

Washington County News WEEKEND



Saturday, AUGUST 6, 2011

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50¢

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BRIEFS

Steverson reunion

The Steverson reunion will be Sunday, Aug. 7, at the agricultural center in Bonifay. Fellowship will begin at noon with the meal at 1 p.m. Please bring a covered dish and drinks, recipes, history, trivia or points of interest and photos to share. All friends and family are invited. Details: Robbie at 547-7458 or Shirley at 547-2235.

Pinehill homecoming

Pinehill Church will hold homecoming services on Sunday, Aug. 7. Bring a well-filled basket of food. Billy Gene Dickson will be singing. Special speaker will be Brother Edd Smitherman. Details: The Rev. Presley Owens at 547-2018 or the Rev. James Bush at 547-5798.

Free tutoring

Holmes District School Board (HDSB) will offer Supplemental Educational Services (SES, or free tutoring) this school year to qualified students. A student must be eligible for free or reduced lunches to qualify. Tutoring will begin no later than Oct. 15.

Parents of qualified students are encouraged to attend a provider fair from 5-7 p.m. Aug. 25 at the Bonifay Middle School cafeteria. Details: 547-9341.

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County lays off 5 employees

By Steve Limer
Managing Editor
slimer@chicleypaper.com

Five Washington County employees in four departments were laid off last week in a budget-cutting move, county officials have confirmed.

The five employees hoped to be recalled, but County Administrator Steve Joiner said they should not expect to get a county job quickly. The layoffs were in direct response to a move last week by the county commission to retain the current property tax assessment rate, or millage, creating a shortfall in the

coming fiscal year of \$1.1 million in comparison to anticipated revenue this time last year. The shortfall is based principally on a loss of more than \$800,000 in property taxes. The county's overall annual budget, including funds from state and federal programs, has been \$36 million for fiscal 2010-2011, Joiner said.

"I told every one of those five that I hope and pray we will be able to bring them back," he said.

So far, staff reductions have happened through a 3-month-old hiring freeze. There have been retirements and firings for cause that have gone un-replaced, Joiner

said. Those were in the road and bridge and park and recreation departments.

Last week's layoffs were in the human resources, information technology and building departments as well as the grants office, Joiner said.

The job actions, though, signal a larger trend in county government: outsourcing. Already, the building department and many of its operations are the subject of a county contract, and Joiner said more outsourcing is likely to come.

"When you go to a contract situation, the county does not have to pay insurance and other employ-

ment costs," he said.

Such reductions make outsourcing popular among governments nationwide, and Washington County will not be an exception.

And other behind-the-scenes budget cutting is going on, Joiner said.

"We have a lot of plans to look at budget cutting" before the commission establishes next fiscal year's budget, he said. In fact, Joiner's interview with the News was pushed back as he met with Washington County Sheriff Bobby Haddock to hammer out issues related to employee insurance before an upcoming commission workshop.



CECILIA SPEARS | The News

Newly elected Chipley Council member for Ward 2, Kevin Russell is congratulated election night by Cheryl McCall, who he will replace on the council.

Russell wins Ward 2

Kevin Russell new Chipley City Council member

By Cecilia Spears
Staff Writer
cspears@chicleypaper.com

CHIPLEY — Kevin Russell was voted as the new Chipley City Council member for Ward 2

with 138 votes against Tommy Sasser's 72 votes on Tuesday.

"It's been a busy two months," Russell said. "I want to thank the City of Chipley for all their support, and I promise to the best I can with what means I have."

In his campaign letter, Russell wrote that he was born and raised in Chipley, lived in the city his entire life and attends First Presbyterian Church, where he serves on the Worship Committee and remains an ac-

tive member.

"I am no stranger to hard work and organization, having successfully opened and managed The Spanish Trail Playhouse, a community theatre allowing the citizens of Chipley and surrounding areas to have a means of entertainment without having to waste gas on long distant trips," Russell wrote.

"I am a graduate of Chipola

See **RUSSELL A2**

2 arrested on narcotics charges

By Cecilia Spears
Staff Writer
cspears@chicleypaper.com

CHIPLEY — The Washington County Sheriff's Office reported the arrest of two suspects in two separate narcotics investigations on Aug. 3.

According to the sheriff's report, the county drug task force received a tip that methamphetamines were being produced at a residency in Chipley. When they arrived, they observed Timothy "Timmy" Taylor, 47, of Chipley, leaving a barn with several objects in his hands.



TIMOTHY TAYLOR

Investigators said when Taylor saw them, he tried to flee on foot.

After Taylor was apprehended, the investigators found that the objects were several plastic "baggies" containing methamphetamines.

Taylor was arrested and charged with possession of methamphetamines with intent to distribute.

Taylor has an extensive criminal history spanning three decades that includes three separate stints in prison on burglary and drug charges. At the time of his arrest, Taylor was out on bond for an April arrest over possession of methamphetamines charges. He is now being held without bond at the Washington County Jail.



RANDALL WYNN

In a separate case, Washington County deputies discovered marijuana packaged and ready for distribution during a traffic stop after a K-9 alerted deputies to the vehicle.

Randall Jerome Wynn, 20, of Graceville, was arrested after the deputy observed him throwing individually wrapped baggies of marijuana on the ground during the search.

Wynn was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana with the intent to distribute and tampering with evidence. He is being held at the Washington County Jail.

Washington County Sheriff Bobby Haddock asks that anyone with information on illegal drug activity contact the Sheriff's Office at 638-TIPS (8477) or by email at tips@wco.us.

Child care advocate challenge: Be a teacher

Special to The News

The Washington County School Board, Big Bend Community Based Care and The Department of Children and Families are mobilizing the education community, care workers and child advocacy leaders to think of themselves as teachers when it comes to their relationships with children and youth in foster care.

The groups have organized

a series of meetings dedicated to finding real, applicable solutions to the dilemma of ensuring that children in foster care receive the very best education possible. As an important part of this initiative, school systems agree to maintain the child in the same school setting (same school district zone) in order to minimize disruption to the child's education and special education needs. Most school districts provide special trans-

portation for dependent children to keep them in their home school.

"Education can be a challenge to children who frequently change homes and schools," said Mike Watkins, chief executive officer for Big Bend CBC. "Concentrated efforts, such as this initiative, can help focus energy and resources on improving educational outcomes for our

See **TEACHER A2**

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RUSSELL from page A1

College and a teacher with the Washington County School District. I am a past member of the Chipley Downtown Merchants and have co-chaired Chipley's annual downtown Trick-or-Treat for the past two years.

"Growing up in a middle class lifestyle, in conjunction with his past professional and administrative experiences, has helped me come to understand the value of each dollar spent and leading me to take fiscal responsibility very seriously.

"I have learned to pay attention to the difference between 'want' and 'need' and desires to see a spirit of cooperation at City Hall where everybody works together for the good of the community. My years of experience in business and community involvement have taught me time and again that by working together, the community can accomplish so much more.

"I want all people feeling safe, secure and comfortable throughout the community with a high level of citizen satisfaction and cost-effective delivery of city services.

"I am a firm believer in economic development and I hope to see older commercial areas redeveloped and re-used, starting in Downtown Chipley.

"I don't like when we neglect what we already have in order to build something new. The buildings downtown are part of our history and I don't believe we, as a community, can truly move forward into the future by sacrificing our past. We need well-built and maintained streets, lights, streetscapes and sidewalks. It's hard to enjoy the scenery if you are constantly tripping over cracks and uneven sidewalks. We need to renovate our downtown buildings and give the citizens something to be proud of every day of the year, not just at Christmas.

"I hope that a revitalization of Historic Chipley is just a stepping-stone and desires to see the city be more of an active role model to the local schools. They are our future and we need to educate them on the workings of our city. Our students need to know how local government operates as well as its national counterpart.

"Those familiar with me know I am someone who tries not to make promises I cannot keep. When a promise is made and I undertake a task, I put my entire self into it in order to see it fulfilled."

TEACHER from page A1

children and provide them with a sense of stability."

Everybody's a Teacher encourages everyone involved with the child to play an important role in that child's education. This initiative encourages the identification of dependent children to local school districts and facilitates the provision of necessary services and academic support.

"Education is the doorway to opportunity for all students," said State Rep. Marti Coley. "Creating a stable environment will help students in our system gain the confidence they need to be successful. Everybody's a Teacher establishes a team that will make a stable environment a reality for our children."

The "Everybody's a Teacher" workshop will be 8:30-11 a.m. Monday, Aug. 8, at Chipley First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 1285 Jackson Ave. All interested community members are invited to attend.

Emergency exercise to honor Bode

Special to The News

Charles Bode recently retired from Washington District Schools after spending nearly a decade teaching at Vernon High School. Now, a special honor is being planned.

"He was devoted to teaching science and supporting the students who were fortunate enough to call him their teacher," said fellow teacher Linda A. Podojilonce.

"Teaching is not a profession, it's a passion. Without your passion and dedication, our children's future would resemble a sunset instead of a sunrise. Your days are long and often difficult. Thrive on your passion, and enhance our world's tomorrow. With his infectious smile, opinionated insight and entertaining shirt collection, Mr. Bode was an example to us

daily at VHS."

At the request of VHS Principal Brian Riviere, a full-scale emergency response training exercise taking place at Vernon High School has been named the "Charles Bode MCI Exercise" in his honor.

The exercise will take place from 9 a.m. to noon Aug. 9 on the Vernon High School campus.

Featured will be a simulated school bus accident resulting in multiple patients receiving care on scene. Patient transportation will be simulated to allow ambulances, rescue squads and helicopters to work in a coordinated effort. Concurrently, simulated patients will present at Northwest Florida Community Hospital, where hospital personnel will exercise their plans for a mass casualty incident.

Multiple agencies will be participating in the exercise, including Washington County Emergency Management, Washington County EMS, Washington County Sheriff's Office, Washington County School District, Washington County 911 Center, Vernon High School, fire departments, Northwest Florida Community Hospital, American Red Cross and AIR-Heart air ambulance service.

Washington County's Emergency Management Department secured the funding to host the event. Terry Schenk, consultant for Disasters, Strategies, & Ideas (DSI) Group, is the exercise coordinator. He and the DSI team will evaluate participants to identify strengths and weaknesses. Evaluator findings from the Charles Bode MCI Exercise will be used as a learning tool for improvement, local officials said.

Dow down 1,200 points since July 21

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market is in the midst of its biggest retreat since the financial crisis.

The Dow Jones industrial average plunged as many as 400 points Thursday afternoon. It is now down more than 1,200 points since July 21. The Standard & Poor's 500 index is down 3 percent, bringing it nearly 11 percent below its recent high of 1,363 reached on April 29. A decline of 10 percent or more is considered to be a market correction.

The Vix, a measure of investor fear, shot up nearly 25 percent. It is up 77 percent for the quarter, which began July 1.

Investors are increasingly worried about economic weakness in the U.S. and a debt crisis in Europe.

"We are continuing to be bombarded by worries about the global economy," said Bill Stone, chief investment strategist at PNC Financial.

Stock trading was volatile this week because of concerns that the U.S. economy is weakening. Manufacturing, consumer spending and hiring by private companies are below levels that are consistent with a healthy economy. Those reports have called into question estimates from economists, including Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, that the economy will grow more quickly in the second half of the year.

More than 10 stocks fell for every one that rose on the New York Stock Exchange Thursday. Money poured into investments that are seen as relatively safe when markets are turbulent. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 2.51 percent, its lowest level of the year. The yield on the 2-year Treasury note hit a record low of 0.265 percent. Bond yields fall when demand for them increases.

Large investors have moved so much money into cash accounts at Bank of New York that on Thursday, the bank said it would begin charging some clients a 0.13 percent fee to hold their cash.

"In the past month, we have seen a growing level of deposits on our balance sheet from clients seeking a safe-haven in light of the global interest rate and credit environment," the bank wrote in a statement. Bank



Sellers at work on floor of New York Stock Exchange Thursday.

of New York clients include pension funds and large investment houses.

"Investors are deciding that now is the time to take risk off the table," said Brian Gendreau, market strategist for Cetera Financial Group. Gendreau said some investors are wondering whether stocks will have a prolonged slump similar to the aftermath of the Great Depression.

Technical trading, a term used to signify buying or selling based on the S&P 500's prior highs and lows, helped push stocks downward. The S&P 500 fell below 1,222, a so-called support level, early in the day. That signified to some traders that the stock market would continue to slide.

"Traders are respecting the technical levels even if they're not technicians," said Quincy Krosby, market strategist at Prudential Financial. "Even if you're what we call a conviction buyer, you have to respect those levels."

European stocks fell broadly because of concerns that Italy or Spain might need help from the European Union. The benchmark stock indexes in Italy, Germany and England each fell 3 percent.

Companies that outperform when the global economy expands fell the most. Caterpillar Inc. fell nearly 6 percent, and Chevron Corp. fell 5 percent.

Some traders are selling ahead of

Friday's employment report, which is expected to show that unemployment remained at 9.2 percent last month. A rise in the unemployment number likely would push stocks lower again.

The U.S. government said before the market opened that the number of people who applied for unemployment benefits for the first time was only slightly lower last week to 400,000. That's still above the 375,000 level that economists say indicates a healthy job market. It was the latest indication of weakness in the U.S. economy.

All 10 industry groups in the S&P index fell. Energy, materials and industrial companies each lost 4 percent or more.

General Motors Co. fell 4 percent despite beating analyst estimates. CVS Caremark fell nearly 4 percent after its revenue slipped last quarter.

Several national retailers are announcing July sales results throughout the day. Target, Gap Inc. and Macy's each fell by more than 1 percent, in part because of concerns that consumers would spend less if the economy continues to slow down.

The Dow rose 30 points Wednesday — after being down 166 — to break an eight-day losing streak. Nine days would have been the longest since February 1978. The S&P 500 index rose six points and broke a seven-day streak.

HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY?

Letters to the editor and comments on Web versions of news stories are welcomed.

Letters are edited only for grammar, spelling, clarity, space and consistency, but we ask that they be limited to 300 words where possible. Letter writers are asked to provide a home address and daytime telephone number (neither is printed) for verification purposes.

Letters may be sent to 1364 N. Railroad Ave., Chipley, FL 32428 or emailed to news@chipleypaper.com. Please specify if the letter should be printed in the Washington County News or Holmes County Times-Advertiser.

Questions may be addressed to Managing Editor Steve Limer by calling 638-0212 or via email at sliner@chipleypaper.com.



Washington County NEWS

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WASHINGTON COUNTY SCHOOLS Chipley, FL

Guaranteed Energy Savings Contract Request for Qualifications

Washington County Schools is currently seeking responses for a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) on a Guaranteed Energy Savings Contract. All Prequalification Submissions should be sealed and clearly marked "RFQ Guaranteed Energy Savings Contract" and should be submitted no later than August 24, 2011 at 2pm CST. RFQ packets may be picked up and responses should be submitted to the following address:

Washington County Schools
Attn: Cy Chance
652 Third Street
Chipley, FL 32428
Reference: Energy Services RFQ
Phone: 850-638-6222

*Note - The district reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, to waive any irregularities therein, and/or to award to best qualified firm.

Chipley Tractor Supply sponsoring pet event

Staff report

In celebration of Pet Appreciation Week, Tractor Supply in Chipley will be hosting a pet event on Saturday, Aug. 6 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Leashed pets are welcome at the event and can visit the watering station where 4-H Livestock Club members from Washington County will be set up to recruit new club members and teach others about their club activities and educational events. Also among the participants is Lucky Puppy Dog Rescue.

Tractor Supply is a supporter of both 4-H and FFA programs throughout the United States, according to a 4-H spokesman. The Chipley Tractor Supply store won the distinction of earning the highest amount of donations in Florida for the local Washington County 4-H Program through the spring "Paper Clover" campaign.

4-H is a community of young people across America learning leadership, communication and life skills. In partnership with the Univer-

sity of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, youth take part in educational activities through their clubs, workshops and day camps as well as 4-H in the Classroom and residential camping programs.

For more information on Washington County 4-H, contact 4-H Youth Development Agent, Julie Pigott Dillard, at 638-6180 or juliepd@ufl.edu.

The Lucky Puppy Dog Rescue is a non-profit organization that helps homeless and abandoned animals in this area.

"These dogs are socialized with our dogs and cats, and we teach them basic manners to make them into good family pets. All of our dogs that are old enough and healthy will be vaccinated, heartworm tested, and spayed or neutered before they are adopted," said rescue owners. "Our adoption fees are \$125 for adult dogs, \$200 for puppies and \$75 for cats. You can see our available pets and find information on our website at "TheLuckyPuppy.org" or call Teri at 814-6500.



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1125 - Carpools & Rideshare
1130 - Adoptions
1140 - Happy Ads
1150 - Personals
1160 - Lost
1170 - Found

CLASSIFIED NOTICES
1110

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ATTENTION!
LOST BIG YELLOW LAB
Please help us find our 3 yr old neutered male lab retriever. He went missing on July 13 from Leisure Lakes Sub in Greenhead (between Wausau and Southport). He is deeply missed by 2 special needs kids. 850-326-4094

2100-2150
PETS & ANIMALS

2100 - Pets
2110 - Pets: Free to Good Home
2120 - Pet Supplies
2130 - Farm Animals/Supplies
2140 - Pets/Livestock Wanted
2150 - Pet Memorials

PETS
2100

Labrador Retriever puppies for sale. Born 5/31/2011. Black. Males \$75.00/ea. Females \$100.00/ea. (850)547-0224.

PET SUPPLIES
2120

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3100-3350
MERCHANDISE

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3130 - Auctions
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3150 - Building Supplies
3160 - Business Equipment
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3180 - Computers
3190 - Electronics
3200 - Firewood
3210 - Free Pass It On
3220 - Furniture
3230 - Garage/Yard Sales
3240 - Guns
3250 - Good Things to Eat
3260 - Health & Fitness
3270 - Jewelry/Clothing
3280 - Machinery/Equipment
3290 - Medical Equipment
3300 - Miscellaneous
3310 - Musical Instruments
3320 - Plants & Shrubs/Supplies
3330 - Restaurant/Hotel
3340 - Sporting Goods
3350 - Tickets (Buy & Sell)

APPLIANCES
3110

Frigidaire stove 30", Frigidaire dishwasher, Sears refrigerator. All in very good working condition. \$250.00 for all 3 or \$100.00/each. (850)547-3882

AUCTIONS
3130

Absolute Auction. 138 +/- acre farm, 2652 +/- sq ft. home, Covington County, near Andalusia AL & Gantt Lake, offered in 7 Parcels, combinations. GTAuctions.com, (205)326-0833. Granger, Thagard & Associates, Jack. F Granger, #873

Bankruptcy Auction - August 2nd-8th, 28 Florida & Georgia Properties! Residential and Commercial lots and structures in Duval, Sumter, Volusia and More! Register Now at www.flemingauction.com

GARAGE/YARD SALES
3230

BIG Multi-Family Yard Sale, Friday & Saturday, Aug 5&6. 670 Satellite Rd Graceville, 6 miles north of Chipley off Hwy 77. Lots of great items... women's plus size, big men's, regular adult and children's clothing, shoes, household items, furniture, kitchen items, toys, & much more. Rain or shine.

GARAGE/YARD SALES
3230

Big Yard Sale August 5 & 6th, Friday & Saturday behind Armory (Bonifay). Rain or Shine. Bed cover for truck, 13 inch T.V. with D.V.D Player, toys, shoes, clothes, what-nots, car seat, Whirlpool washing machine, Zenith big screen T.V. Lots & lots of stuff- too much to list. Ya'll Come!

Chipley: 1330 South Blvd, At the Old Chipley Drug Store next to the Health Department Saturday 7 a.m. til ?

Great Big Yard Sale
Kids Clothes, Toys, Home Decor, Books, etc. Lots of thises and thats...there's no telling what will be for sale!

HUGE 21 Family Fundraising Yard Sale
LPN class Aug 5th & 6th 8AM-2pm, Tractor Supply, Hwy 77 Chipley. Tools, furniture, housewares, appliances, toys, plants, cloths, & shoes. All sizes & free b/p checks.

GARAGE/YARD SALES
3230

AMVETS Post 7 Ladies Auxiliary will host a yard sale at the Post Home located at 1156 Jackson Ave, Chipley, Fl on Sat Aug 6th 2011 commencing at 8AM. **THE PUBLIC IS ENCOURAGED TO COME BY, BROWSE, AND BUY!!**

Huge Moving Sale
Sat Aug 6th 8am -1pm
455 Bahama Rd Chipley, Too many items to name

Inside Moving Sale
Chipley 1st United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, Friday Aug 12 8am -2pm, Saturday Aug 13 8am until cleaned out.

Mega-HughYard Sale!
Aug 6-7 1672 Hwy 173 Graceville, 547-4456. Remodeled too much stuff, paint, doors, bar stools, shutters, lines, table, kitchen & decorative items all cloths 1/2 price Sat

Saturday August 6. 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. 2685 Robin Hood Lane, Dogwood Lakes, Hwy 177-A. Furniture, tools, much more.

YARD SALE 4537 Azalea Lane, August 8 thru 12, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. From Vernon take Creek Rd. to Parrish Still to Azalea Ln. You won't want to miss this one. Men's clothes, ladies' clothes, welder, nic nacs, collectibles, plants, something for everyone. For more info, (850)535-2972.

Yard Sale Fri & Sat Aug 5 & 6. Trying to lower our debt ceiling... and balance our budget. Premature hunting equipment, antiques, hand crafted items, household items, and much more. 741 Sinclair St. Chipley

YARD SALE.
4100 Pate Pond Rd, Vernon, FL. 1st and 3rd SAT of each month 8AM-1PM
Indoor/Outdoor. Miscellaneous items so selection varies. Many items, too numerous to list. RAIN OR SHINE Sellers welcome
850-547-9140
850-326-1606

GUNS
3240

AMMO-38,44,45, nashot-amm o. Your brass-\$1.00 each. CBL-850-260-1342 Chipley

GOOD THINGS TO EAT
3250

Fresh from the Farm
Sweet corn, field corn, okra, peas and eggplant. Call for availability. (850)956-4556.

HELP WANTED
4100

GOOD THINGS TO EAT
3250

K&L Farm, LLC
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1567 Piney Grove Rd in Chipley
Mon-Fri 8-6pm Sat 8-4pm
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7AM-7PM . 1304-A Clayton Rd., Chipley, u pick \$5.00 gallon, we pick \$8.00 gallon. 850-638-2624

U-PICK SCUPPER-NUNG GRAPES. Open 7 days, \$4.00/ gallon. Off Hwy 177A on Flowing Well Rd. Follow signs. From Bonifay, 8 miles. (850)547-2326.

MISCELLANEOUS
3300

DIRECTV Summer Special! 1 Year FREE Showtime! 3 mos FREE HBO/Starz/Cinemax! NFL SUNDAY TICKET Free-Choice Ultimate/Premier-Pkgs from \$29.99/mo. Call by 8/15! (800)363-3755

HELP WANTED
4100

MISCELLANEOUS
3300

PA System with 3 mikes and 1 Stand \$300., 24' Travel Trailer, good condition \$3000. firm, 50 gallon fish tank with metal stand \$50.00. (850)956-4564

Wanted: Junk appliances. Lawn-mowers, farm and garden equipment, golf carts, satellites for free. I will pick up. Call (850)547-0088

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
3310

WANTED: Musical Instruments of any kind in any condition. Piano, banjos, drums, guitars, amps. LESSONS. Covington Music, Chipley. 850-638-5050.

4100-4130
EMPLOYMENT

4100 - Help Wanted
4130 - Employment Information

HELP WANTED
4100

CHILD CARE
Opening for a loving person to work with young children. Call 547-1444

CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINES
Deadline for classified ads is Monday at 12 Noon for the Wednesday papers and Thursday at 12 Noon for the Saturday Weekend Edition

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6170

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7150 - Lots and Acreage
7160 - Mobile Homes/Lots
7170 - Waterfront
7180 - Investment Property
7190 - Out-of-Town Real Estate
7200 - Timeshare

HOME FOR SALE
7100

HOME FOR SALE
7100

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2 ACRES W/
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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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High traffic counts on menu for attracting chain restaurants

As the Chamber's executive director, I often get asked about businesses that are located in Washington County as well as why certain types of businesses do not locate in the county.

Many of the questions through the years are about restaurants, and why there is not a Golden Corral, Ryan's steakhouse or Cracker Barrel. These are valid questions and I thought it would be a good idea to talk about why these types of restaurants are not here . . . yet.



Ted Everett
Executive
Director

The answer is really one of statistics and modeling. For example, when the former Chuck Wagon was for sale, I had a visit from my friend, the late Art Aukema, who wanted some help in finding a buyer for the building. We discussed the possibilities of bringing in a Ryan's or Golden Corral. It seemed logical enough, especially when I saw the gross sales that were generated by the Chuck Wagon at that time.

I had to get the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) traffic counts that would tell me how many cars went past that building at different hours of the day. Armed with that information, as well as the state



financial incentives which would be available to a company coming into that building, I called Golden Corral, Cracker Barrel and Ryan's – all of which expressed some interest in the area.

However, they were more interested in the traffic counts around the building, because in the retail restaurant business it's all about the numbers.

According to their financial models, in order to have a successful business these restaurants have determined that "x" number of cars have to pass by the proposed location per day. If "x" number of cars pass by the site, the restaurants

know a portion of that number statistically will stop. This is one factor for a restaurant's success.

Unfortunately, Highway 77 and the former Chuck Wagon location did not have the numbers that would have justified placing a major franchise restaurant there. The location needed an average of 10,000 more cars per day to support the decision to come to that Chipley site.

In addition to traffic counts being important to the decision-making process, most restaurants do not like to modify existing floor plans. Most restaurants have floor plans that are tailored for their

customers and the delivery of their product. The sum total for any business of this type is how many patrons can they expect to have come through their doors and through modeling and experience, how can their floor plan promote good service as quickly and efficiently as possible. So renovating an existing building is not within their business modeling plan.

To be sure, the Chamber does talk with these types of businesses and will continue to do so. However, as much as we would like them to be here, modeling tells these companies that we are not quite ready for them ...yet.

A Message From The President

Lawn mowers have been less active this summer due to the lack of rain, but thankfully there was some relief in mid-July. Don't let this dry spell fool you. It's still hurricane season, and it's easy to become complacent when we haven't experienced a big storm in awhile. The most important thing we should do is be prepared, and it all starts with having a plan. This shouldn't apply only to our families, but also to our businesses. According to the National



Darrin Wall

Hurricane Center, a disaster plan should address the following: discuss the type of hazards that could affect your family; know your home's vulnerability to storm surge, flooding and wind; locate a safe room or the safest areas in your home for each hurricane hazard (in certain circumstances the safest areas may not be your home but within your community); determine escape routes from your home and places to meet; have an out-of-state friend as a family contact, so all your family members have a single point of contact; make a plan now for what to do with your pets if you need to evacuate; post emergency telephone numbers by your phones and make sure your children know how and

when to call 911; check your insurance coverage - flood damage is not usually covered by homeowners insurance; stock non-perishable emergency supplies and a disaster supply kit.

Use a NOAA weather radio.

Remember to replace its battery every six months, as you do with your smoke detectors.

Take First Aid, CPR and disaster preparedness classes.

You can find this information at <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov>. You'll also find ideas about securing your home, having a pet plan, creating a disaster supply kit, and more. Being prepared in a time of disaster will not only protect lives, but get us back on our feet more quickly.

A Message From The Executive Director

There are many people who ask the question, "What does a Chamber of Commerce do?" The answer is many fold. A Chamber of Commerce's primary mission is to assist, educate and be a champion for the business community. But there is more to it than that, especially when the Chamber is located in a rural setting such as ours.

I have found that besides working with businesses such as WestPoint Home, Acadian Hardwoods, Hoovers Mill, Lewis Bear Company and others, there are also many other responsibilities that are involved with providing a presence for a business community.

Often times we are called upon to give advice to people on matters

that range from fund raising for their projects to making phone calls to our local legislators on behalf of individuals and businesses. For example, a business owner contacted us to help defeat a bill introduced into session that was detrimental to the company. We were able to initiate meetings between that business owner and our local legislators.

Sometimes we are here just to listen to people and their business issues. If we can help or make suggestions for the benefit of the business, we do that too.

Frequently we will have visitors from other geographical areas that are looking for information. I can recall several months ago a family came into the office who were researching their family's history and it led them to Washington County. They were looking for an old cemetery in which their grandfather was buried; it just so happened the cemetery they sought was located

down the road from where I live. That was an easy task accomplished.

Other times we get calls checking on certain businesses to see if they are legitimate and members in good standing. This is important because people looking to trade with people with whom they are unfamiliar usually check to see if that business belongs to a Chamber of Commerce. Knowing that a business does belong to a Chamber of Commerce gives that person a sense of security about their future dealings.

There are many other illustrations I can give but the one thing that I can say is that we do many things for our local business community and we are always here to help where we can with expertise, support and advocacy. If you are not a member of our Chamber, please come by and speak with me or the staff. I hope we can show you the many reasons to belong to our Chamber.



Ted Everett

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A discounted subscription to the *Washington County News* for new and renewing members

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Annual Chamber Membership Banquet
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The views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the Washington County Chamber of Commerce and are in no way associated with the Washington County News. Anyone with questions or comments regarding the content of this publication should contact the Washington County Chamber of Commerce at (850) 638-4157

August 18 Third Thursday

Program & Sponsor: Transition planning for family business owners, farmers and landowners, presented by Denny Axman of Advanced Market Resources.

Denny Axman, CLU, ChFC, AEP, CFP and Tom Klose, CLU, CLF are managing partners of Advanced Market Resources, a financial services firm located in Orange Park, Fla. Klose and Axman have over 80 years of experience in the financial services profession, and have spent many years in the



area of estate and business planning. Axman and Klose are independent advisors, and have access to over 35 different life insurance carriers through Pinnacle Insurance and Financial Services, a life insurance brokerage firm based in Jacksonville, Fla.

Matt Matthews, J.D., owns the Mathews Law Firm of Tallahassee and practices in the area of estate and business planning, as well as other areas of legal services.

September 15 Third Thursday

Program & Sponsor: Roger Laney III, EA, ABA, talks to us about "One of the most significant dangers facing all small businesses today!" Learn if your business is at risk and how to avoid becoming a victim to this ever increasing danger!



LANEY
ACCOUNTING & TAX SERVICES

City, Fla., we are pleased to sponsor the September annual meeting for our Chamber. Laney's is blessed and honored to provide comprehensive accounting and tax services to many small businesses and individuals in our community. The Chamber is one of Washington County's most effective business advocates and we are grateful to all who serve to make our Chamber so successful and happy to be a small part of making that success possible.

Laney Accounting & Tax Services is proud to be a long time Chamber member and EDC supporter. As a full-service accounting firm with offices in Chipley and Panama

Just A Reminder.....

The Washington County Chamber of Commerce
Annual Meeting

September 15, 2011 • 7:30 a.m.

Pattillo's Restaurant

Washington-Holmes Technical Center Campus
West Avenue Entrance, Chipley, Florida

A formal notice and slate of officers will be sent to all voting members.

Exercise your right to vote and attend this important meeting!

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holmes@ffbic.com



CRA grants provide incentives for business redevelopment

The Chipley Redevelopment Agency (CRA) has been in existence since 1985. It's original mission was to redevelop conditions of slum and blight in a specified area of core downtown businesses and affordable housing according to the strategic plan. The funds to accomplish this mission were designated by Florida Statute called Tax Increment Financing (TIF), which are a portion of ad valorem taxes from the City of Chipley and Washington County.

The Streetscape of the 1980s and 1990s was phase one of the

plan. These activities brought to light many inconsistencies in the buildings within the CRA and a Revolving Loan Program was designed to help building owners redevelop, renovate and upgrade their buildings to attract new businesses. The original maximum at that time was \$5,000. The Loan Program today is a maximum of \$20,000 at 2 percent interest for seven years.

The second CRA program developed as an incentive to local business and building owners was help in renovating the façades

of these buildings. This 75 percent/ 25 percent Façade Renovation Grant provides funding to replace an awning or glass windows, doors, painting and other façade treatments. The maximum amount is \$6,000 per qualified façade.

A third program was recently offered as an enticement to update obsolete plumbing and wiring, construction of walls, cosmetic improvements and other renovations to, again, make new business interested in a downtown location.

The Special Improvement
See CRA, Page 8

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Opportunity Florida region expands geography, economic projects

**By Susan Estes,
Grants Coordinator**

Much has been happening with Opportunity Florida of late. Recently, Wakulla County was added to the region. We now encompass nine counties and one city, Freeport, in Walton County. We are looking forward to working with Wakulla County and welcome them to Opportunity Florida.

Our members are working on projects throughout the region as well. David Gardner, Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce executive director, recently held a conference to introduce a new company that may move to Gadsden County.

National Solar Power is a solar farm project that has the potential to create 400 new jobs

during the five-year construction phase and up to 140 permanent jobs. National Solar Power will convert solar power into electricity and will sell this power to utility companies during peak usage hours.

The Port St. Joe port is working hard to become a main import and export center. Operations are underway to make this well-placed port a gateway to South America and the rest of the world. Port Director Tommy Pitts and Rick Marcum recently traveled to Chile and Peru and met with several export companies and port directors. Having an accessible and



viable port could bring unlimited opportunities to businesses

throughout the region and country. As a matter of fact, ports in Northwest Florida are closer to the Panama Canal than any other ports in this country, including those in South Florida.

These projects and others are possible, thanks to proactive economic development members and workforce boards, involved county commissions and a beautiful region that holds many advantages over the rest of the country. All this and more make this an area second to none.

Upcoming Events...

August

- 4 City of Chipley Elections
- 6 Possum Festival & Funday
- 8 STP Adult Auditions
- 13 STP - An Evening Of Southern Gospel
- 22 Washington Co. School Begins

September

- 5 Labor Day
- 6 District Garden Club Meeting/Vernon



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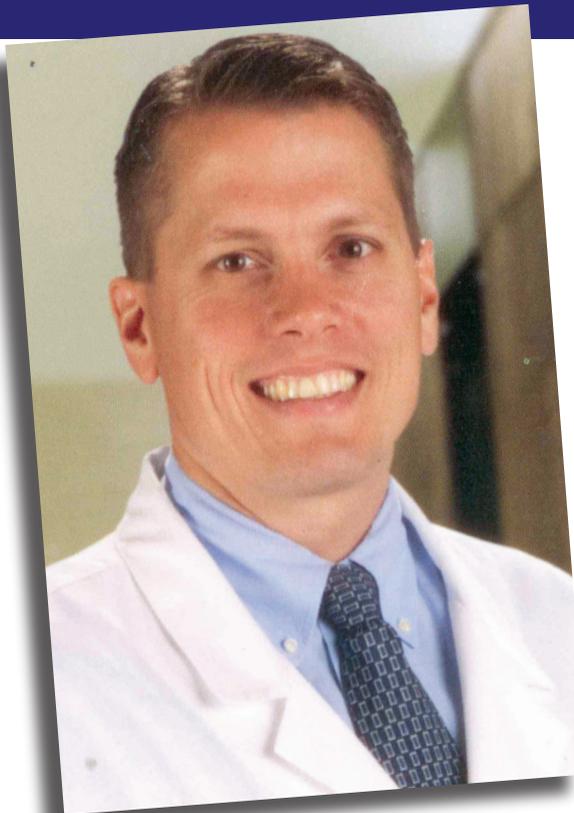
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Email: philip@pippinappraisal.com

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Join us in welcoming Dr. Aaron Shores, M.D. to our community. He is board certified in pain management and physical medicine & rehabilitation, and has completed a fellowship in Anesthesiology Interventional Pain Management.

Dr. Shores has a special interest in treating disorders of the spine, including pinched nerves, low back and neck pain. He also treats certain other nerve disorders like peripheral neuropathy.

In an effort to maximize patient care, Dr. Shores applies the latest advances in interventional pain management, musculoskeletal medicine and physical medicine & rehabilitation through the use of the latest non-surgical and conservative treatments.

As a pain management specialist, Dr. Shores is able to determine the source or pathology of the pain and treat it accordingly, with an approach that is unique for each patient. If the source of pain is unable to be resolved with treatment, the focus will be on relieving the painful symptoms.

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Ribbon Cuttings



June 30 - Down Home Dental, 699 2nd St., Chipley.



July 8 - Everything Must Go!, 812 Main St., Chipley.



July 14 - Eagle's Nest Christian Books & Gifts, 805 Main St., Chipley.



July 14 - Holmes County Realty/Finch Fire 'n Water/Elite Realty, 867 Falling Waters Road, Chipley.

Mark Your Calendar!



November 5 & 6, 2011

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Includes admission into the

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Kids 12 and under FREE



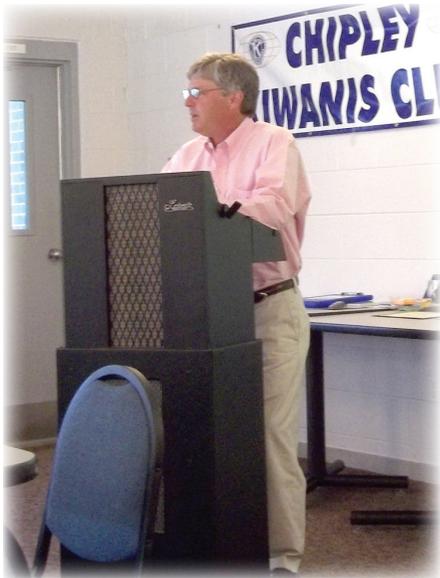
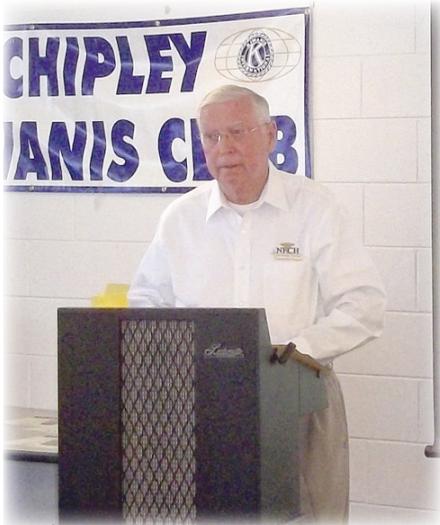
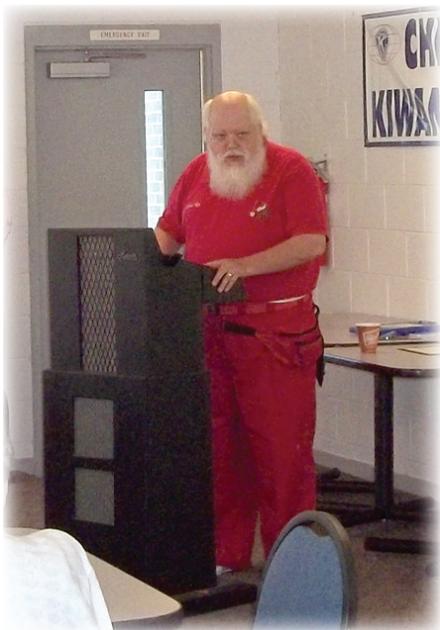
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Third Thursday Highlights



June-July Third Thursday Highlights...

Clockwise from top right, Junior Achievement volunteers Vickie Williams-Community South Credit Union, Andy Fleener-One South Bank, Amy Kindig-NFCH, Tracy Andrews-Gulf Power Company, Ted Everett-Labor Creek are recognized by regional JA president Justin Hall and director Jackie Brooks; Ambassador Chair Gary Hartman thanks all Ambassadors for their participation in 2011; President Darrin Wall presents EDC Certificate of Appreciation to Melanie Davis of Regions Bank; Executive Director Ted Everett welcomes new members to the July Third Thursday networking program; Patric Schlenker, hospital CEO, introduces NFCH's presentation at the June 3 Third Thursday; Rex Ray, otherwise known as Sandhills Santa, tells members how he enjoys living in Washington County; Nursing Director Doreen Freer, center pic, provides tips on summer health hazards.

CRA From page 4

ment Grant did not require any match on the part of the building/business owner and provided up to \$4,000 per qualified address. The program set a limit of 40 grants and we are happy to report 39 applications had been approved.

The CRA works to improve the

downtown Chipley business community. It provides resources to businesses and building owners to keep our county seat a vibrant and pleasant location for visitors and citizens to enjoy a meal or shop for that item you just can't find anywhere else.



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There's a very good reason that the word **'Community'** is part of our name...

Holmes Creek Baptist Church- Men's Banquet * Washington County School Board- Spelling Bee, Teacher/Employee of the Year * Holmes County Town Street Festival * Washington County Youth * **At Community South Credit Union... we not only 'talk the talk'... we also 'walk the walk'...** Chipley, Vernon, Cottondale, Graceville, Holmes County Project Graduations * City Basketball Sponsorship * Chipola Foundation * Chipola Athletics * Washington County Chamber Foundation * Washington County Chamber Banquet **We give back... because YOUR community... is OUR community...** Chipley Kiwanis Golf Tournament * Kate Smith PTO * Washington County Council on Aging * Junior Achievement of Northwest Florida * Chipley Ducks Unlimited * Bonifay Rodeo * City Flag Football Sponsorship * Farm City Banquet * Chipley Pee Wee Football Association **Come Home... to Community South.** Washington County Scholarship Trust * Chipley All Stars * Wausau Possum Festival * Friends of the



www.CommunitySouth.net

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Spotlight On Our Chamber Ambassadors



KATHY RUDD Woodmen of the World



Kathy Rudd joined our Chamber Ambassadors with only one question: “What can I do??” Kathy has been a presence at just about all our Chamber events. Anyone who knows her, even just a little, knows her commitment to service goes beyond her present career path. The Chamber is very proud to have Kathy as an Ambassador.

A little about Woodmen of the World:

Founded in 1890, the company has a simple, dual mission – to protect America’s families from financial hardship and to provide opportunities to help others in the community.

It is one of the nation’s leading fraternal benefit societies - a

community-based, member-owned organization. This means that Woodmen of the World exists for the benefit of its members and their communities.

Woodmen demonstrates civic commitment in many ways. Some ongoing projects include patriotic presentations of American flags, American History awards, honor and remembrance events and Flag Day ceremonies and celebrations. A few of our service projects include disaster relief programs, Join Hands Day, food drives and other community improvement projects

More information about Woodmen of the World is available from Kathy Rudd, field representative, 850-933-7931 or 850-638-3555



Chamber Ambassadors Kathy Rudd, left, and Gary Hartman secure the Ambassador trailer for an upcoming event.

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TDC announces policy changes, branding campaign

With the new fiscal year fast approaching, the Washington County Tourist Development Council (TDC) is getting ready to execute some policy changes and special projects. These changes will help the TDC to increase tourism and stimulate the local economy.

The TDC has changed the way it approves event advertising grants, effective October 1, by going to a reward system where a new event will start at \$1,000 and work its way up in funding as the event grows and at-

tracts more tourists to the area.

Current events will continue to wean off the old system of grant funding in the next two fiscal years. All events, existing and new, will be converted to the new system by the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

The TDC will track an event's success by providing numbered wristbands to better determine total attendance and a zip code survey

that will show exactly where the attendees are coming from. Currently, the TDC has three years of data on event attendance that shows events have attracted 53,156 people with 60.58% being from outside Washington County.

The TDC is also looking at doing a branding campaign for Washington County. A new logo, slogan and general theme to advertise to tourists are just a part of what will be included in this cam-

aign. The day trip program will be considered in this process as well as the partnership with RiverWay South Apalachicola Choctawhatchee (RWSAC).

The second quarter of the grant from the Governor's office through RWSAC will shortly provide a list of existing and lacking types of tourist attractions in Washington County that can be used to help assist in the branding process.

The final initiative will be to complete a social media platform consisting of Facebook, Twitter

and YouTube. This will help get Washington County's new brand more widely circulated and assist in promoting events, the day trip program and other special projects conducted by the TDC throughout the year.

The TDC is work-

ing hard to make Washington County a better place to vacation to and live in. To follow our progress with these new fiscal year objectives or if you just want to know what's going on in your own backyard, visit www.VisitWashingtonCountyFL.com.



Heather Lopez
Administrative
Assistant



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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

RENEWED MEMBERS

A & B Auto Sales of Jax Inc. – 2010
 Brenda Bozarth - 2010
 AMVETS Post 007 – 2007
 Bay Solutions – 2000
 Timothy Brown – 2009
 Bailey's Surf & Turf – 2010
 Madalene Culpepper - 2008
 Blossoms – 1996
 Patrick A. Schlenker - 2010
 Buffalo Rock Co. – 2010
 Captain Anderson's Restaurant – 2010
 Carswell Realty – 1980
 Chipley Financial Services Inc. – 2007
 Chipley Hardware/MH Supplies – 1993
 Chipleybugle.com – 2000
 Chipola Ford – 2010
 Chipola Healthy Start – 2008
 Chipola Regional Workforce Development Board – 1998

Colby Peel, Washington County Judge – 1999
 Community South Credit Union – 1992
 Cyber Sytes Inc. – 2010
 Deborah Healis – Independent Beauty Consultant – 2010
 DownHome Dental Center – 2010
 DRMP Inc. – 2007
 Finch Fire-N- Water Const. Restoration – 2010
 First Baptist Church of Chipley – 1996
 Fosterfollynews.com – 2004
 GAC Contractors Inc. – 1998
 GPI Southeast Inc. – 2009
 Guettler & Guettler – 1996
 Harrison Rivard, Attorney at Law – 2010
 Hasty Heating & Cooling – 1996
 High Plumbing Inc. of Washington County – 1980
 Horizon Health Care Services Inc. – 2010
 HSA Consulting Group Inc. – 2010
 Joan E. Beard - 2010
 Kid's World of Chipley, Inc. – 2008
 Leola Brock Nurseries, LLC - 2010

Literacy Volunteers of Washington County – 1991
 Muller Communications Inc. – 2010
 Murry's Tire Store, Inc. – 1980
 NFCH Community Home Health – 2010
 Nicholas Auto Repair & Towing – 2005
 NW FL Family Health & Specialty Clinic – 2010
 NW FL Specialty Clinic – 2010
 Panhandle Family Medicine PA – 2002
 Phillips Meats & Seafood – 2010
 Randy Morris Inc. – 2010
 Real Florida Property – 2010
 Regions Bank – 1987
 Shirley Davis Interiors – 2010
 Small Business Development Center – 2002
 Strategic Systems, Inc. – 2010
 Street Talk America – 2010
 Subway/GALO Enterprises, Inc. – 1998
 Town of Ebro – 2010
 Town of Wausa - 1987

Tracom Inc. – 2010
 United Way of Northwest Florida Inc. – 2003
 West Florida Baptist Association - 1989

NEW MEMBERS

Bright House Networks - 2011
 Eagle's Nest Christian Books & Gifts - 2011
 Everything Must Go - 2011
 Holmes County Realty - 2011
 Med-Surance – 2011
 Preble-Rish, Inc. 2011
 Sunbelt Credit – 2011
 Vernon Clinie – 2011
 Wound Healing Institute - 2011

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL INVESTMENTS

Community South Credit Union
 Horizon Health Care Services Inc.
 Regions Bank

Total Members: 358



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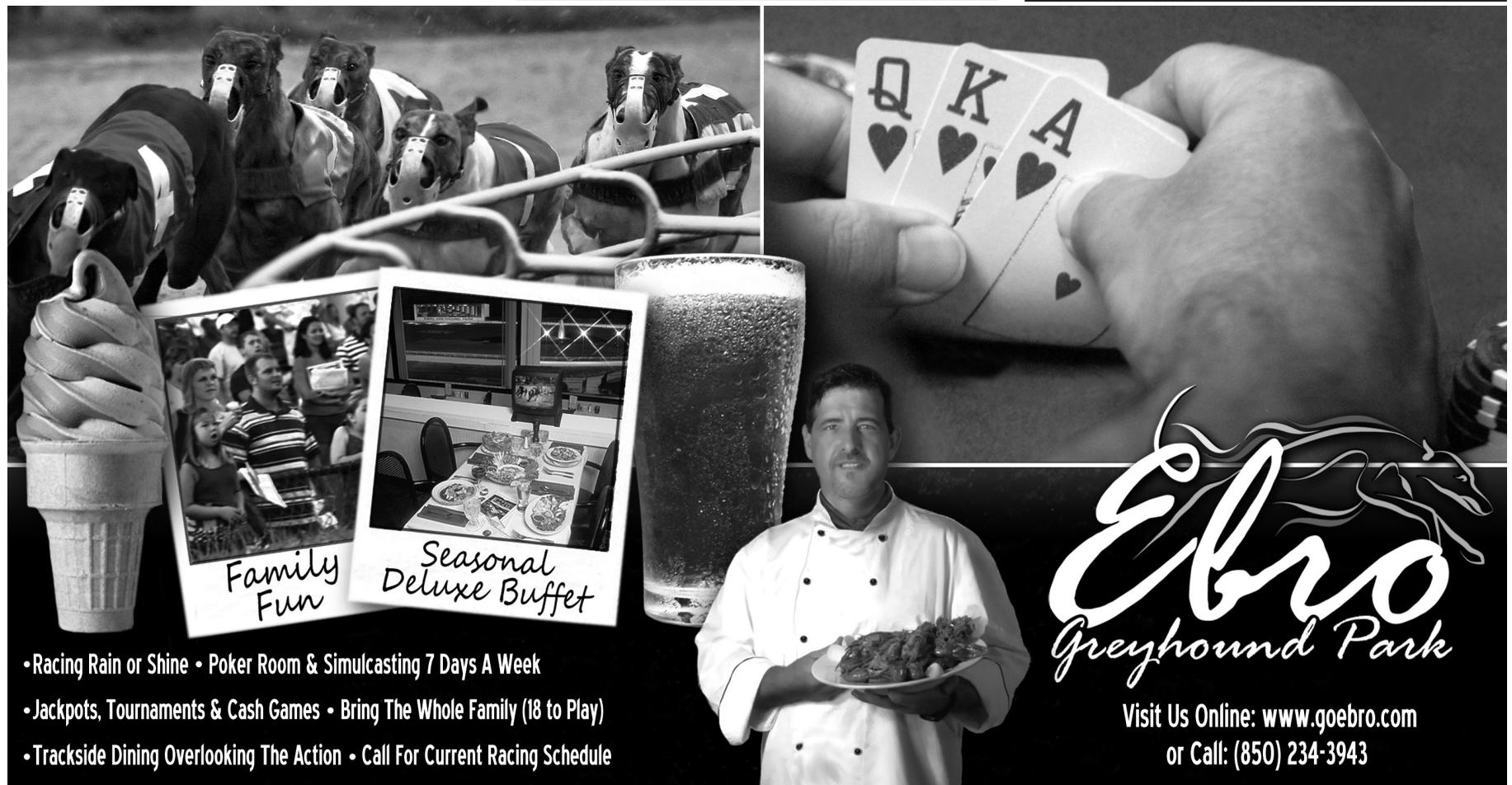
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AUGUST 2011

Every Tuesday
Noon - Kiwanis Luncheon

Every Thursday & Friday & 1st Saturday (9-12)
10am-2pm -WC Historical Society Museum Open

Every Tuesday / Thursday / Saturday (7-12)
12-5pm-Farmers Market Open
685 7th St.ChIPLEY

Every Wednesday
9-2pm-Vernon Hist. Historical Soc. Museum Open

- 1 7 pm - Vernon City Council Workshop
- 2 PLEASE VOTE – Chipley City Election @ City Hall
- 4 10:30 am – Ribbon Cutting – Vernon Clinic (Vernon FL)
- 4 5 pm- Chipley City Council Workshop
- 4 6:30 pm – Sunny Hills Civic Assoc. Meeting
- 6 42nd Annual Wausau Possum Festival
- 8 5:30 pm – Wash Co School Board Meeting
6 pm – Adult Auditions for STP's "Annie"
7 pm – Vernon Council Meeting
- 9 6 pm – Ebro Town Council Meeting
6 p.m. – Adult Auditions for STP's "Annie"
- 10 Noon – Chipley Womans Club @ Clubhouse
- 11 9 am – 1 pm – NFCH Back to School Event
6 pm – Chipley City Council Meeting
6 pm – Wausau Council Meeting
- 13 7 pm – STP presents "An Evening of Southern Gospel"
- 15 9 am – WC Board of Co. Commission Workshop @ Annex
Noon – Chamber Ambassadors Meeting @ Chamber
7 pm – Vernon City Council Workshop
- 18 7:30 am - WC Chamber 3rd Thursday @ Pattillo's
- 21 5 pm – STP Board Mtg @ Chamber
- 22 School Begins – Washington County Schools
4 pm – TDC Workshop @ Chamber
5 pm – TDC Meeting @ Chamber
7 pm – Vernon Council Meeting
- 24 9 am - WC Board of Co. Commission Meeting

SEPTEMBER 2011

Every Tuesday

Noon - Kiwanis Luncheon

Every Tuesday / Thursday / Saturday (7-12)
12-5pm-Farmers Market Open
685 7th St.ChIPLEY

Every Thursday & Friday & 1st Saturday (9-12)
10am-2pm -WC Historical Society Museum Open
Every Wednesday

9-2pm-Vernon Hist. Historical Society Museum Open

- 1 6:30 pm - Sunny Hills Civic Assoc. Meeting
- 5 LABOR DAY! Chamber office Closed
- 5 6 pm - Vernon City Council Workshop
- 6 10 am–Chipley/Wausau/Vernon Garden Club (Joint Mtg)
- 7 District Garden Club Meeting in Vernon
- 8 5 pm - Chipley City Council Workshop
- 8 6 pm - Wausau Council Meeting
- 12 9 am – WC Board of Co. Commission Workshop @Annex
5:30 pm - Wash Co. School Board Meeting
7 pm - Vernon City Council Meeting
- 13 5:15 pm - Merchants of Historic Chipley Meeting
6 pm - Chipley City Council Meeting
6 pm – Ebro Town Council Meeting
- 14 Noon – Chipley Womans Club @ Clubhouse
- 15 7:30 am – WC Chamber 3rd Thursday @ Pattillo's
7 pm – Chipley Kiwanis Dinner Theatre – Talent Show
- 19 Noon – Chamber Ambassadors Meeting @ Chamber
6 pm Vernon City Council Workshop
- 26 9 am – WC Board of Co. Commiss. Meeting @ Annex
4 pm - WC TDC Workshop @ Chamber
5 pm – WC TDC Meeting @ Chamber
7 pm - Vernon City Council Meeting



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