

Letters to the Editor

Schools are charging fees for 'everything under the sun'

INSULAR
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to figure out which bill to pay before something was cut off.

I remember her sitting at the table paying parts of bills as she stretched every dollar as far as possible. I will forever be grateful.

One thing she never knew was there would be many times there would be a school event, and after it was over, she would ask "Why didn't you tell me?"

I would make up a story. Kids at school would ask why I didn't take part in every activity. The truth is because my mom was doing everything in her power to put food on the table, and I knew it.

I tell this story now because of the quiet battle I have been fighting with people who do not seem to understand the feeling of children in this community when they are hampered unfairly by conditions people rarely realize.

Over the last several years, schools in our poor little town have begun charging fees for everything under the sun.

If you want to wear a hat, pay a dollar.

If you want to see a show or a movie, pay a dollar.

If you want to participate in extracurricular activities, pay a fee.

If you can't, you have to divulge your personal financial situation (which is a source of shame for many and none of anyone else's business).

I began fighting this by simply asking to work and find other ways to contribute rather than paying fees for my kids to participate in these activities.

I was ignored and brushed off. I have been told "That's the way it's always been done" or "Other schools do it" or "The school programs need the money."

What I have yet to hear is "Let's find a way to make sure everyone has a fair chance."

Please forgive me for not mentioning every single amazing person, but when I played in band and played football I was treated like part of the family. No one cared about my family's situation.

I was every parents' kid

too. When I played football, Bill Wright, Benjye Tuten and many others worked hard to ensure we wanted for nothing.

When I was in band, Mrs. Debbie Bryson, Ms. Herndon and others made sure no child wanted for anything. They worked so hard, but we, the kids of the community, were their kids.

Ms. Speas, my mom and Mr. Cone looked out for each of us as equally without ever making stipulations on our participation in school activities.

Teachers like Mrs. Lavelle, Ms. Carmichael, Coach Verges, Mr. Whittaker and Coach Harvey never asked if our fees were paid - they only asked us to work hard.

However, times have changed.

Although the school board has a policy that says "no child will be excluded for not paying fees or uniform cost," that is not the practice.

The ones making these decisions do not even hold this authority according to Florida Statutes. Yet, by not challenging this practice and speaking out, we as citizens have allowed those in power to do as they wish - even if it affects only a few students.

Through my research, I have found that OUR PUBLIC school system has become very insular.

Why is there no published set of hiring standards for our coaches and programs?

Why do they violate their

own procedures, and then look at parents like they are the problem when the rules are not being followed?

The Supreme Court case Brown vs Board of Education was not just about segregation, it was about equality: "the very foundation of good citizenship."

They acknowledged that public education was not only necessary to prepare children for their future professions and to enable them to actively participate in the democratic process, but that it was also "a principal instrument in awakening the child to cultural values" present in their communities.

The justices found it very unlikely that a child would be able to succeed in life without a good education. Access to such an education was thus "a right which must be made available to all on equal terms."

A quality education - which the state of Florida says extracurricular and intracurricular activities are a big part of -- is essential to our kids in many ways.

How and why did our community venture to the point where our schools decide who deserves what type of education based on money?

As parents, we want the best for our kids, but what about all of our kids?

I have followed our local School Boards' rules, and will take the next step on that path by presenting

information at their Tuesday, Sept. 3 meeting.

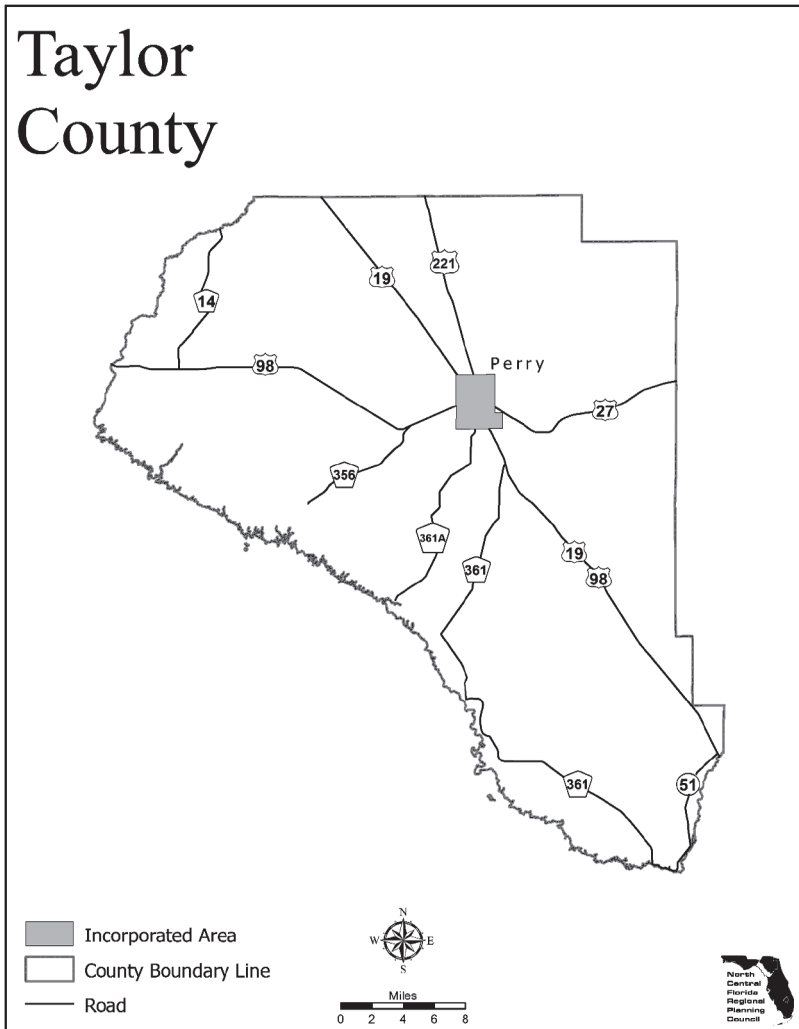
I hope I am not standing alone in fighting for ALL of

Douglas Wallace

NOTICE OF LAND USE CHANGE

The Board of County Commissioners of Taylor County, Florida, proposes to change the use of land within the area shown on the map below, by amending the text and Future Land Use Plan Map of the Taylor County Comprehensive Plan, hereinafter referred to as the Comprehensive Plan, as follows:

CPA 19-01, an application by the Board of County Commissioners, to amend the text and Future Land Use Plan Map of the Comprehensive Plan, based upon an evaluation completed by the County, to reflect changes in state requirements pursuant to Section 163.3191, Florida Statutes, as amended.



The first of two public hearings will be conducted by the Board of County Commissioners to consider the amendment, conduct a first reading of the ordinance adopting the amendment and to consider transmittal of the amendment to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. The public hearing will be held on September 17, 2019 at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the County Commission Meeting Room, Administrative Complex located at 201 East Green Street, Perry, Florida. The title of said ordinance shall read, as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE TAYLOR COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; RELATING TO AN AMENDMENT TO THE TEXT AND FUTURE LAND USE PLAN MAP OF THE TAYLOR COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION, CPA 19-01, BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, UNDER THE AMENDMENT PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED IN SECTIONS 163.3161 THROUGH 163.3248, FLORIDA STATUTES, AS AMENDED; PROVIDING FOR AMENDING THE TEXT AND FUTURE LAND USE PLAN MAP OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, BASED UPON AN EVALUATION COMPLETED BY THE COUNTY, TO REFLECT CHANGES IN STATE REQUIREMENTS PURSUANT TO SECTION 163.3191, FLORIDA STATUTES, AS AMENDED; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

The public hearing may be continued to one or more future dates. Any interested party shall be advised that the date, time and place of any continuation of the public hearing shall be announced during the public hearing and that no further notice concerning the matter will be published, unless said continuation exceeds six calendar weeks from the date of the above referenced public hearing.

At the aforementioned public hearing, all interested persons may appear and be heard with respect to the amendment and the ordinance adopting the amendment on the date, time and place as referenced above.

Copies of the amendment and the ordinance adopting the amendment are available for public inspection at the Building and Planning Department, Administrative Complex, located at 201 East Green Street, Perry, Florida, during regular business hours.


All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at the above referenced public hearings, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact the Marsha Durden, Assistant County Administrator, at least 48 hours prior to the public hearing via telephone at 850.838.3500 Extension 7. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 800.955.8770 (voice) or 800.955.8771 (TTY).

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LEGALS

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therein, subscribing to or served by the Agency's statewide provision of funding and financing to construct or pay for energy conservation and efficiency improvements, renewable energy improvements and wind resistance improvements in accordance with Section 163.08, Florida Statutes (collectively, the "Qualifying Improvements"). By law and resolution of the Agency, a property owner may apply to the Agency for funding and financing of a Qualifying Improvement. The non-ad valorem assessments contemplated by this notice are voluntary and are only imposed by the Agency with the prior written consent authorized by or on behalf of affected property owners who determine to obtain financing for Qualifying Improvements from the Agency. The Agency is authorized by law to fund and finance Qualifying Improvements and is required to annually collect repayment by non-ad valorem assessments. The Board will consider the adoption of a resolution electing to use the uniform method of collecting such assessments as authorized by Section 197.3632, Florida Statutes, at a public hearing to be held at 10:00 a.m. on November 1, 2019, at the Airport Board Room, Kissimmee Gateway Airport Administrative Offices, 401 Dyer Boulevard, Kissimmee, Florida. Such resolution will state the need for the levy and will contain a legal description of the boundaries of the real property that may be subject to the levy - which is the entirety of the State of Florida. Copies of the proposed form of resolution are on file at the office of Counterpointe Energy Solutions (FL) LLC, Third Party Administrator for the Florida PACE Funding Agency, 2600 Maitland Center Parkway, Suite 163, Maitland, Florida 32751, email: gov@counterpointees.com. All interested persons are invited to present oral comments at the public hearing and/or submit written comments to the Board at the above

address. Written comments should be received by the Agency on or before 10:00 a.m. on November 1, 2019. Any persons desiring to present oral comments should appear at the public hearing. In the event any person decides to appeal any decision by the Board with respect to any matter relating to the consideration of the resolution at the referenced public hearing, a record of the proceeding may be needed and in such an event, such person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the public hearing is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence on which the appeal is to be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 286.26, Florida Statutes, persons with disabilities needing special accommodation to participate in such public hearing should contact the Airport Board Room, Kissimmee Gateway Airport Administrative Offices at (407)-518-2505 at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the date of the public hearing. By Order of the Board of Directors of Florida PACE Funding Agency on August 13, 2019. 8/28, 9/4, 9/11, 9/18

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS
The Taylor County Board of County Commissioners, in conformance with the Consultants' Competitive Negotiations Act (CCNA), Florida Statutes §287.055, et seq, and the policies and procedures of Taylor County is soliciting sealed statements of qualifications from qualified professional engineering firms that are interested in providing construction engineering & inspection services for various planning, grants and public works projects that require studies, design, plan production, and construction inspection/management services. Qualified firms or individuals desiring to provide the required products

or services must submit five (5) packages in a sealed envelope or similar package marked "Sealed SOQ for Taylor County, Florida, Continuing Contract for Construction Engineering & Inspection Services" to the Clerk of Court, 1st Floor Courthouse, 108 North Jefferson Street, Suite 102, Perry, Florida 32347, to arrive no later than 4:00 P.M., local time, on September 13, 2019. All SOQs MUST have the respondent's name and mailing address clearly shown on the outside of the envelope or package when submitted. SOQs will be opened and respondents announced at 9:15 A.M. local time, or as soon thereafter as practical, on September 17, 2019, in the Taylor County Administrative Complex, 201 East Green Street, Perry, Florida 32347. SOQ information may be obtained from the Clerk of Court, 1st Floor Courthouse, 108 North Jefferson Street, Suite 102, Perry, Florida 32347, (850) 838-3506 or downloaded from the Taylor County web site: http://www.taylorcountygov.com/government/county_bids/index.php. The County reserves the right, in its sole and absolute discretion, to reject any or all SOQs, to cancel or withdraw this solicitation at any time and waive any irregularities in the RFQ process. The County reserves the right to award any contract to the respondent which it deems to offer the best overall service; therefore, the County is not bound to award any contract(s) based on the lowest quoted price. The County, in its sole and absolute discretion, also reserves the right to waive any minor defects in the process and to accept the proposal deemed to be in the County's best interest. No faxed SOQs will be accepted. Additional information may be obtained from: Taylor County Engineering Department 201 East Green Street Perry, FL 32347 (850) 838-3500, Ext 4. BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, Taylor County, Florida 9/4, 9/11

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East Green Street, Perry, Florida 32347. RFP information may be obtained from the Clerk of Court, 1st Floor Courthouse, 108 North Jefferson Street, Suite 102, Perry, Florida 32347, (850) 838-3506 or downloaded on-line at http://www.taylorcountygov.com/government/county_bids/index.php. The County reserves the right, in its sole and absolute discretion, to reject any or all Proposals, to cancel or withdraw this solicitation at any time and waive any irregularities in the RFP process. The County reserves the right to award any contract to the respondent which it deems to offer the best overall service; therefore, the County is not bound to award any contract(s) based on the lowest quoted price. The County, in its sole and absolute discretion, also reserves the right to waive any minor defects in the process and to accept the proposal deemed to be in the County's best interest. The County, in its sole and absolute discretion, also reserves the right to assign a local business preference in an amount of five (5) percent of the proposal price pursuant to Taylor County Ordinance No. 2003-12. No faxed Proposals will be accepted. Additional information may be obtained from: Taylor County Engineering 201 East Green Street Perry, FL 32347 (850) 838-3500 BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, Taylor County, Florida 9/4, 9/11

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to STANLEY BARAN III Unless payment is made on 2004 HONDA ELEMENT VIN:5J6YH18544L007632 for tow & storage charges on 08-29-2019. Vehicle will be auctioned on the 8th day of OCTOBER 2019 @10am at Thomas Chevrolet 2128 S. Byron Butler Pkwy, Perry, FL (850)584-6221 per F.S. 713.78