny Jackson, third runner-up Lainey Lovett and second runner-up Ashton Sheffield.

Here are your Bluegrass Sweethearts

Joining the newly-crowned MoonPie Princesses at the upcoming Florida State Bluegrass Festival will be a court of "Bluegrass Sweethearts."

The girls, named from both the 5-6 and 7-8 age divisions, will pass out free MoonPies on Saturday, April 6, at Forest Capital State Park.

The 2019 "Bluegrass Sweethearts" are: (5-6) Emma DeVane, Ja'Siya McQuay, Kabrie Palmer, Gemma Stanley, Aubrey Allen, Taylor Chaney, Christy Freeman, Sophia Montgomery, Emilia Sirmones, Rilee Walker, Zyla Brooks, Giselle Cherry, Aria Dunnell, Chrissy Irvin, Carlie Nash and Jordyn Sneed; (7-8) McKinzie Harris, Hannah Tomlinson, Merce Coleman, Tori Howard, Allison Parker, Lexie Welch, Honesty Green, Ashlee Sparkman, Rayle Harris and Avery Dunnell.



Contestants dazzled on stage during the evening gown competition. Shown are Tori Howard (left) and Destiny Jackson.

Morgan-Wilson-Walters families gather for reunion on Saturday

The annual Morgan-Wilson-Walters family reunion will be held Saturday, March 30, at Shady Grove Park, starting at 11 a.m.

Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish to share, beverage and lawn chair as well as an item for an auction. The park is located at 3845 Alton Wentworth Road.

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'Introduction to the Bible' classes will begin Friday at New Brooklyn

The Barbara S. Tillman/Juanita D. Scott Christian Leadership School of the Taylor County Union will begin a new class, "Introduction to the Bible," starting Friday, March 29, and continuing the next week (Tuesday, April 2; Wednesday, April 3; and Friday, April 5) at New Brooklyn

Missionary Baptist Church at 6 p.m. nightly. Minister Moncrief Ervin will be the class instructor. "We pray that you will join us for this Christian education class to increase your knowledge of the scriptures," Dean Juanita D. Scott said.

Calvary welcomes special guest Brian Norris for 'old-fashioned gospel sing'

Calvary Baptist Church will host an old-fashioned gospel sing and fish fry Sunday, March 31.

The sing, featuring special guest Brian Norris, will start at 5 p.m., in the church sanctuary, followed by dinner in the fellowship hall at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free, and everyone is welcome.

Obituaries



Richard H. Combs

Richard H. Combs

Richard H. Combs, 71, passed away Friday, March 22, 2019, at his home in Tallahassee after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer.

He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Kathy Combs.

Rick was born April 9, 1947, in Sidney, Neb., to Myrle and Elaine Hoffman.

Richard was seven when his mother remarried a widower, Major John Combs of the U.S. Air Force. Rick and the family of eight moved approximately every two years.

He loved to spend summers at his father's family farm. He graduated from McLean High School in Virginia in 1965.

Rick entered the University of Florida, becoming a lifelong Gator, and graduated in 1969 with a degree in political science (he described it) as he (scrubbed it). He then entered the United States Army Infantry and served in Vietnam as an Infantry Platoon Leader.

After leaving the Army, Rick attended the University of Florida's law school on the G.I. Bill. While in law school, he interned in the 4th Judicial Circuit State Attorney's office. There, he found a career that became his passion as a prosecutor for the State of Florida.

After graduating, Rick moved to Orlando's 9th Judicial Circuit office, where he worked from 1972 to 1982. While working there, he met and instantly fell in love with Kathy Taylor of Perry. Until the day he passed, he felt totally blessed to have Kathy in his life. They were married in January 1977 and were blessed with a daughter, Shelly in September 1978.

In 1982, Rick transferred to the 2nd Judicial Circuit State Attorney's office to be closer to Kathy's large family. He was assigned to head the branch office in Gadsden and Liberty counties where he found career-long (44 years) enjoyment in working in the "outlying" counties.

In 1987, Rick and Kathy welcomed their second daughter, Amanda (Mandy).

In 2012, Rick was recognized for his work by the FPAA with the Gene Berry Award. Rick was highly respected in the legal profession by the many attorneys, judges and other staff with whom he worked.

Rick enjoyed all college sports and, though he was a Gator first, he supported and attended many FSU games, as well as those of local

teams. He loved playing golf after work in Quincy, and also loved softball, basketball and fishing. He spent many years coaching youth sports, especially girls fast-pitch softball, in which he found great joy.

As a lifelong servant, Rick was active in the community and his church, Saint Paul's UMC. He taught Sunday School and loved his class, New Horizons. He felt blessed to serve on many church mission teams.

He served in the Kiwanis Club of Quincy, where he was past-president and a major fundraiser for their various charitable pursuits. Most recently he served in Northside Kiwanis.

Rick is survived by: his wife of 42 years, Kathy;

his two daughters, Shelly Roberts (David) of Atlanta and Mandy Combs of Tallahassee; and his deeply loved grandchildren, Christian, Jack, Adriana and Lydia; his stepmother, Carol Hoffman of Denver, Colo.; and special sister-in-law, Sherry Harvey of Dekle Beach.

He is also survived by: sisters, Deana Goff of Clearwater, Laura Schiavon of Eustis and Sally Combs, Susan Jones (Randy); and brother, Tom Combs (Therese), all of Tallahassee; and many nephews and nieces and in-laws.

A memorial service and visitation was held Tuesday, March 26, at Saint Paul's United Methodist Church. A private interment ceremony was held at the Tallahassee National Cemetery.

Lifesong (lifesongfunerals.com or 850/627-1111) is assisting the family with arrangements.



Shirley Gwendolyn Hardin

Shirley Gwendolyn Hardin

Shirley Gwendolyn Hardin went to be with the Lord Friday, March 22, 2019, at Holston Valley Medical Center.

Shirley was born in Newburn, Tenn., on July 13, 1939, and was the daughter of the late James and Ludie Mae Hoskins.

She was a dedicated wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, aunt and friend who dearly loved the Lord. Cooking, entertaining and having her family around her was a great joy in her life. Shirley was always a loving and giving person.

As a devoted pastor's wife, she served for more than 50 years with her husband in ministry. For the last 13 years she attended The Oasis Church of Gray, Tenn.

Preceding her in death was her son, Roy Devon

Hardin.

Those left to cherish her memory are: her husband, the Rev. Roy Hardin; a daughter, Deborah Marshall and her husband, Tony, of Kingsport, Tenn.; a son: Donald Hardin of St. Louis, Mo.; sisters, Lou Nell Haig and husband, Doug, and Patricia Minard of Yorkville, Ill. Mrs. Hardin is also survived by 10 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, as well as several nieces and nephews.

The family received friends from 5-7 p.m., at the East Tennessee Funeral Home in Blountville, Tenn., Tuesday, March 26, 2019, followed by funeral services with the Rev. Tony Marshall and the Rev. Gerald Bohler officiating. Entombment was in the East Tennessee Mausoleum.

Shirley requested in lieu of flowers that donations be made to Hillcrest Children's Home of Hot Springs, Arkansas (2325 Malvern Ave. Hot Springs, Ark. 71901)

We love you and miss you dearly.

East Tennessee Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Shirley G. Hardin.



John Hollingsworth

John Hollingsworth

John Hollingsworth died on Saturday, March 23, 2019, at 64 years of age.

A memorial service will be held on Thursday, March 28, at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church with Brother Billy Gibson officiating. The church address is 2975 Pisgah Road in Perry.

In lieu of flowers, please send live plants or baskets to the church. John loved plants.

Marjorie Rabun Woodell

Marjorie Rabun Woodell, 95, was called home on March 24, 2019.

She was survived by: her daughter, Robin Woodell Ragans of Madison; her granddaughter, Lora Ragans Smith and her husband C. J. Smith; her grandson, Paul Benton Ragans III; her grandson, Barry Wilder Ragans and his wife, Leslie Ragans; and her great-grandchildren, Braydn Smith, Wyatt Smith, Tristen Ragans and Adalen Ragans.

Marjorie was a long-time educator in Taylor County along with her late husband Robbins "Woody" Roberts Woodell.

She was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Perry where she

taught Sunday School and many Bible study classes.

She was an avid Gator fan and a University of Florida booster. She was the ultimate educator and was a most beloved person who will be greatly missed.

A graveside service will be held at Bethel Cemetery in Lake City on Sunday, March 31, at 3 p.m.

Beggs Funeral Home is handling the arrangements (850-973-2258).

You may send your condolences to the family by visiting our website at www.beggsfuneral.com.

GLAD TIDINGS

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

Breaking Promises

"Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, 'Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?' Jesus answered, 'I tell you, not seven times, but 77 times.'"

—Matthew 18:21-22 NIV

An important theme which runs through the Bible is the inability of humankind, both individually and collectively, to keep our promises.

The Israelites are chastised again and again for stubbornly pursuing their own selfish interests and breaking the covenant they had with God.

God continues to forgive them, and in the New Testament when Peter asks Jesus how many times he should forgive his neighbor, Jesus tells him that he should forgive him not just seven times, but 77 times, reflecting the divine patience for human weakness.

We are all prone to breaking our promises and to sinning against God and our fellow man, and should be comforted by His everlasting mercy. Our sinning will someday come to an end, but His mercy and forgiveness will last forever.

Strive to be more faithful in your own life and to mirror God's everlasting mercy when those around you fall short.

Church Directory

San Pedro Missionary Baptist Church

Sunday School: 10:00 A.M.
Morning Worship: 11:00 A.M.
Discipleship Training: 5:00 P.M.
Evening Worship: 6:00 P.M.

Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30 P.M.

Pastor: David Prevatt

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First Baptist Church

www.fbcperryfl.org

First Kidz: K-5th
5:15 P.M. Wed. Church Supper (Fellowship Hall)

6:00-7:15 P.M. Program

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Evening Bible Study 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday: 6:00 p.m.

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Easter Services

Local churches are invited to share information about upcoming Easter services by e-mailing newsdesk@perrynewspapers.com or by calling (850) 584-5513. All church service announcements are FREE.

Obituary Policy

Perry Newspapers does not charge for a standard death notice.

An extended obituary is available for a charge based on length, with wording exactly as provided by the funeral home or family.

For inclusion in the Perry News-Herald, obituaries must be received by 2 p.m. on Thursday.

For more information on placing an obituary, please contact the newspaper at 584-5513.

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State bill would offer hurricane relief

Senator Bill Montford (D-Tallahassee), Senator George Gainer (R-Panama City) and Senator Doug Broxson (R-Gulf Breeze) recently released a statement regarding proposed Senate Bill 1610, Emergency Mitigation and Response, as well as other ongoing Senate efforts to provide necessary relief to the Florida Panhandle struggling to recover from Hurricane Michael which struck in October, 2018.

“Our state has never before faced the devastation that destroyed North Florida in early October last year. Even as we stand here today, five months later, there are many families and children still in need. Last night, mothers and fathers put their children to bed in a tent and woke up to the devastation all over again this morning. Every facet of daily life is now a challenge from taking their children to school, getting groceries and cooking to dinner, even seeking basic medical treatment,” said Montford.

“Under legislative and executive leadership, I am confident that we can begin to heal the wounds that this horrific storm left on the resilient people of North Florida. This bill outlines a starting point on the work we have yet to do

for the victims of Hurricane Michael.”

“On Oct. 10 the landscape of the panhandle and the lives of those who call it home were changed forever. The destruction did not begin and end on that day. Our schools, neighborhoods, churches, businesses and families all felt the impact. Almost five months later, we are still dealing with monumental challenges,” said Senator Gainer. “At a time when hurdles are seemingly insurmountable for our community, now, more than ever, we need our state to come together to rebuild and heal a community that often times feels forgotten. I am proud to stand with Senator Montford to support this critical piece of legislation.”

“Hurricane Michael devastated the lives of many Floridians in just a couple of hours. It will take years to build back what we lost when the category 4 storm swept through North Florida,” said Broxson.

“Though we have a great deal of work ahead of us, I am confident we can work with our colleagues in the Senate and House to accomplish what is desperately needed right now. I am proud to be working with Senators Gainer and Montford to restore this beautiful part of

Florida.”

Rebuilding Our Communities

Senate Bill 1610 focuses on both immediate assistance for Hurricane Michael victims, and hurricane preparedness to mitigate the impacts of future storms. This bill creates a loan program to fund rebuilding efforts so that communities can more quickly return to a state of normalcy and will also ensure damaged hurricane evacuation shelters are repaired.

Hurricane Michael Recovery Task Force

The bill creates a Hurricane Michael Recovery Task Force under the Division of Emergency Management to make recommendations to the Legislature regarding additional assistance needed in the response to, recovery from, and mitigation of the effects of Hurricane Michael and reviews the effectiveness of local, state, and federal activities in those areas, as well as the availability of resources and any additional assistance needed.

Expanding the Agricultural Economic Development Program

It is estimated that North Florida’s timber industry suffered \$1.3 billion in damages following

Hurricane Michael. Senate Bill 1610 expands the Agricultural Economic Development Program to include timber as an eligible crop for the emergency loan program.

Affordable Housing Options for Hurricane Michael Victims

The bill creates the Hurricane Housing Recovery Program within the Florida Housing Finance Corporation to address the needs of affordable housing for those impacted by Hurricane Michael, and to prepare for future housing needs.

Delivering Relief Today and Preparing For Tomorrow

Senate Bill 1610 directs the Division of Emergency Management to issue a report on both the use of shelters during Hurricane Michael and the access to emergency operations centers statewide. The bill requires the Florida Building Commission to lead a review of the effects of Hurricane Michael and provide recommendations to the legislature regarding enhanced building zones. The bill will also work to ensure students impacted by Hurricane Michael do not fall behind.

Securing Funding Investments in the State Budget

In addition to the policy enhancements, advanced planning and preparedness efforts, and significant local funding opportunities outlined in Senate Bill 1610, Senators Broxson, Gainer and Montford are working

with Senate Appropriations Subcommittees to include vital funding investments for hurricane recovery across all areas of the state budget. Some examples of these ongoing efforts include:

- Dedicating a portion of Visit Florida funds to marketing efforts in impacted communities.
- Directing funding from the Department of Transportation Work Program to County and Municipal Road Projects. (Senate Bill 7068)
- Beach re-nourishment.
- Repairs and improvements to our state and local parks infrastructure.
- Repairs and improvements to our K-12 school infrastructure.
- Holding K-12 education funding harmless by offsetting enrollment decline due to displaced families.
- Implementing a Sales Tax Holiday for Hurricane Preparedness, so families can prepare for the upcoming 2019 Hurricane Season.

Technical Support to Secure Federal Reimbursements

The most recent projections from state estimators indicate the total state costs of recent hurricanes will exceed \$2.7 billion. The state cost of Hurricane Irma exceeded \$1.1 billion, while the state cost of Hurricane Michael is nearly \$1.6 billion.

While the federal government is expected to cover a substantial portion

of the total state cost through reimbursements from FEMA, those funds will most likely not arrive this fiscal year. In fact to date, Florida has received only \$75.3 million in federal reimbursements to general revenue for Irma, and \$0 for Michael.

To help expedite the receipt of these critical, outstanding reimbursements, Senators Broxson, Gainer and Montford are working through the budget process to identify and secure additional professional staff within state agencies who have expertise in local, state and federal finance who the state could task with providing full-time, in person, technical assistance to local communities seeking to file for the reimbursements they are due from the state and federal government.

“I am grateful to Senators Broxson, Gainer, and Montford for their outstanding efforts to secure the policy enhancements and funding investments our Panhandle communities need as recovery efforts continue,” said Senate President Bill Galvano (R-Bradenton).

“They are leading the Senate efforts to move both quickly and deliberately, with an eye toward sustained, long-term recovery for our families and businesses as well as prudent fiscal management of state funds as we await the significant federal reimbursements for which we are entitled.”



The project would include replacing the existing wooden docks with aluminum docks, along with six “finger” docks on each side.

Grants can be used for boat ramps, piers and enhancing boating access

BOAT RAMP

Continued from page 2
apply for the additional funds, with Commissioner Sean Murphy offering a

second. The measure passed 4-0; Commissioner Thomas Demps was not present at the meeting.

FBIP grants can be used for boat ramps, piers, docks,

recreation channel markers, derelict vessel removal, boating education and other boating-related activities which enhance boating access.

Loaded handgun discovered

TRAFFIC STOP

Continued from page 1
(along with his wife) and claimed that the officers had no authority to stop him or detain him. Mrs. York also refused to unlock the doors,” PPD Capt. Gene Franklin said.

“Both refused to comply with repeated commands to unlock the doors. Ptl. Mally busted the passenger’s side window, unlocked the door and pulled (Dennis) York from the vehicle.

A substance identified as cannabis was found in the pocket of the passenger’s side door. A loaded .22 caliber handgun, out of a holster, was found under the driver’s seat. Since Mrs. York – who did not have a concealed carry permit – was driving, she was charged with carrying a concealed firearm. Both she and Mr. York, who is a convicted felon, claimed that the gun belonged to her,” Franklin said.

Dennis York was charged with resisting an officer, possession of less than 20 grams of cannabis and possession of drug equipment, as well as being arrested on the out-of-county warrant.

Misty York was charged with resisting an officer and carrying a concealed weapon.

She posted a \$2,000 bond and was released the next day.

Dennis York posted a \$8,250 bond and was released Sunday, March 24.

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9-pound trout wins tournament

The 18th annual Fishing Tournament was held this past Saturday, with a total of 112 anglers registering to fish Taylor



Gauge Griffis, shown above with his girlfriend, Madysen Maxwell, caught the largest trout in the 18th annual Steinhatchee Community Fishing Tournament. The fish weighed 9 pounds. (Photos by Simply Steinhatchee)

County's coastline during the prime time of year to catch huge trout.

That is exactly what Gauge Griffis accomplished, as he weighed in a 9-pound monster speckled trout that was by far the largest fish caught in the tournament, not only claiming the first-place cash prize (\$700), but also setting a new tournament record that will be hard to beat.

Coming in second place was Junior Dice with a 6.45 lb. trout worth \$400, following by Julie Burke who landed a 6 lb. fish to claim third place (\$250).

The Redfish division was a much tighter race, with Scott Daniels weighing in a 6.45 lb. red to win first place (\$700), followed by Chase Norwood in second place with a 6.4 lb. red (\$400) and Kyle Hix reeling in a 6.35 lb. fish to claim third place (\$250).

Connor McKinnon won the redfish with the most spots (13 spots) and took

home \$250.

Clayton Brogdon caught the largest sheephead, which weighed 5.35 lb. and was worth \$350, while J. Wainscott weighed in the largest flounder (1.3 lbs.)

and also won \$350.

Out of the 112 anglers who registered, 67 fish were weighed in by 44 different fishermen in pursuit of more than \$3,650 in cash and prizes.



Scott Daniels caught the tournament's first-place redfish weighing 6.45 pounds.

Wentworth, Springer win R.H. Fox III 4-ball Golf Tournament

The team of Cole Wentworth and Jake Springer turned in back-to-back solid days of golf, firing a two-round total of 17 under par to win the Championship Flight in the annual R.H. Fox III 4-Ball Golf Tournament this past weekend at Perry Golf & Country Club.

The team of William Wentworth and Brandon Fletcher trailed Springer and Cole Wentworth by just one stroke after the first day of play.

However, they were unable to keep pace over the final round, carding a four-under-par round of 67, while the eventual champions almost repeated their success from the first day -- firing an eight-under-par round to compliment their opening round of nine under par.

C. Wentworth and Springer went on to win the Championship Flight with a combined 62-63, five shots

ahead of Fletcher and W. Wentworth, who finished with a 66-67.

Forty-six golfers entered the two-day, 36-hole event named after longtime PG&CC member R.H. "Reagan" Fox.

Other winners included: Second Flight champions Carey Miller and Marty Dickey (68-66) followed by Dick and Joey Jarvis (68-70) in second place.

Third Flight winners Ashley Holton and Ty Hicks (69-75) were followed by the team of Hayden Lilliot and Grayson Hicks, who finished in second with rounds of 74-72.

The final flight was won by the team of Greg Enfield and Lester Padgett (73-74) over the pairing of Glenn Ratliff and Bobby Edwards (72-76), who were edged out by only one shot after leading by three strokes following the first day of play.



The top three teams in the Championship flight pose together after the R.H. Fox III 4-Ball Golf Tournament held this past weekend at the Perry Golf & Country Club. From left to right, Billy Grant and Graham Lynn finished third (64-68), Jake Springer and Cole Wentworth finished first (62-63), while Brandon Fletcher and William Wentworth finished as runners-up (66-67). (Photo by Tina Wentworth)

TCHS girls bring home three 1st place ribbons

By Glynell B. Presley

One. Two. Three. Three is the number of first place ribbons the Taylor County High School Girls Track Team brought home with them on March 21 from the Gainesville Hurricane Invitational. The team placed third overall while scoring in 16 of 17

events.

The competition was steep, with TCHS facing teams like Gainesville, Chiefland and Lake Weir.

However, the Lady Bulldogs' five-member track team shattered all predetermined guesstimates of which teams would rise to the top.

Malaysia White-Stewart placed first in the triple jump and the 100 meters hurdle, while Jadakist Campbell placed first in the 200 meter run, followed by Haeven Jay in fifth and Promise Jackson in seventh.

In the 4x100 relay, the team of Malaysia White-Stewart, Haeven Jay, Promise Jackson and Jadakist Campbell placed first, with a season-best time of 53.8 seconds.

In the 100 meter race, Campbell placed second, Jay finished fourth and Jackson placed seventh.

The long jump results showed Jay taking fourth,

Campbell placing fifth and Kinsey Goodman taking home eighth.

In the 800 meter run, Goodman overcame a 30-meter lead by a competitor to come from behind and claim third place.

In the 1600 meter run, Goodman also placed fourth.

Earlier in the week, on March 19, the team competed in a meet at Chiefland High School.

In the 100 meter dash finals, Campbell placed fifth; Jay was ninth; Jackson finished 18th; Chaneicia Britt, 19th and Delaney

Musselwhite took 22nd.

In the 200 meter dash, Campbell placed third; Jay was fifth and Jackson 13th.

In the 800 meter run finals, the results show Goodman placing fourth and went on to place third in the 1600 meter run.

The 100 meter hurdles, White-Stewart showed up in the fourth place slot. She also placed 7th in the 300 meter hurdle finals.

TCHS placed fourth in the 4x100 meter relay finals.

Teammates Campbell, Jay, Britt, Goodman and Musselwhite placed third,

fifth, seventh, 10th and 18th respectively in the long jump finals.

White-Stewart placed fourth in the triple jump finals.

Macie McGuire brought home a third place win in the discus finals and 13th in the shot put finals.

With back-to-back track meets during the week, TCHS Girls Track Coach Sherman Rhines said he is pleased with the resiliency of the team. However, Rhines said with a few more events on the team's schedule he looks forward to even better performances from the girls.

Tennis teams are improving

The Taylor County High School (TCHS) boys and girls tennis squads had one of their better showings of the season so far as they continue to show improvement with each match they compete in.

Although the Bulldogs came up short against Aucilla Christian Academy last week, they proved that they are becoming more competitive, as well as gaining quality experience on the court against some much more veteran opponents.

Hardy Jandula lost his singles match 2-8, while Zach Bemby pushed his singles match to an extra game before eventually falling 7-9.

Bemby and Jandula teamed up together in one of the doubles matches, but were defeated 2-8.

Da'zhon Oliver and Jacovey Island both fell in their singles match 2-8, while Matthew Wallat was held scoreless 0-8.

Wallat and Island played in a doubles match together, but came up short 0-8.

For the Lady Bulldogs, Aiyannis Fuller lost her match 3-8, while Marniecia Hamilton came up short 1-8.

Keishunna Hamilton, Shontavia Blount, Akeela Thomas and Allora Baxley were all defeated 0-8 in their singles matches.

The Lady Bulldogs also competed in three doubles matches, but fell in each 1-8.

Pairings included: Keishunna Hamilton and Fuller, Marniecia Hamilton and Blount, as well as the pairing of Claudesha Plummer and Thomas.

"Once again, we faced a team with much more experience than we have, but overall we are showing improvement with each match," said Head Coach Gene Johnston.



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➔ Please see page 11

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 AT DOWLING PARK

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**TAYLOR COUNTY
TOUCH-A-
TRUCK**



Clear skies and perfect weather greeted visitors for the 2019 "Touch-a-Truck" event hosted by Tobacco Free Taylor and the Florida Dept. of Health in Taylor County. "It was an amazing day. We want to thank all who came out and made this day so great. We also want to give a big, special thank you to all the people, businesses and organizations that came out and shared their time, special vehicles and equipment with the kids of our community. This event could not happen without them," Coordinator Cheryl Moore said.

Point of Grace announces honor roll

Point of Grace Christian (POG) school has announced its honor roll for the third nine-weeks grading period:

Kindergarten, All A's
Lawson Burford, Deklin Choate, Brock Cousins, Madilyn Cruse, Holland Gunter, Brantley Haney, Cameron Holmes, Lanessa Mann, Riley O'Quinn, Trace Patrick, Shaelynn Pratt, Tristan Rivas, Alex Tuten, Trenton Vaughn and Max Yu.

Kindergarten, A/B
C.J. Sadler, Larson Skyann and Flora Hunter.

First grade, All A's
Emma Akins, Kylee Blaske, Autumn Carnley, Noah Copen, Adrienne Crowley, Adalyn Gray, Levi Hunter, William Love, Kaidyn Morgan, Garrett Palmer, Kason Ross, Kaylee Vann, Idella Young, Landon Yu, Noah Brock, Avarie Calloway, Kyndal

Grambling, Addison Hunter, Christina Marshall, Peyton Parker, Parker Schmidt, Hannah Tomlinson and Asher Whiddon.

First grade, A/B
Elliana Bautista, James Hughes, Isabella Archer, Adrienne Johnson, Dakota Rivas and Trevor Smith.

Second grade, All A's
Addison Batton, Hunter Bodiford, Tenley Bratcher, Maci Campbell, Mason Campbell, Leah Carlton, Brooke Cassidy, Elina Daniel, Allie English, Phillip Haney, Kale Hendry, Bentlee Hudson, Ayla Lee, Josie Lyles, Karly Nawlin, Caydance Slayton, Brenda Spain, Robert Swain, Braydon Thigpen and William Vaughn.

Third grade, All A's
Kali Farmer, Brylee Hoover, William Lyles, Oliver Padgett, Reese Sadousky and Karis Whitfield.

Third grade, A/B
Camden Copen, Kendall Cousins, Kelsea Croft, Nathaniel Faglie, Eustis Gunter III, Izabella Hughes, Falon Lynch, Zachariah Mann, Shaylee Tomlinson, Allyssa Tuten, David Williams and Cameron Pratt.

Fourth grade, All A's
Jalen Albritton, Emily Batton and Ava Cassidy.

Fourth grade, A/B
Briana Edwards, Kayleen Hill, Makayla Humphreys, Georgia Miller, Wyatt Newman, Melanie Perkins, Riley Sadler, Robert Simmons and Bryson Tharpe.

Fifth grade, All A's
Kynzie Grambling, Madeline Lyles, Colson Patrick, Katelyn Price, Kaylyn Quiett, Laura Ross and Gracelynn Simmons.

Fifth grade, A/B
Kyler Campbell, Addison English, Daniel



Hartzog, Matthew Jimenez, James Lundy, Ava Lynch, Anna Pemberton, Zakary Tomlinson, Parker Young and Makaylla Taylor.

Sixth grade, All A's
Claire Carlton, Landon Kennamore, Autumn O'Quinn and Landen Patrick.

Sixth grade, A/B
Talan Aibejeris, Landon Burford, Jodi DeVane, Ashlin Early, Joseph Hunter, Michael Newman, Christian Rock, Karlee Sherrer, Andrew Webb and Brent Young.

Seventh grade, All A's
Rebekah Buhler, Victoria

Davis, Emaley Gentry and Ayden Sadousky.

Seventh grade, A/B
Abigail Buhler and Katelyn Webber.

Eighth grade, All A's
Emma Campbell, Cameron Croft and Michael Murrow.

Eighth grade, A/B
Evian Evans, Caroline Lilliott, Hannah McGuire, Teresa Newman and Payton Poitevint.

Ninth grade, All A's
Zachary Cassidy, Sarah Hunt, Connor Price and Chase Young.

Ninth grade, A/B
Kailee Brunson, Marysa

Gunter and Dalton Woods.

Tenth grade, All A's
Kaitlyn Strickland and Mitchell Worthy.

Tenth grade, A/B
Sydney Carlton.

Eleventh grade, All A's
Nathan Price.

Eleventh grade, A/B
Leslie Fletcher, Ariel Grambling, Jordan Pyke and Allison Towles.

Twelfth grade, All A's
Eli Dorman and Kevin Eckel.

Twelfth grade, A/B
Colson Plymel, Sarah Webber, Trace Allen and Canyon Gray.



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JROTC Drill Team finds success in Area II Drill Meet

By CADET SERGEANT CAROLINE HORNSBY
JROTC Public Affairs Officer

The Taylor County High School JROTC Drill Team traveled to Westport High School in Ocala to participate in the Area II Drill Meet on Saturday, March 2.

The JROTC Drill Team made the Bulldogs proud! They competed against seven other schools and despite the stiff competition against larger division schools, they emerged successful.

Teams that competed in the Area II competition included: the Male Armed and Unarmed Squads Regulation, Female Armed and Unarmed Squads Regulation, Male and Female Color Guards and Male Mixed Armed and Unarmed Platoons.

Though all of our teams did great, we would like to

congratulate our Male and Female Color Guards and Male Mixed Armed Platoon for qualifying for the State Drill Meet at George Jenkins High School in Lakeland on April 13.

The Male Color Guard team was commanded by

Cadet Command Sergeant Major Jacob Wilson and team members included: Cadet Staff Sergeant Caleb Addison, Cadet Master Sergeant Evan Foskey and Cadet Major Mykel Latham.

The Female Color Guard

team was commanded by Cadet First Sergeant Madison Buzbee and team members included: Cadet Staff Sergeant Dakota Hodges, Cadet Private Sarah Rich and Cadet Sergeant Breanna Pease.

The Male Mixed Armed

Platoon was commanded by Cadet Command Sergeant Major Jacob Wilson and team members included: Cadet Second Lieutenant Victor Pease, Cadet Second Lieutenant Ryan Yelverton, Cadet Sergeant Josh Langeley, Cadet Staff

Sergeant Caleb Addison, Cadet Sergeant Josh Hodges, Cadet Sergeant Brianna Pease, Cadet First Sergeant Madison Buzbee, Cadet Staff Sergeant Dakota Hodges, Cadet Major Mykel Latham, Cadet Master Sergeant Evan Foskey, Cadet Sergeant Christopher Parker and Cadet Corporal Naomi Stading.

In addition to our teams, we had four cadets compete in the Individual Armed Exhibition competition.

Cadet Second Lieutenant Victor Pease placed first and Cadet Command Sergeant Major Jacob Wilson placed third in this competition and will advance to represent Taylor County at the state competition.

Cadet Staff Sergeant Caleb Addison and Cadet Corporal Naomi Stading should also be commended for placing fourth in their respective categories.



The Taylor County High School JROTC Drill Team (shown above) competed in the Area II Drill Meet on Saturday, March 2. The Male Color Guard, Female Color Guard and Male Mixed Armed Platoon, as well as individual competitors Cadet Second Lieutenant Victor Pease and Cadet Command Sergeant Major Jacob Wilson, all qualified for the State Drill Meet.

According to Old Dixie project timeline,

Design must be complete by Dec. 31, 2020

SIDEWALK
Continued from page 2

advertisement in November.

According to Dudley, the sidewalk will run about 4,000 feet along Green Street from Arena Street, connecting to the existing sidewalk at that location and continue to Howard Street at TCES, where there is also an existing sidewalk. The sidewalk will run along the south side of Green Street from Arena to Clark Street, where it will flip to the north side of Green St. and continue to Howard St.

Explaining the reason for the sidewalk flipping from one side of the street to the other, Dudley said, "It

was more congested on the north side, where the church is, in town. There was much more open area on the south side, so it was less intrusive there. When we get down to Clark, we flip over to the left, because it is tying into another sidewalk there that continues on to the middle school and the administrative building."

In January, the county received two bids for the project: one from Pigott Asphalt and Sitework, LLC, in Crawfordville for \$514,857 and another from Anderson Columbia for \$624,245.18.

According to Dudley, both amounts were well above FDOT's estimated project cost of \$360,000.

After the bids were opened, the commission turned them over to a review committee consisting of Dudley, County Administrator LaWanda Pemberton and Public Works Director Hank Evans.

"At the time of its submission, Pigott Asphalt and Sitework was found not to be currently FDOT pre-qualified in the 'Sidewalk' Workgroup as required by Article 3.01 of the bid specifications - Instructions to Bidders," Dudley said in a memo to the commission prior to the board's March 19 meeting.

"Although Pigott's bid documents reference subcontracting the sidewalk

portion of the project to RJW Construction of Tallahassee, RJW was also found not to be pre-qualified with the FDOT for the Sidewalk Workgroup.

Lastly, Pigott's submission did not include acknowledgement of receiving the Project Addenda as required.

"Anderson Columbia's bid met all of the bid requirements, but is also noticeably higher than the available budget for this project," Dudley's memo continued. "The bid committee presented its bid review to FDOT for direction with the funding and award of this Local Agency Program project. FDOT requested that the county consider

re-advertising the project due to the limited response and further because the bid amounts received are well beyond the statement of probable cost. With the only other options to be (1) supplement with Taylor County funds or (2) terminate the project, staff recommends re-advertising. It is hoped that this effort will produce additional responses at an awardable amount."

During its Tuesday, March 19 meeting, the commission agreed to reject the bids and re-advertise the project as part of its consent agenda.

The Green Street sidewalk project is the first of two sidewalk LAP

projects the county has received funding for. The second is for a sidewalk along Old Dixie Highway running from Jefferson Street to Plantation Drive.

The commission approved the LAP agreement with FDOT for the Old Dixie Highway project in August. Unlike the two-part Green Street LAP agreement, however, this agreement addressed both the design and construction phase of the project at one time.

According to a timeline of the Old Dixie project, design must be completed on or before Dec. 31, 2020, with construction completed on or before Dec. 31, 2022.

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<p>U.S.D.A. Inspected Fresh Pork Loin Back Ribs \$2.88 LB.</p>	<p>U.S.D.A. Inspected Fresh Pork Boneless Chops or Ribs \$2.99 LB.</p>	<p>Heavy Western Boneless Beef Chuck Roast \$4.49 LB.</p>	<p>FARMINGTON Party Wings 3 lb. Bag \$8.49 ea.</p>
<p>FARMINGTON Butcher's Choice Brats or Italian Sausage 19 oz. \$3.49 ea.</p>			<p>MANTIA'S MEATBALLS Homestyle or Italian 28 oz. \$4.49 ea.</p>

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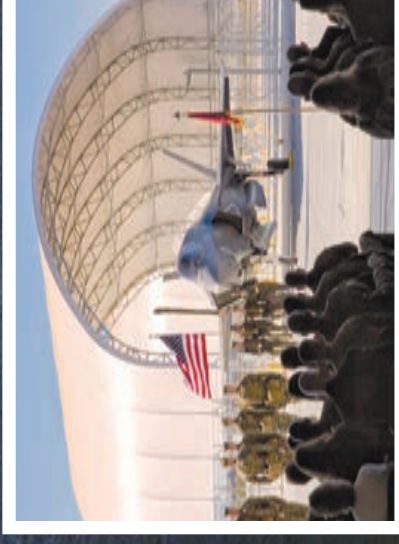
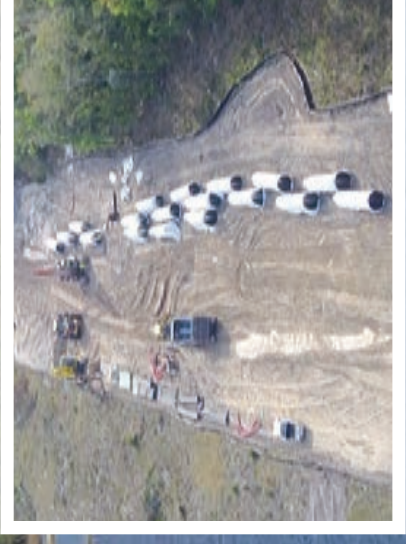
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Progress 2019

A GUIDE TO PERRY AND TAYLOR COUNTY

Progress 2019

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Progress 2019 provides a look at the past year's success stories as well as developments on the horizon for Taylor County and the communities within.

This special edition also serves as a guide for visitors and residents alike on what Taylor County has to offer -- from fishing, hunting and recreation to unique shopping opportunities and entertainment.

EDITION PHOTOS BY:
Angela M. Castelucci, Aaron Portwood, Mark Viola, Caitlyn Burchett, Valena Driggers, Russ Knight and Triple-X Motorsports

The key to success for our community is you

Thank you so much for the opportunity to serve as the 2019 Chamber of Commerce Board Chairman.

This year's theme is "The Key to Success is You."

I encourage each and every chamber member go above and beyond the standard call of duty. Interact with your customers and potential customers on a personal level and show them the small-town hospitality we are known for.

Over the past year, our chamber has accomplished many things, including:

- The chamber has created a scholarship program for students at Big Bend Technical Institute and plans to continue it due to the success of the program.
- The chamber received \$32,000 in grants, including one for Keep Taylor County Beautiful initiatives and environmental cleanup efforts. The other grant is an advertising matching grant through Visit Florida to create a photo library for the Tourism Development Council. The third is for the Florida State Bluegrass Festival.
- Keep Taylor County Beautiful was recognized this past year for being one of the "most successful and longest-running affiliate organizations" in the state of Florida.
- Taylor County is being promoted not only regionally, but nationally, through a partnership with Visit Natural North Florida and VISIT FLORIDA.

The chamber was recognized once again by the Southeast Tourism Society for having



Cory Taylor

several TOP 20 Events in the Southeast.

- The work the chamber office does in promoting tourism had an economic impact of over \$16,000,000 for Taylor County just last year alone.

Thank you for supporting our chamber and for being a part of what is and will be a very bright future for Taylor County. We need you, and believe that together we can sustain a great community for work and play.

Cory Taylor
2019 Chamber Chairman

GP continues to invest in Foley Mill

The local Georgia-Pacific (GP) Foley Cellulose Mill continues to make significant progress on several major projects, including a \$90 million internal process conversion and construction of a 15.3-mile pipeline project.

These two ongoing projects come on the heels of two other major upgrades completed in the past year, as the Foley Mill has already invested over \$250 million in capital process equipment, modifications and environmental improvements that have resulted in improved water quality for the Fenholloway River.

In 2017-18, Foley spent more than \$56 million to modify and upgrade its wastewater treatment system and another \$80 million to replace four sets of existing black liquor evaporators -- equipment that evaporates water from byproducts of the pulping process. The new evaporators make the mill more energy efficient and reduce its groundwater use.

Transformation continues with Project Osprey

In November of 2018, Foley Cellulose announced Project Osprey -- an investment of over \$90 million that will transform the Foley Mill to a 100% specialty cellulose mill.

Project Osprey, which includes the construction of new warehouse space and the installation of new process equipment, is expected to be completed later this year, with start-up scheduled by the fall of 2019.

"Project Osprey underscores a commitment

to the future of the Foley Mill and represents a long-term investment in our future competitiveness," Foley Mill Public Affairs Manager Scott Mixon said.

Fenholloway Water Quality Project

In accordance with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (FDEP) direction, Foley Cellulose continues construction of the 15.3-mile effluent pipeline culminating at Peterson's Landing, located at the mouth of the Fenholloway River.

Nearly 25 years after it was first proposed, construction of the Foley Mill's 15.3-mile underground pipeline -- a key component of the company's Fenholloway Water Quality Project -- finally got underway in December 2018.

The pipeline -- a combination of steel and ductile iron measuring up to 54 inches in diameter buried 2.5 feet underground -- has been permitted along a route intended to have the least impact to the environment and the public.

The necessary construction permits were approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and FDEP.

Under an agreement with local landowners and the county commission, Foley is in the process of installing the pipeline along a 30-foot easement that will cross 10 different county roads over the next year.

Mixon and Fenholloway Project Manager Chet Thompson have provided quarterly updates on the project to city, county and school board officials, as

well as local civic and community groups.

The Foley Cellulose Mill remains on schedule to meet FDEP timelines for completing significant improvements to the mill's effluent treatment system and relocating its treated effluent away from the freshwater portion of the Fenholloway River to the brackish tidal portion of the river near the mouth.

To date, more than \$250 million in environmental improvements have resulted in improved water quality in the river. Since the river flows directly into the Gulf of Mexico, these improvements have a direct and positive effect on the water quality of both bodies of water.

Once the Fenholloway Water Quality Project is complete, the Fenholloway River will meet Florida Class III recreational water quality criteria, acceptable for fishing and swimming.

Foley's new effluent pipeline will end in the middle of the Fenholloway River estuary in front of Peterson's Landing.

Construction began in December 2018 and will continue for an estimated 14 months until March 2020.

In February, the project team adjusted the construction schedule and proceeded with construction activity along Carlton Cemetery Road.

In late March, Jim Lee Road was closed for one day due to pipeline construction activity, and Tower Road served as a detour during the closure.

"We want to encourage residents to be cautious and patient when traveling roads



With the former Human Resources building demolished, site preparations continued in February and March for construction of additional warehouse space.

near construction sites," said Mixon.

"In the interest of safety and the benefit of our community, we will be providing periodic updates to our employees, local governmental agencies, the local media and even going door-to-door in some neighborhoods to share as much information as possible as the project moves forward. Construction on the pipeline is expected to

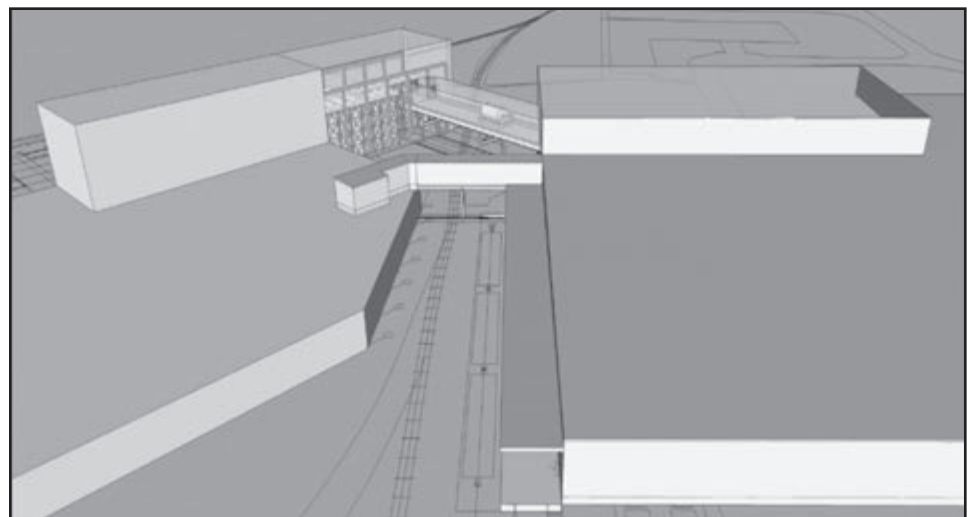
Want to know more about the Fenholloway Water Quality Project?

"Our commitment to the environment and our community begins with our families. We are committed to meeting clean water standards, so our families can continue to enjoy rivers like the Fenholloway and the beautiful Gulf of Mexico," Mixon said.
 Contact Scott Mixon

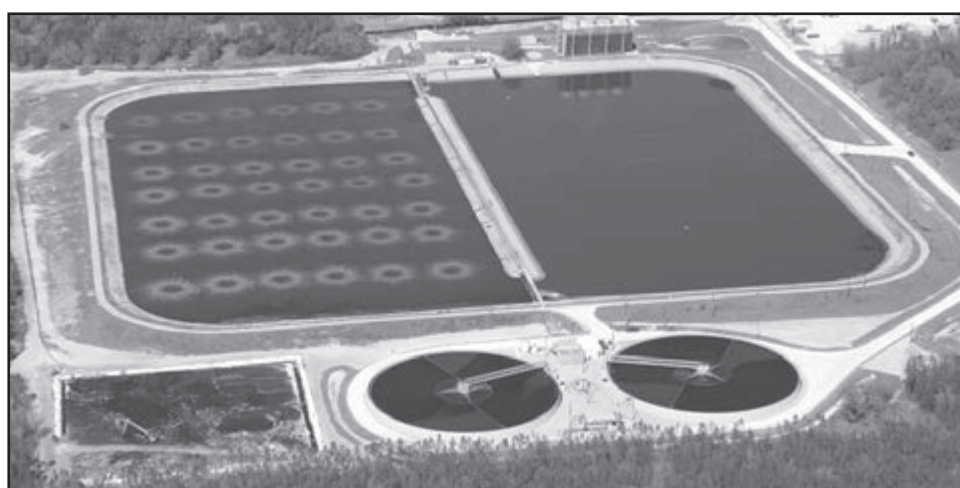
at 850-371-1005 or scott.mixon@gpac.com. More information can also be found at: www.fenholloway.com.

Georgia-Pacific's Foley Cellulose mill creates value by making special fibers found in products that people around the world use every day, including clothing, tires, shampoo, diapers, filters and mobile

➔ Please see page 3



Potential warehouse layout once construction is complete at Foley Cellulose Mill.



The Foley Mill has already invested over \$250 million in environmental improvements, including a new wastewater treatment system, which have resulted in improved water quality in the river.



Two construction workers work from a trench box to safely install pipe.

Mill represents 17% of all jobs

FOLEY MILL
Continued from page 2

devices.
“One of our highest priorities as a business is to focus on our customers, meeting their needs and expectations every day. We couldn’t accomplish this and other priorities without the more than 500 skilled employees from Taylor and 10 other surrounding counties, along with more than 200 contractors and 1,000 independent logging workers who provide service jobs associated with the Foley Mill’s production,” Mixon said.

Economic Impact

In 2016, the Perry-Taylor County Chamber of Commerce released a study conducted by the University of Florida’s Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation illustrating the impact the Foley Cellulose Mill has on the local economy.

According to the study, the local mill represents more than 17% of all jobs in the county.

Foley Cellulose supports around an estimated 1,500 workers, with more than 500 people employed directly by the mill, more than 400 jobs supported through indirect spending by businesses supporting the mill and more than 500 jobs sustained by household spending as a result of the mill’s operations.

This results in close to \$132 million in labor compensation in Taylor County.

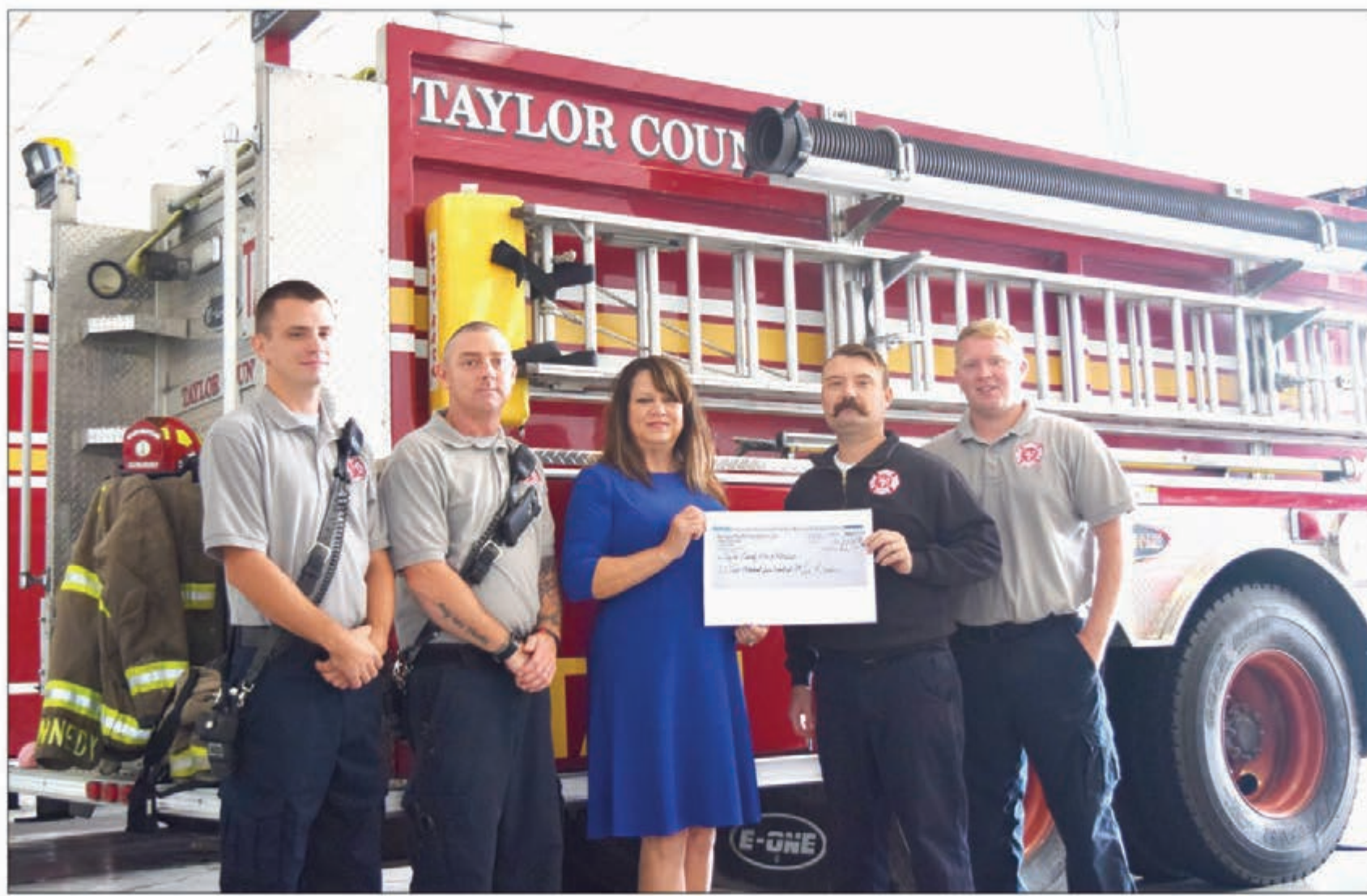
The study included the impact from indirect employment, household spending, labor compensation, goods and services, contributions to charitable organizations and how future projects will impact the area over the next five years.



Construction of the 15.3-mile pipeline began in December 2018 and will continue for an estimated 14 months until March 2020. In February, the project team adjusted the construction schedule and proceeded with construction activity along Carlton Cemetery Road (shown above).



Foley’s new effluent pipeline will end in the middle of the Fenholloway River estuary in front of Peterson’s Landing.



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Super-Pufft is expanding operations

Thanks in large part to a tax incentive program authorized by local voters and approved by the Taylor County Commission, local snack maker Super-Pufft Snacks USA, LLC has unveiled plans for a proposed \$20 million expansion to its Perry plant that could add 100 jobs to its existing 76-person workforce.

During a special meeting on Feb. 7, county commissioners voted in favor of a 75% property tax exemption over the next 10 years to help secure the \$20 million expansion to Super-Pufft's Perry plant.

The local economy – and city and county tax base – have benefitted in the past year with the news that Amrouch Snacks finalized a deal to purchase the former Snyder's-Lance potato chip plant in Perry.

The Snyder's-Lance plant was employing 101 people when it announced it was closing the plant in July 2017. The last bag of potato chips left the line on Sept.



Super-Pufft Snacks USA, LLC has unveiled plans for a proposed \$20 million expansion to its Perry plant that could add 100 jobs to its existing 76-person workforce.

27, 2017.

Just days following the plant closure, the TCDA formed a task force to identify food-related companies that could move or expand operations to Perry.

After four months of communicating with national real estate firms specializing in food properties from New England to California,

Amrouch Snacks was identified as a good fit.

Company executives made several visits to Perry to tour the facility, and soon after a broker signed a binder to purchase the property and equipment.

The TCDA engaged in final negotiations and facilitated the actual sale closing near the end of the first quarter of 2018.

The company relocated here in 2018 and hired an initial workforce of 40 individuals.

Soon after, Amrouch Snacks President Mahmoud Amrouch announced a partnership that made the Perry plant the new U.S. headquarters of Super-Pufft Snacks Corp. – one of North America's largest manufacturers of private label (store branded) snacks.

The family-owned company now manufactures, produces and distributes quality extruded and puffed corn snacks for private label (store brands for stores like Walmart and Family Dollar). The first run of cheese balls, cheese puffs, veggie straws,

jalepeno straws, multi-grain chips and onion rings were produced locally in mid-2018.

Amrouch has said the company would offer salaries ranging from \$13-\$29 per hour, and long-term goals include employing 150 people by 2021.

Company officials have said they plan to install \$20 million in equipment at the Perry plant as part of the first upcoming expansion and recently announced it could be followed by a second line expansion valued at \$25 million and an additional 100 jobs in the

next two to three years.

That second expansion would require the construction of an additional building at the plant.

The company initially requested a 100% tax exemption for 10 years on the first expansion, but the commission instead approved a 75% tax abatement for the same period of time.

The tax exemption/abatement granted by county commissioners in February 2019 is expected to save the company an estimated \$698,000 in taxes over the next 10 years.

The company has indicated the equipment for the first phase of the expansion could be in place as soon as May 2019, and that equipment would not be added to the tax roll until Jan. 1, 2020.

County commissioners
➔ Please see page 11



An estimated \$3.5 million expansion at AMTEC Less-Lethal Systems, Inc., could potentially double the local workforce at the training complex and manufacturing facility.

\$3.5 million expansion is underway at AMTEC

According to the PACEM Solutions International founder and CEO Cory Mills, AMTEC Less-Lethal Systems, Inc. is undergoing an estimated \$3.5 million expansion that could potentially double the local workforce at the local training complex and manufacturing facility.

AMTEC Less-Lethal Systems (ALS), located just north of Perry on Highway 19 North, was acquired by Virginia-based PACEM Solutions International on Oct. 18, 2018.

ALS – which will now do business as PACEM Defense – currently employs an estimated 45-50 people, but is poised to grow under its new owners, PACEM Solutions International, which is headquartered in Falls Church, Va., and offers cutting-edge approaches to consultancy, training and risk management.

“PACEM is very excited about the expansion of our business and the direction we are heading. We have a tremendous team, and the ALS acquisition helps us to serve our existing clients better and to build additional capacity,” stated Mills, who is very familiar with Taylor County.

“I grew up in the small town of Auburndale. From the age of 7 until I was 18 years old, I spent every hunting season in Perry and Mayo, where we owned a hunting club in Triple Creek,” Mills said.

“I grew up in a humble family and we hunted to put meat on the table and in the freezer. My goal is to hire and provide jobs for as many people as possible in Perry and the tri-county area,” Mills added.

“Our state-of-the-art training complex and manufacturing facility there in Perry rivals any in the region. PACEM remains committed to delivering the highest quality defense and less lethal products, most up to date tactical trainings, as well as risk management and government services to our domestic and international clients,” Mill said.

“We have personally invested between \$3.5 to \$4 million for a brand-new munitions line, designed and engineered by our PACEM staff, that is being installed as we speak. This will increase our ability to offer new products that we are already contracted for and bring on new staff to run it,” Mills added.

Mills is a twice-wounded combat veteran with special operations experience in Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq. He honorably served in the United States Army and holds a Master's Degree in International Relations and Conflict resolution from American Military University.

Prior to founding PACEM in 2014, Mills held multiple senior and executive positions with other private U.S. defense contract organizations providing aid to foreign countries, until he decided he could “do it better by employing the

ethics I was raised with.”
“I did not like how the money was being allocated and sometimes wasted. I wanted to return to my roots and support the values and beliefs that were instilled in me as I was raised by my grandfather,” Mills said.

According to Mills, his company's name “PACEM” is Latin for “peace” and was inspired by the “peace through strength” phrase used by various leaders throughout history, including Ronald Reagan in the 1980's.

“Julius Caesar also said, ‘if you wish for peace, prepare for war,’” Mills added.

After being “blown up” twice by an IED and EFP (explosive formed projectile) during his years of military service, Mills is now returning to his old stomping grounds to help promote peace through strength by preparing for war.

Mill's leadership has provided the baseline for PACEM's rapid growth and expansion into multiple global markets and locations, which include Iraq, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Pakistan, DRC (Democratic Republic of the Congo) and Malaysia.

“Our company bids on and wins contracts to supply munitions – or defense articles – to support the U.S. government and its international allies in the fight against ISIS,” Mills said.

“Our whole intent is to bring the manufacturing process in-house so that we can better control costs and quality management,” Mills stated Tuesday, adding that he would be visiting Perry on Wednesday.

“Our job is to increase support for our industrial base, just like President Trump is reviving the steel industry and lowering our taxes. Our goal is to increase the number of products we can produce so we can bid on additional contracts and increase the number of people we can hire and support so we can expand,” Mills added.



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PERRY PRIMARY GRAND OPENING ON THE HORIZON



Sparkling new school welcomes K-2 students

By CAITLYN BURCHETT

Still-wet sections of green- and blue-accented hallways sparkle and shine -- the smell of fresh paint clings to the air.

In just a few short months, these same corridors and classrooms will be bustling with the community's youngest students, ready to learn.

The new Perry Primary School (PPS), located adjacent to Taylor County Elementary School (TCES), is nearing completion after more than 16 months of construction and a total cost of \$19 million.

Some 800 students are enrolled to attend the newly-constructed school that will house kindergarten through

second grade students in the fall of 2019.

The new school totals 100,000 square feet and includes a cafeteria/auditorium, media center, administrative offices and more than 50 classrooms -- each with their own restrooms.

For the first time since 1975, students will be served freshly-made meals from PPS's own full-service kitchen, which features state-of-the-art equipment.

"The existing primary school did not have a working kitchen -- the food had to be brought in. The new school has a very up-to-date-kitchen on site that will improve the quality of food for our students,"

Superintendent Dr. Danny Glover Jr. said.

The new PPS will also see teachers and students move out of pods and into individual classrooms.

"We are really excited about each teacher having their own classroom. I think that will really help in a lot of ways with our students," Glover said.

The classrooms have been outfitted with cabinets and storage cubbies. Kenny Hall of the Hamilton County Department of Corrections (DOC) and former chair of the Madison County School Board, organized and supervised the inmate-built carpentry -- a project that saved the local school district about \$100,000.

Each classroom will have SMART Boards, an interactive touchscreen display. PPS will be the first school in the district to have SMART boards in every classroom -- an upgrade Glover hopes to eventually introduce into every Taylor County school.

PPS also has infant rooms, equipped with baby changing stations and toddler-sized toilets for a state-funded childcare program that will be on the same schedule as the school.

Four playgrounds are scheduled to be constructed in the center of the courtyard configuration, with installation beginning as early as April.

PPS also received state funding for security measures, including cameras and a buzz-through door at the main office.

The new school sits



Upon pulling into the parking lot, parents can enter PPS through the main office, pictured here.

adjacent to Taylor County single-lane road leading into PPS will be expanded before the start of the 2019-20 school year, the current

→ Please see page 6



All classrooms have been outfitted with custom cabinets and cubbies, built by inmates organized by Kenny Hall of the Hamilton County Department of Corrections.



Areas of the main office put the PPS's vibrant green and blue colors on full display.



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Taylor County School District *ELEVATING* education

By **CAITLYN BURCHETT**

Additional classes and services, a focus on mental health and increased graduation rates are just some of the highlights of the improvements made in the Taylor County School District (TCSD) during the 2018-19 school year.

Taylor County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Danny Glover Jr. recently gave local business and civic leaders a status report on the Taylor County School District at a quarterly Chamber of Commerce luncheon held at the newly-constructed and soon-to-be-opened Perry Primary School (see related story).

"The Taylor County School District is proud to have elevated to a 'B' district," Glover said.

Joining Glover were new Chamber Board Chairman Cory Taylor, Taylor County Pre-K Assistant Director Kelly Green, Perry Primary School (PPS) and Taylor County Elementary School (TCES) Principal Sabrina Lytle, Taylor County Middle School (TCMS) Principal Kiki Puhl, Taylor County High School (TCHS) Principal Charles Finley, Taylor Accelerated School (TAS) Principal Bobby Stefanelli and Big Bend Technical College (BBTC) Director Jodi Tillman.

More than 2,800 students, ranging from pre-kindergarten to high school seniors, attend Taylor County's public schools.

Overseen by the School board and Superintendent Glover, the school district includes Taylor County Pre-K (221 students), Perry Primary School (612 students), Taylor County Elementary School (710 students), Steinhatchee School (82 students),

including Pre-K), Taylor County Middle School (553 students), Taylor Accelerated School (66) and Taylor County High School (566) students.

Taylor County Pre-K offers classes for birth through pre-kindergarten and serves more than 200 students. The program has one infant class, one 2-year old class, three 3-year-old classes and seven voluntary pre-kindergarten education program (VPK) classes.

Pre-K provides: transportation for 3- and 4-year-old students, after-school activities for 3- and 4-year-old students, breakfast and lunch for all students, exceptional student education services, and mental health services, including counseling by mentors.

VPK is funded by the state of Florida for all 4- and 5-year-old students, and VPK kids stay in the after-school program for free.

The School Readiness Program is funded by the state for low income families.

PPS/TCES: For kindergarten through second grade, Perry Primary School is now offering special area classes such as STEM, art, computer, media and physical education.

For students in grades three through five, Taylor County Elementary School is offering computer with coding, drama, media and physical education as "special area" classes.

PPS and TCES both provide after-school tutoring for second to fifth grade students, after-school Science Club for fifth grade students, transportation for all students and free breakfast and lunch.

All students will also have

individual laptops equipped with iReady Diagnostic, an online program with an individual learning path designed to meet the needs of the user.

The schools also partners with the Boys and Girls Club and 4-H Extension Office for the annual Tropicana Speech competition, gardening and nutrition education, National Youth Science Day, Agriculture Day and more.

PPS and TCES are also planning educational field trips for students to Aunt Louise's Farm, Sea World and NASA.

Parents of PPS and TCES students can expect communication through class DOJO, FOCUS, planners and weekly communication folders. The schools are also scheduling parent engagement nights and "Donuts for Dad" and "Muffins for Mom" to keep parents involved.

Licensed counselors are also available for all students and one-on-one mentoring with students through community partnerships.

TCMS: Principal Kiki Puhl detailed Taylor County Middle School's high ranking in the state of Florida, and the diverse courses and activities the school offers students in grades six through eight.

"We are in the top seven out of 67 counties. Of our TCMS students, 96 percent passed the Algebra One end-of-course assessment (EOC), and we are in the top 10 of the state," Puhl said.

Beginning in sixth grade, students have a choice of six elective courses – physical education, agriculture, health, band, technology and drafting. When students complete eighth grade, they can carry as many as four high school credits.

"Despite being a small community," as Puhl said, TCMS is able to offer an extensive list of extra-curricular activities, including:

football, basketball, volleyball, baseball, soccer, softball, cheerleading, dance, tumbling, majorettes, Future Farmers of America (FFA), band, jazz, academic team, student council, yearbook, Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) and Honor Society.

"Almost every student

is involved in an extra-curricular activity. That is what we want. When you feel connected with your school, you want to make it better," Puhl said.

TCHS: According to Principal Charles "Chuck" Finley, Taylor County High School has big plans in place for improving the school's grade.

TCHS attendance records show exceptional student education (ESE) graduation rates rose from 43.5 percent to 85.7 percent in just one year.

"We just recently received some good news – the overall TCHS graduation rate was up to 95.5 percent. That is huge," Finley said as applause erupted from those in attendance. The previous year's graduation rate was 80 percent.

TCHS has been working with neighboring districts to mirror successful programs, making changes to the TCHS curriculum accordingly.

"We are pushing the big EOCs for courses like geometry and biology to junior year. The philosophy behind that is your kids are older and more mature," Finley said.

TCHS brought in content experts to observe teachers and students in the classrooms to give suggestions on how to improve the instructional framework.

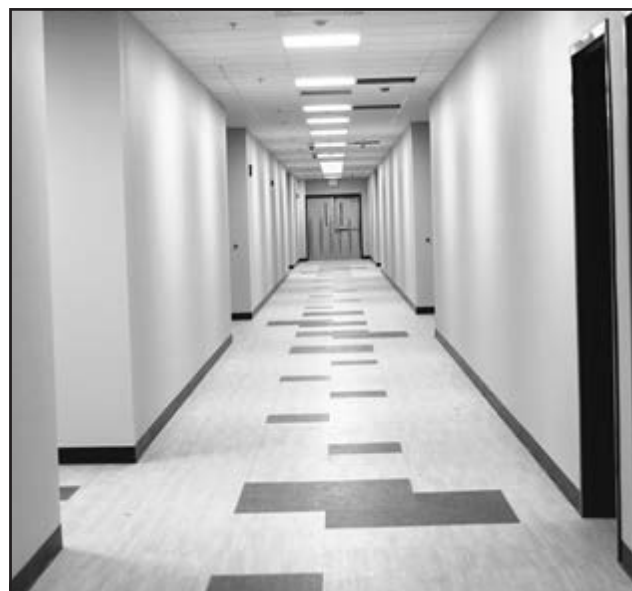
TAS: The Taylor Accelerated School offers alternative education for credit recovery and drop-out prevention to students in grades six through 12.

TAS students use APEX, a computer-based curriculum, that offers online courses in mathematics, science, english studies, social studies, romance languages, the fine arts, health and physical education and advanced placement.

TAS offers daily, weekly and monthly rewards as incentives for attendance, and will be connecting students with BBTC.

"They may not want to be on the football team or in the band, but they do want to be where they can get a job. If we can keep them in school, then they have a chance," Stefanelli said.

BBTC: Big Bend Technical College, which currently has a total of 269 students, offers 13



Still-wet sections of PPS's green- and blue-accented hallways sparkle and shine -- the smell of fresh paint clings to the air.

programs. The school also provides adult education on site as well as at Steinhatchee School.

BBTC recently launched two new programs: massage therapy and medical coding/billing.

BBTC awarded 65 certifications in 2018 and 55 certifications in 2017 – a steady increase from 2016's 39 certifications.

Adult Education enrollment was increased by 78 percent for the 2017-18 school year, and enrollment for 2018-19 is up 19.2 percent.

"We are very close to being at capacity. We

sometimes have to close enrollment, and that is always an exciting problem to have," Tillman joked.

Steinhatchee School: "It takes a community to elevate a school," Glover said, pledging the district's full commitment to help continue improvement at the Steinhatchee School.

Steinhatchee School continues to improve the school's reputation by focusing on teaching, closing learning gaps and building on its relationship with the community.

For more information on the schools or the district, visit www.taylor.k12.fl.us.

Point of Grace serves students in grades K-12

In addition to the school district, local private school, Point of Grace, offers a Christian-based education from kindergarten through 12th grade.

The school is accredited by the National Association of Private Schools.

'We are building the best school we can'

PPS OPENING Continued from page 5

to two lanes to optimize traffic flow.

At a Feb. 5 school board workshop, School District Facilities and Maintenance Coordinator Dan Anderson reported there would be additional paving to the main access road and 130 parking spaces would be created to be shared between the two schools.

"Widening the road will allow parents and the public to access the Pre-K classes from the primary school entrance," Anderson said.

"This will allow all of our staff to park in the back and in the new parking lot, leaving those existing parking spots in front of the primary school for parents and Pre-K visitors," Anderson said.

Parents that have students attending both schools can drop all children off at PPS. Faculty will then escort TCES students to the elementary school via a covered walkway between the two schools.

"In building this school, we really listened to our parents and community members. We are building the best school we can, and it's going to be a safe school. We just want to make sure it's right for the kids," Glover said.

After 10 years of applications and requests for state funding, Allstate

Construction finally broke ground for the new \$19.2 million PPS facility in November 2017.

Throughout the 16-month project, local construction teams were forced to overcome a number of obstacles, from veins of clay in the dirt to being blindsided by reduced funding.

The school district and its construction teams continued to move ahead in March 2019.

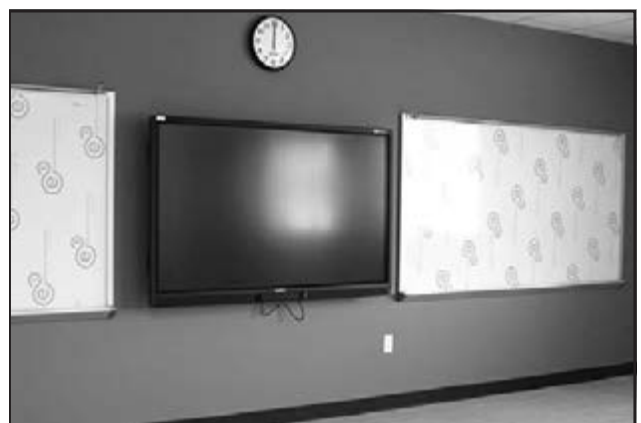
"The project has gone exceptionally well," Anderson said as the project nears the finish line.

Local businesses involved in the construction of PPS include: Gulf Coast Plumbing and Electrical Supply, Slaughter Construction, Blue Rok Inc., Tree Capital Cleaning and Gulf Coast Masonry of Perry.

Masonry Inc. of Tallahassee employed many local people for the block and brick work of PPS, including job supervisor Billy Wigglesworth and foreman Bill Meacham.

"We have a lot of local participation. They do quality work, but when it is in their hometown, they really put a lot into it and their pride shines through," Glover said.

The grand opening is to be determined at a later date, but PPS is expected to officially open its doors to students in August 2019.



All PPS classrooms will have SMART Boards, an interactive touchscreen display – an upgrade Glover hopes to eventually introduce into every Taylor County school.

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Searching for the next boat ramp



A property owned by Dr. Kenneth Hutchins -- located at 2645 Fish Creek Highway -- is one of two parcels the Taylor County Commission is considering to proceed with feasibility studies in order to see if they would be a suitable site for a future public boat ramp.

While Taylor County is moving forward with its plan to use its "Pot 1" RESTORE Act funds to dredge local canals, it will use its "Pot 3" funds to search for property in order to increase public Gulf access along the coast.

Late last year, the Gulf Consortium, of which Taylor County is a member, approved its rules and procedures through which member counties can apply for grants from Florida's allocation of "Pot 3" RESTORE Act funds resulting from penalties and fees assessed following the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.

Taylor County has been allocated \$12.6 million in "Pot 3" funds, which local officials plan to use to acquire coastal properties and construct new boat ramps to expand public access to the Gulf of Mexico and alleviate congestion at the existing ramps.

While the county is administering its "Pot 1" RESTORE Act funds, which will be used for local canal dredging, the "Pot 3" funds will be administered by the consortium, which consists of representatives from Florida's 23 Gulf coast counties.

Federal officials approved Florida's 511-page State Expenditure Plan (SEP) in late September, outlining all of the proposed projects from the 23 counties. In total, Florida is set to receive \$293 million in "Pot 3" funds, spread out over 15 years.

According to the SEP's \$12.6 million budget of the funds allocated for Taylor County, \$300,000 is for a feasibility study, \$200,000 for property appraisals, \$11 million for property

acquisition, \$300,000 for final design and permitting and \$760,000 for construction, with an additional \$100,000 for monitoring.

The Gulf Consortium met Nov. 29, during which they approved a grant manual detailing how counties can apply for grants to fulfill the projects outlined in the SEP. Also approved at the meeting were guidelines for grant preparation and submission, including project milestones and timing.

For Taylor County, 2019's funding milestones include \$300,000 for conceptual design and feasibility study, with an additional \$200,000 for property feasibility studies and/or appraisals.

The commission originally approved a list of 13 proposed properties for consideration as land acquisition projects to be funded by the "Pot 3" funds. Those projects were: Hutchins Property, 2645 Fish Creek Highway; Keaton Beach Marina, 20650 Keaton Beach; Dr. Hamdan Property, 20470 Marina Road; Spring Warrior; Yates Creek (Clark); Yates Creek (Ezell); H. Lundy Property, 1750 J.L. Gipson Rd.; Bird Island (07188-000), 45 Bird Island Grade; Palm Grove Marina, First Ave. SW, Steinhatchee; Old Fish Market (09965-050) 104 First Ave. SW, Steinhatchee; Lindsey Island; Dallus Creek (FWC Property); Hagen's Cove (FWC Property).

During a series of strategic planning sessions held earlier this year, the board discussed eliminating some of the properties on the list, including: Hamden property, Parker

property, Keaton Beach Marina and Lindsey Island. The commissioners also discussed the Yates Creek properties being considered as possible mitigation options.

According to County Administrator LaWanda Pemberton, county staff will develop a planning matrix for use of "Pot 3" funds and proceed with feasibility studies for two properties using the state's State Expenditure Plan (SEP) as a guiding document and starting point.

The board tentatively agreed to proceed with a feasibility study for Hagen's Cove and Dr. Hutchin's property. Commissioners discussed the possibility of partnering with the FWC to utilize the state-owned Hagen's Cove property for a potential boat ramp site and instructed the grants director to search for state grants for additional boat ramps.



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Currently, rail traffic on the Georgia & Florida Railway is limited to 10 mph. Once upgrades are completed, the maximum speed will increase to 25 mph.

Riding the Rails

\$17 million project will upgrade railway from Perry to Adel, Ga.

Work to upgrade the rail line through Perry should begin later this year, thanks to a \$8.6 million federal grant awarded to Taylor County in 2017.

OmniTRAX, which operated the Georgia & Florida Railway, is providing the other half of the funding for the \$17 million project, which will rehabilitate 80 miles of railway between Perry and Adel, Ga.

The improvements funded by the grant will include upgrades to 19

warning devices at grade crossings, building 90 public and private grade crossing surfaces, hardening 16 bridges and installing 70,000 cross ties and 80 miles of rail.

Currently, traffic along the railway is limited to 10 mph due to deteriorating conditions, but company officials have said the rehabilitation will allow them to increase speeds to 25 mph.

County staff have been working with OmniTRAX

and FDOT over the past year to complete the scope of work documents necessary to move forward with the project.

The grant funds must be obligated by Sept. 30, 2019, and the project completed within 18 months of obligation.

Company officials have also said that the renovations can be done "under traffic," meaning they can schedule the work around the existing rail traffic to and from Foley Cellulose Mill.

15-year dredging program to begin this year

After more than a decade of talks, plans and false starts, the county is expected to begin dredging its coastal canals this year, starting with the Keaton Beach canal.

Using more than \$4 million dollars in funds generated from administrative fines and civil penalties from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, the Taylor County Commission has approved a 15-year plan to dredge, restore and enhance five miles of canals and channels along the Taylor County coast.

In November 2017, commissioners voted 5-0 to submit their "Multi-Year Implementation Plan" to the Department of Treasury, which oversees the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund (RESTORE Act) and administers two grant programs that counties can use to "restore and protect the natural resources,

ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, coastal wetlands and economy of the Gulf Coast region."

Taylor County's plan for its share of RESTORE Act funds includes five canal restoration and enhancement projects along the local coast totaling an estimated \$4,750,900. The plan calls for the county to provide \$674,764 in matching funds.

The county's "Multi-Year Implementation Plan" was met with approval by federal officials, allowing the county to move forward with its first project, the Keaton Beach canal.

Under the implementation plan, the county agreed to contribute \$11,145 in its current budget as a match to the Keaton Beach canal dredging overall project cost of \$1,061,550. This county match represents about 1% of the total project cost.



Canal dredging at Keaton Beach could begin this year, kicking off a string of dredging projects that could run through 2033, as the county moves next to Steinhatchee, Dark Island, Cedar Island and Dekle Beach.

The plan's "objectives" call for the Keaton Beach canal system to be dredged to an elevation of -4 feet

mean low water (MLW), which calls for the removal of an estimated 31,700 cubic yards of total dredge volume.

"Taylor County's coastal communities, particularly the coastal community of Keaton Beach, have experienced numerous problems with canal systems due to inaccessibility during low tides," the plan states.

"The need for dredging due to large limestone formation in the main canal at Keaton Beach has created boating traffic constrictions with frequent 'bottle necking' in the main canal, restricted hours of operation for commercial fishing businesses and boater safety issues. The side and finger canals can only be accessed by larger boats during high tides due to the accumulation of sediment. Boat traffic in general is increasing due to population growth, growth in the commercial fishing industry, increased tourism, new residential developments and increased pressure from public and private boat ramps and docks."

The plan states the dredging would, "improve overall conditions of the Keaton Beach canal system for water flow, water quality

and public accessibility for the commercial fishing trade, recreational fishing and boating and tourism development."

While work will begin this year, the entire five-phase dredging project will likely not be done until 2032, due to how the RESTORE Act funds are distributed over a 15-year period.

A 2016 engineering estimate projected the canal dredging projects would cost an estimated \$5.9 million. The county expects to receive \$4,076,136 in RESTORE Act funds spread out over 15 years (approximately \$271,742 per year), while the county will provide \$674,764 in matching funds for a total of \$4,750,900.

Cox said the county would secure a spoil site, perform hauling of the dredge material and contribute some engineering and other in-kind services to help offset the \$1.1 million difference between the RESTORE Act funding and the projected total cost.

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

Under the county's "Multi-Year Implementation Plan," which was approved by the U.S. Treasury in 2017, the funding breaks down as follows:

- Project 1: Keaton Beach**
\$1,050,355 in RESTORE Act funds and \$11,145 in local funds in 2018-20.
- Project 2: Steinhatchee:**
\$232,752 in RESTORE Act funds and \$98,348 in local funds in 2019-2021.
- Project 3: Dark Island**
\$881,010 in RESTORE Act funds and \$12,790 in local funds in 2023-25;
- Project 4: Cedar Island**
\$1,489,019 in RESTORE Act funds and \$552,481 local funds in 2030-31;
- Project 5: Dekle Beach**
\$373,000 in RESTORE Act funds and no local funds in 2031-33.

Taylor County Clerk of Courts Office

Taylor County Clerk of Courts Annie Mae Murphy and her staff are here to serve you!



Front Row (kneeling): Gary Knowles, Leandra Borklund, Laura Brock, Clyde Hendry, Kevin Robinson and Wendy Cassidy

Second Row: Vivian Cash, Salinda Ford, Mattea Chaffin, Vicki Chaffin, Phyllis Hendry, Clerk Annie Mae Murphy, Cindy Mock, Robin Starling, Terri Young, Toni Page and Glenda Mathews

Back Row: Cindy Hunt, Marti Lee, Jessica Brock, Kimmy Borjon, Dannielle Welch and Betty Hendry

Not Pictured: Dale Allbritton and Sherry Jones

The Clerk of Courts' responsibilities are:

- Clerk of the Circuit and County Courts
- Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners, including serving as accountant, auditor and custodian of county funds
- County Recorder and Record Keeper

Your Clerk's Office is the official source for:

- Court Information
- Jury Information
- Traffic Citation Payments
- Child Support Payment Information
- Marriage Licenses
- Public Notices
- Tax Deeds
- Misdemeanor/Traffic/Felony Case Information
- Official County Records
- Official Court Records
- Other Public Records

Voters of Taylor County elect the clerk to a four-year term. Clerk of Court Annie Mae Murphy was first elected to office in 1992.

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Plotting the future

New administrators have big plans



City of Perry

In his first six months as city manager, Taylor Brown received a number of invitations to speak to local groups in the community.

He held off on accepting those invitations until the Perry Women's Club came calling.

"This is the first speaking engagement I've accepted. It was no accident. As a city planner and a city manager, my face represents change for most communities I work for, and change can be very frightening. In my experience, if you want to be a change agent or if you want to help a community move forward, go to the women. They are the ones who understand that change is not a bad thing if you're progressing or making things better," Brown said when he addressed ladies of the club.

And that just might be Brown's superpower – the ability to identify key pieces of the puzzle and how one piece fits with the other. The information Brown shared with the Perry Women's Club offered a

glimpse of what's happening with the City of Perry and a preview of what's to come.

Brown's background in urban planning and management color his every move as he carries on projects that were already on the board when he took the position in November 2018.

"The city has extended gas lines to Anderson-Columbia's new asphalt plant (located on Highway 27). We are hoping Anderson-Columbia will respond by expanding its footprint here," he said.

He then spoke of the "phenomenal" story unfolding around the new Super-Pufft plant here.

"This is a success story for the Taylor County Development Authority (TCDA) and (former city manager) Bob Brown. They have partnered with a well-established company in Canada that has been in business for three decades and is one of the largest private label manufacturers in the world," Brown said.

He shared that Super-Pufft here in Perry has the worldwide contract for 7-11 stores.

"Which means right here in Perry we are manufacturing snack foods and shipping them to China. So if someone in China walks into a 7-11 and buys their store brand, they are getting a product that was made here in Perry."

Brown added that the company also has a contract with Walmart for its Brazil markets, along with "almost all of South America, China and a good chunk of Europe."

He noted that, "With expansion seen here in Perry, and it's going to be significant, they could become one of the largest employers in the years to come."

The city is already in the planning stages to expand gas services to the facility and is in negotiations to extend a railroad spur to the plant so that products could be shipped by railcars.

Brown then detailed that the city is working on a large upgrade for one of its major water treatment plants and is nearing the completion of construction of the city's newest and largest wastewater treatment plant,

a \$15 million project.

"These major infrastructure projects are building the city's capacity for expansion. Industry cannot come here if the infrastructure of the city can't support it. These are not particularly glamorous projects, but they are super necessary. The benefits down the road will come when the tax base increases, and that's when you can build the fun things -- recreation and parks -- amenities the community would like to see in the future."

One of the most key undertakings later this year, Brown said, would be updating the city's comprehensive plan.

"This plan sets out what the community wants to be some day. Where do we see Perry, as a community in the future? The comprehensive plans sets that out. When we have an idea of what we want to be, when it's a simple exercise of planning -- where we are today and what we want to be in the future," Brown said.

But, the key to building the plan will be getting input from residents, those who live in the city and those who live in the county.

"This is your community and it's my community now as well. Perry and Taylor County -- we are

one community. We are one community and we need to speak with one unified voice."



The City of Perry is nearing the completion of construction of the city's newest and largest wastewater treatment plant, a \$15 million project. "Industry cannot come here if the infrastructure of the city can't support it," City Manager Taylor Brown said.

Taylor County

In her role as county administrator, LaWanda Pemberton oversees a \$44 million budget and a staff that includes 113 full and part-time employees.

Her agenda is driven by the policies and decisions made by the Board of County Commissioners.

"My job is to implement those policies and decisions," Pemberton told members of the Perry Women's Club when serving as their guest speaker.

Pemberton has more than a dozen years of tenure with the county, working her way through the ranks to secure the position she holds today.

"I have worked with four different administrators and several different (county commission) boards, and I

learned from each of them," Pemberton said.

She then touched on a number of on-going county projects, ranging from coordinating expenditure of the county's portion of the BP oil spill settlement money to overseeing the replacement of awnings at the courthouse.

"There are different 'pots' of BP money. Our portion from one pot will be \$4 million and that has been earmarked for dredging at the beaches. We'll start with the canals at Keaton Beach, then Steinhatchee, Dark Island, Cedar Island and Dekle Beach. We are slated to receive \$12.6 million from another pot of money, and we are looking at a list of properties for the

commission to consider for potential new boat ramps sites. We will not receive the funds in one lump sum, but over a period of years,"

she said. "We (the county) are also the administrator for a \$8.6 million rehab grant for the railway here. We are also

seeking funding to re-align Deadman's Curve on Beach Road. Also, the old Doctors' Memorial Hospital is up for sale. The minimum bid is

\$50,000. There is a footprint of a radio tower that we will have to take down, and that cost is \$35,000. That's why we set the minimum bid at \$50,000, to help cover that cost. We are also working with Our Father's Storehouse to help them find another location to serve the community," Pemberton said.

"We are also working on developing a five-year capital improvement plan for the county. We have a draft plan that is almost ready to present to the commission," she said.

Pemberton, who shared that in her spare time she enjoys raising butterflies and menagerie of farm animals including chickens, horses, mules, donkeys and rabbits, concluded by stating that she was "honored to serve as county administrator. I truly have a love for the people of the county and our staff."



According to Taylor County Administrator LaWanda Pemberton, county staff is working on developing a five-year capital improvement plan for the county. "We have a draft plan that is almost ready to present to the commission," she said. One of the next capital projects for the county is to replace the roof of the Taylor County Public Library.

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Rebirth: Hodges Park Pier Construction Complete

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Website: www.taylorcountytaxcollector.com



The reconstruction of the Hodges Park pier is now complete. The pier, a popular tourist and fishing spot in Keaton Beach, was almost completely destroyed when Hurricane Hermine made landfall along the Big Bend coast in September 2016. Little remained of the pier after the storm except for a length of walkway at the beginning and the pavilion at the end. In 2017, the Taylor County Commission approved an \$860,000 bid from D&L Contracting to complete the project.




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Rosehead Park Downtown's Crown Jewel

Spend a relaxing afternoon strolling around the scenic Rosehead Park and reconnect with nature. The "crown jewel" of downtown Perry was developed as part of the City of Perry's revitalization economic development initiative and has evolved into a meeting place that feeds heart and soul.

On Jefferson Street, visitors can seek shelter under a Grand Pavilion, cool off at the Splash Pad and watch their children scamper over a playground set that is not only wheelchair-accessible, but can accommodate up to 125 children at once.

A short stroll across the street lays an amphitheatre equipped with a state-of-the-art sound and light system and a walking trail that encircles Rosehead Lake. Picnic facilities, a gazebo, benches and bathrooms accent the greenway.

An antique fountain greets visitors from the Washington Street entrance, and a fountain in the lake puts on a nightly light show.

Just one street over to the east is a dog park and springhead. Furry friends are welcome, and the adjacent park is a perfect spot to escape the hustle and bustle of a hectic schedule.

The park is home to a number of events throughout the year, from fireworks at New Years' and the Fourth of July to family reunions and community fundraisers, as well as the Big Bend Brewfest.



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Taylor County's Top Taxpayers*

Company/Owner	Assessed Value	County (Gen. Fund)	MSTU	School	City	SRWMD	Total Tax**
Foley Cellulose LLC ¹	\$344,150,900	\$2,377,683	\$383,349	\$2,260,534	N/A	\$132,203	\$5,153,960
Florida Gas Transmission	\$119,368,294	\$829,781	\$133,783	\$777,584	N/A	\$46,137	\$1,787,285
Four Rivers Land & Timber ²	\$64,235,016	\$443,083	\$71,437	\$422,782	N/A	\$24,636	\$961,938
Duke Energy	\$45,954,955	\$321,391	\$41,492	\$301,264	\$54,112	\$17,869	\$736,128
S-L Snacks, LLC	\$14,421,357	\$100,096	N/A	\$93,800	\$84,581	\$5,566	\$284,043
Chemring Ordnance Inc. ³	\$14,253,659	\$99,960	\$16,116	\$93,673	N/A	\$5,558	\$215,308
Tri-County Electric Corp.	\$14,267,624	\$99,027	\$15,763	\$92,798	\$1,065	\$5,506	\$214,159
Gilman/Perry Sawmill ⁴	\$9,922,213	\$68,814	N/A	\$64,485	\$58,148	\$3,826	\$195,274
Wal-Mart Stores East LP ⁵	\$9,882,748	\$68,540	N/A	\$64,228	\$57,916	\$3,811	\$194,495
A Mining Group (Anderson Columbia)	\$7,975,917	\$55,858	\$9,006	\$52,344	N/A	\$3,106	\$120,313
Big Top Manufacturing	\$6,751,381	\$46,768	\$7,540	\$43,826	N/A	\$2,600	\$100,734

*2017 real estate and tangible personal property taxes assessed and/or collected on behalf of local governmental taxing authorities, including: Taylor County Board of County Commissioners (General Fund and MSTU), School Board, SRWMD and City of Perry. Assessed value and taxes due to each taxing authority shown above based on 2017 final certified property values.

**Total Tax is the actual taxes paid after all applicable exemptions and discounts were applied.

¹ Includes Foley Cellulose, LLC and Georgia Pacific WFS, LLC.

² Includes Four Rivers Land & Timber Co., Keaton Beach Marina, LLC, Four Rivers Mining Company, LLC.

³ Includes Chemring and Martin Electronics.

⁴ Includes Gilman Building Products and West Fraser's Perry Sawmill LLC.

⁵ Includes Wal-Mart Stores East LP and Walmart Superstation No 5172.

GOVERNMENT SERVICES DIRECTORY

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www.perrypolice.net
 Taylor County Sheriff's Office 584-4225
www.taylorcountysheriff.fl.org
 Taylor County Jail 584-4333

Fire Departments

Perry Fire Department 584-3311
 Taylor County Fire-Rescue 838-3522

City Government

www.cityofperry.net

City Hall 584-7161
 Public Works 584-7490
 Recreation 584-3029
 Planning & Zoning 584-7161

County Government

www.taylorcountygov.com

Administration 838-3500
 Public Works 838-3528
 Environmental Services 838-3533
 Animal Control 838-3525
 Veteran Services 838-3513
 Emergency Management 838-3575
 Building & Planning 838-3500 ext. 1
 Public Library 838-3512
 Clerk of Court 838-3506
www.taylorclerk.com
 Supervisor of Elections 838-3515
www.taylorelections.com
 Tax Collector 838-3517
www.taylorcountytaxcollector.com
 Property Appraiser 838-3511
www.taylorcountypa.com

Utilities

City of Perry 584-2721
 Taylor Coastal Water & Sewer 578-3043
www.tcwsd.org
 Big Bend Water Authority 352-498-3576
www.bigbendwaterauthority.com

SBDC has had \$3.8 million impact

Now in its 15th year at the Perry/Taylor Chamber of Commerce, the Taylor County Small Business Development Center (SBDC) provides private and confidential counseling, loan preparation assistance and education resources for new and existing businesses. According to Chamber Director Dawn Taylor, since opening in 2004, the SBDC has been credited with helping to create 58 jobs in Taylor County and assisting

businesses in receiving \$1.2 million in Small Business Administration loans. In that time, the SBDC has worked with 15 new businesses and 43 existing businesses, with a total of 502 clients assisted and a \$3.8 million economic impact to Taylor County. The only one of its kind to be located in a chamber of commerce in the state, the local center offers periodic workshops on subjects

ranging from "starting your own business," "how to prepare your own business plan," "small business loans" and more. The Florida Small Business Development Center Network -- a statewide partnership between higher education and Floridians -- has been recognized, endorsed and funded as Florida's premier source for small business assistance. The network serves as

the statewide single point of contact for the advancement of an entrepreneurial environment; thus, creating a positive foundation for the development and growth of micro, small and medium enterprises in Florida. The SBDC program is the most experienced economic development network serving Floridians statewide, Taylor said. For more information, please call 584-5366 or visit www.floridasbdc.com.

Voters re-authorized tax exemptions

SUPER-PUFFT

Continued from page 4

left the door open to possibly provide the company with a 100% exemption on the second expansion, as well as reconsidering the level of the first phase of the expansion if the promised jobs come to fruition.

The proposed exemption would apply only to the additional tax revenues resulting from the new equipment and improvements and would not affect property taxes the company is already paying. It would also not affect property taxes levied by the City of Perry or the Taylor County School Board.

Last year, Taylor County voters overwhelmingly agreed to renew the commission's authority to give tax exemptions to new and expanding businesses that produce additional local jobs, with more than 71% voting "yes" on the referendum.

Since then, the commission and TCDA have been in talks over updating the county's

ordinance governing the process through which companies apply and are granted the exemptions.

Such tax exemptions or abatements are only on the new tax revenues resulting from the value created by the new or expanding business -- not on the taxes already being paid on the particular property.

"We're so pleased to have you here," County Commission Chair Pam Feagle told Super-Pufft company representatives at the start of the Feb. 7 meeting. "We want to do everything we can to help you. We want you to succeed. We want to be a good partner with you."

"You need to know the intent of this board is to support your efforts," Commissioner Malcolm Page said. "I agree with what the chair said. We need 100 jobs. We certainly want you to be part of this community in a greater way, and we'll do what we can to make this work for you and

for the county."

Page then said he would like to hear from Commissioner Thomas Demps, who is a longtime former member of the TCDA.

"I was there when you came down and made your presentation that day out at the plant," Demps said. "I was somewhat in awe, because we had lost so many (jobs), and you were a ray of hope. I see you back here today for a good reason, and I want to do what I can for you and our community."

"I want your mind to be at ease when you leave here that we'll do our best. I have a number in my head if you want to hear it," Demps said.

"Go ahead," Feagle said. "We'll do 75% for 10 years," Demps said. "We will send that forward and see what happens."

"Back in February of 2018, I remember, me and my brother met you there," a company representative said. "You asked us, 'How

many jobs do you see bringing here within the next year?' We said we felt we could bring 40 jobs in the first year. We closed around March of 2018, and as of today, we have 76 jobs. So, it's almost double what we promised."

He then outlined the possible second phase of expansions, noting that they have room for as many as four buildings at the plant site.

Whichever route the county takes, the commission indicated their willingness to consider a 100% tax exemption on the additional expansion once the first phase and the promised jobs were in place.

Company officials said they expect to be complete with the first phase, including hiring many of the jobs, by the end of the year.

Demps made a motion to move forward with the 75% exemption for 10 years, with Page offering a second. The measure passed unanimously.

G. Cline Moore

Attorney at Law, P.A.

Cline Moore

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Perry-Foley Airport still flying high after 75 years

Perry-Foley Airport continues to receive significant financial assistance from the State of Florida and the federal government, leading to additional improvements.

The airport, which dates back to World War II when it was an Army Air Corps training base, has

received numerous grants from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), including the resurfacing of its primary runway in 2013.

Currently underway are improvements to the airfield lighting system, a project also funded by FAA and

FDOT. Meanwhile, the Taylor County Commission is continuing to look into the possibility of siting a solar facility at the airport in the future. Earlier this year, the county cleared several areas of the airport to make room for a solar field should the opportunity arise.

In 2016, the commission approved a joint participation agreement with FDOT for the state agency to fund a feasibility study to look at options to construct a solar photovoltaic farm on the airport grounds. The report was completed in 2017.

One of the most recent additions to the airport is a new aircraft hangar, which was designed to be able to house a fixed-based operator in the future, located between the t-hangars and the Taylor County Fire-Rescue building. The \$425,000 project was 100-percent grant funded.

The facility has been leased to Georgia-Florida Aviation Search Team (G-Fast), a non-profit company specializing in search and rescue

operations. Perry-Foley Airport's Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS), which was also recently upgraded, reports wind, ceiling, visibility, temperature, dew point and

altimeter settings. Pilots may obtain the weather and flight conditions via radio communications several miles from Perry. The public can access current weather conditions by calling 838-3526.



Perry-Foley Airport offers fueling options for a variety of aircraft, including planes, jets and helicopters.

Taylor County at a Glance

Size: 1,232 square miles **Population Density:** 17.7/sq. mi.
Population: 21,833 **Founded:** Dec. 23, 1856

Taylor is the 13th largest Florida county by land area and the 14th smallest by population.

Taylor County



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Medical care with a hometown touch

Doctors' Memorial Hospital (DMH), a 48-bed not-for-profit acute care facility, has been serving the North Florida communities of Taylor, Madison, Dixie and Lafayette counties since 1957.

The hospital is located at 333 North Byron Butler Parkway. DMH and Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare have an equal-governance partnership between them.

DMH and its medical staff offer a wide range of services, including cardiopulmonary, home health, imaging, laboratory, physical therapy and surgical. The hospital provides Emergency Medical Services (EMS) for the county -- with three ambulances stationed in Perry and Steinhatchee -- and maintains a 24-hour emergency room.

Doctors' Memorial Hospital also provides extensive diagnostic imaging services administered by nationally-registered and Florida State-licensed imaging professionals and interpreted by board certified radiologists.

The hospital also operates the DMH Medical Plaza, which houses most of its physicians, located at 555 N. Byron Butler Parkway, as well as family clinics in Steinhatchee and Mayo.

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Covering the world

In what is described as one of the local community's most impressive business success stories, Big Top Manufacturing will celebrate 40 years of service in Taylor County in 2019.

Big Top Manufacturing has grown from a small two-person storefront, producing and selling trampolines, to an international leader in the manufacturing of quality built, portable tensioned fabric buildings -- supplying companies with durable, reliable, low-maintenance shelters to protect their most important assets.

It was the summer of 1979 when Frank and Joan Merschman founded and incorporated Big Top Trampoline on Hwy. 19 North in Perry.

The business began with no employees and initially built and sold trampolines, related equipment and supplies.

In the early 1980's, Big Top expanded to offer chain link fencing, small utility buildings, greenhouses and utility trailers.

It was not long before the company transitioned to producing carports and boat shelters, gradually evolving into a single-line manufacturer of vinyl covered shelters.

Trampoline production ceased around 1986-87, and when the company celebrated its 15th year in 1994, Big Top employed 25 workers and was producing fabric shelter covers for distributors, retailing the made-to-order kits to customers from Vancouver, Canada to Costa Rica.

Progress has been steady over the past four decades under the Big Top, as the local business has upgraded and expanded to include a modern 65,000 square foot manufacturing facility and state-of-the-art automated equipment that enables the company's workforce -- now numbering over 100 -- to produce high-quality custom framework and membranes.

Jeff Merschman purchased the business from his parents in 2014, assuming the role of president and CEO, and now leads a highly-trained team overseeing sales, marketing, accounting, computer-aided design (CAD), engineering, shipping, purchasing, production (steel fabrication, welding, laser cutting, finishing, vinyl fabrication) and field technical assistance.

Vann Parrott recently joined Big Top as chief operating officer (COO) at the start of 2019. Prior to joining the Big Top team, Parrott practiced law for the past 20 years in the South Georgia area.

In addition to his law practice, Parrott also served as Brooks County Juvenile Court Judge and worked in numerous other state and local leadership roles.

Using advanced technology and quality materials, Big Top creates customized structures for a wide variety of applications.

From temporary storage tents and warehouse buildings to more permanent aircraft hangars and boat storage shelters -- Big Top has covered it.

Big Top shelters can be found all over the U.S. and the world, covering a wide variety of high-value items, ranging from fighter jets to nuclear power plants.

Additionally, Big Top shelters cover shipyards and boat building operations, serve as warehouses, lunchrooms, and maintenance structures, and provide shelter from the elements for millions of dollars in equipment for a variety of military branches, commercial and industrial clients, top Fortune 500 and construction firms all over the globe.

Customers include: Haliburton, Google, Elon Musk (hyperloop project), Fluor, Bechtel Construction & Engineering, Jacobs, McDermott, Caterpillar, AutoNation, LEGO, Disney, Ford, the Washington Redskins and Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula, Miss., as well as the Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Generating Station near Jenkinsville, South Carolina and the Alvin W. Vogtle Electric Generating (Plant Vogtle) nuclear power plant located near Waynesboro, Ga.

Big Top also provides sunshades for F-35 jets at Langley Air Force Base (AFB) in Virginia, Eglin AFB in Florida, Marine Corps Air Station in Cherry Point, North Carolina and Yuma, Ariz., as well as Lemoore Naval Air Station in California.

Big Top structures are among the most dependable in the industry, composed of galvanized steel frames and a heavy duty PVC-vinyl fabric that is flame retardant and rip resistant.

The company recently opened an engineering office in Tallahassee, allowing Big Top to offer in-house engineering to design and build structures for areas that experience excessive snowfall, winds, earthquakes or any other conditions that require meeting specific building code specifications.

Big Top recently installed its second fiber optic laser cutting center in a new, air-conditioned, modern 26,000-square foot vinyl lab facility and



From humble beginnings -- making and selling trampolines in 1979 -- Big Top Manufacturing has steadily grown into an international leader in the manufacturing of portable tensioned fabric structures, ranging from sunshade shelters for U.S. Army and Marine F-35 fighters (above) to private and commercial aircraft hangars (below), industrial manufacturing, storage, warehouse and maintenance structures for clients all across the globe.

completed construction of a new 2,500-square foot air-conditioned break facility.

The new vinyl fabrication facility -- which includes a special epoxy floor that allows huge sections of vinyl to be moved much more easily -- together with new equipment, has helped increase production from one custom-built cover per day to multiple covers per day.

The company recently created a sister company -- Big Top Services -- to handle all installations.

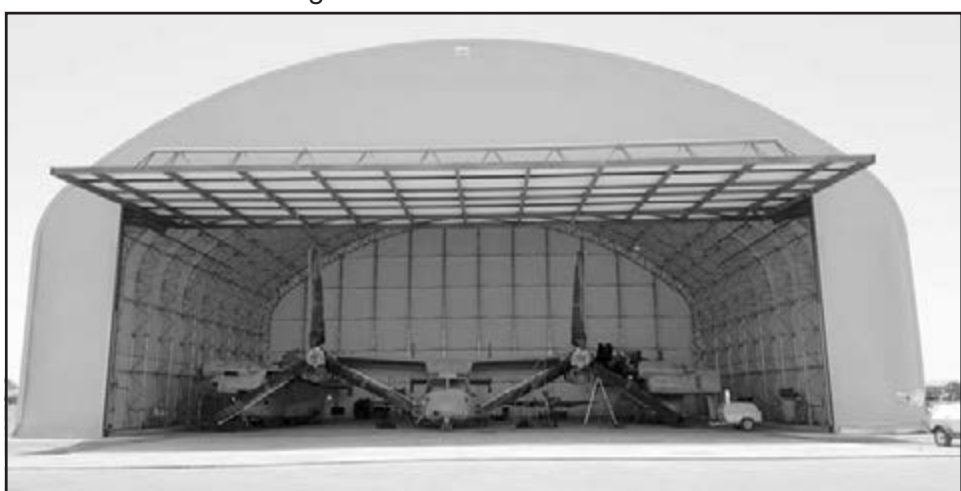
"We provide a quality product at a quality price," Big Top Marketing Manager Brandon Fletcher told local business leaders during a recent civic club presentation.

"We have a very unique product. Custom manufacturing is our specialty, so we are happy to help our customers devise the perfect fabric structure for their needs. We also offer on-site consulting services to aid in the design process," Fletcher added.

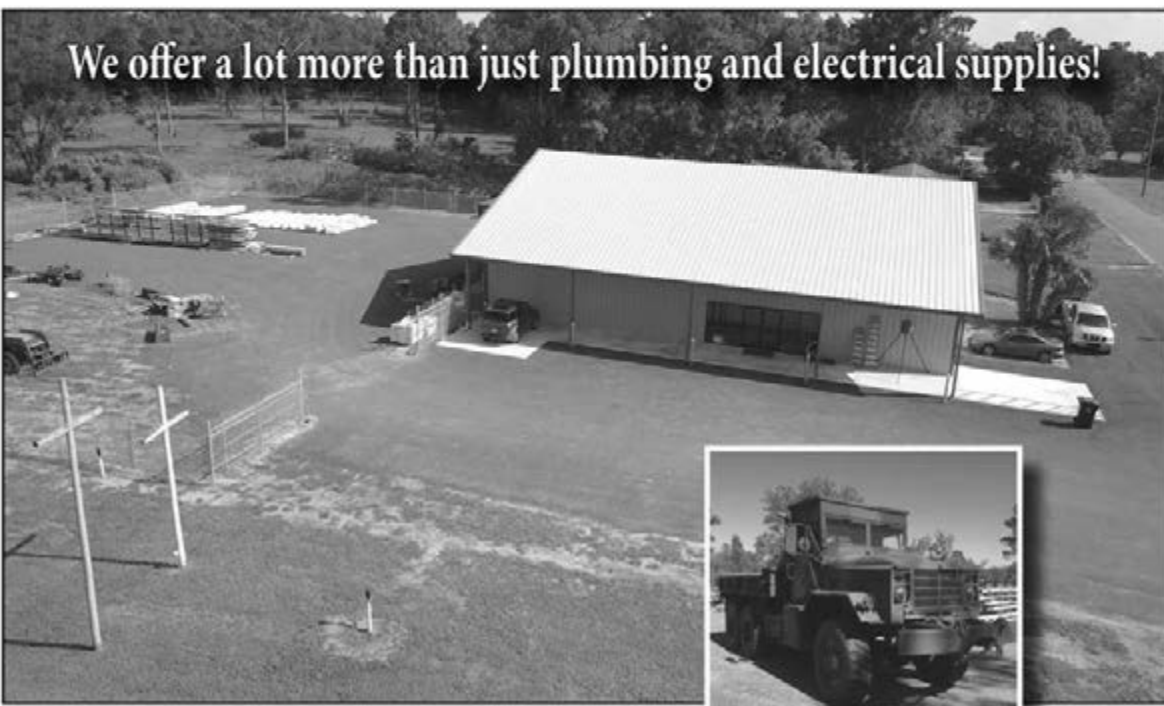
Built to be used for both permanent and temporary applications, Big Top's fabric buildings are the perfect alternative to the high costs and lengthy process that comes with the construction of a whole new building.

"Our tent structures don't require permanent foundations, which saves not only time, but also money involved with building a new concrete foundation. Our shelter systems also have a unique modular design, making their installation, disassembly and modification easy -- in fact, so easy that all of these tasks can be accomplished by untrained laborers who have never built a similar

➔ Please see page 14



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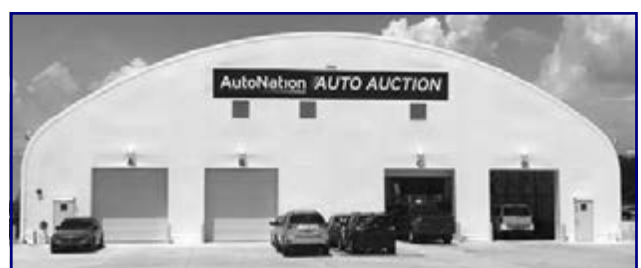
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Big Top clients include: AutoNation, Haliburton, Google, Elon Musk's hyperloop project, Fluor, Bechtel Construction, LEGO, Disney, Ford, the Washington Redskins and at least two nuclear power generating plants.





Want to join the Big Top team?

BIG TOP

Continued from page 13

structure before," Fletcher said.



"Also, the translucency of our fabric allows natural light to emit through our structures, reducing the need for artificial lighting in the day, which also saves our clients money by cutting down on energy costs," Fletcher added.



Big Top also offers mobility kits so the structures may easily be moved around a company's work site. Structures can be lifted by crane and moved, installed with wheels or rails to be moved along a shipyard or other construction project or taken down and re-assembled.



Big Top offers a wide variety of accessories and options, including: automated electric or hydraulic hangar doors, LED lighting, electrical systems (including solar power), exhaust fans and vents, heating, cooling (HVAC) and dehumidifier units, various flooring options, insulation liners, lightning protection and fire suppression/sprinkler systems.



"We are committed to providing economical solutions and superior customer service worldwide," Jeff Merschman stated.



"Because we have total control over the product, we can guarantee customer satisfaction before and after the sale," he added.



"We are dedicated to the local community long-term," Merschman said. "We are looking for engineers, young technical people and career-minded individuals to join our team."

For more information, contact Big Top online at: www.bigtopshelters.com or by calling (850) 584-7786.



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in Taylor County
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About Big Top Manufacturing...

Frank and Joan Merschman founded Big Top Manufacturing in 1979. They led the company from trampolines and greenhouse manufacturing to become a leading manufacturer of tensioned fabric structures.

Big Top Manufacturing provides tensioned fabric shelter solutions worldwide. We specialize in fabricating structures that meet or exceed the requirements of our customers by using advanced technology and quality materials.

We are committed to providing economical solutions and superior customer service worldwide. Because we have total control over the product, Big Top guarantees customer satisfaction before and after the sale.

BEFORE: Purchased by Frank & Joan Merschman in 1978



NOW: Sold to Jeff Merschman in 2014

Our 65,000 sq. ft. manufacturing facility is located in North Florida. We have upgraded our facility with state-of-the-art automated equipment that enables us to build high-quality custom framework and membranes.

MILITARY



Since May 2014 Big Top has been under new ownership, with Jeff Merschman as President & CEO. Big Top has a highly-trained team consisting of administration, sales, field techs, engineering, marketing and production.

Big Top is prepared for future growth and to service the needs of their present and future customers.

Thank you,
The Big Top Team



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Oil & Gas Lunchroom
70 x 576 x 28



Fontainebleau Aviation
140 x 142 x 48

Chemring is awarded \$10.4 million contract

The U.S. Navy has awarded a \$10.4 million contract to Chemring Ordnance in Perry for the manufacture, assembly, testing and delivery of 57mm High Explosive – Point Detonating (HE-PD) cartridges, according to a defense industry press release.

The 57mm HE-PD cartridge is a 57mm/70, electrically-primed cartridge designed to function in the 57mm MK 110 Gun Mount (GM), according to a March 5 article posted by Defense Industry Daily (www.defenseindustrydaily.com), which covers U.S. defense program acquisition news, budget data and market briefings.

The MK 110 GM is employed on the Navy

Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) class as well as the U.S. Coast Guard Legend-class National Security Cutters (NSC).

The LCS is a fast, highly-maneuverable, networked surface combat ship designed to satisfy the requirement for shallow draft vessels. The NSC is the largest and most technically-advanced class of cutter designed for the U.S. Coast Guard under the Deepwater program.

The contract with Chemring is to develop and produce 57mm HE-PD cartridges intended for combating surface and ground targets.

The cartridge consists of a high explosive projectile with the ability to point detonate, a brass cartridge

case loaded with propellant charge and an electric primer.

Chemring Ordnance, subsidiary of Chemring Group, designs, develops and manufactures ordnance, pyrotechnic products and other munition components for military, homeland security and first responders.

The company offers 40mm low and high velocity ammunition, pyrotechnic marking, signaling and tactical illumination devices, battlefield effects simulators, hand grenade fuses and other ammunition components.

Work under the contract will take place in Perry, Florida and is scheduled to be completed by February 2021.



Taylor County Sport Complex

The Taylor County Sports Complex is a wonderful place for the young and the young at heart. The 74-acre complex features six baseball/soccer fields, two softball fields, two tennis courts and two basketball courts, along with two large playground areas, six picnic pavilions and a paved one-mile scenic trail. Citizens can reserve a picnic shelter located near the playgrounds for many occasions by calling (850) 584-3029 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Suncoast Parkway picking up speed again

A proposal to extend the Suncoast Parkway toll road from the Tampa area to Georgia – including a potential route running through Taylor County – is picking up speed in the Florida Legislature.

After a pair of powerful Republicans in the Florida Senate indicated the long-debated project was one of their legislative priorities, the Senate Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee recently signed off on a bill that would pave the way for three mammoth road projects.

Earlier this year, Florida Senate President Bill Galvano (R-Bradenton) announced he had directed the Senate's Infrastructure and Security Chairman Tom Lee (R-Thonotosassa) to prepare a cost estimate and timeline for extending the Suncoast Parkway to I-10 and the Georgia border.

Three months later, SB 7068, sponsored by Lee, is moving through the Florida Senate. The bill would extend two highways and fund construction of a third.

Both extensions relate to the Suncoast Parkway. One would extend it from where it currently ends in Citrus County north to the Florida-Georgia border.

The other would connect the Florida Turnpike to the Tampa Bay area highway and the third project would build a new highway connecting Polk and Collier counties.

The bill includes \$128 million of funding in the 2019-20 budget, with \$45 million coming from the State Transportation Trust Fund (STTF) and \$83 million from general revenue.

The Senate bill projects the STTF portion of the funding would cost \$90 million in 2021 and then \$135 million annually through 2030 – a total of more than \$1.3 billion, which would then pay for a state turnpike bond

to pay for program.

When the 42-mile Suncoast Parkway first opened in 2001 – at a cost of \$507 million – the north-south toll road connected the Veterans Expressway in Tampa to rapidly-growing parts of southern Pasco County.

The Suncoast Parkway (State Road 589) now winds its way through Hernando County and ends at the Citrus County line.

The latest phase of construction – known as the “Suncoast Parkway 2” -- will extend the four-lane toll road halfway through Citrus County to State Road 44 in Lecanto at a cost of \$135 million.

“There’s about \$135 million in tag and title fees that are sitting in general revenue,” Lee said in a March 19, 2019 article posted on FloridaPolitics.com. “What this bill does is direct that money back into transportation.”

Responding to funding questions, Lee said “as this project gets up and on its feet, that might well change over time.”

All three projects would be toll roads, which Lee said could make them self-sufficient over time.

The bill now heads to the full Senate Appropriations Committee.

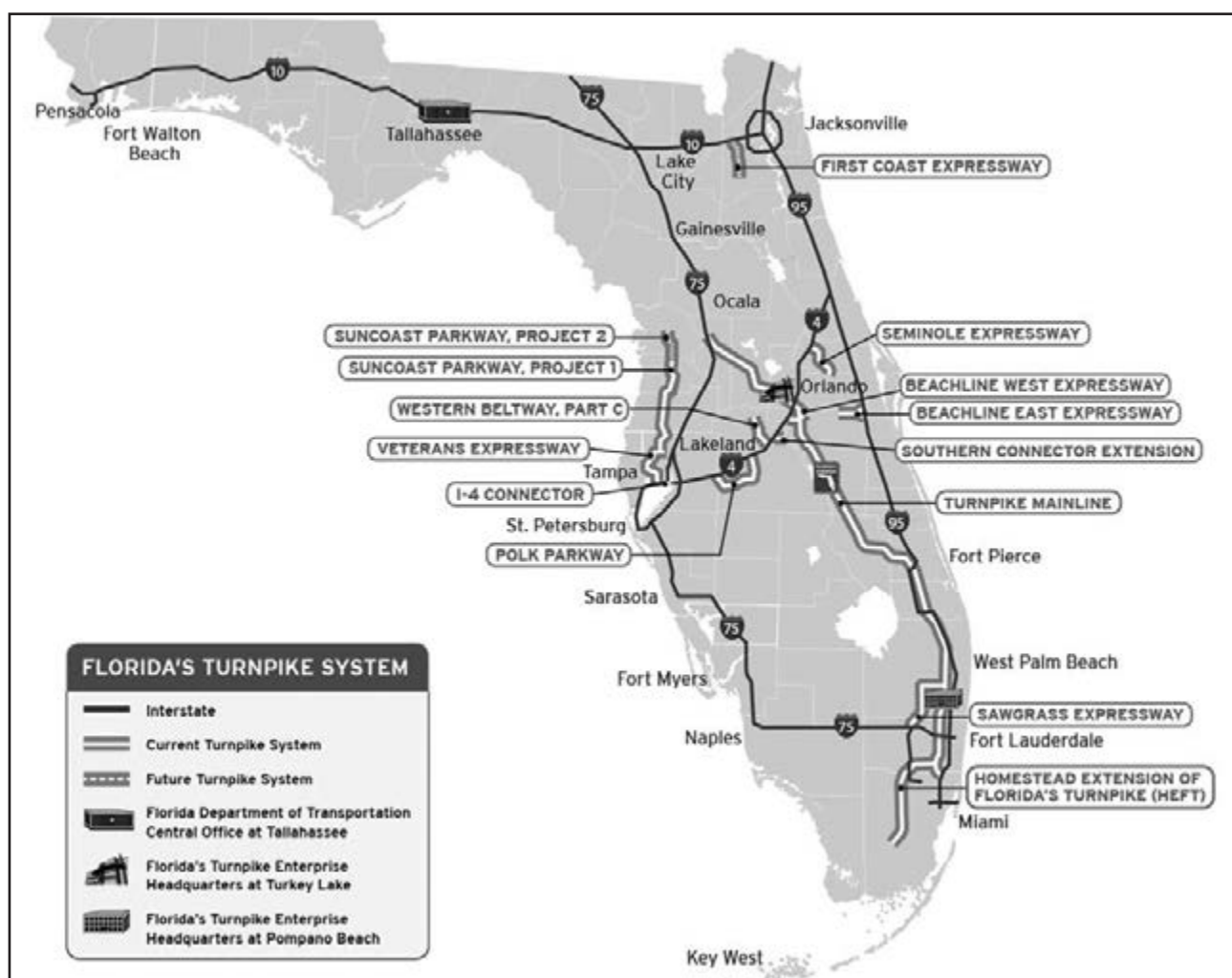
While an exact corridor for the toll roads has not yet been mapped out for the public, the plan calls for:

- A “Suncoast Connector” highway to extend the Suncoast Parkway from north of Tampa up to Jefferson County, along the Georgia border.

- A highway to link Polk County to Collier County, the “Southwest Central Florida Corridor.”

- A “Northern Turnpike connector” to extend the Florida Turnpike northwest from I-75 in Wildwood to the Suncoast Parkway on the state’s west coast.

The Florida Department



The proposed Suncoast Parkway expansion project, recently received new life thanks to a pair of Republican senators in the Florida Legislature.

of Transportation (FDOT) previously released some preliminary proposed routes to connect the Suncoast Parkway to I-75 somewhere north of Marion County.

However, those plans were shelved last year after Citrus and Marion County residents objected to the proposed routes cutting through residential developments and horse farms.

The state has committed \$86.6 million to design, buy right-of-way and build an additional three miles of road to connect State Road 44 and C.R. 486 in Lecanto. That work could start in 2024.

The Parkway could then continue west along power line rights of way to U.S. 19 north of Crystal River and then continue north – either following U.S. 19 or

utilizing some of the rights of way along more isolated sections of U.S. 19 -- and possible bypass around communities and towns in its path as it tracks east and ties into either I-75 or I-10.

The Tampa-to-Georgia portion of the Suncoast Parkway would likely

extend through the heart of the Big Bend, including Taylor County, Dixie, Levy, Gilchrist and possibly Lafayette or Madison counties, where Four Rivers Land & Timber owns approximately 561,000 acres of forest land.

With the speed at which

state paving projects move, the Suncoast Parkway extension would likely not become a reality for 10 years or more.

Local governmental agencies and environmental groups will also have input on the path the road would actually take.

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Keeping cherished family traditions alive

If you enjoy hunting and fishing, Taylor County has an abundance of the very best outdoor recreational opportunities Florida has to offer for you to enjoy year-round.

Experience the Big Bend Gulf at its finest!

Whether you are airboating on the unspoiled Aucilla River, fishing on the scenic Econfinia River, crabbing or birdwatching at Hickory Mound

Impoundment, kayaking out of Yates Creek, scalloping from Keaton Beach or steering your boat to fish offshore out of Steinhatchee, exhilarating saltwater adventures await.

Cast a Line: Fabulous Fishing in Taylor County

Taylor County is home to nearly 60 miles of Gulf of Mexico coastline, four rivers, numerous streams and creeks, natural springs, a border on the Apalachee Bay, both natural and

artificial saltwater fishing reefs and quick access to the Gulf of Mexico.

Featuring more than 45 miles of undeveloped coastline – the longest such stretch in the State of Florida – it’s no surprise that anglers come from all over to cast a line and reel in trophy-size catches of speckled seatrout, redfish, flounder, Spanish mackerel, cobia, jack crevalle and even an occasional tarpon or snook in our nearshore waters.

Offshore anglers can visit natural live bottom, limerock ledges, natural and artificial reefs to target gag and red grouper, as well as red snapper, amberjack, king mackerel, dolphin, black sea bass, shark, pinkmouth grunt, sheepshead and barracuda.

Saltwater anglers can fish from land, off a 700-foot pier, from your own boat or as a guest on a guided charter to experience some of the finest grass flats fishing in the state of Florida.

The mouth of the Econfinia River is a great spot for flats fishing on the Gulf. Econfinia, a Native American word for “natural bridge” (pronounced ee-con-fee-nee) provides some of the best trout and redfish angling on Florida’s west coast, as well as a chance to reel in a Spanish mackerel.

The Steinhatchee River is another great fishing spot, especially during the fall months of October and November, when spotted seatrout invade the river in huge numbers. The Steinhatchee is a fish-and-people-friendly river, so inexperienced anglers are almost always bound to get lucky. You can usually find out about current “hot spots” by asking around at local marinas and bait shops.

There is always lots of action at the mouth of the Aucilla River, as it is home to a variety of habitats, including seagrass beds and oyster bars, which in turn are intermingled with tidal channels and deeper holes.



Ray Veal and grandson Jackson Hunter with a bushy-tailed squirrel take in Taylor County woods.



Jackson Hunter helped his dad, Robert, land this redfish “in local waters.”

The river is known for some of the best redfish and trout fishing in the state, so often you need do little more than cast out a hook or plug before you’re reeling in a boatload of fish.

The surrounding flats are teeming with trout, reds, Spanish mackerel, flounder, tarpon and more.

Freshwater fishing in abundance!

The numerous lakes, ponds, rivers and streams in Taylor County hold common species such as largemouth bass, Suwannee bass, bluegill, shellcracker, catfish, crappie and redbellies.

Hunting opportunities abound!

From September to April each year, hunters have ample opportunity to track

and take whitetail deer and wild hogs, in addition to smaller game like duck, quail, dove, rabbit, squirrel and turkey.

More than 70,000 acres are open to the public for hunting each year with the proper permits, and Taylor County offers several of the largest tracts of private hunting clubs in the Southeast.

For specific information on local Wildlife Management Areas, including regulations and season dates, visit online at <https://myfwc.com/hunting/wma-brochures/>.

Birdwatching

Loon, heron, pelicans, eagles and ospreys are just some of the bountiful birding opportunities along our pristine coast.




Taylor County Property Appraiser

Bruce A. Ratliff

P.O. Box 936
108 N. Jefferson St., Suite 201
Perry, FL 32348-0936
Phone: (850) 838-3511 Fax: (850) 838-3545
TaylorCountyPA.com

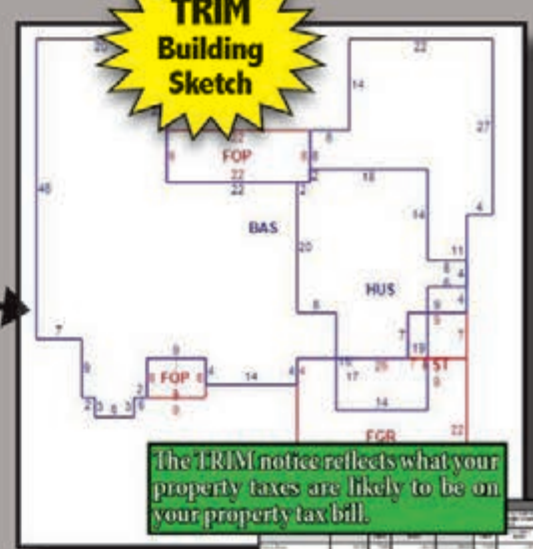
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- Certification of Tax Roll



GIS Property Map

From the map you can view your property lines, measurements, floodzone, etc.



TRIM Building Sketch

The TRIM notice reflects what your property taxes are likely to be on your property tax bill.



Tax Estimator

NOTE: This Estimate of Taxes is based on the 2018 Year Final Millage Rates as indicated below.

Market/Assessed Value: _____

Tax District: _____

Current Millage Rate: _____

Exemptions: Homestead

Estimated Taxes: _____

Calculate Reset


Tax Breakdown: _____

Figure out your own taxes!

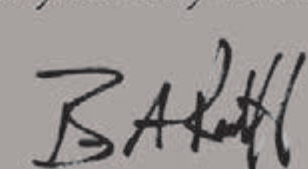
Use the tax Estimator to figure out what your property taxes are likely to be for the year.



TRIM Notice



“It’s an honor to serve the great people of Taylor County. Please feel free to contact us concerning any property questions you may have.”



Gulf Treasure

Taylor County is one of the few places in Florida where you can participate in Mother Nature's biggest Easter egg hunt – harvesting your own scallops!

You will find scalloping opportunities along our entire coastline, including off Keaton Beach, Hagen's Cove and Steinhatchee.

For the third straight year, scallopers will get the chance to dive in two weeks early off much of Taylor County's coast.

The season will run June 15 through Sept. 10.

In February, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) approved a draft rule that would make the regionally-specific bay scallop season dates permanent. A final vote is set for the commission's May 1-2 meeting in Tallahassee.

The area that opens early includes most of Taylor County and all of Dixie County (including Keaton Beach and the Steinhatchee area). This includes all state waters east of Rock

Island near the mouth of the Fenholloway River in Taylor County and north of Alligator Pass Daybeacon #4 near the mouth of the Suwannee River in Levy County.

The remaining waters off northern Taylor County and westward to Franklin County (including Carrabelle, Lanark and St. Marks) will be open July 1 through Sept. 24.

This region includes all state waters from the western most point of St. Vincent Island in Franklin County to Rock Island near the mouth of the Fenholloway River in Taylor County.

Dive in: Taylor County has Scalloper-Rich Coastal Waters

This unique activity is fun for the whole family and requires minimal resources. It's relatively simple, and after spending an afternoon in the water searching for scallops, you can enjoy the fruits of your labor that evening for supper.

Basically, the only materials you need for

scalloping are a snorkel, mask, fins (or water shoes) and a mesh bag to hold your catch.

Once you're geared up, you'll need a boat to take you out, a diver's flag to snorkel in the water and a recreational saltwater fishing license to keep things legal (the license is relatively inexpensive and easy to acquire).

Scallops congregate in shallow water and attempt to hide in manatee and turtle grass. If you see a large group of boats in a certain area, chances are they've found a "sweet spot" with lots of scallops.

If you see one scallop shell, there's bound to be more around.

(Hint: Before you head out, ask around to find out where the hot spots are for the season. Word travels fast in a small town, so most of the locals that hang out around the docks and the marina employees should be in the know.)

Those who aren't yet ready to dive and snorkel

Mother Nature's own Easter Egg Hunt opens June 15 - Sept. 10



Scallop season will open June 15 and close Sept. 10. Scallops congregate in shallow water and attempt to hide in manatee and turtle grass. If you see a large group of boats in a certain area, chances are they've found a "sweet spot" with lots of scallops.

can try their luck at Hagen's Cove, where you can wade shallow waters in search of scallops.

After you've pulled in

your limit of two gallons of whole scallops, or 1 pint of meat, per person (or the boat limit of 10 gallons of whole scallops or 1/2 gallon of meat), head back to shore to get them cleaned.

Before you begin the task of cleaning your catch, be sure to get some instructions. You might have thought it easy enough to get them out of the water, but it's not so simple getting scallops to come out of their shells.

You will need a knife or other sharp flat object to open the shell, a spoon to scoop out the scallop meat and a container to hold the "white gold" muscle meat.

Although it can take up to three hours to clean a boat's limit of scallops, most folks find that the time passes much faster with a little music, a few cool drinks and lots of good friends in the shade.

Should you take the easy way out, there are usually a few locals hanging around the docks or marinas that will do your dirty work for you (for a small fee).

Whichever means you choose, the outcome will be

the same – a delicious meal of succulent scallops that you caught yourself.

Small Shells Have a BIG Economic Impact!

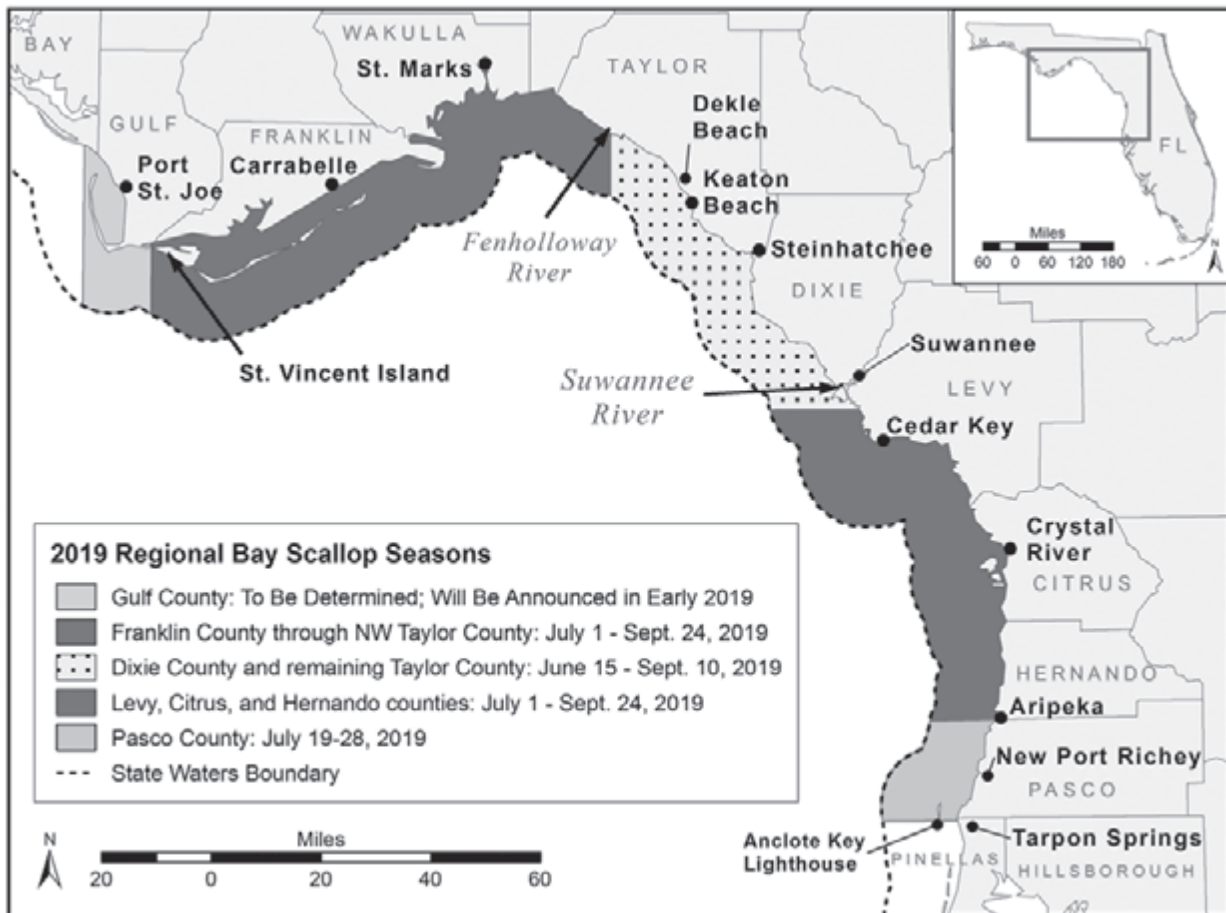
The abundant scallop grounds off Steinhatchee and Keaton Beach are no longer a secret, as thousands of people flock to the Taylor County coast each summer.

Preliminary results from a study conducted during the 2017 season indicates visiting scallopers had a huge economic impact on local businesses.

Researchers with the Taylor County Extension Office, FWC and the University of Florida undertook the survey at both the Keaton Beach and Steinhatchee public boat ramps throughout scallop season.

Based on the responses, visiting scallopers spent between \$90 (Keaton Beach public boat ramp) to \$250 (Steinhatchee) per day locally during their visit.

Although the final economic estimates are still being calculated, the economic impact from scalloping will ultimately fall somewhere between \$3.5 million and \$5 million.



The boundaries depicted on this map document are approximate. This map document is intended for use only at the published scale. These data are intended for informational use only and should not be considered authoritative for navigation, engineering, legal, or other site-specific purpose. FWC does not assume any legal liability or responsibility arising from the use of this product in a manner not intended by the author.

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March 23	Steinhatchee Community Tournament	May 18	Fishing' For Vision
March 30	Ira Carter Lodge #150 Inshore Tournament	May 25-Sept. 2	CCA Star Tournament
April 6	Hooked on Heroes	June 7-8	Reeling for Kids
April 13	Kim Smith's Reeling for Rescues	June 8	Steinhatchee NautiGirls Tournament
April 13	Special Olympics Tournament	Sept. 7	LadyRaider's Inshore Tournament
April 27	UF Health Shands Fishing For Kids	Oct. 5	Hooked on Heroes
May 4	Optimist Club Saltwater Tournament	Dec. 14	Eggnog Open Fishing Tournament

If you have a thirst for competition and enjoy spending the day with a rod and reel in your hand, there is sure to be a fishing tournament for you! Tournaments are scheduled on almost a monthly basis, and all anglers are welcomed to try their luck in landing "the big one."

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Steinhatchee River Chamber of Commerce

www.steinhatcheechamber.com



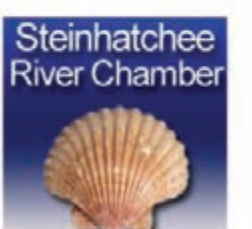
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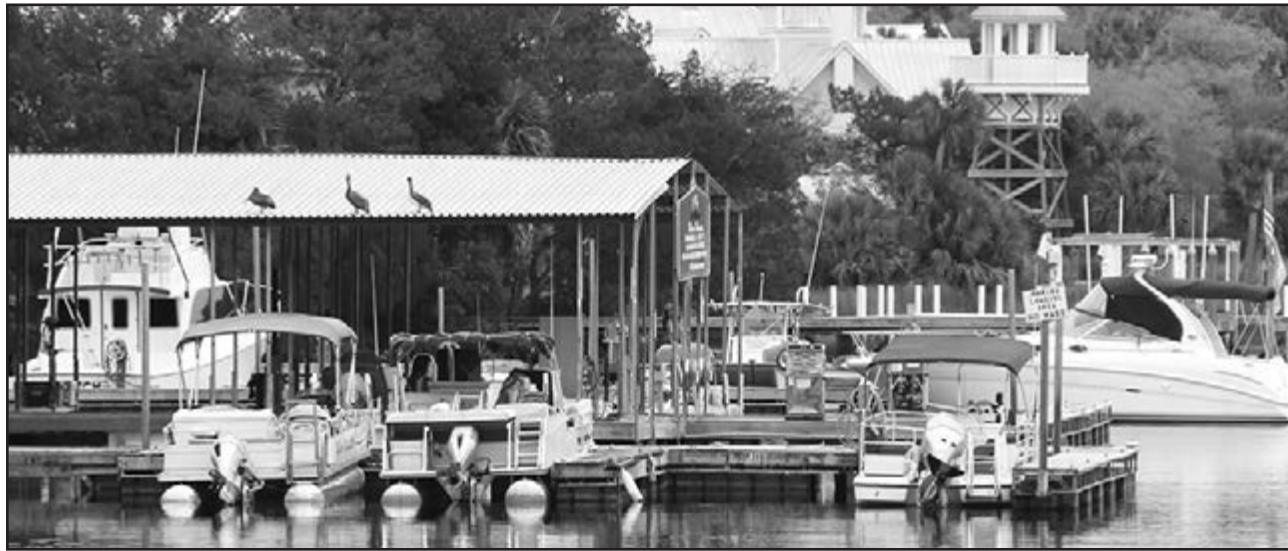
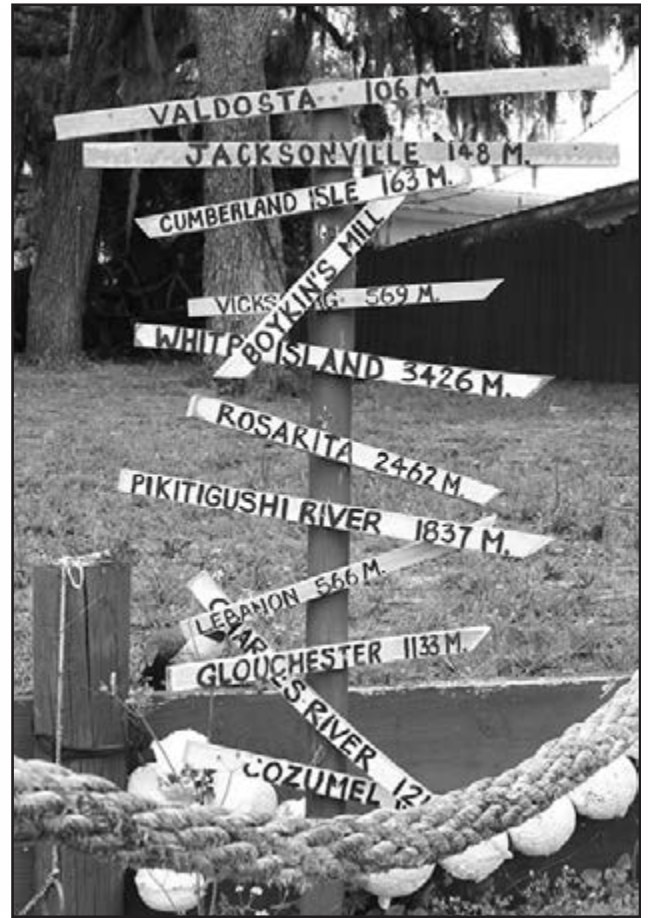


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Beauty can be found in nearly every corner of Steinhatchee, from a stunning chapel filled with His grace to a weathered mooring rope that surrounds a homemade sign. But the greatest beauty can be found along the banks of the town's namesake river -- public parks, a pier and a community center that is the pride of its residents and boat docks that bob gently with the tide.



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All about da' crab!



The granddaddy of Taylor County festivals, the Florida Forest Festival, celebrates its 64th year in 2019. Held the fourth Saturday in October, the event boasts vintage military vehicle displays along with the "World's Largest Free Fish Fry," a forestry equipment show and competitions, live music, a parade and lumberjack shows.



It's all about da' crab -- fiddler crab -- during the month of February in Steinhatchee. The coastal community goes all out for a three-day festival extravaganza that celebrates all things fiddler crab with food, fun and a parade! Held annually on Presidents Day weekend, the event attracts up to 10,000 visitors. Highlights include fiddler crab races, miles of arts and crafts booths, live entertainment, river tours and the "Swamp Water Cook-Off."

A festival for every season, a season for every festival

Taylor County is king when it comes to hosting festivals for every season.

With five major festivals filling the calendar from February to October, the next great festival adventure is always only a few months away.

The coastal community of Steinhatchee kicks off the year with its annual Fiddler Crab Festival held every third weekend in February.

The event attracts more than 10,000 visitors for three days of tournament fishing, fiddler crab racing, live entertainment and its signature "Swamp Water Cook Off."

A parade, poker run and river tours, coupled with miles of arts and crafts vendors

lining the streets, round out the schedule.

For more information about the event, visit the Steinhatchee River Chamber of Commerce's website at steinhatcheechamber.com.

March brings the annual Big Bend Brewfest held in downtown Perry at Rosehead Park. Visitors happily sample craft beers from area producers while supporting the Rotary Club of Perry and the Perry Police Department's "Shop with a Cop" program.

The 17th annual Florida State Bluegrass Festival has become a leading event not

→ Please see page 6

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Fun for all ages can be found at festivals held throughout the year. March's "Big Bend Brewfest" brings premier craft beer to Perry's downtown Rosehead Park. September's "Smokin' in the Pines BBQ Festival" has the best grillmasters in the south competing for cash prizes and bragging rights. October's "Florida Forest Festival" celebrates all things forestry and forestry-related.

Next on the calendar? April's bluegrass festival!

FESTIVAL

Continued from page 5

only in North Florida, but in bluegrass circles across the south.

Held the first weekend of April at Forest Capital Park, the event welcomes spring with three action-packed days filled with live music from nationally recognized bluegrass artists, a chili cook-off, arts and crafts, food vendors and a Kidz Fun Zone.

MoonPie princesses and Bluegrass sweethearts (ranging in age from 5 to 9) preside over the festivities.

This year's event will be held April 4-6. Admission is free for all Taylor County residents. Three-day passes for non-residents is \$30 (pre-sale).

For more information, please contact the Perry-Taylor County Chamber of Commerce at (850) 584-5366.

Every fourth weekend in September brings the "Smokin' in the Pines" festival, featuring two days of BBQ contests and live music.

Formerly the Southern Pines Blues & BBQ Festival, the event was revamped to include Southern Rock and Outlaw Country sounds.

Coordinated by the Chamber of Commerce, the festival awards more than \$10,000 in prizes during its BBQ competition.

The granddaddy of all Taylor County festivals -- the Florida Forest Festival -- reigns supreme in October.

The month-long salute to the community's forestry industry features pageants, parades, heavy equipment shows, fireworks, live entertainment and the "World's Largest Free Fish Fry."

An army of volunteers, overseen by a dedicated board of directors, coordinates dozens of events and thousands of details.

Now in its 64th year, the festival's "Big Day" is held the fourth Saturday in October. Additional information on the event is available through the festival office, which can be reached by calling (850) 584-TREE (8733).

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It is (almost) always sunny in Taylor County

While the rest of the country remained in a deep-freeze well into spring, Perry and Taylor County enjoyed a relatively mild winter in comparison. Cool mornings quickly gave way to bright skies and

mild temperatures.

The annual average temperature for the county hovers around 70 degrees. Though the summers can be hot, the Gulf of Mexico runs the entire length of the county, providing cooling breezes for the hottest months and moderating ones in the cooler months.

According to national climate data, Perry receives an average of 57 inches of rain per year. The wettest

year on record was in 1956, when the area was bogged down with 91.6 inches of rain, and the driest was 2000, with only 35.2 inches recorded.

Almost year-round, residents and visitors alike enjoy good weather for fishing, gardening, golfing, hunting and outdoor sports.

In addition to 50 miles of coastline, Taylor County also has an abundance of springs, lakes and rivers.



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Want to get close to nature? Kayaking and canoeing are the way to go -- especially in Taylor County, which is blessed with an abundance of waterways that range from sparkling lakes, spring-fed rivers and an extensive, unspoiled coastline.

Let's paddle!

One of the best ways to explore our scenic area waterways is by kayak, canoe or stand-up paddle board (SUP).

Taylor County is blessed with an abundance of waterways that range from sparkling lakes, spring-fed and blackwater rivers to an extensive, unspoiled coastline.

Canoers and kayakers can choose from easy family floats to multi-day expeditions requiring advanced skills and specialized boats and gear. We have it all!

Paddling offers great opportunities for both anglers and wildlife viewers. A quiet observant paddler can enjoy excellent wildlife viewing from an on-the-water perspective.

Be sure to bring along binoculars and a waterproof camera to document your adventures and capture the abundance of wildlife and colorful wildflowers that flourish along our local waterways.

We have paddling trails for all skill levels -- ranging from beginners to experts. There are also local outfitters and guides in the area who will be happy to help beginners enjoy a safe paddling experience.

Taylor County is bordered to the east by the tea-colored, tannin-stained waters of the scenic Aucilla River -- home of the Aucilla River Paddling Trail. Multiple access points and a short stretch of rapids make this iconic river a favorite of local paddlers.

A section of the well-loved Florida National Scenic Trail, popular with hikers, meanders along the river banks. You can go online to order an excellent map to explore the Rivers of AWE (Aucilla, Wacissa and Econfinia) -- a surprisingly wild experience for intermediate and experienced paddlers is the Econfinia River, ending at Econfinia River State Park.

You'll find a coastal paddling adventure with exceptional wildlife viewing and excellent fishing along the Big Bend Saltwater Paddling Trail (BBSPT). Suitable for experienced kayakers, it weaves along the Gulf Coast from St. Marks River southeast to the majestic Suwannee River.

Glide over unspoiled habitat preserved by the Big Bend Aquatic Seagrass Preserve -- the foundation of the coastline's exceptional fishing.

Permits are required for primitive campsites accessible by sea kayaks only. Order a guide book and explore tidal creeks and small fishing villages tucked

along the coastal marshes, including Spring Warrior, Dekle Beach, Keaton Beach and Steinhatchee.

The spring-fed Fenholloway River and pristine Dallis Creek within the Big Bend Wildlife Management Area offer more paddling opportunities.

The state-designated Steinhatchee River Paddling Trail begins just below Steinhatchee Falls, a popular picnic spot and historic river crossing where wagon ruts of early settlers are still visible.

While enjoying your Taylor County waterways remember to wear your life jacket to stay safe and have fun!

Habitat plans next build in Steinhatchee

Taylor County's Habitat for Humanity -- fresh off the success of completing its first home build in more than a decade -- looks to maintain its momentum in the coming year.

"Habitat for Humanity exists to uplift people in the community -- our community -- by building decent, affordable housing in partnership with them.

We seek to meet people where they are and, at the same time, help them acquire the skills to sustain home ownership in the future," Executive Patricia Meyrin said of the program.

"The homes are not free -- the families have to meet a very specific criteria in order to qualify and must have the ability to make timely (interest-free) mortgage

payments," she added.

The next home build is planned to take place in Steinhatchee, and the organization is currently reviewing applications.

For additional information, please contact the local office at (850) 584-3838.

The office is open during limited hours at its 203 E. Drew Street location.



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Wrap-around porches, cathedral ceilings, a state-of-the-art kitchen and a stone fireplace are just a few of the crowning touches that make the Shady Grove Community Center a true showplace. Dedicated in June 2018, the \$324,520 facility is open to all residents for any special occasion – weddings, family reunions, community gatherings. The center, located adjacent to Shady Grove Park, also boasts lap pine siding and a small stage. The exterior of the community center echoes a Cracker-style home with a pitched roof line. The center's cathedral ceilings are complemented by wood beams. Lighted ceiling fans add a finishing touch. For rental arrangements, please contact the county offices at (850) 838-3500.

GUARDIANS OF HISTORY

The Taylor County Historical Society was established in 1971 by a group of citizens to “preserve the history of our area.”

In the decades since, that purpose has evolved into a mission to discover, collect and preserve original and source documents, maps and photographs pertaining to the history of Perry and Taylor County.

The society, which meets monthly September through May, strives to bring together those interested in the history of this area; to promote and stimulate public interest and appreciation of the history of this area; and to further the preservation and knowledge Taylor County's past.

A dedicated group of volunteers coordinates events throughout the year to help raise awareness of the society and its mission, including on-site tours of local historic landmarks and guest speakers who address a broad spectrum of topics.

Three of the Society's signature events are “Haunted History Tours” in October, the downtown Christmas Open House in December and the “Rockin’ New Year’s Eve Party.”

The society's museum is located at the corner of Main Street and Washington. It is open every Thursday afternoon from 1-5 p.m.

Annual membership dues are \$15.

Historical markers pay tribute

Few Saturdays go by without a tourist (or three or four) stopping by the Historic Perry Station/Old Depot, taking a stroll along its wooden walkway and soaking in the history of the 100-year-old building.

That very fact spurred the Taylor County Historical Society to establish the new Historical Landmark Plaque Program.

“We hope this program will help tourists and the general public learn about significant buildings located in the historic downtown district,” Coordinator Jon Link said.

The program also represents a partnership between the City of Perry and the historical society.

“Working in conjunction with the City of Perry's DREAM (Downtown Revitalization Economic Appearance Motivator) Grant program enables 50

percent of the cost of the plaque to be grant-funded. The building owner pays the remaining 50 percent. Each plaque will cost \$150 (\$75 paid by the DREAM Grant and \$75 paid by the building owner),” Link explained.

To be eligible, a location

must be located within the recognized limits of the downtown district. Buildings must be at least 70 years old. The custom cast iron plaques will feature the building name and year it was constructed.

Additional information about the building will be

made available in digital and print form as part of the guide for the Downtown Walking Trail.

“Once the application is approved and the fee has been paid, the historical society will place the marker,” Link said.



An example of the historical plaques can be found at the historic Old Depot.

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Service above self

Organized in 1914, the Perry Women's Club is the oldest civic organization in Taylor County, and as such has set the standard for all that followed.

Civic-minded volunteers continue to be a driving force in Perry and Taylor County.

Service organizations like Rotary and Kiwanis have long and proud histories of their own in working for the betterment of the community.

Many clubs support scholarship efforts benefitting local students and are always ready to lending a helping hand when a need arises.

Getting involved is easy – just reach out to any club member and they'll gladly welcome you into the group.

Active clubs and their meeting schedules include:

- AARP: last Wednesday of each month, 10 a.m. at the Perry Shrine Club.
- Kiwanis Club: every Wednesday, noon, at the Perry Elks Lodge.
- NAACP: first Sunday of the month, 5 p.m., at Jerkins Community Center.
- Optimist Club: every Thursday, noon, at Mama's Italian.
- Perry Garden Club: each third Wednesday, 10 a.m.; club building is located in Forest Capital Park.
- Perry Elks Lodge: each second and fourth Tuesday, 7 p.m.
- Perry Masonic Lodge #187: each first and third Tuesday, 6 p.m., Masonic Hall.
- Perry Masonic Lodge #123: each first and third Monday, 7:30 p.m.
- Perry Shrine Club: every fourth Thursday at 7 p.m. The club house located on Courtney Road of Highway 19 North.
- Perry Women's Club: each second Wednesday, noon; the club building is located on North Jefferson Street.
- Rotary Club: every Tuesday, noon, at Holiday Inn Express.
- Taylor County Leadership Council: each second and fourth Friday, 7 p.m., at the Jerkins Community Center.
- Vogue XIII: every Monday, 7:30 p.m. Please call (850) 584-2404 for location.



First United Methodist Food Pantry's food distribution takes place the first and third Saturday of each month from 9-10 a.m. The church is located at 302 North Jefferson Street.



The Perry Women's Club is the oldest civic club in Taylor County. Established in 1914, the organization continues to promote the founding members' motto: "We can because we think we can." Above, Vice President Glenda Hamby (right) coordinates guest speakers like County Administrator LaWanda Pemberton (left) for the club's monthly meetings.

Keeping the faith

Generations of Taylor County families have been built on strong foundations of faith.

That tradition continues today with dozens of churches dotting the landscape of Taylor County -- with Baptist churches being the most dominant.

The community, however, gathers in a number of other houses for those who prefer:

- United Methodist
- Presbyterian
- Episcopal
- Catholic
- Jehovah's Witnesses
- Church of Christ
- Church of God

and

- A.M.E. congregations.

There are also a number of independent churches.

Beyond their stated church missions, these congregations work together to provide food baskets at holidays, staff the Father's Storehouse (founded by

First Baptist Church) and contribute manpower and funding to Relay For Life, Taylor County United, the March of Dimes, Refuge House, the Boys and Girls Club, Gideons International and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, to name a few.

Did you know...

Perry Women's Club is county's oldest civic club

The Perry Woman's Club was organized in 1914.

The charter members of the organization held their meetings in the homes of the members until 1925. The first meeting held in the new club building was on Jan. 1, 1925, with 18 charter members.

A picture that appeared in the newspaper had the following caption, "The charter members of the organization are shown above posing with their rakes signifying their intentions to 'clean up' Perry as expressed in their motto on the banner in the center of the photo."

The article continued, "In Perry, when something has been needed or was lacking or out of place or what have you, these vexation troubles have long been prime target for organized motherhood to remove, modify or improve."

For more than 100 years the Perry Woman's Club has undertaken the challenge. Countless "movements"

for the good of Perry and Taylor County have either been sponsored by or received the full cooperation and assistance of its members.

The club's first act was to stand pat for a city ordinance to keep cows and pigs off the streets of Perry in a time when the favorite barnyard animals of young children had as much right-of-way on the muddy streets as you and your mule.

To help start the library at the high school, the Perry Woman's Club purchased a set of Encyclopedia Britannica. When the Home Economics course was added to the school's curriculum, a Singer sewing machine was donated.

The club's motto was: "We can because we think we can."

Its first contribution to charity was \$5 to the Children's Home Society of Jacksonville.



For 25 years, fifth graders throughout Taylor County have had the opportunity to participate in 4-H Agriculture Day. The classes rotate through 10 different sessions, including a "hands-on" reptile program.

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4-H strong

By **ABBEY THARPE**
UF/IFAS 4-H Extension Agent
4-H is the nation's largest youth development organization and is a non-formal educational program for youth.

Florida 4-H is the youth development program of Florida Cooperative Extension, a part of the University of Florida IFAS.

Taylor County 4-H prides itself in having a diverse selection of opportunities from livestock and horse projects, public speaking, environmental education, health and wellness, sewing, summer camps and more.

According to the 4-H study of Positive Youth Development conducted by Tufts University, young people in 4-H report better grades, are twice as likely to go to college, and are more likely to pursue future courses in a career in science, engineering, or

➔ Please see page 10



Merry Christmas

Downtown Perry transforms into a Christmas wonderland the first Friday in December, with a holiday parade and open house. Hundreds fill the square to watch lighted floats roll by. Santa Claus makes a very special guest appearance and a gingerbread workshop never fails to thrill.



Summer camps, clubs & more

4-H STRONG
Continued from page 9

computer technology. 4-H youth are twice as likely to make healthy choices and give back to their community as compared to non-4-H'ers.

Taylor County 4-H serves youth with multiple delivery modes, including: 13 community clubs with 15 adult volunteers and 263 youth participants; 4-H after-school clubs that reached 60 youth in two locations; school enrichment programs in grades K-12; summer day camps that served more than 265 youth per summer; and residential camping at Camp Cherry Lake that served more than 90 youth in 2018.

These programs are supported by UF/IFAS Extension with research-based and approved curriculum that coordinates with Florida State Standards.

Taylor County 4-H relies on dedicated volunteers to promote their mission to help youth gain the knowledge and life skills they need to be productive, responsible citizens.

The local program also relies on 263 volunteers annually to provide youth with the safe environment they need to become the leaders of tomorrow. These volunteers share their time, knowledge, skills and story to shape the next generation of leaders in Taylor County.



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ANNUAL EVENTS

February: Fiddler Crab Festival
On Presidents' Day

March: Big Bend Brewfest

April: Florida State Bluegrass Festival & Chili Cook-off
1st Weekend in April

2019 Scallop Season: June 15- September 10

September 28- Smokin' in the Pines BBQ Festival
4th Saturday

October: Florida Forest Festival
4th Saturday in October

December: Santa's Little Helper
Christmas Parade & Downtown Open House
1st Friday in December



Perry-Taylor County

Chamber of Commerce

2019 MEMBER DIRECTORY

<p>Accounting/ Tax Service James V. Blume Jr., CPA 602 S. Jefferson St. Perry, FL 32347 850-584-4460 Jim Davis, CPA 1733 Old Plank Road Crawfordville, FL 32327 850-224-2087 Doris Ernestine Sparkman CPA N/A Perry, FL 32347 850-584-2500</p> <p>Adoption <u>Partnership for Strong Families</u> 5950 NW 1st Place Gainesville, FL 32607 352-244-1634</p> <p>Advertising <u>Lamar Advertising</u> 4706 Capital Circle SW Tallahassee, FL 32310 850-877-4184</p> <p>Air Conditioning/Heating <u>Advanced Refrigeration & A/C</u> 520 W Hampton Springs Ave Perry, FL 32348 850-584-3626 <u>Lee Heating & A/C</u> 3495 Boyd Rd. Perry, FL 32347 850-584-6207 <u>McGuire Heating & A/C</u> 3480 Carlton Rd. Perry, FL 32348 850-584-6787</p> <p>Aluminum Products <u>CJRT Group</u> 606 Industrial Park Dr. Perry, FL 32348 850-584-3448</p>	<p>Aluminum Products/Marine <u>Gulf Coast Fabricators</u> 3482 Hwy. 19 South Perry, FL 32348 850-584-5979 <u>RDS Manufacturing</u> 300 Industrial Dr Perry, FL 32348 850-584-6898</p> <p>Animal Rescue <u>Subway Dixon Rescue Fund</u> 3364 Foley Cutoff Rd. Perry, FL 32348 850-584-2944</p> <p>Apartments <u>Woodridge Apartments</u> 709 W. Church St. Perry, FL 32348 850-584-5669</p> <p>Attorney Angela Ball Attorney 615 North Jefferson St. Perry, FL 32347 850-584-8960 <u>Bishop Law Firm</u> PO Box 167 Perry, FL 32348 850-584-6113 <u>Curtis Law Firm, P.A.</u> 103 N. Jefferson Street Perry, FL 32347 850-584-5299 <u>G. Cline Moore Attorney at Law</u> 107 East Green St. Perry, FL 32347 850-584-3300 <u>Marie A. Mattox PA</u> 310 E. Bradford Rd. Tallahassee, FL 32303 850-383-4800 <u>Smith & Smith</u></p>	<p>411 N Washington St Perry, FL 32348 850-584-3812</p> <p>Auto Body <u>Bennett's Auto Body</u> 1620 S. Byron Butler Pkwy. Perry, FL 32348 850-584-5434</p> <p>Auto Parts <u>Q'Reilly Auto Parts</u> 2284 S. Byron Butler Pkwy. Perry, FL 32348 850-584-4111</p> <p>Auto Restoration - Antique <u>Motorvations FL</u> 806 Industrial Park Dr. Perry, FL 32348 850-838-1168</p> <p>Auto Sales/Service <u>Thomas Chevorlet</u> 2128 S Byron Butler Pkwy Perry, FL 32348 850-584-6221 <u>Timberland Ford</u> 2441 S. Byron Butler Pkwy. Perry, FL 32348 850-584-6178</p> <p>Auto Supply <u>NAPA Auto Parts</u> 1107 S Jefferson St Perry, FL 32348 850-584-2118</p> <p>Auto Tire Sales/Service <u>Cribbs & Sons Tire</u> 1005 S. Jefferson St. Perry, FL 32348 850-584-3883 <u>Yarbrough Tire Company</u> 602 W. Hampton Springs Perry, FL 32347 850-584-7554</p> <p>Automotive/Heavy Equipment Repair <u>McCracken Repair, LLC</u> P.O. Box 508 Perry, FL 32348 850-843-2756</p> <p>Awnings <u>Pioneer Awnings</u> 187 Cox Rd. Monticello, FL 32344 850-528-7787</p> <p>Bail Bond Agency <u>Danzy Bail Bonds</u> 427 East Maurice Linton Rd. Perry, FL 32347 850-584-2664</p> <p>Bakery <u>Johnson's Bakery</u> 128 S Jefferson St. Perry, FL 32347 850-584-2261</p> <p>Bank <u>Capital City Bank</u> 115 W. Green St. Perry, FL 32347 850-584-2057 <u>Citizens State Bank</u></p>	<p>PO Box 1247 Perry, FL 32348 850-584-4411 <u>Madison County Community Bank</u> 301 E. Base St. Madison, FL 32340 850-973-2400</p> <p>Beverage Sales <u>Coca Cola Bottling Co.</u> 2050 Maryland Circle Tallahassee, FL 32303 850-575-6122</p> <p>Boats & Trailers <u>Big Bend Marine</u> 3482 Hwy. 19 S. Perry, FL 32348 850-584-5977 <u>Jacks Boats & Trailers</u> 449 N Byron Butler Pkwy Perry, FL 32347 850-584-2162</p> <p>Book Store <u>Book Mart</u> 1708 S Byron Butler Pkwy. Perry, FL 32348 850-584-4969</p> <p>Bookkeeping & Payroll Services <u>Plantation Bookkeeping & Payroll Services, LLC</u> 229 N Jefferson St Perry, FL 32347 850-843-0259</p> <p>Boutique & Tanning Salon <u>Proper</u> 1862 S. Jefferson St. Perry, FL 32348 850-838-6282</p> <p>Building Supplies <u>Cashway Building Products</u> PO Box 678 Perry, FL 32348 850-584-3519</p> <p>Cable Television <u>Comcast Cablevision</u> 217 East Green St. Perry, FL 32347 850-584-4249</p> <p>Campground/RV Park <u>KOA Campground</u> 3641 S. Byron Butler Pkwy. Perry, FL 32347 850-584-3221 <u>Old Pavilion RV Park & Camp</u> 20771 Keaton Beach Dr. Perry, FL 32348 850-578-2484 <u>Piddlers Pointe RV Resort & Campground</u> 4802 SW Hwy 358 Steinhatchee, FL 32359 352-498-5979 <u>Rocky's Shady Grove</u> 88 Ellison Frith Rd. Perry, FL 32347 850-584-6555 <u>Suwannee River Bend RV Park, LLC</u> 28872 SE Hwy 19 Old Town, FL 32680 352-542-7680</p> <p>Carpet Cleaning <u>Awshare's Total Floor Restoration</u> 3305 G.E. Lane Perry, FL 32348 850-838-2805 <u>Tree Capital Cleaning</u> 2305 A.V. Brannon Rd. Perry, FL 32347 850-584-2532</p> <p>Cellular Retail <u>Verizon - The Wireless Company</u> 1920 S. Jefferson St. Ste. 600 Perry, FL 32348 850-223-2829</p> <p>Cellulose/Pulp Mill <u>Georgia Pacific</u> One Buckeye Dr. Perry, FL 32348 850-584-1121</p> <p>Chamber of Commerce <u>Madison Chamber of Commerce</u> 316 SW Pinckney St Madison, FL 32341 850-973-2788 <u>Monticello Chamber of Commerce</u> 420 W. Washington St. Monticello, FL 32344</p>	<p>850-997-5552 <u>Perry-Taylor County Chamber of Commerce</u> 428 N. Jefferson St. Perry, FL 32347 850-584-5366 <u>Steinhatchee River Chamber</u> 1013 Riverside Dr. East Steinhatchee, FL 33062 352-356-8185 <u>Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce</u> 300 E Park Ave Tallahassee, FL 32302 850-224-8116</p> <p>Child/Health Planning <u>Healthy Start Coalition</u> 1336 SW Grand St Greenville, FL 32331 850-948-2741</p> <p>Childcare <u>Jack and Jill ECEC</u> 2229 N. Faulkner St. Perry, FL 32347 850-584-2195</p> <p>Church <u>Evangel Christian Fellowship</u> 1454 Courtney Rd Perry, FL 32347 850-838-3222 <u>Cornerstone Community Church</u> PO Box 272 Perry, FL 32347 850-584-2732</p> <p>Civic Organization <u>AARP Chapter #4033</u> 5183 Woods Creek Rd. Perry, FL 32347 850-584-2690 <u>Apalachee Center</u> 1421 Old Dixie Hwy. Perry, FL 32347 850-584-5613 <u>Boys & Girls Club of Perry</u> PO Box 1474 Perry, FL 32348 850-838-2471 <u>Girl Scouts of the Florida Panhandle</u> 250 Pinewood Dr. Tallahassee, FL 32303 850-386-2131 <u>Kids Incorporated of the Big Bend</u> 2326 Centerville Rd. Tallahassee, FL 32308 850-414-9800 <u>March of Dimes</u> 1990 Village Green Way Ste.3 Tallahassee, FL 32308 850-422-3152 <u>Parrotheads in Perry-dise</u> 3954 Wash Davis Rd. Perry, FL 32347 850-843-1469 <u>Perry Elks Club</u> 305 Puckett Rd Perry, FL 32348 850-223-3952 <u>Perry Masonic Lodge 123</u> 114 E Main St. Perry, FL 32347 850-584-3074 <u>Perry Rotary Club</u> Ms. Kay Green PO Box 872 Perry, FL 32348 850-584-3002 <u>Perry Shrine Club</u> 1050 Courtney Road Perry, FL 32347 850-584-3074 <u>Perry Woman's Club</u> 502 N Jefferson St Perry, FL 32348 850-584-2626 <u>Refuge House Inc.</u> 206 W. Green St. Perry, FL 32348 850-223-3555 <u>United Way</u> 307 E 7th Ave Steinhatchee, FL 32359 352-356-1092 <u>Special Olympics of Taylor County</u> 219 Cypress Rd. Perry, FL 32348 850-672-9921 <u>Taylor County Historical Society</u></p>	<p>118 Main Street Perry, FL 32347 850-584-4478 <u>Taylor Senior Citizens Center, Inc.</u> 800 W. Ash St. Perry, FL 32347 850-584-4924</p> <p>Clothing <u>B's Boutique</u> 1721 S Jefferson St. Perry, FL 32348 850-223-2220 <u>Clothesline</u> 1369 E. Lafayette St. Tallahassee, FL 32301 850-877-9171 <u>Fair Store</u> 123 N Jefferson St Perry, FL 32348 850-584-2247 <u>Susan's T-Shirts, Hats & More</u> Ms. Susan Hathcock 1723 S. Jefferson St. Perry, FL 32348 850-223-3215</p> <p>Coffee/Café <u>The Parkside Café & Coffee, LLC</u> 105 E Ellis Street Perry, FL 32347 850-295-1632</p> <p>Coffee/Restaurant <u>Backdoor Bistro & Coffeehouse</u> 124 S. Jefferson St. Perry, FL 32347 850-584-2224</p> <p>Commercial Fencing and Shelters <u>Big Top Manufacturing</u> 3255 N. US 19 Perry, FL 32347 850-584-7786</p> <p>Communications <u>Consolidated Communications</u> 112 W. Ellis Street Perry, FL 32347 850-584-0947</p> <p>Computer/Satellite <u>Perry Connections</u> 1405 S. Jefferson St. Perry, FL 32348 850-838-1683</p> <p>Concrete Plant <u>Argos</u> 2039 Red Padgett Rd. Perry, FL 32348 850-584-5050</p> <p>Condo Rentals <u>Sunset Place Condos</u> PO Box 420 Steinhatchee, FL 32359 352-498-0860 <u>Pelican Point</u> 1306 SE Riverside Dr. Steinhatchee, FL 32359 352-498-7427</p> <p>Construction - Picnic Tables <u>Bulldog Educational Enterprise</u> 318 A N. Clark St. Perry, FL 32347 850-838-2525</p> <p>Contractor - Building/Roofing <u>Joey Carlton, LLC</u> 3310 Carlton Rd. Perry, FL 32348 850-584-3047 <u>MA Massey Construction, Inc.</u> 12640 Josh Ezell Grade Perry, FL 32348 850-584-9207 <u>Michael Lynn, Inc</u> 300 E Hampton Springs Ave Perry, FL 32348 850-584-9035</p> <p>Contractor - Electrical <u>AOK Electric, Inc</u> PO Box 131 Greenville, FL 32331 850-673-7698 <u>RES Ron's Electrical Service, LLC</u> 6300 Beach Rd. Perry, FL 32348 850-677-0452 <u>Nature Coast Electric, Inc.</u> 1019 Hingson Tanner Rd. Perry, FL 32347 850-584-7227</p>
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the Book Mart
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→ Please see page 13

Who's on first?



Players as young as 4 now take part in "Wee Ball" leagues.

Rec leagues offer baseball, soccer, football & more

Several organizations in Taylor County offer a variety of recreational opportunities for both youngsters and adults.

The Taylor County Recreation Department runs programs year-round, including baseball and softball leagues for boys and girls, ages 4-18.

The Boys & Girls Club offers youth football and cheerleading through its War Eagles' program, with more than 75 youth participating each season.

The county also offers adult softball for both men and women on the numerous ball fields and parks throughout the community.

For more information on recreation leagues or the sports complex, contact Taylor County Recreation Coordinator Gregory Mullins at (850) 584-3029. As for the War Eagles, visit "Taylor County War Eagles" on Facebook.

Hundreds of youngsters are also involved in the Perry Soccer Association youth league each spring and fall. Leagues are divided by age groups starting with five-year-olds. For more information, visit "Perry Soccer Association - PSA" on Facebook.

Many of the programs take place at the Taylor County Sports Complex, which is one of the finest such facilities in North Florida.

This 74-acre site is situated just north of town on U.S. 19 among majestic oaks and a tranquil creek. The complex offers several recreational opportunities ranging from baseball to a scenic paved walking trail.

Facilities include: baseball fields (2-330 feet and 2-205 feet); soccer fields (3 regulation size, 3 youth size); basketball courts (2); tennis courts (2); playground (2); paved walking trail and five picnic pavilions.

Some of the newest additions to the facility include shade coverings for the playgrounds as well as adult exercise equipment along the walking trail.

The Upward Basketball League keeps kids and adults busy during the winter months. For more information, visit "Upward Sports Perry" on Facebook.

The Boys & Girls Club offers year-round programs and maintains a membership of more than 500.



It's all about mastering the basics in the wee ball and youth leagues.

How May We Serve You?



The Taylor County Supervisor of Elections

administers all federal, state, county, municipal and special district elections in accordance with the Florida Election Code, the Federal Help American Vote Act (HAVA), the National Voting Rights Act (NVRA), the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA), the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and the Federal Voting Rights Laws.

Services Provided

Voter Registration
Address Changes
Party Changes
Name Changes
Equipment
Signature Updates

Duties and Responsibilities

Issue Voter Information Cards
Maintain Accurate Voter Registration Rolls
Perform Periodic List Maintenance
Maintain and Safeguard County Voting Equipment
Designing, Printing and Proofing Ballots
Securing Accessible Polling Location
Canvassing and Certifying Election Returns
Recruiting and Training Poll Workers

Candidate Services

Providing General Information and Guidance
Maintaining Qualifying Forms and Documents
Verifying Petition Signatures
Assisting with Campaign Treasurer Reports

Voter Education

Conducting Nonpartisan Education Programs
Publish Voter Guides
Partner with Local Schools
Maintain Active Website
Receive and Respond to Public Records Requests
Voter Outreach through Community Involvement



Taylor County
Supervisor of Elections

Dana Southerland

433 U S 19 N
Perry, Florida 32347

P O Box 1060
Perry, Florida 32348

(850) 838-3515
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Burger King #27 * 850-895-1024

2144 S. Byron Pkwy * Perry, FL 32348

Offer not valid with any other offer & with purchase. Offer valid until 4/30/19. Ad must be present. One coupon per guest.



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Busy Bee #21 * 850-807-9907

4099 S. Byron Butler Pkwy * Perry, FL 32348

Offer not valid with any other offer & with purchase. Offer valid until 4/30/19. Ad must be present. One coupon per guest.

Perry-Taylor County Chamber of Commerce

2019 MEMBER DIRECTORY

MEMBER DIRECTORY Continued from page 11

Contractor - Residential/Commercial
Lester Plain & Son, LLC
 4031 South SR 53
 Madison, FL 32340
 850-973-4308

Convenience Store
Rocky's
 88 Ellison Frith Rd.
 Perry, FL 32347
 850-584-6555

Cosmetology
Reflections Hair Salon
 129 S. Jefferson St.
 Perry, FL 32347
 850-223-1821

Court Reporting
Third Circuit Reporters & Video
 PO Box 827
 Lake City, FL 32024
 386-754-2482

Credit Union
Buckeye Community
Federal Credit Union
 1825 S. Jefferson St.
 Perry, FL 32348
 850-223-7100

Tree Capital Credit Union
 1402 S. Jefferson St.
 Perry, FL 32347
 850-584-3002

Crime Prevention
Big Bend Crime Stoppers
 PO Box 938
 Tallahassee, FL 32302
 850-222-0890

Custom Apparel/Promotion
Specialty Sportswear
 1500-2 Capital Circle NE
 Tallahassee, FL 32301
 850-545-0510

Dairy Products
Bassett's Dairy Products, Inc.
 680 Industrial Park Dr.
 Perry, FL 32348
 850-584-5149

Dentist
Morgan Family Dentistry
 313 N. Jefferson St.
 Perry, FL 32347
 850-584-2674

Taylor Dental Clinic
 616 S. Jefferson St.
 Perry, FL 32347
 850-223-2578

Dog Training/Dog Trainer Training
Top Tier K9, LLC
 2409 SW County Rd 360
 Madison, FL 32340
 850-321-3253

Drug and DNA Screening
Florida Drug, Alcohol and DNA Screening, LLC
 PO Box 1226
 Perry, FL 32348
 850-584-3355

Drug Treatment & Counseling
Taylor County Recovery Center, Inc.
 1709 S Jefferson St.
 Perry, FL 32347
 850-584-2772

Dry Cleaning
Town and Country Cleaners
 124 S. Washington St.
 Perry, FL 32347
 850-584-3981

Education - Association
Big Bend Service Unit
 2655 Capital Circle NE Suite 7

Tallahassee, FL 32308
 850-942-0671

Education - College
North Florida Community College
 325 NW Turner Davis Dr.
 Madison, FL 32340
 850-973-1613

Saint Leo University Madison
 126 SW Sumatra Ave. Suite A
 Madison, FL 32340
 850-973-3356

Education - Public Schools
Taylor County School District
 318 North Clark St.
 Perry, FL 32347
 850-838-2500

Education - Technical Institute
Big Bend Technical College
 3233 S. Byron Butler Pkwy.
 Perry, FL 32347
 850-838-2545

Education - Training
Character Education NOW, LLC
 1439 Hwy. 19 North
 Perry, FL 32347
 850-843-0646

Electric Utility
Duke Energy
 106 E College Ave. Ste. 800
 Tallahassee, FL 32301
 850-342-2248

Tri-County Electric Cooperative
 2862 West US 90
 Madison, FL 32340
 850-973-2285

Electronics - Retail
Cox Electronics - Radio Shack
 1303 S. Jefferson St.
 Perry, FL 32348
 850-584-5145

Engineering
Yates Engineers, LLC
 3989 Buckeye Credit Union Road
 Perry, FL 32348
 850-290-8300

Feed and Garden Supplies
Hicks Feed and Garden
 1114 S. Jefferson St.
 Perry, FL 32348
 850-584-2068

Financial Advisor
 NFFC
 145 E. Base Street
 Madison, FL 32340
 850-973-2037

Financial Planning
Independent Marketing Directors
 PO Box 1058
 Perry, FL 32348
 850-584-3711

Fire Extinguishers
Jones & Son Fire Extinguisher
 9049 US-129
 Trenton, FL 32693
 352-463-2053

Fishing Charter/Guide
Bull Red Charters
 2085 N. Sam Poppell Rd.
 Perry, FL 32347
 850-584-3422

Dekle Beach Fishing Charters
 18950 Good Times Dr.
 Perry, FL 32348
 850-838-6870

Fin Action Charters
 PO Box 887
 Steinhatchee, FL 32359
 352-318-2138

One More Cast
 13635 N Gulf Manor
 Perry, FL 32348
 850-584-9145

Pepperfish Key Charters

PO Box 752
 Steinhatchee, FL 32359
 352-222-4085

Something's Fishy Charters
 PO Box 814
 Steinhatchee, FL 32359
 352-356-2554

Fishing Products
YKnotFish
 PO Box 565
 Steinhatchee, FL 32359
 904-545-0433

Fitness Studio - Women
Gurl Enterprises, LLC
 231 N. Jefferson St.
 Perry, FL 32347
 850-584-2425

Flooring Installation
Coast Company Flooring, LLC
 1148 Helen St.
 Perry, FL 32347
 850-843-3351

Florist
Zeigler's Florist
 402 N. Jefferson St.
 Perry, FL 32347
 850-584-3921

Food Product - BBQ Sauce
No Name Sauce
 3639 Joel Aman Rd.
 Perry, FL 32347
 850-843-5487

Forestry Consultant & Land Management
Forestry Company
 502 W. Green St.
 Perry, FL 32347
 850-584-8887

Funeral Home
Beggs Funeral Home
 201 West Main St.
 Perry, FL 32347
 850-838-2929

Burns Funeral Home
 1400 Johnson Stripling Rd.
 Perry, FL 32347
 850-584-4149

Furniture Leasing
Aaron's Sales and Lease
 1870 S. Jefferson St.
 Perry, FL 32348
 850-584-2222

Furniture Sales
Badcock Home Furniture and More
 1225 South Jefferson St.
 Perry, FL 32348
 850-584-5891

Gas/Oil Supplies
Ware Oil & Supply Co.
 2715 S. Byron Butler Pkwy.
 Perry, FL 32348
 850-584-6666

Gift Boutique
Debbie's Jewels
 134 S. Jefferson Street
 Perry, FL 32347
 850-223-1360

Glass Installation and Repair
Bennett's Glass Co.
 1620 S Byron Butler Pkwy.
 Perry, FL 32348
 850-584-5212

Golf Course
Perry Golf and Country Club
 4991 Golf Course Rd
 Perry, FL 32348
 850-584-3590

Government
North Central Florida
Regional Planning Council
 2009 NW 67th Place
 Gainesville, FL 32653
 352-955-2200

Taylor County Emergency Management
 591 E. US Highway 27
 Perry, FL 32347
 850-838-3575

Taylor County Supervisor of Elections
 PO Box 1060
 Perry, FL 32348
 850-838-3515

Graphic Design
Taylor Made EFX
 3485 Foley-Cutoff Rd.
 Perry, FL 32348
 850-838-6223

Grocery Store
Save A Lot
 2020 S. Jefferson St.
 Perry, FL 32348
 850-584-2565

Winn Dixie
 2057 S. Byron Butler Pkwy. Ste 1
 Perry, FL 32348
 850-584-5614

Gymnastics
Taylor Gym, Cheer & Dance
 210 E. Main St.
 Perry, FL 32347
 850-584-7382

Hardware Store
Ragans Ace Hardware
 805 S. Jefferson St.
 Perry, FL 32347
 850-584-2411

Steinhatchee Ace Hardware
 1310 1st Ave S
 Steinhatchee, FL 32359
 352-498-7269

Hardware/Lumber
Studstill's of Perry, Inc.
 209 West Green Street
 Perry, FL 32347
 850-584-5515

Health - Fitness Center
New Deminions Health & Fitness
 305 W. Green St.
 Perry, FL 32347
 850-223-5000

Health - Hempo/PD Dialysis
Davita
 118 West Main St.
 Perry, FL 32347
 850-584-6012

Health - Home Health
Kindred At Home
 2450 Tim Gamble Place
 Tallahassee, FL 32308
 386-562-7423

Regional Therapy Services, Inc.
 301 S. Jefferson St.
 Perry, FL 32347
 850-584-4006

Health - Wellness
First Fitness
 PO Box 65
 Perry, FL 32348
 850-843-0071

Omnitrition
 825 A.B. Murphy Road
 Perry, FL 32347
 850-843-3281

Heavy Equipment
Beard Equipment Company
 3033 US Highway 27 E
 Perry, FL 32348
 850-584-9200

Ring Power Corporation
 2920 S. Byron Butler Pkwy.
 Perry, FL 32347
 850-584-2800

Home Improvement
Sherwin Williams Company
 2044 S. Jefferson St.
 Perry, FL 32348
 850-584-6514

Home Inspections
Choice Home Inspection, LLC
 1307 Houck Road
 Perry, FL 32348
 904-646-8015

Hospice

Big Bend Hospice
 402 E Ash St.
 Perry, FL 32347
 850-838-3096

Covenant Hospice
 1921 Capital Circle NE
 Tallahassee, FL 32308
 850-575-4998

Hospital
Doctor's Memorial Hospital
 333 N Byron Butler Pkwy.
 Perry, FL 32347
 850-584-0800

Hotel
Hampton Inn of Perry
 2399 S. Byron Butler Pkwy.
 Perry, FL 32348
 850-223-3000

Holiday Inn Express
 601 Everett Way
 Perry, FL 32348
 850-584-3200

Hydrographic Decoration
Back 40 Hydrographics
 4425 US 98 W
 Perry, FL 32348
 850-223-0003

Industrial Construction
Yates Construction
 Mr. Mark Wentworth
 Perry, FL 32347
 850-584-1955

Insurance
AFLAC
 112 West Green St.
 Perry, FL 32347
 850-584-3160

Brad Burns Insurance
 112 W. Green St.
 Perry, FL 32348
 850-584-3050

Lilliott Insurance Agency
 1306B S. Jefferson St.
 Perry, FL 32348
 850-223-3300

Perry Insurance Agency
 1000A S. Jefferson St.
 Perry, FL 32348
 850-584-5188

State Farm Insurance - Ina B. Padgett
 211 E. Green St.
 Perry, FL 32347
 850-584-6767

State Farm Insurance - Jim Tedder
 209 E Hampton Springs Ave
 Perry, FL 32348
 850-584-7732

Swann Insurance Agency
 105 1/2 N. Jefferson St.
 Perry, FL 32347
 850-584-5800

Investment Firm
Edward Jones Investments
 304 E Hampton Springs Ave
 Perry, FL 32347
 850-223-0999

Jewelry - Retail
Mitch's Gold & Diamonds, Inc.
 267 Ring Power Rd.
 Perry, FL 32348
 850-584-5200

Job Placement
North Florida Workforce Development Board
 705 E. Base St.
 Madison, FL 32340
 866-212-9618

Job Training
Goodwill Industries
 300 Mabry St.
 Tallahassee, FL 32304
 800-770-4922

Kayak Rentals
Dead Man's Float Kayak Rentals
 15729 Beach Road
 Perry, FL 32348
 805-816-5742

Land Clearing - Fill Dirt/ Demolition
Wayne Padgett & Co.

3445 G.E. Lane
 Perry, FL 32348
 850-584-2250

Land Management
Four Rivers Land & Timber, LLC
 1700 Foley Ln.
 Perry, FL 32347
 850-838-2200

Land Surveying
M.H. Ratliff Land Surveying
 2998 Golf Course Rd.
 Perry, FL 32348
 850-584-7070

Landscaping & Lawn Maintenance
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Roberts Lumber Company
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Your #1 source for Taylor County news

If you like the feel and smell of a newspaper, Perry Newspapers can accommodate your need for local news twice a week with deliveries through the mail.

If you prefer reading the news on your phone or computer, e-editions of the **Taco Times** (Wednesday edition) and **Perry News-Herald** (Friday edition) are exact digital duplications of the print editions for online reading.

E-editions can be found by clicking the "E-Edition" tab at the top of the Perry Newspapers, Inc., website: www.perrynewspapers.com.

In addition to current issues, back copies are also available.

E-editions are available to all existing and future subscribers, who can request access to the e-edition through a form on the e-edition website at no additional charge.

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However you prefer your newspaper, Perry Newspapers delivers countywide coverage of governmental meetings, school activities, sports and events of community concern.

The newspapers have a

circulation of more than 4,500.

News items for publication should be sent to newsdesk@perrynewspapers.com.

You may contact the newspaper office at (850) 584-5513 Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

The newspaper's physical

address is 123 S. Jefferson St. in the downtown district.

The **Taco Times** was founded in 1963. The **Perry News-Herald** was

established in 1889.

Together, the award-winning publications have a combined 179 years of covering Taylor County.

GHOSTS & GOBLINS DOWNTOWN

Ghosts, goblins, superheroes, oh my! The annual Perry Trunk or Treat Halloween extravaganza promises to be a "spooktakular" event in downtown Perry.

Last year's event saw thousands of costumed-children and adults alike roaming the streets in search of a bounty of treats.

Community volunteers, businesses and civic groups organized "trunks" that lined the courthouse square on Jefferson Street, Main and Green.

This year's event is once again planned Halloween night, Oct. 31.

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Continued from page 13

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Owner Todd Larson and his family are putting Iron Horse Mud Ranch on the map and gaining popularity with every new event. The completely re-vamped mud ranch looks to become the premier offroad park in the country -- one that is just as fun as it is family-friendly.



Nearly 1,000 local shelter dogs and cats were placed with no-kill rescues last year.

Fur friends matter too

Not all angels have wings. Sometimes they have four paws and a furry tail.

Taylor County's four-legged residents have four volunteer advocacy groups working on their behalf.

Volunteers organized the Forest Capital Humane Society in 2015, and the group continues to develop a thriving network of foster and rescue supporters.

Proceeds from its "Second Chance Thrift Shop," located at the intersection of Jefferson Street and Center, bolster its rescue efforts.

The Forest Capital Humane Society may be contacted at (850) 371-4120 or (850) 556-6460 or email admin@fchstc.org.

Helping Hands of the Shelter, founded in 2006, is a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing the adoption rate of shelter animals, educating residents about animal over-population and raising awareness of spay/neutering efforts.

The non-profit group holds fundraisers throughout the year, including discount vaccination clinics (in conjunction with the local veterinary association).

Steinhatchee volunteers support P.A.W.S. (Pets Are Worth Spaying), a non-profit organization focused on pet spay/neuter efforts in the coastal community.

Hearts for Hometown Dogs (HFHD) works exclusively with the Taylor County Animal Shelter to facilitate transport of shelter dogs, cats, puppies and kittens -- even a bunny rabbit or two -- to no-kill rescues throughout Florida.

Volunteer "freedom drivers" make runs almost weekly to transport adoptable pets.

For more information HFHD, visit their organization page on Facebook.



This fierce-faced feline was one of hundreds of cats rescued by the non-profit animal advocacy group, Hearts for Hometown Dogs.

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