

## Letters to the Editor

### After house fire

# Family thanks community for 'love, kindness'

Dear Editor:

To all the people who have helped us, we can't find enough words to thank you for the love and kindness you have shown my family with all the support, prayers, clothes, donations, etc.

You are forever in our hearts and have truly been a blessing through these difficult times.

A few days after Hurricane Idalia, our home on Green Farm Road burned down due to a faulty generator.

We were left in an unfortunate situation because of a number of insurance companies and the way they practice business.

One company told us they were leaving the state

of Florida (and never did), while a second company dropped us after we had to file a claim.

A third company filed for bankruptcy, and a fourth company dropped us after increasing the premium and decreasing the coverage after we had already paid.

This left us with no coverage and unable to find any coverage.

We understand we aren't the only ones who have suffered loss and this is a part of life.

We just wanted to thank the people of Taylor County and let everyone know we are grateful to live in this community.

Sincerely,  
Jimmy & Tamara  
Blankenship



Surrounded by broken pines and oak trees that mostly spared the residence during Hurricane Idalia, Jimmy and Tamara Blankenship's home was consumed by a fire ignited by a generator on a porch.

# Mammograms: 'I do it because I love my family'

By SARA GRAMBLING  
DMH Vice President  
of Operations

I dread the appointment every year. It causes anxiety every time I get the notice that "it's time for your annual mammogram."

Over the past 30 years, I've had mammograms, ultrasounds and a couple biopsies.

Each time, I pray the results are in my favor, and I'm blessed that so far, no cancer has been detected.

It hasn't gotten easier, but I know it's a necessary part of the process in taking responsibility for my health.

Why do I go through this process annually? I do it because my family history increases the chance that I will be diagnosed with breast cancer at some point in my life.

I also know that the sooner it is detected, the better my chances are to beat it and live a long, full life.



By  
Sara Grambling

Short answer -- I do it because I love my family.

Did you know that 1 in 8 women in the U.S. will be

diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime?

In 2023, more than 297,000 new cases of invasive breast cancer are expected to be diagnosed in women in the U.S. and 2,800 cases in men.

If it's not caught early, you can't beat it.

Breast cancer survival depends on a person's diagnosis and treatment. In the U.S., most people diagnosed with breast cancer will live for many years.

Today, there are more than 4 million breast cancer survivors in the U.S.

Don't let fear prevent early detection. Make yourself a priority. Don't procrastinate or put it off. You can't be there for others if you're not well, or worse -- if you're not here.

M a m m o g r a m s ,

ultrasounds and biopsies can be done conveniently and locally at Doctors' Memorial Hospital, but my goal is to encourage you to get screened wherever you're most comfortable.

If you do opt to visit Doctors' Memorial for a mammogram, but are concerned about your ability to pay, financial support is available for those who qualify.

Stop and think for a moment: How many people do you personally know who have had breast cancer?

How many were related to you?

How many lost their battle?

How many didn't because they found it early, treated it and thrived?

Don't wait. Don't make excuses. Don't put it off.

**BREAST CANCER AWARENESS**  
EARLY DETECTION CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE.

**1 IN 8** US WOMEN WILL DEVELOP INVASIVE BREAST CANCER OVER THE COURSE OF HER LIFETIME.

But there is **HOPE**

**27%** SURVIVAL RATE IN ADVANCED STAGE

**98%** SURVIVAL RATE IN EARLY DETECTION

WWW.JONIANFRIENDS.ORG

Take the time to schedule your breast cancer screening today.

Sara Grambling is a Taylor County-native and serves as Chief Operating Officer for Doctors' Memorial Hospital. \*All statistics from Susan G. Komen Foundation.

# Passing Parade

By NELSON PRYOR

"The poor will always be with you." -- John 12:8.

That is not very encouraging. Not very uplifting. Not very hopeful.

**What to Do?**  
The Feb. 22, 1854 New York Times (page 4) describes the life of "...the little, ragged, dirty, profane, thieving outcast, whom one may, nay must, meet daily in the streets of New York."

"It sketches the life he leads -- the poverty he suffers -- his lack of friends, the influences that surround him, the habits he naturally falls into, the crime he is pretty sure to commit, and the fate that awaits him as

the victim of that law which took no pains to teach him obedience, but which is swift and cruel in punishing his disobedience.

"And it points out very distinctly how the public authorities, who pretend to take care of the public interests, are to blame for this state of things -- how the State has trained this little orphan outcast, step by step, through poverty, idleness and ignorance, into a full-grown criminal -- that it might then have the satisfaction of crushing out the life, it has done so much to degrade and deprave."



"We must believe there will be better days," says columnist Nelson Pryor.

### Ten Thousand

In this 1854 sketch, the Times writes that, "We have here in our midst ten thousand of these children, either utterly destitute of parents and friends and turned into the streets to pick up their living as

they may, or else driven out regularly by their parents to beg or steal, and trained up by them systematically in habits and practices which must inevitably send them at last to the dungeon or the gallows."

## Making Your Choice

### 1858 Report

Congressman Muscoe Garnett, of Virginia, reported in the Jan. 16, 1861 Congressional Globe (413), the same New York City problem. He told of an official report of the Secretary of State, in 1858, that of the whole New York City population, one in every 64 was the inmate of an almshouse (think Oliver Twist and England), and one in every 13.5 in a condition requiring relief from government officials.

### Put Them on Welfare

President Franklin D. Roosevelt tried putting the people on welfare in the early 1930's. He said one third were ill housed, ill clad and ill nourished.

He was talking about the need for a new deal.

And then, what did he

do? In his State of the Union message for Jan. 4, 1935, he told the Congress that the way they had been doling out money was like putting them on a narcotic.

### Reformed

Clear-sighted, earnest men and women have found out that they can be reformed -- that needful food, kind words, personal sympathy and attention, instruction in modes of honest industry, as well as in useful knowledge can convert them into useful members of society.

Our government schools have been trying to educate so all can benefit. Thus government schools are now spending about \$16,000 per pupil to that end.

Mr. Nelson Pryor is a retired high school teacher of American history and lives in Lee, Fla.

## Taco Times

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

123 S. Jefferson Street  
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The Taco Times welcomes Letters to the Editor reflecting responsible opinions and views on the news. Please submit letters by Monday at 5 p.m. The Taco Times reserves the right to refuse publication of letters which are libelous or irresponsible. Name may be withheld if circumstances so require, but all letters submitted should be signed by the writer and accompanied by a phone number for verification. We look forward to hearing from you! Our address is Perry, Newspapers, Inc., P.O. Box 888, Perry, Florida 32348. e-mail: newsdesk@perrynewspapers.com

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## LEGALS

(Continued from page 9)

Taylor County, FL official record book 559 page 905. Section 25, Township 04, Range 07.

Name in which assessed: Gladys F Mathis Said property being in the County of Taylor, State of Florida.

Unless such certificate is redeemed according to law, the property described shall be sold to the highest bidder in the Courtroom on the 2nd floor in the Taylor County, FL Courthouse on the 8th day of January, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.

\*\* To participate in the bidding, you must be prepared to pay a NON-REFUNDABLE \$200.00 CASH deposit immediately following the sale of each parcel in which you are the highest bidder. \*\* Dated this 4th day of December, 2023

Signature:  
Gary Knowles

Clerk of Circuit Court  
Taylor County, Florida

### INVITATION TO BID

The Taylor County Board of County Commissioners is soliciting sealed proposals for construction of the 1st Avenue Southeast Widening/Resurfacing.

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 Proposal for 1st Avenue Southeast Widening/Resurfacing" 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 January 12, 2024. All Proposals MUST have the respondent's name and mailing address clearly shown

on the outside of the envelope or package when submitted. Proposals will be opened and respondents announced at 6:15 P.M. local time, or as soon thereafter as practical, on January 16, 2024, in the Taylor County Administrative Complex, 201 East Green Street, Perry, Florida 32347.

RFP information MUST be obtained on-line from the following County Web Site address: [https://www.taylorcountygov.com/government/county\\_bids/index.php](https://www.taylorcountygov.com/government/county_bids/index.php)

Note that a Pre-Bid Conference will not be held for this project. See Instructions to Bidders, Article 5 for information concerning requests for additional information or clarification.

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. No faxed Proposals will be accepted. Additional Information may be obtained from: Taylor County Engineering Department 201 East Green Street Perry, FL 32347

850-838-3500  
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, Taylor County, Florida

Letters to the Editor are accepted and published each week in the Taco Times as space is available. Send letters to P.O. Box 888, Perry, FL 32348; or newsdesk@perrynewspapers.com. Please include a phone number with your letter for our records (your phone number will not be published).

