

Legislature begins 2025 session on March 4

DELEGATION
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Green Street in Perry.

For questions regarding the meeting, please contact Senator Simon's office at 850-487-5003.

The 2025 Florida Legislative Session begins on March 4. City of Perry, Taylor

County Board of County Commissioners and Taylor County School District officials are seeking

legislative appropriations and other funding help in the aftermath of three direct hits from hurricanes and

the closure of two major employers (Georgia-Pacific and West Fraser sawmill) in the last 18 months.

Permitting RVs and pole barns will result in lost tax revenues

FINANCIAL STORM
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out push to recruit new industries and incentivize local businesses to expand. More businesses and higher property values result in increased tax revenue without having to raise millage rates.

We must also look at Panhandle communities – such as Mexico Beach -- who have recovered and prospered since Hurricane Michael to learn how to turn a disaster into a success story.

We must help coastal homeowners and businesses rebuild as quickly as possible, but now is also the time to enforce land development regulations (LDRs).

The county commission has a legal and moral imperative to ensure that the county's main asset (presently real estate) is put to the highest and best use to maximize property values.

Continuing to allow pole barns, campers, RVs and ancillary structures (outdoor kitchens, bathrooms and living quarters) on prime real estate in the coastal high hazard zones (Gulf front properties) will result in millions of lost future tax revenue when compared to what a beach home would generate.

RVs and camper trailers are not taxed the same as residential homes and generate significantly less in ad valorem taxes.

If the county chooses to continue to allow multiple RVs, pole barns and campers in coastal areas, perhaps it is time to consider an annual assessment or permit fee to help offset what the county loses in tax revenue if a home was built on that same parcel.

The county must comply with FEMA regulations, not only because it results in discounted flood insurance premiums, but because a failure to do so could mean FEMA aid will not be available the next time a disaster strikes.

Taylor County could also risk being ineligible for many state and federal grants, which require it to follow and enforce building codes and FEMA guidelines.

If hard decisions aren't made now, the tax burden will shift to every taxpayer in Taylor County.

Where will the money come from to continue to operate our county without a significant reduction in services or a huge increase in taxes?

The county commission has scheduled a Tuesday, Jan. 28, workshop to begin this difficult process.

While the county currently has healthy reserves that can help soften the blow from some of the shortfall for a short period of time, draining that emergency savings account is not a sound long-term solution and would place Taylor County in a dangerous situation in the case of another emergency.

Times of crisis reveal the mettle of those elected to lead us.

Great leaders rise to the challenges set before them.

Others crumble under the weight of the pressure.

Benjamin Franklin famously said, "If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail."

Now is the time to plan how Taylor County will survive and thrive in the future.

The financial implications of the county commission's actions (or inaction) in the coming months could last a decade or even a generation.



Procrastination

Jim asks me to help him pull out broken fence posts by lifting up on the tractor lever.

It is exciting when the dang things come out of the ground and there's a hole ready for a new post.

I also hold the crosspieces so he can nail them in.

That is the extent of my yardwork these days.

Fence-mending isn't that hard when, basically, you don't have to do anything but stand around.

Today is clear and 60 degrees. Sitting in "Evie," our buggy, I had a chance to listen to the breeze rustling the palm fronds and the caw of an occasional crow.

I am sad about the destruction in the swamp across from us. The hurricanes knocked down a lot of trees, and there is so much debris that the water is unseen. I'm not sure if the wildlife therein will ever be the same, either.

I haven't heard the mama alligator or seen the young'un in a while.

The forestry company that owns the acreage doesn't seem to care about it being clogged up.

Slowly, but surely, we are cleaning up our property, including the easements.

The FDOT contracted clean-up crews have cleared what they are going to and left a mess, actually.

Jim has marked a year now since the onset of his

debilitating illness of January and February 2024 and, through continuous recovery, is able to work on our land a little at a time.

This past week he has put up two gates and repaired small sections of fence on his own. He takes several breaks and decides when he's had enough each day.

I need to de-weed the gardens, and think about it every time I step outside. The hurricanes blew in stuff that is not native to northern Florida, we were told at the garden club district meeting.

That fact gave me some comfort, but I am an expert procrastinator, so I have only worked outside once or twice since September.

My friend and Master Gardener Bettie posted a comforting message on Facebook today: "Let your garden sleep in. Wait to tidy up your garden until spring, when we have a week of temps in the 50s or above. This year's pollinators are still sleeping in your plant stems and leaves until then."

Well, what do you know? I am helping the environment by being lazy!

And now I can wait a couple more weeks since another "polar vortex" is on its way!

Time for a nap.

Nelson 'taught the youth not to be afraid of digging into a matter to ferret out the facts'

PARADE REST
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High in 1960, he was the first of his family to attend college in Maine and San Diego, Calif., majoring in American history. He earned his Masters degree from the University of Maine, Orono.

Nelson proudly served in the U.S. Army National Guard of Maine and Vermont for a total of seven years and was honorably discharged in 1970.

Nelson served one term in the New Hampshire House of Representatives (1973-74), and then worked as a research analyst for federal government relations and lobbying organizations in Washington DC.

Several of his friends give deeper insight into who he was.

J.P. Maultsby, a fellow Madison County Republican Party member, recalled that Nelson was exceptionally well-versed in American historical politics.

Nelson got involved in the Madison County Republican Party in the early 2000s and continued through the 2024 election. Nelson was always digging deeply into poll data and election results to draw insights on how Madison County was progressing and where and how our efforts should be made to

further Republican gains.

He was a "doer" and worked behind the scenes. His homemade signs would pop up all around the county. He rejoiced at Madison County turning "red" in 2024. He had worked hard for that.

Nelson was a scholar. For years, he traveled four days per week to Valdosta University library to research for his planned book, a resource manual he wanted to avail to graduate and undergraduate students in American history.

He was a writer. In May 2010 the GOP started a weekly article in the local newspaper called "The Conservative Corner." Soon, Nelson took over as the primary author, and later changed the name to "Passing Parade." Several hundred articles ensued over the years. He understood that the written word had great historical significance when preserved.

Virginia Fuller, former Congressional candidate, says that Nelson told her that before he moved from Maine to Florida, he did his research and knew exactly which region in Florida he would target to deploy his plan. His objective was to turn regions of Florida from blue to red. He picked Madison County.

She further recalls Nelson's dedication to his conservative cause,

often making or ordering campaign signs and banners to put out for conservative candidates, regardless of whether he knew them, without being asked, and all at his own expense.

In 2018, Nelson sought Ms. Fuller out after he heard her radio interview as a congressional candidate. When they met in person, Nelson knew instinctively that she was the vehicle he needed to accomplish his objective quickly. He was very generous and offered her free housing in the heart of Tallahassee for the remainder of that campaign season.

Nelson never missed an opportunity to express support and appreciation when Fuller ran for office, saying she showed great courage when she dared to ride on the Republican float in the parade, demonstrating to all, black and white, that it is okay to stand up for your conservative values.

He believed that if she hadn't run for that empty GOP slot, Madison County wouldn't have voted red and helped the Republicans to victory that campaign season.

Brenda Dickenson, founder and lobbyist for American Homeschoolers also observed his generosity, recalling that Nelson donated the use of his building near the

Florida Capitol to nonprofit organizations such as Eagle Forum and Right to Life for about 10 years beginning in 2000.

Bob & Linda Bezick, former Madison County Republican Party leaders, recalled that Nelson was on a mission to spread conservative values by ensuring that Americans knew the history of our great nation and how conservative movements allowed our country to flourish.

He took seriously his duty to further the conservative values for the next generation.

Nelson lived very frugally, and yet he would generously sponsor students to attend Future Leaders conferences, paying in full for their flights and class fees. He did that often throughout the years.

He didn't just say "believe me," rather, he always had statistics, historical documentation or other evidence that proved his words.

He taught the youth not to be afraid of digging into a matter to ferret out the facts.

His patriotism and insights will surely be missed.

Well done, Nelson.

May You Rest in Peace.

Submitted by Virginia Fuller and friends of Nelson Pryor

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FINAL DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION (DESIGN-BUILD) FOR TAYLOR COUNTY FIRE - STATION 2 FACILITY

The Taylor County Board of County Commissioners is soliciting sealed proposals from Design/Builder Firms for the **Taylor County Fire - Station 2**, a Design-Build Improvement Project.

Qualified Firms desiring to provide the required Design-Build products or services must submit five (5) packages in a sealed envelope or similar package marked "Sealed Proposal for Taylor County Fire - Station 2" to the Clerk of Court, 1st Floor Courthouse, 108 North Jefferson Street, Suite 102, Perry, Florida, to arrive no later than 4:00 P.M., local time, on February 14,

2025. 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 6:00 P.M. local time, or as soon thereafter as practical, on February 18, 2025, in the Taylor County Administrative Complex, 201 East Green Street, Perry, Florida 32347.

Proposal information MUST be obtained on-line at the following website address: www.taylorcountygov.com/government/county_bids/index.php.

Note that a Pre-Bid Conference will not be scheduled for this project. See Instructions to Bidders, Article 9 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 solicitation 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.**

For additional Information, contact: Taylor County Engineering

Department 850.838.3500 BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, Taylor County, Florida.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FICTITIOUS NAME

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, pursuant to the fictitious name statute, Chapter 20953 or Section 865.09, Florida of State, Corporation Division, Tallahassee, Florida, upon receipt of proof of publications of this notice the fictitious name, to-wit: Croppers Corner, under which we/I will engage in business. i/ we expect to engage in business in Madison County, Florida and our address is: 859 NW Coachwhip Ave., Madison, FL 32340. The extent of ownership is: Sharon Sumner 100% ownership.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that DCR Unlimited, Inc., the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate, for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number, year of issuance, description of the property and the names in which the property was assessed are as follows: Certificate Number 396 Year of Issuance 2022 Description of Property: Parcel Number: R04476-000 Described as: LEG 0000.06 ACRES - COM SE COR OF SE ¼ OF NW ¼ - RUN W 32.5 FT TO W RW CENTER ST - FOR POB TH N ALG RW 67 FT W 75 - FT TO RW OLD DIXIE HWY TH SE ALG RW - 67 FT TO S LN OF 40 TH E TO POB - OR 619-30 SECTION

25 TOWNSHIP 04 RANGE 07 Name in which assessed: Cheryl G. Daub

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 17th day of February, 2025 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 13th day of January, 2025 Signature: Gary Knowles Clerk of Circuit Court Taylor County, Florida

LEGALS