

One of the Foley Cellulose Mill's four stacks remains standing after Saturday's implosions (shown above during and after). According to Kelly Ferguson, GP's vice president of public affairs and communications, the plan for Saturday was always to bring down only the three free-standing stacks, and GP has not decided how the remaining stack will be removed. Plans may include a second and final implosion, but Ferguson said the date has not been set, contradicting a Tallahassee television station that reported a second blast was scheduled for Dec. 9. Ferguson said that date is not accurate.

Plans may include a second implosion

IMPLOSION
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tall. Nelson Aerial flew four drones inside a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) temporary flight restriction zone over the site and used several ground cameras, plus one camera mounted on the gantry crane that "rode it all the way down."

The Taylor County Sheriff's Office closed sections of Foley Road (CR 30), Buckeye Credit Union Road and H.P. Red Padgett Road from 6 to 9 a.m. to keep the public away from the site.

Second implosion, fourth stack

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Plans may include a second and final implosion, but Ferguson said the date has not been set, contradicting a Tallahassee television station that reported a second blast was scheduled for Dec.9. Ferguson said that date is not accurate.

"It will be sometime after the first of the year, but (we) don't have an exact date," Ferguson said. "We will communicate more as soon as we have that firmed up."

"We haven't made a determination on the other stack, and we may take that one down with a crane," he said.

Not for sale yet

Ferguson also said the mill property is not for sale or development and will not be until GP finishes its required work at the site. He said he expects that to take "another two-plus years."

"As we've said all along, we want to complete this work as quickly as possible to return the property to public use," Ferguson said, "but we have specific steps we're required to follow that include processes managed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and the steps laid out by that agency."

Approximately one year ago, at a Taylor County Commission meeting in December 2025, GP officials and their engineering contractor, Tetra Tech, said demolition was about 30% complete and expected to wrap up around the end of 2026. Only two warehouse buildings will remain.

Separately, GP is working through FDEP's process to environmentally close the site, including the mill's sludge lagoons and solid waste management area. Company officials told commissioners that process could take three to five years, followed by long-term monitoring.

Before Saturday's implosion, GP said chemicals and materials such as asbestos had been removed from the structures by licensed contractors under FDEP rules.

Foley Mill operated for seven decades

The Foley mill was built by Procter & Gamble in 1954 and acquired by GP in 2013. For nearly seven decades, it was Taylor County's largest employer.

GP announced on Sept. 18, 2023, less than three weeks after Hurricane Idalia, that it would permanently close the mill, directly affecting about 525 jobs and another 1,500 indirect jobs in support positions.

University of Florida economists put the total loss at nearly 2,000 jobs in Florida and $9.9 million in state and local taxes

The mill shut down in November 2023.

In April 2024, GP said it would not sell the facility to another company for use as a cellulose plant and would instead demolish or relocate the equipment.

At the time, the mill's equipment account was the highest-valued parcel in the county, assessed at more than $480 million, according to Taylor County Property Appraiser Shawna Beach.

A promise that came down with the stacks

When Avery Freeman Kimble was 10 years old, his grandfather told him that when he grew up, he could follow in his footsteps and go to work at the paper mill.

For George Edward Kimble, it was the promise of a secure future for his grandson at a plant where he himself spent 30 years before retiring.

For young Avery, it was a path to a life that would provide for himself and the family he would one day build.

In 2023, Avery was finally old enough to submit an application.

"One week later, GP (Georgia-Pacific) announced they were closing the mill. They didn't just cost us something when they closed – they took away a lot of people's futures," he said.

On Saturday, Nov. 21, Avery and his girlfriend were among dozens of people who gathered at the corner of Foley Cut Off Road and C.R. 30 to witness the implosion of the mill's iconic smokestacks.

People spoke in hushed tones, describing the role the mill had played in their families' lives as a provider for one, two or even three generations at a time.

The implosion was scheduled for 8 a.m., and everyone braced as the hour struck. As the minutes passed, however, the waiting continued.

Finally, a five-minute warning sounded, and phones went up in the air to record the moment.

The smokestacks were just visible beyond a tree line of pines and scrub, standing against a gray mist that dimmed the sky.

At almost 8:30 a.m., a series of timed explosions thundered across the highway, and for a heartbeat, nothing happened.

A second later, one of the stacks fell forward, as if in slow motion, and the others simply disappeared from sight.

In less than five seconds, only one stack remained.

The crowd waited a few more minutes to see if it, too, would fall.

When it didn't, they slowly pulled back onto the highway and left in a line reminiscent of a funeral procession.

LEGALS

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Land Development Code:

An appeal filed by Shan Roper of the Taylor County Planning Board's September 3, 2026 decision approving Variance Petition VI 7-2026. The variance petition was filed by applicant Jake R. Fulmer, Preferred Builders of North Florida, on behalf of the owners of record, Quincy and Theresa Kay Hilton, and requested a 17-foot encroachment into the front setback and a 1-foot encroachment into the east side setback for an existing pole barn (accessory structure) located at 1205 Oak Pond Circle, Steinhatchee, Florida. Section 13, Township 9 South, Range 9 East; Parcel No. 09459-725.

At the hearing, the Board of County Commissioners may affirm, reverse, or modify the Planning Board's decision, or take such other action as is authorized by the Land Development Code. The hearing may be continued to a date and time certain announced at the hearing without further published or mailed notice. Interested persons may appear and be heard.

Copies of the appeal and associated documents are available for public inspection at the Taylor County Building & Planning Department, Taylor County Administrative Complex, 201 East Green Street, Perry, Florida 32347, during regular business hours.

All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at the above-referenced public hearing, 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 (Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes).

Persons with disabilities needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the County Administrator's Office at (850) 838-3500, extension 6, at least 48 hours prior to the hearing.

TAYLOR COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA 26000057CAAXMX

MIDFIRST BANK, Plaintiff, VS.

ANSLEY N. BATTON A/K/A ANSLEY BATTON; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF ANSLEY N. BATTON A/K/A ANSLEY BATTON; at al., Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sale will be made pursuant to an Order or Final Judgment. Final Judgment was awarded on November 5, 2026 in Civil Case No. 26000057CAAXMX, of the Circuit Court of the THIRD Judicial Circuit in and for Taylor County, Florida, wherein, MIDFIRST BANK is the Plaintiff, and ANSLEY N. BATTON A/K/A ANSLEY BATTON; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF ANSLEY N. BATTON A/K/A ANSLEY BATTON; TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA-DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; are Defendants.

The Clerk of the Court, Gary Knowles will sell to the highest bidder for cash at 108 North Jefferson Street, Perry, FL 32347 East Steps on January 7, 2027 at 11 a.m. EST the following described real property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

COMMENCE AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 4 SOUTH, RANGE 7 EAST FOR THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE RUN NORTH 208 FEET; THENCE RUN EAST 104 FEET, THENCE RUN SOUTH 208 FEET; THENCE RUN WEST 104 FEET BACK TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. SAID LAND LYING AND BEING IN TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim before the clerk reports the surplus as unclaimed.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of the court on November 12, 2026.

CLERK OF THE COURT
Gary Knowles
Kathryn Lago
Deputy Clerk
ALDRIDGE PITE, LLP
Attorney for Plaintiff
401 W. Linton Blvd.
Suite 202-B
Delray Beach, FL 33444
Telephone: 561-392-6391
Facsimile: 561-392-6965
Primary E-Mail: ServiceMail@aldridgepite.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION

Case No. 62-2025-CA-000192-CAAM

Freedom Mortgage Corporation, Plaintiff, vs.

Charles Grindrod a/k/a Charles R. Grindrod, et al., Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the Final Judgment and/or Order Rescheduling Foreclosure Sale, entered in Case No. 62-2025-CA-000192-CAAM of the Circuit Court of the THIRD Judicial Circuit, in and for Taylor County, Florida, wherein Freedom Mortgage Corporation is the Plaintiff and Charles Grindrod a/k/a Charles R. Grindrod; Rocket Mortgage, LLC FKA Quicken Loans, LLC; Crystal Bible Grindrod are the Defendants, that I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at, the East door of the courthouse, 108 North Jefferson Street, Perry, FL 32347, beginning at 11:00 AM on the 17th day of December, 2026, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

THE NORTH 100 FEET OF LOTS 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 AND 14, BLOCK 59, STEINHATCHEE SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT OF SAID SUBDIVISION ON RECORD IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA, IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGES 26-27.

TAX ID: 09875-100

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim before the clerk reports the surplus as unclaimed.

Dated this 19th day of November, 2026.

Gary Knowles
As Clerk of the Court
By: Kathryn Lago
As Deputy Clerk

If you are a person with a disability who needs an accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Court Administration, 173 NE Hernando Avenue, Room 408, Lake City, Florida 32055; (386)758-2163 or complete the ADA Request form located at https://thirdcircuitfl.org/ada-accommodation-request/ at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired call 711.