

Washington County News WEEKEND



Community events, **A3**

Saturday, **DECEMBER 7, 2013**

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IN BRIEF

Christmas Fest includes chili, parade

CHIPLEY — The Washington County Chamber of Commerce will have its inaugural Chili Cook-Off as part of the Downtown Chipley Christmas Fest, which begins at 2 p.m. today with Santa arriving at the Farmers Market Complex.

The cook-off will be 3-6 p.m. with chili judging beginning at 5:30 p.m.

The annual Christmas Parade will begin at 3:30 p.m. with lineup beginning at 2:30 p.m. at the old Chipley High School track. Photos with Santa will be available from 2-3 p.m. and 4:30-6 p.m. at the gazebo downtown.

At 5:30 p.m., there will be a reading of the Cajun "The Night Before Christmas" by Kermit Soileau.

There will also be carriage and pony rides, food and drinks and the Washington County Historical Museum will hold an open house.

For more information, call 638-4157.

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WASHINGTON COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

County OKs enterprise zone changes

By **RANDAL SEYLER**
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CHIPLEY — The Washington County Planning Commission approved the proposed changes to the Enterprise Zones of Ebro and Vernon on Tuesday during the panel's regular December meeting.

"The Washington County Chamber of Commerce and the Econom-

ic Development Council are interested in seeing amendments to the existing Enterprise Zones," Senior Planner Mike DeRuntz said.

An Enterprise Zone is a state-created area for industrial or commercial development that offers incentives to businesses in order to create jobs. Those incentives include jobs creation tax credits, electrical energy tax credits, sales tax refunds for jobs creation and

building materials, property tax credits for jobs creation and sales tax refunds for business equipment and machinery.

Last year, the state Legislature passed a new law allowing counties to expand their Enterprise Zones, and Washington County will be allowed to expand its areas by 3 miles, which Washington County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Ted Everett divided be-

tween Ebro and Vernon.

New Enterprise Zone maps were designed and approved with input from the two cities' council members. Parts of the zones include county property, however, so the county also has to approve the changes.

DeRuntz said though the changes to the Enterprise Zones

See **ZONE A2**

Pancakes with Santa



PHOTOS BY **RANDAL SEYLER** | The News

The Chipley Kiwanis Club had its annual Pancake Supper on Tuesday, Dec. 3, at the Kate M. Smith Elementary School cafeteria. The annual fundraiser drew dozens of hungry parents and Santa and Mrs. Claus were on hand to entertain the children. Santa returns this afternoon for Christmas Fest at the Farmers Market Complex in downtown Chipley.



School board chooses construction manager

Perry-McCall Construction to oversee VES project

By **RANDAL SEYLER**
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CHIPLEY — The Washington County School Board chose the firm Perry-McCall Construction on Monday to provide management services overseeing the demolition and construction of the Vernon Elementary School project, scheduled to begin over Christmas break.

The board had a special meeting Monday, Dec. 2, to hear from five competing firms who wanted the job of construction manager for the district. Each of the five firms was allowed to make a 20-minute presentation before the board members

See **SCHOOL BOARD A2**

FDOT reveals 5-year plan

By **CECILIA SPEARS**
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CHIPLEY — Washington and Holmes were two of many counties discussed as the Florida Department of Transportation had its annual meeting on the tentative work program for fiscal years 2015-19.

The meeting was Tuesday, Dec. 3, at the Florida Department of Transportation District 3 office in Chipley.

"We're gathered here today to review the five-year work plan for fiscal years 2015-2019, which remains

See **FDOT A2**

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do not change the designated zoning of the properties, the incentive of the zone could one day attract development to the two communities, especially after the state Department of Transportation's four-laning project on State Road 79 is completed.

"Vernon is looking at making a river-walk area with a possible mix of commercial residential," DeRuntz said. "This could make it a more thriving community."

The commissioners also approved a Land Use Change Request for G.M. Hobbs, who wants to change a property's zoning from public/semi-public to general commercial.

The change will incorporate the property at 3319 Court Ave. in Vernon into Hobbs' three adjoining properties that front on State 79 and that already have a general commercial designation, DeRuntz said.

The Vernon City Council approved the request for the zoning change, Hobbs said.

"We don't have anything planned for the property right now, but we are looking three or four years down the road, after the DOT finishes Highway 79," Hobbs said.



RANDAL SEYLER | The News

Representatives from Perry-McCall Construction make a presentation before the Washington County School Board on Monday. The Perry-McCall firm was chosen to serve as construction management for the upcoming Vernon Elementary School construction project.

FDOT from page A1

tentative until July 15," said Jacqueline Paramore, statewide Title VI administrator for FDOT. "The budget remains at \$3 billion, just like last year, and 2017 has an enormous spike, and that is related to the replacement of the Pensacola Bay Bridge, also known as the three-mile bridge. This project will cost \$500 million to replace, which goes to show that one project can make a significant change."

Paramore reviewed the changes made recently to FDOT plans for Holmes County.

"For Holmes County, there are a lot of bridge replacement projects underway," Paramore said.

Those listed are Riddick Mill Road over Unnamed Branch Bridge, Jones Loop over Pine Log Creek Bridge, Whitaker Road over Lighter Snag Creek Bridge, Hicks Road over West Pittman Creek Bridge, Valee Road over Blue Creek Bridge and Hicks Road over West Pittman Creek, Bridge Number Two.

There is also a bridge rehabilitation scheduled for State Road 20 over Lafayette Creek Bridge.

"There will be a project development and environmental study of State Road 79 from State Road 8 to the Alabama line," Paramore said. "For those of you who are local you are aware of Project 79, where we've planned and have been funded for the widening of State Road 79 to the interstate, now we're advancing it to the Alabama state line."

Other proposed projects include a resurfacing project for State Road 2 from Country Road 177 to Ten Mile Creek; a Small County Outreach Program to repave Thomas Drive from State Road 79/Waukesha Street to the Washington County Line and for Deacon Road from County Road 173/Jenkins Road to Sandpath Road; a Small County Road Assistance Program to repave County Road 183A from County Road 10A to Walton County Line; and a Transportation Region-



CECILIA SPEARS | The News

Multiple agencies throughout Northwest Florida attended or tuned in as the Florida Department of Transportation had its annual meeting to discuss the tentative work program for fiscal years 2015-19 on Dec. 3 at the Florida Department of Transportation District Three office in Chipley.

al Incentive Program to overlay the runway at Tri-County Airport.

"For Washington County, there will be several projects to widen and repave roads to include adequate right-of-way," Paramore said. "These projects' funding will be spread out over the course of 2015, 2016 and 2017."

These projects include State Road 77 from the Bay County line to north of County Road 279; State Road 77 from north of County Road 279 to the north Sunny Hills entrance; State Road 77 from the north Sunny Hills entrance to one mile South of Wausau city limits; and State Road 77 from north of County Road 279 to the north Sunny Hills entrance.

"We have a lighting project because we still don't have lighting at State Road 8 off of I-10, which is the Caryville exit," Paramore said. "We also have a project development and environmental study for State Road 77 from North of Blue Lake Road to the Jackson County Line,

and that is the beginning study for 2018, which started in 2006 for a possible bypass alternative."

There are resurfacing projects for State Road 20 from the Walton County line to the Bay County line and State Road 77 from south of State Road 8/I-10 to Fifth Street and a Small County Rural Assistance Program to pave Shakey Joe Road from end of pavement to County Road 284/River Road.

"Chipley Sidewalks Phase II is a combination of two different projects, where all work will be done under this one project," Paramore said. "This includes Sinclair Street from County Road 273/South Boulevard to Forrest Drive and Third Street from Pine Avenue to County Road 273/South Boulevard."

There is a transportation alternative project for sidewalks on Pine Avenue from Usery Road to Third Street.

"This is where the city will manage the project and then be reimbursed," Paramore said.

Suspect arrested, charged in stabbing

From Staff Reports

GRACEVILLE — Deputies have arrested a man suspected of stabbing a woman in the head, according to the Jackson County Sheriff's Office.

Shawn Murry Ellsworth, 46, was booked into the

Jackson County jail on a charge of aggravated battery with a deadly weapon. He is suspected of stabbing Lori Munford on Tuesday on Damascus Church Road.

Munford's mother took her to Campbellton Graceville Hospital. She is in stable condition.

Library to host e-reader class

Special to the News

CHIPLEY — Are you unsure about the differences between Kindles, Nooks, iPads and other brands? Which is the most user-friendly eReader?

Visit the Chipley branch of the Washington County

Public Library at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11, for the "Which eReader is Right for You?" class. This lesson will cover basic differences in devices. There will also be a Q&A session to answer all questions.

For more information, call 638-1314.



PHOTO BY RANDAL SEYLER | The News

Representatives from Perry-McCall Construction make a presentation before the Washington County School Board on Monday. The Perry-McCall firm was chosen to serve as construction management for the upcoming Vernon Elementary School construction project.

SCHOOL BOARD from A1

ranked the presentations and chose a provider.

The Jacksonville based firm was ranked first of the five competing firms. Reliant South Construction Group was ranked second, while Lord & Son Construction and Allstate Construction tied for third place. Anderson & Associates was ranked fifth.

Perry-McCall Construction was founded in 1989 when Wayne S. McCall formed a new construction company in Northeast Florida committed to meeting the needs of their clients while providing total customer satisfaction, according to the company's website. Through this experience, Perry-McCall has grown from a small partnership serving one region into a multimillion-dollar construction firm that services the entire Southeast.

Perry-McCall Construction has 40 years experience and has constructed 600,000 square feet in K-20

construction, according to Project Manager Woodrow Foster. The firm has worked in Washington County before with projects at Vernon High School, Roulhac Middle School and Vernon Elementary School.

"A project like this one takes a lot of coordination," Foster said.

The plans are for the old building to be demolished and have the rubble removed during Christmas break, then a new building will be constructed in the spring while classes are ongoing at the Vernon Elementary School campus.

The construction site will be fenced off from the rest of the campus. Plans are for the new building to be complete by July 31.

School board attorney Jeff Goodman said he would get with Perry-McCall and have a contract prepared in 48 hours so the board can review the document at the next regular school board meeting, scheduled for Dec. 9.

BRIEF from page A1

A Classic Chipley Christmas

CHIPLEY — The Spanish Trail Playhouse is presenting "A Classic Chipley Christmas" at 7 p.m. today, Dec. 7, at the Spanish Trail Playhouse Theatre. Tickets are general admission, \$10, and will be on sale at the box office today.

VMS plans silent auction

VERNON — Vernon Middle School invites parents and the community to attend its annual Holiday Traditions Around the World Silent Auction.

This fundraiser provides VMS with the funds to purchase Christmas for less

fortunate VMS students who might otherwise not have a Christmas. All of the funds will be used to purchase clothing/gifts. The silent auction will be at 6 p.m. Dec. 10 in the VMS band room. All are invited to come and support the school.

To donate, call Vernon Middle School at 535-2807. Donations can be monetary, gift cards, services, gift baskets or gift certificates.

TDC calls special meeting

CHIPLEY — The Washington County Tourist Development Council will have a special meeting at 10 a.m. Monday, Dec. 9, at the Washington County Chamber of Commerce building.

GAS DRYER GIVEAWAY CONTEST!

**Drawing will be Friday, December 20 at Noon
Bonifay Store**

The person who guesses the number of balls in the dryer without going over wins!

No purchase required to enter. Must be 18 to enter. Only 1 guess per person. Drawing in case of a tie. If dryer won, Non gas customers of HY Temp must pick up dryer at the Bonifay store. Current HY Temp Gas customers who win dryer receive free delivery and installation to existing gas outlet.

Merry Christmas and Good Luck!



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MONDAY-FRIDAY • 8AM TIL 5PM



Community EVENTS

KMS Relay For Life Yard Sale

CHIPLEY — The Kate M. Smith Elementary School's Relay For Life team is sponsoring a school/community-wide Yard Sale today, Dec. 7. It will be set up on Westborne Avenue, where the school buses load and unload. All are welcome and encouraged to participate by having their own spot in the sale for \$10 and their own table. Setup will start at 7 a.m., and the sale will kick off at 8 a.m. Anyone wishing to donate items to the KMS tables would be greatly appreciated. The KMS Relay for Life team also will have coffee, hot chocolate and donuts for sale. For more information, call team chairman Jackie Jacks at 638-6220, ext. 283 or co-chairperson Ahleigh Watford at 415-5065.

Paint with Santa

BONIFAY — The Washington-Holmes Domestic Violence Task Force and the Silver Door will sponsor a Paint with Santa day from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. today. A percentage of the proceeds will be donated to the WHDVTF. For more information, call 547-3321.

Bonifay Christmas Parade

BONIFAY — The annual city of Bonifay Christmas Parade and Celebration in the Park will be today, Dec. 7. The parade of lights will begin at 6 p.m. and will proceed to Veteran's Memorial Park. Parade lineup will be at 5:30 p.m. at Bonifay Elementary. No registration is necessary. After the parade, there will be visits with Santa and hot dogs and hot chocolate with Bonifay Fire and Rescue. Ultimate Production Company will provide musical entertainment while guests enjoy fellowship around the bonfire surrounded by a park full of Christmas lights.

Santa is coming to town

ESTO — Santa is coming to John Clark Park from

10 a.m. to noon today, Dec. 7, in Esto. After visits with Santa, kids young and old will have the chance to eat lunch with the jolly old elf.

North Bay Clan fundraiser

CHIPLEY — The North Bay Clan of the Lower Muscogee Tribe will have a yard sale/flea market from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. today, Dec. 7, at the tribe grounds. Booths are available. All proceeds will go to the annual pow wow. For more information or to reserve booths, call Gail at 703-0148.

Christmas Tour of Homes

CHIPLEY — The Chipley Woman's Club will have the Christmas Tour of Homes from 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8. Tickets for the tour at \$10 and are available at the clubhouse.

The Chipley Christmas Tour of Homes will begin at the Woman's Club, at 607 N. Fifth St. in Chipley. Tickets and maps to all locations on the tour will be available along with holiday refreshments at the historic clubhouse. The following homes and businesses will be showcased this year: Pat and Buddy Dickson, Julie and Nick Dillard, Kristie and Ron Novonglosky, Community South Credit Union and One South Bank.

Tickets may be purchased in advance from any club member or on the day of the tour at the clubhouse. For more information, call 638-2992 or 272-2458.

HCHS to present 'The Sound of Music'

BONIFAY — The Holmes County High School Drama Department will present "The Sound of Music" Dec. 7-9, at the HCHS auditorium. There will be 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. shows on Saturdays and a 2:30 p.m. show on Sunday and a 7 p.m. show Monday.

"The Sound of Music" is set in pre-World War II Austria and is based on the romantic true story of Maria von Trapp, an aspiring nun who leaves the abbey to become a

governess for the seven children of a widowed naval captain. Her growing rapport with the youngsters, coupled with her generosity of spirit, gradually captures the heart of the stern captain, and they marry.

Upon returning from their honeymoon, they discover that Austria has been invaded by the Nazis, who demand the captain's immediate service in their navy.

CCOA plans Christmas dinner

CHIPLEY — The Washington County Council on Aging will be sponsoring a Christmas dinner from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10, at the Washington County Agricultural Center. This dinner is for seniors 60 years old and older. The dinner will also be open to unpaid caregivers.

CHS Christmas Concert

CHIPLEY — The Chipley High School Band Department will present its annual concert of holiday music at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10. The concert will feature the CHS Percussion Ensemble and Symphonic Band performing the sounds of the Christmas season. Admission is free, and the public is encouraged to attend this event at the CHS Performing Arts Auditorium on Brickyard Road. For more information, contact the CHS Band Office at 638-6100, ext. 525.

Vernon Elementary School Food Drive

VERNON — Vernon Elementary announces the beginning of its annual school food drive, which will continue until Dec. 13. Food collected during this time will be donated to needy families in the Vernon area. Please donate only nonperishable food or canned food items. Donations will be accepted in the front office, or they can be sent with any VES student. The grade level collecting the most items will win a popcorn party.

PENNIES FOR THE PHILIPPINES



SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

Chipley Arts in the Schools (C.A.T.S.), along with the Chipley boys and girls basketball teams, are asking for your pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters to help support those ravaged by Typhoon Haiyan. At the boys' basketball game Dec. 13 and the girls basketball game Dec. 19, the teams are asking for those who attend to please bring their pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters and donate them to this wonderful cause. C.A.T.S. will perform at halftime, dancing to "Billie Jean" and singing "We Are the World." The students will be accompanied by members of the Chipley Vocal Ensemble. Please help us help the children of the Philippines.

Hospice 'Tree of Lights' event a celebration of life

Special to the News

MARIANNA — Covenant Hospice invites the community to its annual "Tree of Lights — a Celebration of Life," at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8, at Covenant Hospice, 4215 Kelson Ave., Suite E. The ceremony will feature a speaker's reflections, recitation of loved ones' names, holiday music, refreshments and fellowship.

Tree of Lights is a celebration of life, symbolized by a holiday tree illuminated by hundreds of lights. For all of time, people have looked to the starry night sky for guidance, inspiration and joy. It is with the same sense of wonder that we light our holiday tree year after year. These tiny twinkling lights fill us with peace, signaling our loved ones are with us every day.

"Each light on the tree symbolizes the life, hopes and dreams of a loved one," said Jennifer Griffin, development and communications manager for Covenant Hospice.

Tree of Lights gives the community an opportunity to reflect and celebrate loved ones while giving a meaningful gift in their memory. No gift is too small to make a difference. Your donation enables Covenant Hospice to provide compassionate end-of-life care to patients and families. Tax-deductible donations can be mailed to Covenant Hospice/Tree of Lights, 4215 Kelson Ave, Suite E, Marianna, FL 32446; during the ceremony; online at www.covenanthospice.org; or by calling Jennifer at 482-8520. Donations will benefit Covenant Hospice's mission of adding life to days when days no longer can be added to life.

Celebrating its 30th anniversary, Covenant Hospice is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing comprehensive, compassionate services to patients and loved ones during times of life-limiting illnesses. For more information, call 482-8520 or visit www.covenanthospice.org/marianna.

NOTICE: Neighborhood Information Meeting

Where: Wausau Town Hall, 1607 Second Avenue

**When: December 19, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.
Who: Smartlink for AT&T Mobility**

What: Special Exception - Wireless Communications Facility

**Contact: Mike DeRuntz, Washington County Planning Director
(850) 415-5093**

**Location: Parcel No.:
0000000-00-0916-0000;
2041 Pioneer Rd, Chipley, FL 32428**



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Alone time is also necessary spiritually

As a young child, when I'd get a spare dime, I'd often go to a restaurant alone and order a cup of hot tea with cream. Then I'd relax, pleasantly savoring the sweet, warm tea and solitude. Afterward, I roamed through shops gazing at all the items I could no longer afford because I'd already blown my last dime on tea. But even that was fun. I enjoyed wandering freely and indulging in the luxury of my own private thoughts.



SHANNON SEYLER
Faithfully Yours

One doesn't often see children alone these days. I can't even imagine what life must be like for unfortunate youth whose well-meaning but clueless "helicopter parents" constantly hover over them. The lives of young people are far more structured now, with "play dates," a bewildering whirlwind of activities and a cell phone perpetually glued to their little ears in case they accidentally experience the terror of being alone for 30 seconds.

To remain mentally healthy, people need to be alone

sometimes. This includes children and teens. While humans are social creatures; we're not born in litters (unless you're one of the Duggars), and we don't roam in packs. We're not designed for constant togetherness. Though I do believe that all life is interconnected, I'm more than happy to temporarily disconnect from anyone attempting to invade my privacy.

Excess togetherness can be disturbing. There are fewer things creepier than clingy, co-dependent couples (or parents, for that matter). The inability to pursue separate lives is a distress signal (if not a death knell) for any relationship, whether that relationship involves a spouse, partner, child, parent, friend, organization or religious group.

We need solitary activities in our spiritual lives, too. When's the last time you had some "alone time" spiritually? Whether your path is religious or secular, it's both refreshing and necessary to break away from the crowd.

Organized religions, clubs, committees and other groups exist for a good reason. People

**NONPROFIT OF THE WEEK:
AMPUTEE COALITION OF AMERICA**

This organization helps empower individuals affected by limb loss. The Amputee Coalition provides support, advocacy and education for amputees, including information about recovery, insurance laws, veteran services, travel accessibility and more. During Limb Loss Awareness Month, they promote public education about amputee issues and preventable limb loss. According to their statistics, almost 2 million people in America are living with limb loss, and there are about 185,000 amputations in the U.S. annually. Estimates suggest about 60 percent of amputations are actually preventable. The Amputee Coalition of America strives to prevent the incidence of amputations, in addition to ensuring the dignified and medically appropriate treatment of those coping with limb loss.

Amputee Coalition of America
www.amputee-coalition.org
9303 Center St., Suite 100
Manassas, VA 20110
1-888-267-5669

enjoy the company of kindred spirits. There's nothing wrong with that, but those kindred spirits can't do your spiritual work for you. You might've baked casseroles for a thousand church luncheons or served on your temple's finance

committee for 20 years, but is that really spiritual work or mere busywork? Once again, I offer my ongoing caveat about substituting busywork for actual achievement.

Some individuals spend decades working tirelessly for a

religious group but don't have one iota of increased spiritual awareness to show for it by the end of their lives. Some of the world's most spiritually empty people are ironically the most busy. Remove the constant flurry of activity, and you'll often find a hollow, empty husk where a personality ought to be. They allowed excessive dependence upon a group to eclipse their own self-development. That's no way to go through life, much less arrive at the end of it.

If you adhere to an organized religion, it's crucial to discern between connecting with a group and connecting with God. What occupies your thoughts when you're away from the group? Whatever it is, it's a more genuine reflection of your true spiritual nature than any group activity ever invented.

What are you doing right now to enhance your own growth and improvement? Forget about seeking the permission of a clergy member or religious group. Your spiritual advancement is your responsibility, not theirs. Act independently. Take charge of your own moral, intellectual and spiritual development today.

Faith BRIEFS

Women with Hattitude

CHIPLEY — The 5th United Holiness Church will have a Women With Hattitude Program at 11 a.m. today, Dec 7, at the Washington County Agricultural Center. Be sure to wear your beautiful hats. The guest speaker will be Minister Jweana Lowe of the 2nd United Holiness Church in Donalsonville, Ga.

Bethlehem Morning

GRACEVILLE — Poplar Springs Baptist Church will present Bethlehem Morning at 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8. This program is a Christmas musical celebration done by the Worship Choir. The church is at 1098 Lovewood Road. There will be a Christmas fellowship after the program.

'Christmas in the Wildwood'

VERNON — "Christmas in the Wildwood" will be at Moss Hill Methodist Church at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8. There will be refreshments after the service. The church is on Highway 279. For more information, call 773-7610.

Bethel Baptist Choir Christmas Cantata

POPLAR SPRINGS — At 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8, Bethel's choir, directed by Karon Mattox, will present its Christmas Cantata, "Bethlehem Morning." Guests are invited to the Family Ministry Center after the performance in for fellowship and food. Bethel Baptist Church is at 1349 Highway 173.

'Winter Wonderland'

BONIFAY — Live Oak

Assembly of God will have its fourth annual "Winter Wonderland" at 5 p.m. Dec. 13. There will be food, games and prizes. The Drama Ministry Team in Character will start at 7 p.m. The church is at 2118 Live Oak Road. For more information, call 547-0194.

Christmas concert in Sunny Hills

SUNNY HILLS — Harmony Shores Chorus, the Panama City Chapter of Sweet Adelines International, will present its annual Christmas show, "The Sounds of Christmas" at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 14 at St. Theresa's Catholic Church. Guests are invited for an evening of song — four-part a cappella harmony style. This year's show also will feature the Gulf Tones, Panama City's men's barbershop chorus, as

well as Mixed Company. Refreshments will be served after the show, and admission is free (donations welcome). St. Theresa's is at 2056 Sunny Hills Blvd.

'The Christmas Invitation'

BONIFAY — Shady Grove Baptist Church will present the Musical Drama "The Christmas Invitation" at 6 p.m. Dec. 14. Immediately after the presentation will be a birthday party for Jesus with food, fellowship and treats for the kids. The church is at 1955 Highway 177A near Dogwood Lakes.

Bethel Baptist Children's Program

POPLAR SPRINGS — Bethel's Children's program, directed by Jamie and Nancy Messer,

will be presented at 6 p.m. Dec. 15. This year's play is titled "An Out of the Box Christmas." These children will bless your hearts with their performance. Guests are invited to the Family Ministry Center after the play for some delicious food and fellowship. Bethel Baptist Church is at 1349 Highway 173.

St. Luke's Fine Art Series

MARIANNA — St. Luke's Episcopal Church will have its Fine Art Series at 4 p.m. Dec. 15. This installment of the series will feature the Capital Cordsmen and their Barbershop Quartets. A meet the artists reception will follow the recital. Donations will be accepted. The church is at 4362 Lafayette St. For more information, call 482-2431.

St. Joseph plans holiday Mass

CHIPLEY — St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church in Chipley will have holiday services on the following schedule: Reconciliation at St. Anne in Marianna on Dec. 10 at 6 p.m. and on Dec. 11 at St. Joseph the Worker at 6 p.m.; Mass Schedule, Dec. 24, Vigil Mass at St. Joseph the Worker at 5 p.m.; Midnight Mass at St. Anne, Marianna; and Christmas Day, Dec. 25, Mass will be at St. Anne at 8:30 a.m. and St. Joseph the Worker at 11 a.m.

Red Hill UMC Mission Supper

BONIFAY — Red Hill UMC's next Mission Supper will be Jan. 24, 2014. We take the months of October, November and December off.

Washington County NEWS

Nicole P. Barefield, Publisher
Randal Seyler, Editor
Cameron Everett, Production Supervisor

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The views expressed here are not necessarily those of this paper or Halifax Media Group.

Community CALENDAR

SATURDAY

The Holmes County Community Health Clinic located at 203 W. Iowa Street, Bonifay, will be open from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., the first and third Saturday

The Alford Community Health Clinic will be the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month, from 10 a.m. until the last patient is seen.

10 a.m. to noon: Children's education day fourth Saturdays, North Bay Clan Tribal Grounds, 1560 Lonnie Road.

SUNDAY

11 a.m.: New Hope United Methodist Church Worship Service
5 p.m.: New Hope United Methodist Church Worship Service
8 p.m.: Alcoholics Anonymous meeting in the board room at Graceville-Campbellton Hospital in Graceville.

MONDAY

10 a.m. to noon: Holmes Council on Aging provides bingo, exercise, games, activities, hot meals and socialization.

11 a.m.: Washington Council on Aging senior lunches; for reservations, call 638-6217. Donations

accepted.

6 p.m.: Third Monday Holmes/Washington Relay For Life Meeting at Patillos

6-7:30 p.m.: Salvation Army Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Program hosts a domestic violence support group at the SADVP Rural Outreach office, 1461 S. Railroad Ave., Apartment 1, in Chipley. Call Emma or Jess at 415-5999.

TUESDAY

8-9 a.m.: Tai Chi Class at the Washington County Public Library, Chipley Branch

8-10 a.m.: Church Fellowship Breakfasts at Around the Corner Grill. Breakfast provided. All denominations welcome.

10 a.m. to noon: Holmes Council on Aging provides hot meals and socialization.
11 a.m.: Washington Council on Aging (Chipley) senior lunches; for reservations, call 638-6217. Donations accepted.

Noon: Chipley Kiwanis Club meeting.
Noon: Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting, New Life Assembly Fellowship Hall, Chipley.
5 p.m.: BINGO at St. Joseph Catholic Church

games start at 6:25 p.m.

Call Peg Russ at 638-451
6 p.m.: Holmes County Commission meets second Tuesdays.

7 p.m.: Narcotics Anonymous meeting, Blessed Trinity Catholic Church on County Road 177A

WEDNESDAY

10 a.m. to noon: Holmes Council on Aging provides hot meals and socialization.

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.: The Vernon Historical Society Museum is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Meetings are fourth Wednesdays at 2 p.m.

11 a.m.: Washington Council on Aging (Chipley) senior lunches; for reservations, call 638-6217. Donations accepted.

1 p.m.: Line dancing, Washington Council on Aging in Chipley.
5 p.m.: New Hope United Methodist Church Bible Study
7 p.m.: Depression and Bipolar Support Group meets at First Baptist Church educational annex building in Bonifay. Call 547-4397.

THURSDAY

7:30 a.m.: Washington County Chamber of

Commerce breakfast every third Thursday

9-11 a.m.: Amazing Grace Church USDA Food Distribution every third Thursday (Holmes County Residents Only)

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.: Money Sense at Goodwill Career Training Center; call 638-0093; every third Thursday

10 a.m. to noon: Holmes Council on Aging provides hot meals and socialization.

10:30 a.m.: Chipley Library preschool story time.

11 a.m.: Washington Council on Aging (Chipley) senior lunches; for reservations, call 638-6217. Donations accepted.

11 a.m.: Care Givers Support group meets third Thursdays at the First Presbyterian Church at 4437 Clinton St. in Marianna.

Noon: Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting at New Life Assembly Fellowship Hall, Chipley

1 p.m.: Caregivers Meeting at Washington County Council on Aging in Chipley for more information call 638-6216

2 p.m.: Writers Group meets the first Thursday of each month (unless a holiday) at the Chipley Library



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1160 - Lost
1170 - Found

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

11-3453
Notice of Application for Tax Deed

Notice is hereby given that, Vanessa Parker, the holder of the following certificate, has filed said certificate for a Tax Deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows: Certificate Number 1586 Year of Issuance 2009 Parcel Number: 00-5080-0002 Name in which Assessed: Mattie Luerene Tibbs, Adam Flowers, Jr., Abigail Flowers, and Delores F. Cade Description of Property: ORB 237, Pg 1281 and ORB 669, Pg 49 Section 30, Township 4 North, Range 15. Full legal can be obtained in the Washington County Clerk of Circuit Court's Office. Said property being in Washington Co., Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to the law, the property described in such Certificate will be sold to the highest bidder at the courthouse door on Wednesday, January 8, 2014 at 10:00 AM. Dated this 18th day of November 2013. Linda Hayes Cook Clerk of Court, Washington Co, Florida By: Kayla E. Deputy Clerk As published in the Washington County News November 30, December 7, 14, and 21 2013.

12-3419
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
Notice is Hereby Given that THOMAS M RODGERS, the holder of the following Tax Certificate, has filed said certificate for a Tax Deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows: Tax Certificate Number: 1368 Year of Issuance: 2007 Parcel ID #: 01-0131-0014 Description of Property: LOT 14 BLOCK 131 SUNNY HILLS UNIT 1 as per plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 2 pg 9-27 Assessed to: ANITA SHAFRAN as TRUSTEE of the ANITA SHAFRAN FAMILY TRUST All said property being in Washington County, Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such Certificate will be sold to the highest bidder at the courthouse door on January 08, 2014 at 10:00 AM. Dated this 2nd, day of December, 2013. LINDA HAYES COOK CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT, WASHINGTON COUNTY FLORIDA By: Trudee Willis Deputy Clerk December 07, 14, 21, and 28, 2013

12-3476
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION
File No. 2013-CP-74
Division Probate
IN RE: ESTATE OF JOHN E. BOLES Deceased.

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of John E. Boles, deceased, whose date of death was October 3, 2013, is pending in the Circuit Court for Washington County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 1293 Jackson Avenue, Suite 100, Post Office Box 647, Chipley, Florida 32428. 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 decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION 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. The date of first publication of this notice is December 7, 2013.

Attorney for Personal Representative: Belinda T. France Attorney for Linda Boles Florida Bar Number: 0745189 France Law Firm, PA 2073 Summit Lake Drive, Ste 154 Tallahassee, FL 32317 Telephone: (850)224-1040 Fax: (850)681-0069 E-Mail: btf@francelawfirm.com Secondary E-Mail: francelawfirm@francelawfirm.com As published in the Washington County News December 7, 14, 2013.

12-3419
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY, FLORIDA
Case No.: 672010CA000091CAXXXX BAC HOME LOANS SERVICING, LP, FKA COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOANS SERVICING, LP Plaintiff,
v. JAMES YATES ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE HEREIN NAMED

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS: UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF JAMES YATES N/K/A ANGELA YATES Defendant(s)

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order on Plaintiff's Motion to Reset Foreclosure Sale dated November 18, 2013, entered in Civil Case No. 672010CA000091CAXXXX of the Circuit Court of the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit in and for Washington County, Florida, wherein the Clerk of the Circuit Court will sell to the highest bidder for cash on 29th day of January, 2014, at 11:00 a.m. at the front of the Washington County Courthouse, 1293 Jackson Avenue, Chipley, Florida 32428, in accordance with Chapter 45 Florida Statutes, relative to the following described property as set forth in the Final Judgment, to wit: THE WEST 1/2 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 36, TOWNSHIP 4 NORTH, RANGE 13 WEST, WASHINGTON COUNTY, FLORIDA. LESS AND EXCEPT RIGHT OF WAY OF STATE ROAD S-276 AS PER F.D.O.T. RIGHT OF WAY #6159-250, DATED 07/21/1954. TOGETHER WITH THAT CERTAIN 2006 MANUFACTURED HOME, I.D. NO(S) DVAL10600978A/B, TITLE NO(S) 0095440843 AND 0095440762. 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 within 60 days after the sale.

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 the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator by mail at P. O. Box 1089, Panama City, FL 32402 or by phone at (850) 747-5338 at least seven (7) days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than seven (7) days. If you are hearing impaired, please call 711. Dated at CHIPLEY, Florida this 21st day of November, 2013 K. McDaniel LINDA COOK CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT Washington County, Florida As published in the Washington County News on December 7, 2013 and December 14, 2013.

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LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
Notice is hereby given that CHT PARTNERS, the holder of the following Tax Certificate, has filed said certificate for a Tax Deed to be issued thereon.

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100
PO. Box 2526 Panama City, FL 32402
850-769-6139
Attorney for Personal Representative

GARAGE/YARD SALES 3230
3 Family Yard Sale Saturday December 7, 8AM until 905 W. Banfill Ave in Bonifay. Lots of everything.

HELP WANTED 4100
Administration
The Holmes County Board of County Commissioners is currently accepting applications for the full time position of County Coordinator.

HELP WANTED 4100
CHIPOLA COLLEGE is accepting applications for the following position: Teaching Assistant Welding Program

HELP WANTED 4100
DRIVER TRAINEES NEEDED NOW! Learn to drive for US Xpress! Earn \$700 per week! No experience needed!

HELP WANTED 4100
Healthcare/Medical
Medical office currently looking for an ARNP/PA to join our medical team.

MOBILE HOME/LOT RENTALS 6170
Mobile Homes For Rent 2 and 3 Bedrooms in Cottendale, Central Heat and Air. \$400 - \$500 a month.

ADOPTIONS 1130
ADOPT: A Slay Home Mom, Prof Dad, Travel await Carolyn & Chris

PERSONALS 1150
Retired and widowed Army SGT in need of kind & caring lady for companion and house care.

GUNS 3240
GUN SHOW Dec 7th & 8th Nat'l Peanut Fest. Bldg. 5622 US Hwy 231 S Dothan, Alabama

Industrial
The Washington County Board of County Commissioners is currently accepting applications for a HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR I position in the PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Marketing
The News Herald is looking for an entry-level marketing specialist to assist with marketing support and document presentations for our sales team.

General
The Holmes County Board of County Commissioners is currently accepting applications for the full time position of Bridge Crew Foreman.

Job Opportunity: City Clerk, City of Vernon, FL
The City of Vernon will be accepting applications for City Clerk; this is a highly responsible administrative and supervisory position.

FOR LEASE: Convenient Store with Gas station.
Bay County, Great location! Will be branded Chevron. Available very soon.

HOME FOR SALE 7100
For Sale, 466 1st Street, 547-2091 or 846-7676

LOST 1160
LOST: Spare Tire & wheel. Hwy 90, Bonifay area. Lost prob last spring.

NEW TODAY
LOST: Spare Tire & wheel. Hwy 90, Bonifay area. Lost prob last spring.

MISCELLANEOUS 3300
For Sale Canning Jars Various Sizes Call 638-7543.

Wanted to Rent: Farm land or pasture in Chipleys & surrounding areas for the year 2014.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS 3310
WANTED; Musical Instruments of any kind in any condition. Piano, banjos, drums, guitars, amps.

HELP WANTED 4100
Administration
The Holmes County Board of County Commissioners is currently accepting applications for the full time position of Building Department Secretary.

MOBILE HOME/LOT RENTALS 6170
2BR/2BA Mobile Homes W/G included. \$400 plus deposit.

MOBILE HOME/LOT RENTALS 6170
2BR/2BA Mobile Homes W/G included. \$400 plus deposit.

MOBILE HOME/LOT RENTALS 6170
2BR/2BA Mobile Homes W/G included. \$400 plus deposit.

Notice of Application for Tax Deed Notice is hereby given that, TC Tampa, Inc., the holder of the following certificate, has filed said Tax Certificate to be issued thereon.

MOECKER AUCTIONS Public Auction, Road Runner Highway Signs, Inc. (Road striping division only) December 10th @ 10am

FURNITURE 3220
2 Bedroom dressers \$100.00 each. Informal dining room set, table, 4 chairs & Hutch \$250.00.

HELP WANTED 4100
Administration
The Holmes County Board of County Commissioners is currently accepting applications for the full time position of Building Department Secretary.

MOBILE HOME/LOT RENTALS 6170
2BR/2BA Mobile Homes W/G included. \$400 plus deposit.

MOBILE HOME/LOT RENTALS 6170
2BR/2BA Mobile Homes W/G included. \$400 plus deposit.

MOBILE HOME/LOT RENTALS 6170
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2BR/2BA Mobile Homes W/G included. \$400 plus deposit.

MOBILE HOME/LOT RENTALS 6170
2BR/2BA Mobile Homes W/G included. \$400 plus deposit.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, FOURTEENTH CIRCUIT IN AND FOR HOLMES COUNTY, FLORIDA
Case No. 2013-86-CP
IN RE: THE ESTATE OF FRED THEODORE DUNNEMAN JR.

MO'S TRADING POST AND FLEA MARKET 5157 HWY 77, Sunny Hills, Greenhead area. Tables, Spaces, booths. Daily, weekly or month. Call for rates 850-326-2201.

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Economic development major thrust in 2013

It's been a busy year for the Chamber and Washington County.

As we wind down, it's appropriate to share activities and accomplishments of the Chamber over the past year.



Ted Everett
Executive Director

Economic Development

The Chamber led a series of Economic Development Symposiums for the elected officials and business leaders of Washington County to help them understand what it really takes to land development projects for Washington County.

We have heard from experts that it is important to have a county-owned industrial park that is shovel ready (utilities in place and sewer and water available). We have heard how Florida's Great Northwest markets for counties such as Washington County, as well as the financial impact of bringing in 100 jobs with a \$15 million capital investment. All these elements and more are part and parcel of the economic development reality for which government, business leaders and citizens must be aware.

A second reality for economic development in Washington County is we must all be committed to doing a better job in attracting industries



Gulf Power Company's Andrew Rhodes discusses financial impact of a \$15 million capital investment.

to Washington County. Our final two meetings will be after the New Year and local businesses and public representatives are encouraged to participate as we develop a long-term plan for Washington County.

These symposiums, which have been well-attended by County stake-holders, have been very good and illustrates just how much Washington County must begin to do if we are to compete with neighboring counties for our share of new businesses locating in Washington County.

Enterprise Zone Expansion

The Chamber has been working with both Ebro and Vernon on expansion of their Enterprise Zones. This

is a lengthy process requiring many meetings with both City councils, the County Planning and Zoning Department and other entities.

If accepted by the State, this will make a great addition to what these two municipalities will have to offer and allow them to re-shape their communities for the future. The additional areas would significantly expand these zones which allows for additional incentives from the State to attract commercial entities and industry. It has taken many hours of donated work and community commitment to make these expansions a reality.

Mega-Site Search

Working through Opportunity

Florida, the Chamber is involved in identifying a site that could be classified as a mega-site for economic development. A mega-site is usually more than 1,000 acres and typically would have rail access, be on an Interstate or at least a four-lane highway with quick access to an interstate, and be close to Alabama's larger workforce to meet the needs of business and industry. Because of these requirements, many feel the closest potential "site" is in Jackson County. However, by its close proximity, Washington County could still benefit from a mega-site that could create well over a 1,000 jobs with high wages and health care for all employees. Washington County is one of nine

See **ECONOMIC** page 9

A Message from the President

Wow – what happened to 2013? It seems such a short time ago that I began my term as president, and now the year is about over.

In reflecting back on the Chamber activity this past year, I recognized and re-affirmed some truths I'd like to share with you.

First - when people care and have a passion about something, they will be involved -- no-matter how busy or burdened they are — because it's important. This is certainly true of many Chamber members and community leaders I've had a chance to observe this past year, including EDC Chairman Terry Ellis. His article in this Advocate chal-



Nicole Barefield

lenges us all to be Civic Entrepreneurs if we want to make true difference in our world – and I hope you all accept this challenge.

Second – CHANGE is messy, uncomfortable and ... inevitable. The Chamber went through a lot of changes this past year as it evaluated how best to serve its members and affirm a vision supporting future growth and prosperity for our County. Change is never easy, but the results are better if you embrace the process instead of letting it just happen.

Third - Successful business people know you can't just wing it. Whether a project, presentation or activity, preparation is key. Without due diligence and planning, you can't properly evaluate the outcome or resources needed – or minimize the risks for the surprises that inevitably crop up.

This leads me to the next truth – Some-

times you just gotta try. Often we get too caught up in fear of failure to make a decision or take a step. However, there is NO chance for success if you don't try, and often lessons learned improve the outcome for subsequent activities.

I know we learned a lot from our first-ever Chicken Wing Tailgate Take-out. It was fun and successful, but also challenging. I'm glad we did it, and know next year will be even better – especially if Philip Pippin returns as Wing man!

I want to thank the Chamber board, staff and members who were committed to making your Chamber a true advocate and resource for business growth and development. It's been a privilege to serve as your president, and I strongly believe that "together we succeed" for the betterment of Washington County.

A Message from the Executive Director

I would like to begin by wishing each of you a very happy holiday season. After such a busy year, I am sure that we are all looking forward to a little time off with our families and friends. Christmas and the New Year is a great time for all of us to reflect on the past year and also to look forward to what we want to accomplish in the New Year.

From the cover story in this issue, you already know of the singular issues that the Chamber has been involved with over the last year. As we move into our new year, I would like to continue the forward momentum that we have attained.

First, I think it is very important that we continue with a dialogue between all



Ted Everett

elected officials, their staffs and Washington County citizens. Part of that dialogue will be the development of a Super-Council. This council will be an informally structured group made up of any elected officials and individuals that would like to come together quarterly to discuss the County's future as well as those of their municipalities.

These gatherings will be in a format where everyone can weigh-in with suggestions and leverage ideas. By sharing what has worked and possibly what has not worked, we can save a few steps on the path to growth. I look forward to starting this council and believe it can make a remarkable difference for our county.

Second, the Chamber is committed to bringing relevant speakers and seminars to you, our members. We have been very aggressive in bringing speakers to discuss pertinent issues. One speaker we plan to

bring back to deliver a seminar on business and time management is Mark Raciappa of Action Coaching from Tallahassee. Our first seminar with Mark had 40 attendees and the reviews were just great. If you have any suggestions for seminars or workshops, please call or email me with that information. We need to hear from you.

Finally, I want to stress that we are always doing our best to help you. As a small business ourselves, we understand the threats that a business has to deal with on a regular basis. We know that turning a profit is harder than ever. If there is something that is affecting your business, let us hear from you so that we can try to be of help to you. If we do not know what the problem is, we cannot provide the help you may need.

Again, to each of you, have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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Business Card Services to New Members

Advertising Opportunities in Newsletter/County Maps/Visitors Guide/Web

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

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Third Thursday Breakfast

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.

You are cordially invited to
join us in celebrating the Holiday Season at the
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HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE
Thursday, Dec. 19, 2013
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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Note: There will not be a traditional Third Thursday in December.

Third Thursday Program

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We invite you to review the ChamberPerks benefits and then do what thousands of other growing businesses have done – take advantage of the time and money you will save by using Chamber endorsed services. Visit the WCC Chamber's website at www.washcomall.com and click on ChamberPerks.

Northwest Florida Community Hospital

Is Pleased to Welcome

Dr. Larry Otwell and Dr. Marcus Kolmetz

Board Certified Audiologists



Dr. Larry Otwell graduated from Graceville High School in 1971, attended Chipola Jr. College and his Masters in Audiology from Florida State University in 1978. He earned his Doctorate in Audiology from the University of Florida in 2002. Dr. Otwell proudly served as a Captain in the U.S. Army until 2007. He is a member of American Speech and Hearing Association, a Fellow of the American Academy of Audiology and a Board Certified Audiologist.



Dr. Marcus Kolmetz was born and raised in Bay County and is a graduate of Auburn University with a Bachelors Degree in Communication Disorders. He completed his Masters degree in Audiology from the University of Tennessee and earned his Doctorate in Audiology from A. T. Still University in 2007. Dr. Kolmetz is also a member of American Speech and Hearing Association, Fellow of the American Academy of Audiology and a Board Certified Audiologist.

Dr. Otwell and Dr. Kolmetz will practice in the new Specialty Center located on the east side of the main hospital building, 1360 Brickyard Road. They will see patients of all ages for any hearing disorder, from newborn screenings to adult therapy. Evaluation and treatments may include hearing screenings, loss of balance, vertigo/dizziness, tinnitus (noises in the ear), and hearing aids.

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Chamber welcomes new board members

Four Chamber members were recently appointed to Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors to fill open seats. New directors with one-year terms expiring in 2014 are: Cindy Johnson Brown, Julie Dillard, and Janet Kinney.

Wayland Fulford was appointed to the board to fill a term expiring in 2013. He was subsequently re-elected to the board, along with Amy Wiwi and William Steverson, for a three-year term expiring in 2016.

Cindy Johnson-Brown

is a speech language pathologist and owner of Therapy World of Northwest Florida. She most recently chaired the Chamber Ambassadors, and was named the Jean Hollingsworth Volunteer of the Year in 2012.



Johnson Brown is a member of the national association of Chamber Am-

bassadors, as well as ASHA, FLASHA, Kiwanis, Washington County Arts Council board of directors and Take Stock in Children.

After graduating from Chipley High School in 1992, Johnson Brown pursued her Speech Language Pathology bachelor's degree at the University of Central Florida in Orlando. She obtained her master's degree in Speech Language Pathology at Nova Southeastern University, where she is currently completing her doctorate in in the same specialty.

Johnson Brown is married to Gary Brown and has one child, Olivia Grace Brown. They enjoy horseback riding, kayaking, and traveling.

Julie Pigott Dillard is director of UF IFAS Extension Washington County, 4-H Youth Development Agent and tenured faculty



member of the University of Florida. She is a graduate of the University of Florida with a Master's of Science and a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Agricultural Education and Communication.

Dillard also worked for the University of Georgia Extension System as a 4-H Youth Development Agent and for the Washington County School District as an Afterschool Program Coordinator.

Dillard and husband Nick have two boys, Cole and Cass. She enjoys gardening, reading, going to the lake and beach, and having fun with her family.

Janet Kinney is chief operating officer at Northwest Florida Community Hospital where she has been employed for 37 years. She previously served on the Washington County Chamber of Commerce Board from 1986-



1990. Even before completing the first Leadership Washington County program in 1989, she was well on her way to "Believing in Washington County"!

Janet, and her husband Lane, have three children and have always been active in education and the community.

Wayland Fulford is president of Capital City Bank of Washington County, serving the Chipley community since 2009. He began his 23-year banking career as a high school student in a cooperative training program in his native state of Alabama. He continued his education at Auburn University, where he earned a degree in Finance.

Fulford is a dedicated member of the community, volunteering much of his free time as current president of the AMI Kids



See **BOARD** page 12

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THIRD THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS



October and November Third Thursday Highlights...

Clockwise from top left: Donna Padgug of SBA presents information on available SBA programs and Affordable Care Act basic facts; Kris Corbin receives a Yard of the Month award from the Garden Club's Vivian McDonald; Jennifer Conoley, Gulf Power economic development representative, introduces the November program speaker; Jennifer Groves, Workforce Development Coordinator with Gulf Power, discusses the Northwest Florida Manufacturers Council's mission; full house at the November annual members meeting; attendees at the October meeting listen intently to the to the program speakers; Garrett Martin, left, and Dr. James Wall hear Terry Ellis discuss the role of the Manufacturers Council; Santa takes notes on who's naughty and nice during the November Third Thursday.

Bush Named CEO of NFCH

The Board of Directors of Northwest Florida Healthcare, Inc. (NFHI) has named Mark E. Bush Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Northwest Florida Community Hospital (NFCH) in Chipley, FL, effective December 16. He succeeds CEO Patrick Schlenker, under whose leadership the hospital earned national and state recognition for impressive service and financial improvements achieved over nearly a decade.

Bush brings to his new role more than 20 years of experience in hospital finance and management, including 14 years' operating a Critical Access Hospital and two nursing homes. "I very much look forward to working with the outstanding NFCH community of physicians, staff and local residents who are so committed



to serving this area," he says. Bush envisions strong collaboration with NFCH and area healthcare providers such as Gulf Coast Medical Center and Signature Health-CARE Systems facilities to continue to enhance local residents' access to healthcare services.

A south Florida resident, he also eagerly anticipates getting involved in Washington County life. "My wife, Cathy, and I are excited to join in local events and groups to become part of our new community," he says.

Following a national search and rigorous evaluation process, Bush quickly emerged as the clear frontrunner to succeed Schlenker, known for his staunch commitment to the region.

"Pat's visionary leadership secured

See **BUSH** page 10

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EDC: Be involved in community to make a positive difference

As I sit here today, still full of great Thanksgiving thoughts and turkey, it is a good time to reflect on how blessed we have been in our community, country and North-west Florida. Even though you don't have to look hard to find problems, it is very easy to find situations much worse than our own. Yes, we are blessed and the question becomes what part will I play in providing those same opportunities going forward.

I was at an economic conference recently and a speaker began talking about "Civic Entrepreneurship". I had never heard those two words used together, so I listened intently. He stated



Terry Ellis
Chairman
EDC

that there had been a decline in civic involvement in our society and that it could always be tied directly to the vitality or decline in a community. He challenged us all to reflect on what we were doing to make a positive difference in our communities, and to get engaged.

As I thought about his statements, it was easy to point to issues, problems and reasons to not be involved. I also did not have to think long to have civic leaders come to mind that I had watched have a huge impact in the past in our community.

So the challenge for all of us during this holiday season is to figure out what you have a passion for, and get involved. The opportunities are numerous whether it be at church, our school system, civic clubs, United Way, the Chamber of Com-

See **EDC** page 10

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ECONOMIC from page 1

Florida counties which have been designated as Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC). One aspect of this designation is that requirements for certain State incentives are somewhat less restrictive, making it an attraction for a potential major employer to locate somewhere in the Panhandle. The State and local governments recognize and are supportive of the unique advantage we have to attract a mega-site industry to this area.

EDC Investment Council

The Chamber's Economic Development Council Board has also been busy restructuring itself and adding new components to be introduced in January 2014. We will be inviting EDC investors to quarterly meetings to learn about potential projects and what we are doing to promote and move our Economic Development agenda forward. Guest speakers will be brought in to educate all EDC members on the

issues. The participation of committed businesses can create the blueprint for the future of Washington County's next generation of business leaders and tradesmen. Anyone interested in helping to design our economic development future to should contact the Chamber.

Chipley Redevelopment Agency

The Chamber has administered the Chipley Redevelopment Agency (CRA) since 1995. The agency has completed some very good work in the design of downtown Chipley prior to 1995 and has provided façade grants, special improvement grants and very low-cost revolving loans since that time.

The most current project of the CRA is a partnership with the Washington County Arts Council to administer Paint the Plug – a project to beautify and provide artistic interest within the CRA Boundaries. More information about this project is featured in this edition of the Advocate.

CRA: Apply now to "Paint the Plug"!

**Amy Wiwi, CRA
Chairman**

The Chipley Redevelopment Agency board and I are excited about our new partnership with the Washington County Arts Council. I attended one of their meetings to discuss possible projects, and was very impressed by this group's efforts to bring beauty to our community.

Our new project, "Paint the Plug", is only the first project in what I hope to be a comprehensive beautification of the Historic Chipley Downtown area. It is a contest for the best painted fire hydrant within the downtown area. I have already been shown many great and

fun ideas, and I cannot wait to see what our community comes up with!

Looking to the future, we have many more beautification ideas we are exploring through our new partnership with the Arts Council. We welcome any volunteers that are interested in our efforts or have new ideas. We have such a treasure in our historic buildings downtown and I hope the painted fire hydrants, murals, etc. will show visitors how much we love our City!

Paint the Plug applications are due Jan. 6, 2014 and are available from the Chamber office;

call 638-4157.

Please join in our effort to make Chipley even more beautiful!



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BUSH from page 7
the future of NFCH and he richly deserves this next chapter of his life. Mark Bush has the ideal skill set to continue Pat's legacy, especially during challenging times for health care. He is a veteran senior leader with extensive experience in hospitals that serve rural populations. He understands how to ensure excellent patient care and to keep NFCH financially strong so that it can continue to serve and thrive," says E. Joseph Steier, III, Chairman of the Board of NFHI and President and CEO of Signature HealthCARE Systems, NFHI's majority stockholder.

Bush's hospital experience includes

three years as President and CEO at the 140-bed MidMichigan Medical Center in Gratiot, MI; 14 years as Executive Vice President over MidMichigan Medical Center in Gladwin, MI, a 25-bed critical access hospital, and two long-term care facilities. He also served as Chief Financial Officer for the Gladwin facilities for 18 years.

Bush is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives. He holds a master of business administration degree from DePaul University, Chicago and is in the process of completing his Doctorate in Healthcare Administration from Central Michigan University.

Kudos to...

- **Blair Martin**, awarded Most Distinguished Manager for Florida Department of Transportation, District 3 Planning. Martin is manager of the District Intermodal Systems.
- **Ted Everett**, re-elected vice-chair of the Florida's Off-Highway Vehicle Committee (OHV). Everett is owner of Hard Labor Creek Off Road Park, in addition to his duties as executive Director of the Chamber.
- **The Rev. Price Wilson**, who turned 90 on Oct. 25. The event was celebrated by hundreds of family, friends and community leaders at the Washington County Agricultural Center in Chipley.

EDC from page 8

merce and many others.

For those specifically interested in economic development, I invite you to look at joining the Economic Development Council through the Chamber. We are working hard to get our county on track with a new level of cooperation and commitment from all areas of our county and city government. We need you to be a part of developing this

plan and helping us move forward.

We all know the famous quote of President John F. Kennedy: "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country". I think it is more important now than ever, and let's just add community into the question as well.

Are you a Civic Entrepreneur? Get involved and make a positive difference! We need you more than ever.

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Membership

RENEWALS

City of Vernon - 1999
 Comfort Inn & Suites - 2006
 Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, Inc. - 1997
 Gulf Power Company - 1980
 Infrastructure Corp. Of America - 2003
 Metric Engineering, Inc. - 2005
 Panhandle Area Education Consortium - 1987
 Panama Business Machines, Inc. - 2009
 Sounthern Financial Group - 2007
 Surplus & Salvage of Chipley - 1980
 Washington County Arts Council - 2012

New Members

C & M Pump & Equipment - 2013
 Completed Coatings, Inc. - 2013
 The Hairitage House Salon & Boutique - 2013
 UF - IFAS - Washington County Ag - 2013
 Paul Parker

Economic Development Investors

Gulf Power Company - 1980
 Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, Inc. - 1997

Total: 316

The Chamber of Commerce thanks the following businesses which became members in 2013

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 C & M Pump & Equipment
 CareSouth Homecare Professionals
 Chipley Physical Therapy
 Chipley Therapy Group
 Classic Touch Medical Uniforms
 Completed Coatings, Inc.
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 Davita Chipley Dialysis
 FlipKey Vacation Rentals
 Hancock Bank
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 Living to Win Corp.
 McDonald's
 Michelle Blankenship Tagert, P.A.
 NWF Consulting LLC
 Panhandle Family Insurance
 The Goulding Agency
 The Hairitage House

Chamber Ambassadors provide information to attendees at Fall Into History Event in Chipley



Kathy Rudd and Gary Hartman, left, talk with an event visitor.

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DECEMBER**Every Tuesday** Noon – Kiwanis Luncheon**Every Tuesday / Thursday / Saturday (7-12)**

12-5pm – Farmers Market Open, 685 7th St., Chipley

Every Wednesday

9-2pm – Vernon Hist. Historical Society Open

Every Friday and 1st Saturday

9-2pm W.C. Historical Society Museum Open

- 3 5 pm-W.C. Planning Commission @ Co. Annex
10:30am – Chipley Garden Club
6 pm – Wausau Council Meeting
- 5 6:30 pm – Sunny Hills Civic Assoc. Meeting
5 pm - Chipley City Council Workshop
- 7 2-6pm - Chamber 1st Annual Chili Cook Off-685 7th St.
2-6pm - Chipley Christmas Fest-Farmers Market
3:30 pm - Chipley Christmas Parade
7 pm - STP-"A Classic Chipley Christmas @ Playhouse
- 8 1-4pm-Chipley Women's Club Tour of Homes
- 10 6 pm Chipley City Council Meeting
6pm - Caryville Town Council Mtg
6 pm – Ebro Town Council Mtg
- 9 5:30 p.m. – Wash Co School Board Meeting
4:30 pm-Vernon City Council Workshop
- 12 Noon- Chipley Lions Club @ Skins & Bubba
9 am-WC Commission Mtg @ Annex
- 14 10 am - Wausau Christmas Parade
- 16 7 pm – Vernon Council Meeting
- 17 Full Long Nights Moon
- 19 11am-2 pm - Chamber Annual Christmas Open House
- 21 Martin Luther King Day!
- 21-1/4 School Christmas Break
- 23-1/1 Chamber Closed
- 25 Merry Christmas
- 26 Kawanza
- 31 New Year's Eve - Stay Safe!

JANUARY 2014**Every Tuesday** Noon – Kiwanis Luncheon**Every Tuesday / Thursday / Saturday (7-12)**

12-5pm – Farmers Market Open, 685 7th St., Chipley

Every Wednesday

9-2pm – Vernon Hist. Historical Society Open

Every Friday and 1st Saturday

9-2pm W.C. Historical Society Museum Open

- 1 Happy New Year!
- 2 5 pm- Chipley City Council Workshop
6:30 pm - Sunny Hills Civic Assoc. Meeting
- 6 6 p.m. Vernon City Council Workshop
- 7 10:30am – Chipley Garden Club – Shivers Park/
Chipley
6 pm - Chipley City Council Mtg.
6 p.m. – Ebro Town Council Mtg
6 pm – Caryville Town Council Mtg
- 9 6 p.m. - Wausau Council Meeting
- 13 5:30 p.m. - Wash Co. School Board Meeting
7 p.m. - Vernon City Council Meeting
- 15 Full Wolf Moon
- 20 6 p.m. Vernon City Council Workshop
- 16 7:30 am- WC Chamber 3rd Thursday at
NFCH Specialty Center
- 23 9 am WC Board of Co. Commission Workshop at
Annex
- 27 4 pm - WC TDC Workshop & Meeting at Chamber
7 pm - Vernon City Council Meeting

BOARD from page 4

West Florida Board, chairman of the Washington County United Way Leadership Team and member of the Kiwanis Club of Chipley and Opportunity Florida boards.

Fulford and wife Connie have two daughters, Alyssa and Haylee. He and his family share a love for outdoor activities and enjoy spending time together hunting, fishing and trail riding in their Jeep.

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Julie Pigott Dillard
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