

# Brotherhood, friendship forged on the field, in church

## ULTRAMARATHON Continued from page 1

but had to drop out due to an injury after 61 miles.

"I have always been an 'athlete,' but never an endurance athlete," Eli said. "After playing football, I did CrossFit for 10 years, but I think I just got burnt out on it."

"Before long distance trail running, I had only done small 5k road races. One day, a group of guys from church invited me to do a 7-9 mile trail run. I didn't know what I was getting into, but agreed."

"That was in October 2023, and it's gone pretty fast since then!" said Eli, who grew up in Perry and played for the Taylor County High School (TCHS) Bulldogs prior to graduating from TCHS in 2012.

"The guys from church had a big group chat going, talking about upcoming races. When I found the Forgotten Florida 100 miler, I pitched it to all of them, and they agreed, so we had a big group from middle Georgia going to do it, including my main training partner, Brad."

"I knew my brother (Evan) and our childhood friend from Perry, Evan Ward, were great athletes too, so I just kept sending them the link until they finally caved and committed," Eli added.

None of the three men — who played football together at TCHS and prayed together while attending First Baptist Church growing up — are strangers to challenging themselves.

"My first Ultramarathon race was the Sky to Summit (50k (30 miler) by RunBum Racing in the North Georgia Mountains in October 2024. I had run 2-3 mountain/trail Half Marathons before that. So, it was quite the jump going from 13 to 30 miles. It was an even bigger jump going from 30 to 100 miles," Eli said.

"I started doing CrossFit at Barnyard CrossFit in Perry in 2014. I continued all throughout college and into my young adult career. I am currently a member

and coach at BlackFin CrossFit in Orange Park," Evan (Grambling) said. "I started long distance running at the end of 2023 and worked into ultra running throughout 2024."

"After graduating, I joined the Navy and became an aviation rescue swimmer, which involved extensive running and swimming, so it was a natural bridge into endurance sports. I've done a few marathons and a couple triathlons, including Ironman Florida. So when Eli asked me to do a 100-mile race, we struck a deal that the brothers would have to do a triathlon in return," Evan Ward said.

The trail for the Forgotten Coast run took the runners through terrain very similar to Taylor County's woods, dotted with scrub oaks and palmettos. Some sections were wet and muddy, while others were sheltered under tall pines.

Racers began before daylight and some ended after dark; as there was a 35-hour limit to complete the 100-mile course.

Eli and running partner Berg set a goal to cross the finish line in 24 hours. They met that goal with minutes to spare.

Each runner set their own pace, and Eli recalled passing his brother in the middle of the night as he ran one way, and his brother was heading the other way at a turn-around point.

"I saw him, and was just so proud of us," Eli said. All three men credit the support of their families — most especially their wives — for keeping them motivated while training for ultra-runs.

"My wife, Allie, and our son, Boone, along with Evan's (Grambling) wife, Haley, were there at the 50-mile mark to see us halfway through the race. They brought signs of support and words of encouragement to send us into the night for the remaining 50 miles," Eli said.

"And, they came back the next morning at 6:30 a.m. to see me finish. It brought me to tears. Then, after the race, when our feet were swollen and we were recovering, she continued to support



(Top left) Evan Grambling and (top right) Evan Ward both played football at Taylor County High School. The discipline and motivation they learned on the field has carried on into their adult life with each busy in challenging careers and endurance sports. (Photos by Nick Morgan)



me. I couldn't do it without her," Eli said. "Our mom and dad also came down to watch our dog and Boone the morning we finished so Allie and Haley could come back down. It was a true group effort," Eli added.

"My wife, Haley, was fully supportive, and one day said that even though it was time consuming, she understood, 'It had to be done.' That quote stuck with me throughout my training and helped me succeed in the end!" Evan Grambling said.

"My wife, Kiley, was instrumental in keeping me motivated and well fed!" Ward said.

Training for the ultramarathon meant the men had step up their workouts and runs.

"The training involved ramping up your weekly mileage and 'time on feet' to prepare yourself for that type of distance and time on the trail. It also involved dialing in your nutrition, gear, hydration and race plan. There's a lot of logistics and planning involved in a 100-mile race. We definitely learned a lot," Eli said.

"During training, I had a huge roadblock come up, too. The race was Feb. 1 and on Dec. 17, right before Christmas, I got diagnosed with mono. This took 2.5 to 3 weeks away from my training block over the Christmas/holiday season in a time where my training

should be peaking. So, thanks to God's healing, I was able to recover and participate in the race. My attitude was one of complete gratitude that I was even able to line up at the start that day. Because, for a while, I didn't know if I was still going to be able to run because of the toll mono takes on your body. But, we did it and under our goal of 24 hours," he said.

For Evan Grambling, time was the key.

"Lots of time. In order to get the miles needed for ultramarathon preparation, sometimes you spend 5-6 hours — on the longer days — running," he said.

But the hours of training, sore muscles and exhaustion of pushing their limits faded into the background when the finish line came in sight.

"These really hard events teach you so much about how much your body is really capable of and how much your mind can hold you back. Once you push past the 'mental limits,' you can do so much more. They provide so much perspective and teach you how to overcome and persevere," Eli said.

"Florida is such a beautiful, historic place, and these races give me a chance to explore and dive deep into 'true Florida.' The type of Florida I experienced as a kid. It's so nostalgic in a way, so that

may be why I selfishly run them, too. It takes me back to the wonderful childhood our parents provided us," he said.

"There is no better feeling than pushing your limits and being surrounded by like-minded people. Motivation and discipline transcend across every avenue of life," Ward said.

Eli and Evan Grambling are the sons of Scott and Sara Sue Grambling of Perry.

"My mom and dad have been lifetime residents. I graduated TCHS in 2012, playing under Coach Shane Boggs and alongside Jesse Braswell, so I'm extremely excited to see the two of them leading the Bulldogs today. After graduation, I went on to attend and play Division I football at Mercer University in Macon, Ga., and graduated there in 2016," Eli said.

"I live in Macon now where I own a nutrition coaching and meal prep company and also work as an engineer/corporate consultant for Armstrong World Industries (a North America Ceiling Tile Manufacturer).

"My wife, Allie Bailey Grambling, grew up in Macon. We have an English Cocker Spaniel named Marshall, who is also a big part of our family," Eli said.

"There was one race where Allie, Boone, Evan and my friends from Macon were there to see me cross

the finish line. I got to carry Boone across so he 'could run with Dad.' He now is saying things like, 'I'm going to run on the trail in the woods like Daddy' and it just warms your heart, knowing the example you're setting for your children through a healthy, active lifestyle," Eli said.

Evan Grambling graduated from TCHS in 2014. He played football from sixth grade through his senior year and was part of the playoff team for three years in high school.

He graduated from Florida State University with a degree in mechanical engineering in 2018 and began working for the Department of the Navy as a civil service employee at NAS Jacksonville in June that same year.

"I married my beautiful wife, Haley, in 2023. She is a native of Fleming Island and a University of Florida graduate," Evan Grambling said.

He continues to work with NAS Jacksonville, and the couple makes their home in Green Cove Springs.

Evan Ward is the son of Holly and Devlon Ward, and was also born and raised in Perry.

He graduated in 2015 and is currently a lineman at Clay Electric Cooperative in Gainesville.

His wife, the former Kiley Faircloth, was also born and raised in Perry.

## LEGALS

(Continued from page 9)

CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ANY OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST H.B. PEMBERTON, deceased; UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ANY OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST CLETOUS DALE PEMBERTON, deceased; and UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ANY OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST H.B. PEMBERTON, JR., deceased Defendants

### NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ANY OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST H.B. PEMBERTON, deceased; UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ANY OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST H.B. PEMBERTON, JR., deceased; and to all parties claiming interest by, through, under or against Defendants, and all parties having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in the property herein described.

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that you have been designated as defendant in a legal proceeding filed against you for quieting title based upon a tax deed of sale to Plaintiff. The action involves real property in Taylor County, Florida, more fully described as follows:

LEG 0001.15 ACRES - STEINHATCHEE SUB - LOTS 6 7 8 9 10 BLK 95 - SUBJ TO LIFE ESTATE IN OR 615-251 - OR 615-249 SECTION 26 TOWNSHIP 09 RANGE 09

THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST H.B. PEMBERTON, deceased; UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ANY OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST CLETOUS DALE PEMBERTON, deceased; and UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ANY OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST H.B. PEMBERTON, JR., deceased.

You are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to the action on Tyler E. Gustafson, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 460 A1A Beach Blvd., St. Augustine, FL 32080, on or before 30 days from the date of the last publication of this notice, and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on Tyler E. Gustafson or immediately after service; otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.

The court has authority in this suit to enter a judgment or decree in the Plaintiffs' interest which will be binding upon you.

DATED: April 1, 2025  
Gary Knowles  
Clerk of the Third Judicial Circuit Court  
Taylor County, Florida  
By Kathryn Lago  
Deputy Clerk

### IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE # 25-18CP

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF SARAH YARBROUGH ADAMS, Deceased.

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of SARAH YARBROUGH ADAMS, deceased, whose date of death was January 13th, 2023, File #25-18CP, is pending in the Circuit Court for Taylor County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Post Office Box 620, Perry, Florida 32348. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is

required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against the decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

Catherine Snow  
13 Hasting Dr.  
Cartersville, GA 30120  
ANGELA M. BALL,  
Attorney for Petitioner  
FL BAR NO.: 0796557  
Post Office Box 734  
Perry, Florida 32348  
(850) 584-8960  
DATES OF PUBLICATION: April 11, 2025 and April 18, 2025

### JOINT FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL PUBLIC NOTICE April 8, 2025

The Federal Emergency Management Agency and Florida Division of Emergency Management have received the following application for Federal grant funding. Final notice is hereby given of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) consideration to provide funding in the form of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Funds will be provided in accordance with Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Public Law 93-288, as amended.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), federal actions must be reviewed and evaluated for feasible alternatives and for social, economic, historic, environmental, legal, and safety considerations. Under Executive Order (EO) 11988 and EO 11990 FEMA is required to consider alternatives to and to provide public notice of any proposed actions in or affecting floodplains or

wetlands. EO 12898 also requires FEMA to provide the opportunity for public participation in the planning process and to consider potential impacts to minority or low-income populations.

Funding for the proposed project will be conditional upon compliance with all applicable federal, tribal, state and local laws, regulations, floodplain standards, permit requirements and conditions.

### Applicant:

City of Perry  
**Project Title:**  
HMGP-4734-058-R City of Perry, Critical Facilities, Generators

### Location of Proposed Work:

The area affected by this project consists of homes in the following locations:

Taylor County, City of Perry, Florida 32347 and 32348.

Proposed Work and Purpose:  
Generator with all required components and a concrete pad will be installed at each location.

### Project Alternatives:

The alternatives to the project that have been and will be considered are 1) the no action alternative and 2) installing a solar panel array at each location. These alternatives to the proposed project are not viable because under Alternative 1) power loss will continue to disrupt operations and degrade response times for these agencies, and Alternative 2) there is not enough space available for the numbers of panels that will be required.

### Comment Period:

Comments are solicited from the public; local, state or federal agencies; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed project. The comments should be made in writing and addressed to the Florida Division of Emergency Management, Bureau of Mitigation, 2555 Shumard Oak Blvd., Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100. These are due within 15 days of this notice. The State will forward comments to applicable regulatory agencies as needed. Interested persons may submit comments, obtain more detailed information about the proposed action, or request a copy of the findings by contacting: John Hart/City Manager  
City of Perry (850)584-7161  
jhart@cityofperry.net  
Amanda Chin, State Lead

Environmental Specialist  
Florida Division of Emergency Management  
(850)273-9289  
MitigationEnvironmental@em.myflorida.com

### NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 2.13(B) of the City Charter of the City of Perry, Florida, notice is hereby given that the City Council had Introduction and First Reading on Ordinance No. 1052 on April 8, 2025, in the City Council Chambers, 224 S. Jefferson Street, Perry, Florida. A Public Hearing and Final Reading on Ordinance No. 1052 is scheduled for April 22, 2025, in the City Council Meeting Room, located at 224 S. Jefferson Street, Perry, Florida at 4:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as possible. The public hearing may be continued to a future date at the meeting, without further legal notice in the local newspaper.

Any interested persons may appear and be heard on the aforementioned public hearing date. Notice is also given, pursuant to Florida Statutes 286.0105 that any person deciding to appeal any decision of the City Council with respect to any matter considered at the meeting will need a record of that meeting and may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be heard.

### ORDINANCE NO. 1052

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PERRY, FLORIDA, AMENDING FINANCIAL MATTERS OF THE CITY TO UPDATE PURCHASING REGULATIONS; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.  
John Hart II City Manager  
Ward Ketring Mayor

### PUBLIC NOTICE INVITATION TO BID

Housing Rehabilitation/Replacement State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program.  
Taylor County Board of County Commissioners invites interested residential contractors to submit bids for two (2) demolition/reconstruction residential properties

for the SHIP program.

**SEALED Bids (Please submit one original and two copies) are to be submitted on or before May 16, 2025, at 4:00 PM to Gary Knowles, Clerk of the Court (850) 838-3506. Bid envelopes are to be identified as SHIP FY 2023-2024.**

Hand Delivery:  
Fed - X or UPS  
Gary Knowles  
Clerk of the Court  
108 N. Jefferson Street, Suite 102  
Perry, FL 32347  
Mail Delivery:  
Gary Knowles  
Clerk of the Court  
108 N. Jefferson Street, Suite 102  
Perry, FL 32347

A Public Opening of the Bids is scheduled for May 20, 2025, at 6:00 PM, or as soon thereafter as possible, at 201 East Green Street, Perry, Florida, 32347. Bids will be opened during a regularly scheduled Board of County Commissioners meeting.

A MANDATORY meeting to provide contractor orientation materials and visit the scheduled projects will be held on April 30, 2025, at 10:00 am, at the Perry-Foley Airport, located at 481 Industrial Park Drive, Perry, Florida 32348. The meeting will take place in the airport terminal conference room. You must attend this meeting to receive the bid documents and attend the review of the projects. The visit to the projects will immediately follow the orientation meeting.

For contractors that have not been pre-approved, you may obtain a contractor application package by calling Tara Reynolds, Accenture at (850) 681-3717. Please bring your completed application package to the mandatory meeting on April 30, 2025.

WBE/MBE/DBE/VBE Firms are encouraged to participate. Taylor County is an Equal Opportunity Employer and supports and abides by fair housing acts and statutes. The Taylor County Board of County Commissioners reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids in the best interest of Taylor County. TAYLOR COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
Jamie English, Chair