

Planning board to consider approval Thursday

MINE
Continued from page 1

Aggregate mining -- open pit quarries or surface mines -- involves the extraction of materials such as sand, gravel, limestone, clay, etc. for use in commercial construction projects, including asphalt production, ready-mixed concrete and roadbuilding.

SRM has an existing limestone quarry located at 18275 US Hwy. 98 West, a concrete plant located on Red Padgett Road, as well as additional plants located in Trenton, Newberry, Lake City, Gainesville, Williston, Lloyd, Tallahassee, Panama City and Midway.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (FDEP) has posted a "notice of intent" to issue an environmental resource permit for the new mine under its Mining and Mitigation Program, and an application for a water use permit from the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) is pending.

SRM Materials, based in Nashville, Tennessee, has submitted a land development application for the new aggregate mine to the Taylor County Building and Planning Department. The Taylor County Planning Board will hold a 5 p.m. public hearing

on April 2 at the Taylor County Administrative Complex (201 E. Green Street in Perry) to consider its approval.

The county does not have a primary role in the regulation of mining activities, except for ensuring it is sited within the appropriate land use classification under the county's comprehensive plan. Mining is an allowable use within the Agricultural 2 zone in which the five parcels are located.

Due to the "high impact" use classification of the mining operation, the county does require certain landscaped "buffers" along the property line adjacent to the street or highway right-of-way and a minimum number of parking spaces.

Founded in 1999 by Mike and Melissa Hollingshead in Smyrna, Tenn., SRM is the country's largest ready-mix concrete manufacturer. Since it began focusing on growth in 2012, SRM has completed over 100 successful acquisitions, further solidifying its national presence.

In Florida, SRM has four quarries, including: Perry, Hastings, Panama City and Punta Gorda; 57 concrete plants and two cement terminals (Jacksonville and Panama City).

In January 2026, SRM announced the opening of

two new ready-mix concrete facilities in Hampton, Ga. (Jan. 21) and Atlanta, Ga. (Jan. 23), marking SRM's 46th and 47th locations in the state of Georgia.

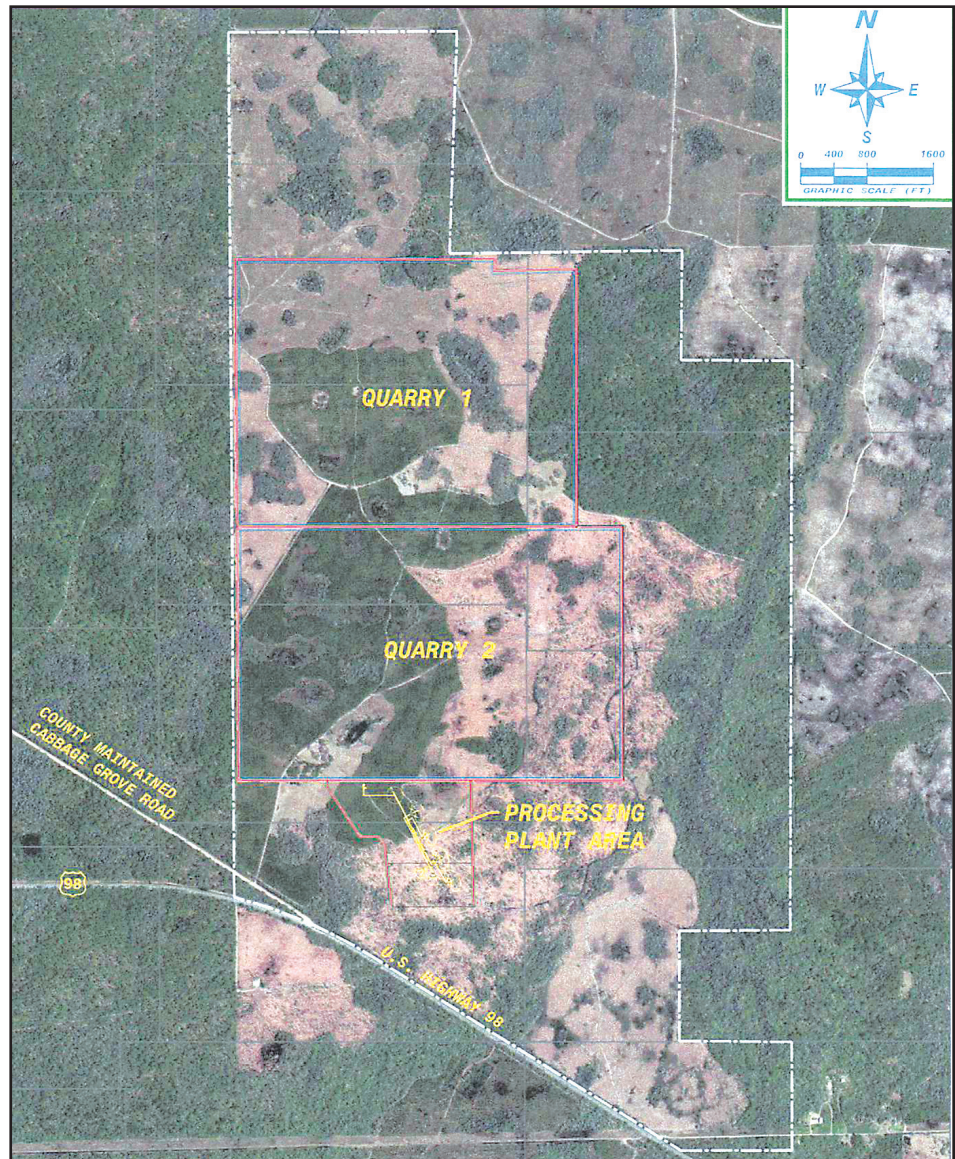
SRM Concrete previously opened 21 new ready-mix locations in 2025, and the Hampton and Atlanta facilities were the company's third and fourth plant openings in 2026.

On Feb. 19, SRM opened a new limestone quarry in Bridgeport, Ala., near the Tennessee-Alabama line, in the service radius of six SRM Concrete plants.

Four days later (Feb. 23) SRM announced the opening of its newest ready-mix concrete plant and building products store in Kingsport, Tenn.

In November 2023, SRM Concrete announced the strategic acquisition of Vulcan Materials Company's ready-mix assets in Texas—a significant expansion that included 82 ready-mix plants and 11 volumetric locations with approximately 1,100 employees.

This acquisition marked SRM's entry into new markets of San Antonio, Austin, Abilene and Amarillo, Texas and strengthens its presence in Houston and Dallas-Fort Worth, making SRM the largest ready-mix supplier in Texas.



Plans submitted for the new SRM Materials limerock mine on Hwy. 98 near the intersection of Cabbage Grove Road (above) show two quarries and a new processing plant area. The new operation is expected to employ 20-25 people. SRM Concrete has been in a growth phase over the past 10-15 years, opening 21 new ready-mix concrete locations in 2025 and announcing the opening of at least four new locations so far in 2026.

Wentworth: 'I simply want to move in another direction'

BAD GUY
Continued from page 2

Roomba or some robotic device to paint stripes on the football field during the last year to the tune of a tune of \$46,000 plus the paint.

WENTWORTH: The district previously spent approximately \$15,900 per year on paint and equipment repairs, in addition to about \$10,100 in hourly wages, to stripe athletic fields. The Turf Tank automatic painter costs \$16,000 annually, resulting in an estimated annual savings of \$10,000 for the district.

19) BALL: When bonuses were provided to teachers and non-instructional staff, the bonuses were tiered, so years of service dictated how much each got. But when administrative bonuses were presented to you all, it wasn't tied to the years of service. Potentially you're going to be paying them up to \$9,000 this year for bonuses. It's not about the money.

WENTWORTH: I value all my staff -- every single person! Many people do not fully realize what is required of my administrative team. They attend extracurricular activities at their schools, all board meetings and any additional events asked of them. Their work hours extend well beyond a standard 7:30-3:30 schedule. Because of these additional responsibilities, I requested that the board approve, which they did, a flat, non-tiered amount for directors and principals. More than two-thirds of the administrative group qualified for the higher bonus amount based on years of service anyway.

20) BALL: Another issue that Ms. Moneyhan brought to the forefront was a contract that had been entered into without

board authority. Actually, the person who entered the contract did not have authority to bind the district. So, we had a couple meetings about that and the cost of that, but then I was told that it was dropped as well. So, that was a cost that continued to be paid.

WENTWORTH: I met with the employee who signed the contract. She stated that she did not realize the document was a binding contract, and believed she was signing a quote for uniform services. I informed her that she does not have the authority to sign contracts and that only the board may approve and execute contracts. She apologized and indicated that she will be more mindful in the future and will forward any quotes or questions to the finance office for guidance.

21) BALL: Recently, Ms. Moneyhan brought an issue before Mr. Wentworth about the Sheriff's contract and the fact that there had not been a SRO (school resource officer) at BBTC (Big Bend Technical College) since October through when we discussed this, probably in February. When they reached out to the sheriff's department, Mr. Ketring, the TCSO finance director, said they needed a contract amendment in order to adjust the invoice. So, Mr. Wentworth asked me to prepare a contract amendment, which I immediately did. I understand that nothing was ever done with that, or Mr. Wentworth made alternative accommodations instead of seeking a reduction in the contract, which based upon my calculations, would have been \$18,700 per quarter.

WENTWORTH: Ms. Moneyhan, Ms. (Kiki) Bell and I met with the sheriff's office regarding this matter. The sheriff's office

requested that the contract not be amended, as doing so would impact a budget they had already submitted to the state. Instead, they agreed not to bill the district for overtime hours worked by the School Resource Officers to offset the cost. The value of this overtime totals approximately \$24,000, which more than offsets the one-quarter salary cost of the BBTC SRO, estimated at \$18,750.

21) BALL: I understand there was also an allegation about missed board meetings. The only board meeting I missed was on Feb. 20 when I was in a trial in Mayo that when the half-cent sales tax was on that agenda. So it was pushed to a special meeting on Feb. 27. That's when the board approved it.

WENTWORTH: Again, this is whisper speak, as Ms. Ball says. No one has questioned her work or attendance at board meetings. Again, I as superintendent simply want to move in a different direction with hope of board support.

22) BALL: After I prepared the documents (for the half-cent sales tax), you were contacted by the Department of Revenue, which wanted to review the resolution and the referendum. I understand that allegations have been made that I'm not responsive, and in some way I delayed the resolution. The Department of Revenue person approved the referendum with a one-line modification, which was made on that same day, and Miss Moneyhan asked me to send that on March 4. She asked me to send it over to the county to Mr. Bishop, which I did. I have a letter in the mail correspondence. The same day that the Department of Revenue approved that, it was sent to Conrad Bishop -- and as a note -- I also prepared

the county ordinance that Mr. Bishop would have typically prepared, and I did that to expedite the process. So I don't know why anyone would say that I was dilatory in that process.

WENTWORTH: The original resolution was received from Ms. Ball on Feb. 11 and was scheduled to be placed on the Feb. 17 board agenda. However, the resolution contained date errors, and Ms. Ball was asked to provide a corrected version. A corrected resolution was not received until just before the Feb. 17 board meeting, when it was delivered in person by Ms. Ball's employee, as Ms. Ball was not present. Because the revised resolution was received only minutes before the meeting, it was removed from that evening's agenda due to improper notice to the public. Ms. Moneyhan advised the board that the resolution was subject to a state-imposed deadline and that waiting until the March 10 board meeting for approval would be cutting it too close. She requested that the board schedule an earlier meeting to ensure the deadline was met. The board agreed and scheduled a special meeting for Feb. 24.

At the Feb. 24 meeting, the board approved the resolution, and Ms. Ball stated she would forward it to the county attorney for placement on the next county commission meeting agenda. On Friday, Feb. 27, I asked Ms. Moneyhan whether she had heard from (county administrator) Ms. (LaWanda) Pemberton regarding the resolution being placed on the county commission meeting agenda. She indicated that

she had not. I then asked her to follow up with the county to determine the meeting date. When Ms. Moneyhan contacted Ms. Pemberton, she was informed that the county had not received the resolution from Ms. Ball. Ms. Moneyhan subsequently emailed Ms. Ball again requesting that the resolution be sent to the county. The resolution was ultimately forwarded on March 4 -- exactly three weeks after the original resolution was requested.

23) BALL: Mr. Wentworth has admitted now I believe, even though I surmised it back in November of 2024, that the reason he was attempting to terminate my contract is because I had the audacity to run for county judge against a member of his extended family.

WENTWORTH: Again, this is whisper speak, as Ms. Ball states. Again, I simply want to move in another direction where the board attorney is concerned. And by contract, all that has to be done is a 30-day notice given with support from the board.

24) BALL: And what has brought this to the forefront tonight is the fact that recently, within the last six weeks, I also had the audacity to have dinner with Alicia Beshears, a former superintendent. That was apparently a topic of conversation in the district office, and it's apparently something that Mr. Wentworth has admitted is the reason he can no longer trust me. For him to be concerned about that, and have some problem with that, is a problem that he has to resolve. It's not a problem with my representation, with

my fees or with anything else. Even today, despite Mr. Wentworth trying to terminate my contract, and me walking in here tonight knowing that he had a knife squarely planted in between my shoulder blades, today when I saw that the payroll issue was on the agenda (which was pulled) was clearly improper because there was a union position that was being attempted to be split and taken out of the non-instructional union and put in the administrative realm with two people -- I sent this letter over to the district office. So, even though I knew I was coming in here tonight to face a vendetta, I am still operating under the best interest of this board and this school district.

WENTWORTH: Again, whisper speak. As I stated from the beginning, I simply want to go in a different direction where the board attorney is concerned, with the support of the board. This position is not being removed from the union. The position was advertised three separate times, and only one applicant passed the qualifying test. Although the position was offered to that applicant, it was declined due to the pay scale. In the meantime, the duties of the position still have to be performed to ensure that more than 400 employees continue to receive their paychecks each month. This action was taken solely to compensate the two employees who have been performing the duties of this full-time position in addition to their own full-time roles. This would have been a cost savings to the district of \$12,200 for this fiscal year.

Cause of death pending autopsy

INVESTIGATION
Continued from page 1

with the subject by phone, but were unable to pinpoint this location.

Later Saturday evening, deputies responded to a car that had driven into the marsh at the intersection of Beach Road and Keaton Beach Drive, just several

hundred feet away from the residence where the man's body was later discovered.

Attempts to track the subject with the aid of K9 units were unsuccessful, likely due in part to high winds in the area.

Deputies were later called back to a nearby residence on Sunday

morning around 9 a.m., where the unresponsive man was spotted lying on a dock by an angler passing by in a boat in the canal.

The case remains open pending further investigation, including the completion of an autopsy report and a review of surveillance video.

LEGALS

(Continued from page 9)

AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT THE SE CORNER OF THE SW 1/4 OF THE NE 1/4 OF SECTION 32, TOWNSHIP 4 SOUTH, RANGE 8 EAST; THENCE RUN N 0 DEGREES 46'04" E ALONG THE FORTY ACRE LINE 294.90 FEET; THENCE RUN N 89°43'47" W 34.0 FEET TO THE WEST R/W LINE OF DORMAN PEACOCK ROAD FOR THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE N 89°43'47" W 303.64 FEET; THENCE RUN N 30°10'39" E 393.54 FEET TO THE SOUTHERLY R/W LINE OF U.S. HIGHWAY NO. 27; THENCE RUN S 59°07'30" E ALONG SAID SOUTHERLY R/W LINE OF U.S. #27, 123.77 FEET TO THE WESTERLY R/W LINE OF DORMAN PEACOCK ROAD; THENCE RUN S 0°05'13" W ALONG SAID WESTERLY

R/W LINE OF DORMAN PEACOCK ROAD 278.12 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

Also known as 2419 S DORMAN PEACOCK RD, PERRY, FL 32348 together with all existing or subsequently erected or affixed buildings, improvements and fixtures.

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus funds from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens, must file a claim in accordance with Florida Statutes, Section 45.031.

THIS NOTICE IS PROVIDED PURSUANT TO ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO.2.065.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, IF YOU ARE A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY WHO NEEDS ANY

ACCOMMODATION IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROCEEDING, YOU ARE ENTITLED, AT NO COST TO YOU, TO PROVISIONS OF CERTAIN ASSISTANCE. PLEASE CONTACT THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR AT 108 N. JEFFERSON STREET, 1ST FLOOR, PERRY, FL 32347, PHONE NO. (850)758-2163 WITHIN 2 WORKING DAYS OF YOUR RECEIPT OF THIS NOTICE OR PLEADING; IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED, CALL 1-800-955-8771 (TDD); IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED, CALL 1-800-995-8770 (V) (VIA FLORIDA RELAY SERVICES).

Dated: March 30, 2026
Gary Knowles
Clerk of Court, Taylor County
By: Kathryn Lago
Deputy Clerk of Court