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HURRICANE MICHAEL

Roadside debris disposal ends Jan. 31

By Tim Croft
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The Board of County Commissioners on Tuesday unanimously approved setting a deadline of Jan. 31 for storm related debris to be placed on the roadside for removal.

The deadline is 11 days later than that recommended by

the Florida Department of Transportation, which is footing the bill for the county's clean-up in the aftermath of Hurricane Michael.

And though several speakers and Commissioner Phil McCroan expressed concerns about all residents being able to meet that deadline, particularly those waiting on insurance companies, county staff said a deadline had to be set as the cleaning process

moves forward.

County Administrator Michael Hammond noted that under guidelines from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), clean-up of roadways must be completed six months after the date of the storm, in this case March 6.

"That is the drop-dead date to be done totally as far as roadside pick-up," Hammond said. "Once they pull

the plug, we can't pick up the bill."

The most significant factor for the county, Hammond said, was that under an order from Gov. Rick Scott in the days following Michael the FDOT was charged with picking up the tab for clean-up in several rural counties, including Gulf.

"This bill, which is the tens of millions of dollars, is being picked up by the DOT,"

Hammond said.

"Once we clean-up we don't want to junk it up, but we also want as many people as possible to take advantage of this program."

Hammond said pick-up of the county roadsides will continue, including white goods, until all is collected.

After that time, he said, the county may have to impose

See DEBRIS, A2



The side of this building near Monroe Street in Tallahassee is adorned with the NeverForgottenCoast logo. [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

Never forgetting

Campaign creates grants for MB businesses

By Tim Croft
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Alex and Chelsea Workman were viewing photos and videos that came out in the hours after Hurricane Michael hit the area with one thought in mind.

"This is not good."
The Workmans, a Tallahassee-based creative team and couple, to Gainesville before the storm; after the storm they intended to check on the house in Tallahassee and drive on to Atlanta.

But, the photos of Mexico Beach shocked them, particularly once they learned of the extent of the damage and the struggle ahead for local residents and businesses.

Those businesses brought a personal thread: Chelsea's father, Kevin, owned and operated a charter fishing



Alex Workman, of the Never Forgotten Coast campaign, positions Ralph and Cathey Hobbs of Parker Realty in front of their destroyed real estate office for their drone portrait featured on NeverForgottenCoast.com. [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

business.

"We wanted to do something, do something creative," said Alex, a storyteller and photographer; Chelsea is a writer and artist.

That turned into Never-ForgottenCoast which is culminating in a mini-grant program underway to provide

See CAMPAIGN, A6

County garbage bills to go up

Yard debris removal to be restored

By Tim Croft
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Residents in the unincorporated areas of the county will see an increase in their bills for garbage collection, but the county is also poised to restore roadside pick-up of yard debris.

Bids opened during Tuesday's regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners revealed that individual homeowners are likely to pay \$3-\$4 more for garbage collection, about \$5 more if yard debris removal is part of the next contract.

The county went out for bids late last year for a new garbage collection

contract with the existing five-year deal with Waste Pro expires in the fall.

Commissioners tabled a decision for two weeks while a committee reviews the bids and provides a recommendation.

Three vendors submitted bids, but Waste Management, Inc. was nearly double the other two on basic garbage collection while not even bidding on yard debris removal.

That likely leaves the other two bidders for consideration, with each submitting numbers for a three-, four- or five-year contract.

Currently, county customers pay roughly \$17 per month for garbage collection with no yard debris removal.

BCC Waste Solutions

See GARBAGE, A2

FEMA eyeing Beacon Hill park for housing

By Tim Croft
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The Federal Emergency Management Agency identified Veterans Memorial Park at Beacon Hill as an ideal location for disaster housing.

The Board of County Commissioners on Tuesday wholeheartedly agreed.

Commissioners voted to proceed with drafting a lease agreement with FEMA to establish what the agency calls a "group zone" at the park for temporary housing, i.e. pads for RVs and trailers.

Assistant County Administrator Warren Yeager said the agency had been looking for potential

sites for weeks, but rules about placement in high flood zones were proving a huge hurdle.

FEMA can not place temporary disaster housing in a zone vulnerable to flooding, which has greatly hampered efforts to provide such housing on the south end of the county.

A FEMA representative said the agency had identified other solutions for the north end of the county.

But in addition to problems with placing trailers or RVs on private properties in the south end, the agency also found similar or other constraints with commercial RV parks or sites.

Changing the focus to a "group" setting quickly

See FEMA, A2



FEMA

From Page A1

honed in on Veterans Memorial Park.

In such instances, FEMA wants to place trailers with good access to roads and sufficiently close to schools, stores, etc.

In addition, Veterans Memorial Park sits on a bluff, meaning nice and high from the water even at its worst.

"This will solve a problem they have been working on for weeks," Yeager said.

Veterans Memorial Park is 40 acres, most of which is not developed, and FEMA has already crafted a preliminary design to place as many as 51 pads at the site.

Those would be aimed at the 40 or so Gulf County residents who have already been deemed

to qualify as well as space for residents of Mexico Beach, as the park is close to the community that sat at the eye of Michael.

FEMA would lease the property from the county under terms to be negotiated.

FEMA would also perform all construction work, including pouring pads and running all utilities to the pads.

In this instance, the utilities would likely be placed underground, an aesthetic the county has long sought for the utilities that currently run above the park on U.S. 98.

The FEMA representative estimated that once all contracts were signed between FEMA, the General Services Administration and county, it would take about a month to complete the construction.

The occupants of those RVs or trailers would be able to remain in them until April 2020, at which

time the county could request an extension.

Until April 2020, the FEMA representative added, the agency would assist in finding solutions for those displaced residents.

After April 2020 and the departure of the last occupants, FEMA will either return the site to its prior form or simply walk away with the infrastructure and pads remaining for the county to use or lease.

Commissioners quickly lined up behind a motion to move the process ahead.

"We've got to get housing for these people to move forward," said Commissioner Phil McCroan.

Disaster housing for the poor

The county also received positive news concerning housing for several residents of low income displaced by the

storm.

One such individual, said Joe Paul, the county's administrator of the State Housing Initiative Program (SHIP), is a veteran whose home was destroyed and remains bathing out of a bucket.

The county was awarded more than \$764,000, more than \$14,000 over that requested, from Florida Housing to fund disaster housing for those who would otherwise qualify for SHIP funding for home repair.

That will mean eight homeowners will be provided mobile homes, placed on their property, with site preparation, plumbing and electrical paid for and in place before the mobile homes are placed.

The homeowner, in return, must live and insure the structure for 20 years, at which time any loan amount will be forgiven.

DEBRIS

From Page A1

warnings and criminal charges, which are a felony, against those who illegally dump on the roadside.

The county, he added, is working on separate contracts for the clean-up of roadside ditches, waterways and St. Joseph Bay.

Hammond, underscoring the county's financial plight, noted that county's uninsured damages have already topped \$27 million and are climbing.

And Bay County and its municipalities are already spending tens of millions of local taxpayers' money to fund the clean-up in that county.

"Everybody knows there has to be an end date," said Assistant Administrator Warren Yeager. "We couldn't just extend it out and extend it out."

The BOCC also took the step Tuesday of moving forward the process of the right-of-entry program for cleanup of individual private properties.

"There are a lot of people of need, including the elderly, who need that program," Yeager said.

That right of entry program, he said, had been negotiated to include taking down leaning trees and cleaning of the yard nearest the roadway; FEMA contractors will not clean the entire property.

Dr. Pat Hardman, president of the Coastal Community Association of Gulf County, expressed concerns about those homeowners who have yet to settle with insurance companies or even have damages assessed by an adjuster.

The cost of hauling home debris to the suitable landfill was higher than demolishing the house.

"Private people

are getting beat up," Hardman said.

McCroan, whose district includes the majority of the south end of the county, added, I have real concerns about setting this date."

Tipping fees for a demolished home built on a foundation would be around \$10,000, Hammond noted.

But, he said, while commissioners and staff can be sympathetic to the plight of some individuals, the county would not be where it is in the clean-up process if not for the assumption of the bill by the FDOT.

Even if FEMA granted an extension of the deadline for roadside debris, which the FDOT recommended be Jan. 20, Hammond said the FDOT and state would have to also grant the extension.

The odds of which, he added, were not in the county's favor.

"Gulf County does not have the financial stability to extend this program," said county attorney Jeremy Novak.

SBA assistance

The Small Business Administration is winding down operations in the county, though the agency continues to work out of the Gulf/Franklin campus of Gulf Coast State College.

To date, in Gulf County the SBA has provided 789 loans totaling \$46.8 million.

Included are 710 loans to homeowners equal to \$35.8 million, 70 business loans totaling \$7.6 million and 10 economic injury loans equaling \$684,000.

Though the deadline for loans for physical damages is past, individuals and businesses may still apply with a letter explaining the reason for not filing during the initial period.

In addition, individuals and businesses may still file for economic injury loans.

GARBAGE

From Page A1

submitted a bid of \$21.50 per month for garbage collection only on a three-year contract; \$25.50 with yard debris removal included.

Four-year numbers work out to \$21 per month for garbage only, \$25 with yard debris removal.

Over a contract of five years, the cost would be \$20.50 per month and \$24.50 with yard debris.

Costs per quarter and annum align with those monthly charges.

Waste Pro's bid, on a three-year contract, was

\$20.25 per month for garbage only, \$24.90 with yard debris.

Over four years, the numbers would be \$19.25 for garbage only, \$23.90 with yard debris.

And for five years, the costs would be \$18.25 for garbage only and \$22.90 with yard debris.

County Administrator Michael Hammond's primary question to commissioners was whether to negotiate with or without yard debris collection.

When considering the contract five years ago, the board at that time leaned toward yard debris pick-up before then-commissioner Carmen McLemore resisted and secured two other votes

to eliminate yard debris collection from the contract.

McLemore argued the extra \$5 was too much of a hardship for homeowners on fixed or low incomes who did not generate much if any yard waste.

Commissioner Ward McDaniel said Tuesday those who complained were simply wasting the \$5 elsewhere and a return to yard debris removal was needed.

"Not a week goes by I don't get a call about when are they going to come pick up limbs and I have to tell people, well, we don't do that anymore," McDaniel said.

Commissioner David Rich added, "It makes for

a cleaner county."

Resident Lissa Dulany was one who applauded commissioners for the return to yard debris collection, but also wondered if the county would consider recycling.

But Hammond noted the long, costly and unsuccessful path the county and city of Port St. Joe tread in attempts to implement recycling.

The small quantity of recyclables generated and the costs of separating and readying the debris for recycling far outweighed the benefits.

"Recycling is a loser," Hammond said. "It costs tremendous amounts of money."

The county is negotiating this solid waste contract without the city, which is undertaking a separate bid process for its next garbage contractor.

The two governments partnered five years ago on the current contract with Waste Pro.

Sand contract

Commissioners also tabled for review two bids for a contractor for the county to excavate sand from the pit in Honeyville.

The bids were widely disparate, one nearly doubles the other, but once a contractor is selected the county intends to go into the sand business.

The sand could be a revenue source, county staff believes, and in the long run, if proven viable, could be a source of sand for some beach restoration on St. Joseph Peninsula.

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SCHOOLS

District wrestles with post-Michael realities

By **Tim Croft**

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The Gulf County School Board scheduled an hour workshop Tuesday to consider matters related to recovery from Hurricane Michael.

The meeting, as it would turn out, was a tad premature.

District officials understand that at some point they are going to need to hire a consultant to work through the insurance claims, adjusters and the many layers toward reimbursement for damages wreaked by Michael.

"There will come a time very soon that we will have to hire somebody," said board attorney Charles Costin. "We don't have the personnel with the qualifications to administer this process."

However, the board will have

to make a decision in the near-term to either tread that path on its own or join with the Panhandle Area Education Consortium.

Gulf District Schools are among those districts who secure their insurance coverage through PAEC.

A PAEC committee comprised of representatives from the 14 counties PAEC serves has already reviewed and vetted applications for proposals for just such a role, selecting three companies to serve the consortium's districts.

Superintendent of Schools Jim Norton said the PAEC policy limit is \$65 million, with the consortium yet to decide on a formula for allocation to districts impacted by Michael.

Initial numbers, Norton said, indicated the district's share would be somewhere between \$6 million to \$8 million.

A preliminary review by an

adjuster last month placed the district's initial damages at \$6 million, more than \$5 million at Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High School alone.

However, that was a broad strokes analysis; PAEC adjusters are expected to perform a more thorough review in the next 7-10 days, Norton said.

And Norton said he had pause in allowing PAEC, and the Washington County District through which region-wide decisions are made, to call the shots.

"I don't want to take away your authority," Norton told school board members.

The importance of receiving full reimbursement from impacts and damages of Michael is essential as the district braces for impacts to revenue streams.

Property values are almost guaranteed to fall, which will impact not only property tax

receipts but also the revenue generated by the one mill voter-approved operational levy.

Financial Officer Sissy Worley pegged the drop in property values at between 20-50 percent, though the number is unknown until Property Appraiser Mitch Burke certifies a preliminary tax roll in July.

The district could also see a hit if enrollment continues to trail pre-Michael levels, which were right at state projections on which funding is based.

Each full-time equivalent student brings about \$4,000 to the district.

As of this week, enrollment was about 95.4 percent of pre-Michael levels, said Lori Price, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction.

That 5 percent loss in enrollment would translate into a loss of about \$400,000, Norton said.

Additionally, the district faces something of an unknown in Tallahassee, with a new governor, new state school chancellor and new state chair of the board of education.

Further, the Florida Legislature cobbles together the Florida Education Finance Program each session.

And while the district has the assets to fully operate during the current fiscal year, the next fiscal year is a giant question mark.

"We are at the mercy of the Legislature," Norton said. "It is going to take a legislative life ring."

District officials from neighboring counties impacted by Michael have written a letter, the sentiment of which Norton aligns with, to state officials urging state lawmakers to maintain current funding levels for at least the next two years.

Shoaf fundraiser attracts local, state GOP leaders

By **Tim Croft**

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A special election has yet to be called or scheduled.

The State House District 7 seat only became open in the past five weeks or so.

Three Republicans and one Democrat have nonetheless tossed hats into rings.

And, one could argue, one of those Republicans, Gulf County's Jason Shoaf, is able to send an early message about the breadth and depth of his support.

Tonight, at the Haughty Heron, a reception/fundraiser in support of Shoaf's candidacy will be hosted by an array of luminaries within the state and local GOP.

Tonight, at the Haughty Heron, a reception/fundraiser in support of Shoaf's candidacy will be hosted by an array of luminaries within the state and local GOP.

Start with Allan Bense, former Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives and current member of the board of Triumph Gulf Coast, who will be

helping to sponsor the event along with his wife and son.

There is also Don Gaetz, former President of the Florida Senate and current chair of the Triumph Gulf Coast board.

Also on the sponsor list are local GOP leaders such as Ralph and Kara Rish, Sheriff Mike Harrison, businessman Greg Johnson, Superintendent of

Schools Jim Norton and Dr. Pat Hardman of the Coastal Community Association.

And the list is not nearly complete.

City Commissioner Scott Hoffman, Tapper and Company CEO David and Trish Warriner, CPA Ralph Roberson, Port Authority board member Matt Terry and Stuart Shoaf of St. Joe Gas are also listed as sponsors.

The District 7 seat became open when incoming Gov. Ron DeSantis tabbed Rep. Halsey Beshears (R-Monticello) to head the Department of Business and Professional Regulation.

Rubio mobile office hours

Star Staff Report

The office of U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) will host Mobile Office Hours next week to assist constituents with federal casework issues in their communities. These office hours offer constituents who do not live close to regional offices a more convenient way to receive federal casework assistance.

In Gulf County, office hours at 12-1 p.m. ET today at Willis V. Rowan American Legion Post 116, located at 1774 Trout Ave. in Highland View.

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Also Meet: Jimmy Farach, a licensed and bonded Public Insurance Adjuster. Mr Farach is the immediate past president of the Florida Association of Public Insurance Adjusters and has been a licensed general contractor since 1993 and an insurance professional since 1995. He holds a bachelor's degree in Construction Management.



Also Meet: Grant Renne has been a Professional Engineer in the State of Florida for over 28 years. Mr. Renne's expertise includes conducting investigations to determine cause and origin of foundation and roofing failures as well as moisture intrusion damage.



Also Meet: Tom Walsh, a licensed and bonded Public Insurance Adjuster and local resident of Port St. Joe, Florida for the past 25 years. Mr. Walsh specializes in flood insurance claims.

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For more information about Larry Moskowitz, visit: www.larrymoskowitzpa.com

OPINION

What changing climate means for government

By Lee H. Hamilton
Special to The Star

Looking back at 2018's weather-related news, it seems clear that this was the year climate change became unavoidable. I don't mean that the fires in California, coastal flooding in the Carolinas, and drought throughout the West were new evidence of climate change. Rather, they shifted the national mindset. They made climate change a political issue that cannot be avoided.

The Earth's climate changes all the time. But what we're seeing today is different: the increasing frequency and severity of extreme weather. Wet places are becoming wetter; dry places are growing dryer; where it was hot a generation ago, it's hotter now; where it's historically been cool, it's growing warmer. The global impact of human activity — specifically, the burning of hydrocarbons — is shuffling the deck. And we're only beginning to grasp the impact on our political and economic systems.

Warmer overall temperatures, for instance, have lengthened the growing season across the U.S. — by about two weeks compared to a century ago. But the impact on fruit and grain production isn't just about the growing season: plant diseases are more prevalent, and the insects that are vital to healthy agricultural systems are struggling. Insects that spread human diseases, like mosquitoes and ticks, are flourishing.

Precipitation is also changing. There will be more droughts and more heat waves, which will become especially severe in the South and West and in cities. This is troubling news. Extreme heat, according to the Centers for Disease Control, "often results in the highest number of annual deaths among all weather-related hazards." In other words, it kills more people than other weather-related disasters. The human cost and strain on public resources of prolonged heat waves will be extensive.

The rise in sea levels will be even more disruptive. Sea levels have been increasing since we began burning fossil fuels in the 1880s, but the rise is occurring at a faster rate now, something like six to eight inches over the past century — compared to almost nothing during the previous two millennia. This already poses a threat to densely populated coastal areas — in the U.S., about 40 percent of the population, or some 120 million people, lives directly on the shoreline.

And that's without the very real potential of melting glacial and polar ice, with calamitous results. It's not just that this would affect coastal cities, it would also scramble the geopolitical order as nations like the U.S., Canada, and Russia vie for control over the sea lanes and newly exposed natural resources.

I'm not mentioning all this to be alarmist. My point is that dealing with climate change constitutes a huge, looming challenge to government. And because Americans are fairly divided in their beliefs about climate change — a division reflected in sharp partisan disagreements — policy makers struggle to come up with politically viable approaches. This makes the adverse impacts of climate change potentially much worse, since doing nothing is clearly a recipe for greater disaster.

The problem is that politicians in Washington like to talk about climate change in general, yet we haven't seen any concerted consensus-building effort to deal with it. Occasionally you'll see bills being considered in Congress to study it more, but unless we get real, this will dramatically change our way of life.

And despite the growing impact of extreme weather, the opposition's point — that policies to fight climate change will impose hardship on working people, especially in manufacturing states — still

See CLIMATE, A5

HUNKER DOWN

Oh, say can 'they' see



Kesley Colbert

Am I the only one confused here? It IS a federal government shut down! That's what they've advertised from the beginning. But apparently, not everyone is going home. We've shut down the National Parks and a selected agency here and there — and left Washington pretty much alone! We should have known! There is no way on earth we could get that lucky!

It seems, even in closing, our fearless leaders got it backwards. Which had you rather see; a herd of iconic buffalo roaming through Yellowstone Park....or congress and the White House deciding what is "best" for us!

When the lumber company had that walkout back when I was a kid, everybody was out of work. It didn't matter if you hauled logs, pulled on the green chain or was the first shift foreman, you didn't get paid. Everybody went hungry. Now folks, that's a shutdown!

Our government puts on a shutdown and they allow parts of the outfit to remain on the job. Their terminology is "not essential" versus "non-essential." One group is out of luck, the other still goes to work everyday. It's splitting hairs to the nth degree and, naturally, legislated in a shroud of gerry-mandering gobbledeygook.

That's what these elected folks do. And we should be proud of them for how well they do it! There ain't no other country even in their league. They can elaborate on the

simple. Expound on the present. Postulate on the future. Blame the opponent. Praise the party. Straddle the fence. Sere-nade the benefactors. Appraise the political barometer. And unabashedly take credit for tax cuts, higher wages, universal health care, Mother's Day, winning World War II, free Garth Brooks' concerts.....

Avoiding a total government shutdown (that would include them) ain't no hill for this group.

They may not get paid immediately. But an assemblage that ultimately votes on their own salary will come up with the "right" plan. Money will be appropriated from somewhere. And it won't take a congressional investigation to figure out who will ultimately foot this bill.....

'Course, I kinda agree with Will Rogers, we need to be thankful that we're not getting all the government we're paying for.

But let me tell you, an all out government shutdown, if even temporary, is a wonderful thought. A respite from lawmaking could be exactly what this nation needs! Send 'em all home! Both sides of the aisle! Let 'em mingle with regular folks. Shucks, they might even discover that grass-roots is not a political term.

Think how quiet it would be. Everyone could back up and take a deep breath. You can almost feel the calm. We don't have a clue if silence is really golden.....we haven't heard it in so long!

CNN and Fox News could show "My Friend Flicka" reruns. We'd all be better off. "Face the Nation" could interview Brenda Lee and Alan Jackson. We might actually learn something useful. Newspaper editorials

could focus on Alabama football and Aunt Bessie's Lemon Icebox Pie recipe.

This "no government" idea could blossom into an enlightening change. I don't see how it could possibly hurt! You talk about a fiscally sound proposition. And our children might realize the fundamental needs of this great nation are not up for debate on the Senate floor. Plus, wouldn't it be a hoot to see these "elected at the highest level" folks brought back down to the same planet the rest of us are living on.

Too good to be true! Fairyland stuff you say! Well, you're right of course. Believe me, the "powers to be" don't want us messing with the deal they've got going! That's why a genuine shut-down is out of the question.

I'm not sure how running a country got so big and complicated. We had more or less an invisible government back when I was a lad. We didn't know the difference between a Republican and a Democrat. We didn't know the Senate had its own president or that there was a whip in the house. If congress could just keep hog prices from falling off a cliff, things were alright in our little corner of the universe.

Ike was always smiling. Gas was twenty-five cents a gallon. A Coke cost a nickel. We got S and H Green Stamps with every purchase. I don't know how you can make life any better than that.

I'm willing to take a chance on a real shutdown if you are. It might shake some common sense into a few of them. Who knows, they might even take a look at the current hog market...

Respectfully,
Kes

CRANKS MY TRACTOR

Still eating black-eyed peas



BN Heard

On New Year's Eve, I sat eating black-eyed peas, collard greens, tomato pie, ham and cornbread, think "how lucky" I really am. It has been a wonderful holiday season with all of my children being out of college and home for a few weeks. I will always cherish that time with them.

However, this holiday season has been much like the movie, "Christmas Vacation," for me with one disaster or bad thing after another. The Griswold family seemed to have survived, so I am holding out a little hope.

My first disaster or bit of bad news was from the dentist, when he told me it looked like he was going to have to do a remove and replace the front tooth I have had trouble with since I was a child. That alone, I could take, as long as they numb me up. I've always wanted to carry something around in my mouth more valuable than the car I drive.

Then on Christmas Day, as I was bending over to pick up dog poop in my yard and it felt like someone stuck me in the back with a needle. I had pulled something in my knee that brought me to my knees. With the kids and the in-laws in town,

I had four dogs in the house and a yard full of poop. So, when asked, "How'd you hurt your back?" I just answer "Picking up poop."

It's an honest answer that most folks won't believe, but so what...

I've crunched numbers and worked with various projects, vehicles and satellites for about 30 years now. So with a bad tooth and a bad back, I wasn't so disturbed when they told all of us not to come to work for a week or two. Working on the third week now, I'm still thankful, because of my present health. However, I do hope that the correct decisions are made and I get to go back to my number crunching job soon.

After that, it was only fitting that I got a cold or a "a touch" of the flu... that way every time I coughed, my back would remind me not to forget about it. By this time, two of my kids are back at college and I'm still living in the middle of a country song, just waiting to get hit by a mad grandmother or disgruntled fellow government worker.

As I was writing my country song and eating my black-eyed peas, I received a text from an anonymous source noting that one of my students at one of the colleges I teach for part-time had cheated on an exam a few months ago. So, why come forward now and tell me this? The anonymous source had no problem telling me that the reason they knew was that they

were married to the cheater, and they "Thought it was the right thing to do."

That's about all I can say about that, other than I think there were probably other legalities and name changes involved.

My health problems are still pretty bad, but not that bad... There are many folks whose health concerns far outweigh mine. So for those folks, I've been eating black-eyed peas for over a week. I figured out how to make them in my pressure cooking instant pot contraption and they sure are good.

They say black-eyed peas will bring you luck, have you ever wondered why?

As most Southerners, I believe that it dates back to the War Between the States. Black-eyed peas were considered animal food back then. General Sherman's Union troops thought they were just way above eating black-eyed peas. When the North's soldiers raided the South's food supplies, they say that they took everything except the peas and salted pork. The Southerners considered themselves lucky to be left with those meager supplies, and with them, they survived the winter.

Peas, black-eyed peas specifically, became symbolic of luck for Southerners. And for me, picking up poop became symbolic of throwing out your back.

Read more stories at www.CranksMyTractor.com.



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LETTERS

Preserving sacred borders

By **Brandon S. Todd**
Special to The Star

Immigration, what a complex thing it has become, huh? Since 9/11, America has had to take extreme measures to protect itself. Our borders, they're purely sacred. Without proper borders, and immigration laws, a nation is not a true nation.

Borders are one of the highest priorities when it comes to national security; the absence of safe borders would lead to complete chaos all over America; any nation at that.

When illegals try to invade and violate our borders and laws, they should face severe consequences. I think Trump is right in trying to amend the 14th Amendment by Executive Order; it's outdated. There weren't masses of people trying to cross our border-lands in George Washington's day, as thousands get through illegally annually in this day and age; and nowadays most all babies of immigrants,

even illegals, gain citizenship way too easily.

It's not sustainable, nor feasible for us to grant masses of illegals any type of amnesty or even asylum. I don't think any person here against the law should have the right to certify their children as citizens just because they're born here.

Any and all who plan on coming in our country must take the necessary steps to become citizens, or to be here legally, in my view.

"Illegal", the definition of which is: "1. Contrary to or forbidden by law; especially criminal law. 2. A person present in a country without official authorization."

The law means what it means, and illegal immigration is a criminal act.

Many illegals are taking advantage of this nation for its lenient immigration laws; Obama gave nearly all of them amnesty basically, "a Golden Ticket" that allows them to tread on us Americans and our land.

No, I do not want illegals to be in our schools,

doctor offices, DMVs, or voting centers...

Democrats keep preaching the ole "we're all immigrants, it's a melting pot" rhetoric; all so they can get a vote.

Yes, I agree we're a melting pot, but that doesn't make it right for masses of people to trample in this country unannounced, uninvited. I disagree, however, that we're all immigrants.

My family, your family, if you and they're born-citizens or have been naturalized, are of this nation; this land. We're Americans, most of us earned our citizenship through generational legitimacy, some through Legal-Immigration.

I am an American, and I'm very proud to be so. I, and many other of my fellow citizens, do not want anyone here without proper naturalization. It's a spit in the face of all those who came in legally when people enter against the law.

The caravan, the horde of men, women and children are not seeking asylum; they're ambushing us, and

Democrats are having a ball with it, while many Republicans are highly concerned about the national security ramifications of such a bad situation. If we don't man up and get stronger on border-security then what's to stop enemies of America from entering, sneaking in with others who are trying to enter against the law?

It's endless. Borders aren't imaginary; without them, there'd be no sovereignty for any country, no way to stop a true invasion or implement naval capabilities, no-fly zones, things of that nature.

For instance, if Israel had no borders, they'd be surely attacked by masses of Palestinians; you better believe it.

If India had no borders, Pakistan would wipe them out and take all their land. If Dems keep trying to weaken our current laws concerning immigration, we're simply inviting another 9/11. Enemies of the nation will try to infiltrate through Mexico, or even Canada. In Canada, they leave

their doors unlocked, but even they know the severity, the priority of having safe-borders. All countries know it is absolutely a necessity to not allow masses of illegals to enter, yet in America, the Left has been utterly persistent in letting whoever to come in; that's not right.

Drug mules, gang-bangers, rapists, they enter illegally just as much as the 'innocent' men, women, and truly innocent children.

We shouldn't undermine Homeland Security or The Border Patrol of our country. They're as vital as CIA and The FBI, Cyber-Command and the like.

Men and women, daily, in those agencies put their lives at risk just as soldiers do, and anyone working in any security agency in America will tell you how vital it is to keep a solid, secure border, having very strict immigration laws. Truth be told, there are myriad threats amongst us, many foes against us.

I cringe as my liberal fellow Americans express too much sympathy for

illegals, they should more so respect the rule of law and those who are entrusted to enforce it.

We face foreign attacks and domestic attacks, and it's simply too risky to let masses of people in our country without them being formally naturalized.

I respect Donald Trump's stance on Immigration. He's reversing the lax Obama policies and approach. We need a Commander-in-Chief to do what's right for America with regard to immigration, and creating and enforcing stricter Immigration Laws is the right thing to do; Trump is willing to put his neck out there to keep us safe as well as our land.

The Left is wrongly trying to prepare a guillotine for him.

Illegals aren't immigrants, they're intruders. Remember that. The Rule of Law is what matters in this nation.

Brandon Todd is a former resident of Howard Creek who now lives in North Carolina

Happy New Year, America

By **Samuel Moore-Sobel**
Special to The Star

What will 2019 bring? A question we are all likely pondering as we make our way into 2019.

If, like me, you are an optimist, one cannot help but hope for the best. Even in light of a collectively tumultuous 2018. Yet, I cannot help but wonder. Will 2019 be any different?

The year failed to get off to a promising start. As millions of Americans rang in the New Year by singing rousing renditions of "Auld Lang Syne," a partial government shutdown remained in effect. The reasons for the shutdown remained unclear, even as it dragged on past Christmas into the New Year. Both sides were quick to blame the other. Democrats blamed the President for his insistence on securing the funding for his off-referenced border wall, while Republicans cast Democrats as the party unwilling to seek a viable compromise. Such words obscure the reality. All entrenched parties are culpable for the government partially shuttering its doors.

Utilizing the government shutdown as a tactic to achieve swift policy change has proven to be a losing battle. Others have used this strategy to no avail. The shutdowns occurring in the

mid-nineties seemingly secured more support for a President once viewed as beatable by the opposing party, in light of the 1994 midterm results. All this to say that the American people as a whole typically refrain from congratulating the party that interferes with the livelihoods of government employees and their families.

This partial shutdown affects nearly 800,000 employees, who are either furloughed or working without pay. While little urgency to strike a deal was exhibited by lawmakers on Capitol Hill in the waning days of 2018, others were forced to grapple with the consequences. What provisions were in place for families living paycheck to paycheck? A dark cloud likely hung over their holiday season, as furloughed employees weighed looming financial decisions. When did it become acceptable in the United States of America for innocent bystanders to become collateral damage in a war of political posturing?

Such a scene is reminiscent of a conversation President George Herbert Walker Bush once had with then-Congressmen Newt Gingrich and Vin Weber in 1989. "I'm worried that sometimes your idealism will get in the way of what I think is sound governance," Bush said, as recorded in Jon Meacham's "The American Odyssey of George

Herbert Walker Bush." A scene serving as a preamble to our current political climate. An allegiance to political party over compromise. "The old politics of the possible was being replaced by the politics of purity," Meacham wrote.

There is plenty of blame to cast about concerning our current political climate. Social media, cable news shows, and money in politics all play a supporting role. Yet at the end of the day, the American people are responsible for sending elected representatives to Washington. Through the ballot box, we have it in our power to vote for candidates willing to compromise instead of those wedded to party orthodoxy. To refrain from villainizing the other side, in favor of engaging in the exchange of carefully crafted ideas. After all, isn't this what most Americans say they want?

The turbulence of 2018 may very well follow us into the next year. But it doesn't have to. We can collectively choose to embark upon a different path. To strengthen the social institutions that de Tocqueville once lauded in the 1830's as setting America apart. To invest in our neighborhoods, communities, and local government. To call and write our elected officials in Washington, and make our displeasure known regarding the current state of affairs. To vote when the time comes, and even to run for office

ourselves. While doing all we can to help realize the promise of America that has been present since the very founding of this great nation.

Despite the near constant coverage of this partial government shutdown, we all know that the urgency and anger inherent in the moment will likely fade. In the coming weeks, the government will be reopened, likely by voting on a stopgap measure that will simply "kick the can down the road," as it were. There will be displays of anger replete with plenty of pontification from leaders on both sides; however, a sense of order will finally be restored. Until the next crisis appears, throwing our democracy once again into a state of forced self-reflection.

Here's to hoping 2019 brings a desire to root out the more troubling aspects of our democracy, along with the restoration of a sense of levelheadedness. A desire to present solutions to the long-term issues facing our nation, instead of applying a band-aid to a gaping wound. While no one will be fully pleased with the results forged, perhaps that is exactly the point. For, when will we learn the value of reasoned compromise?

Samuel Moore-Sobel is a syndicated columnist. To read more of his work, visit www.holdingtontohopetoday.com

CLIMATE

From Page A4

has some merit and political legs.

In response to inaction in Congress and the administration, some states have taken important steps to address climate change, even though it's best dealt with on the federal level.

Still, newer members of Congress appear to have more of an interest in addressing climate change than older, senior members.

And the issue holds particular resonance for younger millennial voters, whose political influence will only grow over coming elections.

Only recently have

thoughtful politicians I talk to begun to ask whether the political system can deal with the challenges posed by climate change before its impact becomes unstoppable.

The one thing we agree on is that climate change and how to deal with it will place real stress on the system in the years ahead.

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar of the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice, IU School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Kudos on trash pick-up

Dear Editor,
I just want to say what a great job Mexico Beach is doing to keep the trash debris picked up. I don't know how many times I've heard from people

who are not here full-time say that the debris just isn't being picked fast enough. Well let me tell you if you are here every day, you will see trash debris being picked up and then immediately new trash debris being

dumped along side the road, new trash. My neighbor came down this morning, after maybe three weeks and pointed to a big pile of trash next door to me. I know that that neighbor had been down this past weekend

and put all that out, but the guy across the street started saying how that had been there for weeks.

Think before you speak, I think we are doing great.

Judie McCormick
Mexico Beach

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Monthly meeting of county Democrats Monday

Special to The Star

The monthly meeting of the Gulf County Democrats will be held Monday, Jan. 14 from 6:30 p.m. until 8 p.m.

ET at the Port St. Joe Garden Center at 216 8th Street.

Cecile Scoon, civil rights attorney and First Vice President of the League of Women Voters of Florida

(LWV), and Alvin Peters, attorney and LWV member, will discuss what's next for Amendment 4.

Amendment 4 took effect on Jan. 8, automatically

restoring voting rights to most Floridians with felony convictions who have completed their sentences.

A light dinner will be provided.

To RSVP and for more information, please email dec.gulf@gmail.com or visit <https://www.facebook.com/GulfCountyDemocrats/>.

CAMPAIGN

From Page A1

small amounts of funding to small businesses in Mexico Beach.

"We wanted to focus on small business owners," Alex said. "The devastation was so widespread there was no way we could attack all the damage that people sustained.

"But we thought if we could help make it so businesses could get back open we would be impacting a larger range of people, like a ripple effect."

The Mexico Beach Artificial Reef Association, a local non-profit, has served as the depository for funds donated to NeverForgottenCoast and the organization will be charged with administering the grant program via guidelines from the Workmans.

"We are trying to be very intentional, we want to pay for very specific needs, very practical needs to a business back up and running," Alex said.

"We want to see change, we want to see recovery. This is also a way to give a business a small amount of money without them having to pay anything back."

And infusing local businesses with \$1,000-\$1,500 for, as example, marketing, a new trailer for an eatery, engineering, a new website, will help bring exponential change to the community as a whole as the business sector rebuilds, Alex said.

"This is a very powerful project," said Kimberly Shoaf, executive director of the Mexico Beach Community Development Council. "It is going to help get Mexico Beach businesses back on their feet."

The NeverForgottenCoast campaign took shape shortly after Michael.

First, the couple arrived at a name for their effort.

"We didn't think of the word play about the Forgotten Coast and Franklin County when we came up with the name," Alex said. "We wanted people to remember Mexico Beach and Port St. Joe, these



Chelsea Workman, of the Never Forgotten Coast campaign, interviews Ralph and Cathy Hobbs of Parker Realty for their story on NeverForgottenCoast.com.

[SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

Mini-grant applications

Businesses interested in applying for the micro-grant program can fill out the application here: www.neverforgottencoast.com/microgrant/ To donate to Never Forgotten Coast, or to purchase Never Forgotten Coast merchandise, please go to www.NeverForgottenCoast.com.

communities, these neighborhoods, before Michael.

"Through art, photography,

storytelling, that becomes a way that people will remember this place and never forget it."

Next up, the Workmans partnered with Tallahassee designer Jesse Taylor to create a logo for a T-shirt as well as patches and pins.

As of the New Year, they had sold roughly 2,000 of their initial production run of shirts (2,500) and 600 or so patches and pins, items purchased from at least seven states.

The amount of money raised thus far has soared past \$20,000.

Further, the Workmans wanted to provide donors a personal touch on where their money was going.

They partnered with award-winning photographer Jeremy Cowart and a drone pilot they frequently work with in Tallahassee, Jonathan Smith, to tell the stories of Mexico Beach business owners impacted by Michael.

For three days, the team stayed in Mexico Beach, hearing people's stories, documenting the devastation.

Those stories and photos

are found at the website www.NeverForgottenCoast.com which also features the t-shirts, patches and pins that support the campaign.

"It's a story being told by a number of people who wouldn't normally come together for something like this," Alex said. "I think we've been able to humanize the impacts.

"And we feel being able to do that will do more to bring change."

The campaign is now transitioning into the distribution of the money through mini-grants.

For starters, the Workmans have their own business and children to tend to.

The couple packs, label and mail each order from the website in their living room.

On the other hand, Shoaf has noted that several businesses will want to carry the t-shirts in their stores.

"At that point it becomes more sustainable," Alex said.

"We'll have one last production run (of shirts) and we will keep selling shirts until we run out and see where we are at."

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Jay Rish, Broker
Gulf Coast Real Estate Group, LLC
850-227-5569
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OUTDOORS

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GONE COASTAL

Winter is a perfect time for the beach and for collecting seashells

By Amanda Nalley
Special to The Star

When most people think of Florida's sandy beaches, they think warm, sunny summer. But what the locals already know is that winter at the beach has tons to offer.

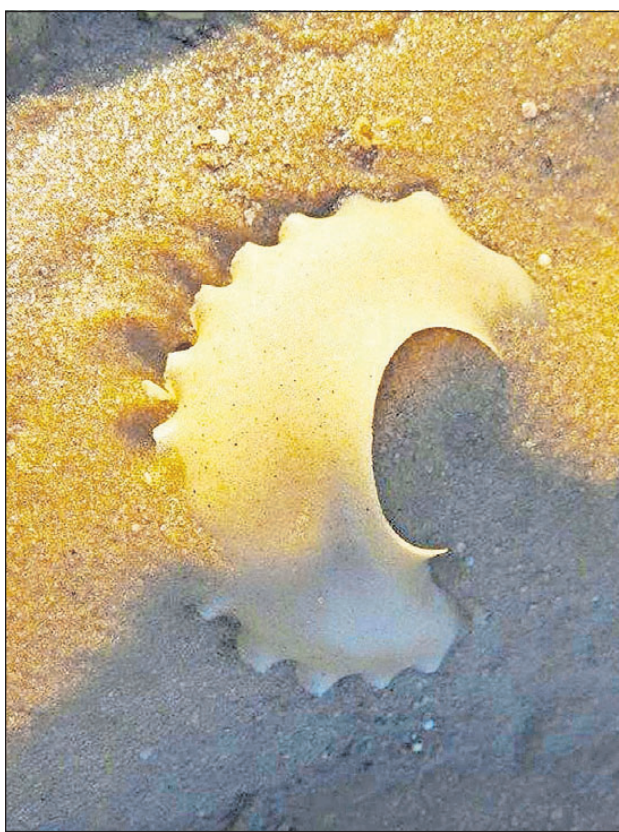
The sand and water may be cold, but it's a perfect time for looking for seashells.

Maybe it's because less people are on the beach, or maybe it's the cold weather and winter storms washing them ashore, but the beach



always seems full of seashells and other great finds during the winter months.

As a former island dweller, seashells have become an integral part



Moon snail egg casing. [FWC PHOTO BY KAREN PARKER]



Sea beans. [FWC PHOTO BY RICH ABRAMS]

WEEKLY ALMANAC			
Date	High	Low	% Precip
Thu, January 10	56°	36°	0%
Fri, January 11	58°	45°	0%
Sat, January 12	65°	58°	70%
Sun, January 13	66°	47°	20%
Mon, January 14	56°	41°	10%
Tues, January 15	57°	42°	10%
Wed, January 16	62°	52°	10%

TIDE TABLES MONTHLY AVERAGES		
To find the tides of the following areas, subtract the indicated times from these given for APALACHICOLA:		
	HIGH	LOW
Cat Point	Minus 0:40	Minus 1:17
East Pass	Minus 0:27	Minus 0:27
To find the tides of the following areas, subtract the indicated times from those given for CARRABELLE:		
	HIGH	LOW
Bald Point	Minus 9:16	Minus 0:03

ST. JOSEPH BAY					
Date	Day	High Tide	High Tide	Low Tide	Low Tide
10	Th	11:34p 0.9		8:59a -0.4	
11	Fr			9:11a -0.3	
12	Sa	12:05a 0.7	11:47p 0.4	9:11a -0.1	
13	Su	5:35p 0.4		8:49a 0.0	
14	Mo	5:12p 0.7		7:31a 0.0	
15	Tu	5:21p 0.9		2:47a -0.1	
16	We	5:47p 1.1		3:15a -0.4	

APALACHICOLA BAY, WEST PASS					
Date	Day	High Tide	High Tide	Low Tide	Low Tide
10	Th	4:41a 1.0	7:04p 1.0	12:02p -0.3	
11	Fr	5:34a 0.9	7:28p 1.0	12:35a 0.6	12:28p -0.1
12	Sa	6:34a 0.8	7:55p 1.0	1:30a 0.5	12:59p 0.0
13	Su	7:49a 0.7	8:24p 1.0	2:35a 0.4	1:34p 0.2
14	Mo	9:25a 0.6	8:57p 1.0	3:50a 0.2	2:15p 0.4
15	Tu	11:25a 0.6	9:32p 1.0	5:04a 0.0	3:03p 0.6
16	We	1:33p 0.7	10:12p 1.1	6:10a -0.2	4:11p 0.7

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FISHING REPORT



Well anglers the folks that have taken the time to get some fishing in Post Hurricane Michael have been rewarded and in a big way. Redfish bite and Trout bite have been great in just about all areas along the Forgotten Coast. Fish are biting on a myriad of baits from frozen shrimp to live shrimp, soft plastics and even Fish Bites.

We saw a Redfish about 40 inches caught on a two inch piece of Fish Bite. So if you have the time and can escape the hard work and recovery efforts, hit the water. There is nothing better for stress relief than a few hours of fishing.

As a reminder Bluewater Outriggers is OPEN, we are here Monday through Saturday and our current hours are 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. ET.

Come see us and the great Christmas decorations and grab some bait or just let us know how you're doing. We are all in this together. Until next time, Happy Fishing!

of my home decorating scheme. They make great containers for Q-tips, candles and jewelry. Some act as decoration atop a cabinet, while others have been turned into craft projects such as a necklace or windchime. Little jars of sharks' teeth collected throughout the years are tucked away. I even have a shell from my daughter's first trip to the beach, labeled with the date. A little reminder of paradise.

While collecting is fun, leaving behind seashells and other marine organisms can also benefit our beaches, which is why I always limit what I take. Shells provide protection for creatures such as hermit crabs and can be hiding places for small fish. They also help stabilize beaches and anchor seagrass.

But if you do want to take home a few souvenirs, it's important to know there are some rules when it comes to recreational seashell collection on Florida's beaches.

The major thing to keep in mind when you are collecting is, if it's dead, it most likely is OK to keep.

Do not keep anything that is federally protected (i.e. sea turtles, sawfish or parts thereof).

If a seashell has a living organism inside it or is a living organism (think sand dollars and starfish), you must have a Florida saltwater fishing license (unless exempt) and you must adhere to state and local limits for that species.

It's also good to know that there are a few species prohibited from harvest, such as the Bahama starfish and live queen conch. You may collect queen conch shells when the shells do not contain any living queen conch at the time



Cockle shells. [FWC PHOTO BY AMANDA NALLEY]



Skate egg casing (mermaid's purse). [FWC PHOTO BY RICH ABRAMS]

of collection.

Special rules also apply if you are collecting in Lee or Manatee counties.

To learn more about FWC's regulations on recreational seashell collecting, visit MyFWC.com/Marine and click on "Recreational Regulations" and "Sea Shells." For a fishing license, visit GoOutdoorsFlorida.com.

My top favorite beach finds:

Sea Beans: I love that these rare finds often illicit a "whoa, what is that" from fellow beachgoers. Sea beans or drift seeds are common names for a variety of seeds that frequently wash up on the beach. Our ocean currents are amazing, and sea beans are proof of that. Many of these seeds come from faraway places, such as the Amazon River.

Cockle shells: These



Lightning whelk versus knobbed whelk. [FWC PHOTO BY AMANDA NALLEY]



Channeled whelk egg casing. [FWC PHOTO BY AMANDA NALLEY]

beach show-stoppers are often the size of your hand and strong enough to remain in one piece, which make them great for collecting. It's also always "warmed the cockles of my heart" that the two shells of this bivalve form a heart shape when whole.

Lightning whelk vs. knobbed whelk: I love a good whelk. They are big, beautiful, strong enough to not easily break and look great on a shelf. My favorite beach party whelk trick is showing people the difference between a lightning whelk and a knobbed whelk. Lightning whelks open to the left, whereas the two other commonly found whelks, the channeled and knobbed, open to the right.

Egg casings: Another favorite "whoa, what

is that" beach moment often comes from finding the egg casings of whelks and moon snails. While these finds aren't great for decoration (moon snail casings are very fragile, whelk casings and skate egg casings - sometimes called mermaid purses - that have already hatched can be smelly and need to dry out), they are definitely fun to look at and talk about.

Share your seashells and beach finds with us on our social media pages. Learn more at MyFWC.com/News/Social.

Send your questions, photos and fishing tales to Saltwater@MyFWC.com. Make sure your photo meets our photo requirements by visiting MyFWC.com/Fishing and clicking on "Saltwater Fishing" then "SubmitPhoto."

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SPORTS

PSJ boys fall at Franklin County

By David Adlerstein
Gatehouse Media

The Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High School boys basketball team emerged from the holiday break to travel to Franklin County.

The game, before a standing room only crowd at The Nest, had all the expected things happen, lots of boisterous cheers and lusty boos, a couple technical fouls on each team for flagrant fouls, one St. Joe fan asked to leave by a referee for questioning the man's judgment more than he cared to allow.

All the typical stuff, plus a 58-48 win that kept the Seahawks still undefeated against all four district opponents they've faced so far, and cast the Tiger Sharks down a notch to 3-1.

Port St. Joe is 5-3 overall.

Sophomore Lamarius Martin poured in a game-high 30 points, well above his 13 points per game average, to be the only Hawk in double digits. Senior Simon Brathwaite added eight, and junior Grady Escobar

seven.

After building a nine-point lead at the half, 33-22, the Seahawks kept the Tiger Sharks in check in the third quarter, and then with two minutes left in the game, junior Isaiah Decoursey's soft floater under the basket gave the Seahawks a 15-point bulge, 56-41, that had some St. Joe fans start to move towards the exists.

Sophomore Eden Brathwaite, who fouled out, and senior Alex Hardy each added four points, while Decoursey and senior Mikalin Huckeba each added two, and junior Javan Pride one.

The Seahawks shot 15 of 31 from the free throw line, a little better than the Tiger Sharks, who were 21 of 35.

Senior Jan Lowe paced Coach Sandy Quinn's Port St. Joe squad with 18 points, with senior Kendre Gant adding 14. Senior Travis Roberson, and senior Drew Jones and junior Demarion Gray, who both fouled out, each scored four, while freshman Neshon Gadson added two and junior Jy'trel Riley one.



Port St. Joe senior Travis Roberson launches a shot against Franklin County junior Grady Escobar. [DAVID ADLERSTEIN | THE TIMES]



[DAVID ADLERSTEIN | THE TIMES]

Lady Tiger Sharks remain unbeaten in district

Star Staff Report

The Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High School girls' basketball team remained unbeaten in District 4-1A following action over the holiday break.

The Lady Tiger Sharks went 4-2 over the break, three of those wins against district opponents, the two losses against schools from larger classifications.

Port St. Joe entered the week 8-5 overall and 5-0 in district play.

The Lady Tiger Sharks traveled to Gadsden County Tuesday and Blountstown tonight and will host Wewahitchka 5 p.m. ET Friday.

Port St. Joe 53, Wewahitchka 16

The Lady Tiger Sharks traveled to county rival Wewahitchka just before Christmas, jumping to a 23-0 first-quarter lead. The lead was 39-9 at the half and Port St. Joe cruised from there.

Jae Lenox led the way for Port St. Joe with 13 points, two rebounds, four assists, three steals and two blocks.

Mimi Larry added 11 points, four rebounds, three steals and a block and Mari

Johnson chipped in 10 points, seven rebounds, three steals and one block.

Te Te Croom had six points and four rebounds, Shadavia Hudgins five points and two steals, Quinci Elphinstone four points, five rebounds, one steal and a block and India Gant four points, three rebounds and one steal.

Niceville 49, Port St. Joe 41

In the opening game of the Gulf County Classic the weekend before Christmas, Port St. Joe lost a close one to a team that reached the Class 7A final four last season.

Niceville opened a 12-8 lead early but the score was 27-24 Niceville at the half.

Niceville asserted its size advantage in a second half during which it did not trail.

Lenox had 21 points, three rebounds, five assists and three steals to lead Port St. Joe.

Larry added eight points, nine rebounds, two assists, two steals and a block, Johnson 7 points, 11 rebounds, three steals and two blocks, Croom 3 points, five rebounds, two steals and a block and Elphinstone 2 points, three rebounds and

one steal.

Bay 47, Port St. Joe 21

During the second night of the Gulf County Classic, the Lady Tiger Sharks faced Class 6A Bay, coming out flat and never getting into the flow of the game.

Bay lead 15-7 after the first quarter and pushed the lead to 30-15 at halftime.

Bay ended the game on a 7-0 run.

Larry and Lenox each scored seven points to lead Port St. Joe; Larry added four rebounds, two assists, a steal and a block while Lenox chipped in three rebounds, an assist and a steal.

Gant had three points and four rebounds, Elphinstone two points, five rebounds and a block and Croom two points, two rebounds and a block.

Port St. Joe 55, Liberty County 8

The Lady Tiger Sharks rebounded in a major way to the disappointment of the Gulf County Classic results, jumping to a 38-5 halftime lead at home.

Lenox led the way with

16 points, a rebound, seven assists and nine steals.

Gant added 12 points, four rebounds, an assist and two steals and Larry was also in double figures in points with 10 and added six rebounds, two assists, three steals and a block.

Croom had 10 rebounds and added seven points, an assist, steal and block, Johnson added 16 rebounds with six points, five steals and two blocks.

Hudgins chipped in two points, two rebounds, one assist and two steals and Synia Dawson 2 two points a rebound and a steal.

Port St. Joe 49, Franklin County 41

The Lady Tiger Sharks traveled to "The Nest" in Eastpoint to take on district rival the Lady Seahawks.

Port St. Joe was up 15-10 after one quarter and 25-19 at the half, but Franklin County kept it close though the margin was never less than the final score.

Lenox exploded for 30 points and added nine rebounds, eight steals and a block to lead Port St. Joe.

Johnson had six points, 10 rebounds and two steals,

Larry five points, three rebounds, an assist, two steals and a block, Croom five points, eight rebounds, two steals and two blocks and Hudgins two points, two rebounds and one steal.

Port St. Joe 51, North Bay Haven 41

The following night, the Lady Tiger Sharks were back home for a Saturday afternoon contest.

Port St. Joe opened a 12-11 lead after one quarter and stretched the lead to 23-21 at the half.

After the third quarter it was 32-29 before Port St. Joe picked up the offense to open the final margin.

Larry led the way for Port St. Joe with 21 points nine rebounds, one assist and four steals.

Lenox added 19 points, six assists and two steals and Johnson had 16 rebounds to go with three points and two steals.

Hudgins chipped in three points, Gant two points, six rebounds, four steals and a block, Croom 2 points, 10 rebounds and an assist and Elphinstone one point, three rebounds, one steal and one block.

Upward basketball

Star Staff Report

First Baptist Church of Port St. Joe is sponsoring Upward Basketball and Cheerleading this winter at the Port St. Joe Elementary School gym. Opening day is Saturday and games will be held on Thursday and Friday nights throughout January and February, with the final weekend currently scheduled for March 1.

Upward Sports is all about "Promoting the Discovery of Jesus Through Sports." If you are interested in coaching, running concessions, or helping the church reach out to the community, contact Jae Glass, Jeremy Dixon or Bobby Alexander or the church office.

SCENE AROUND

Send us your photos that spotlight the best that Gulf Coast has to offer. This page is for photos submitted to The Star by readers. Please submit your photos to tcroft@starfl.com.



A cold front rolls over St. Joseph Bay [COURTESY OF GRETCHEN MAYES]



The Dead Lakes [COURTESY OF TERRY LIND]



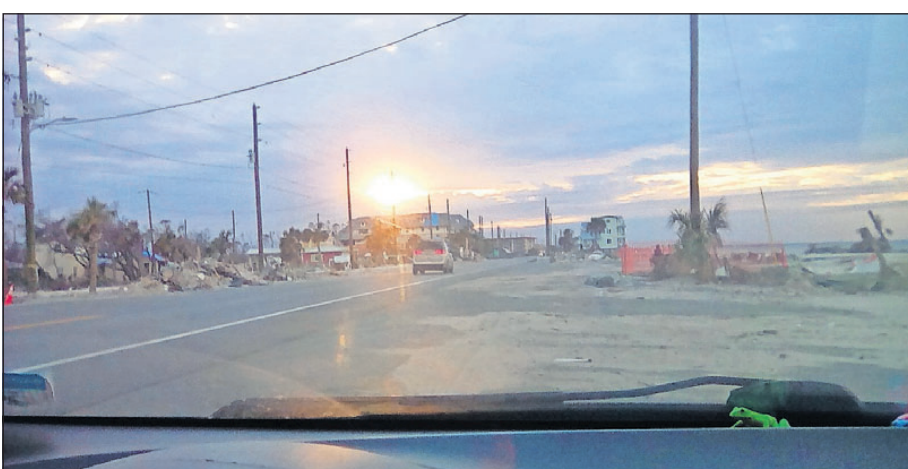
Sunset in St. Joe Beach [COURTESY OF TED MURRAY]



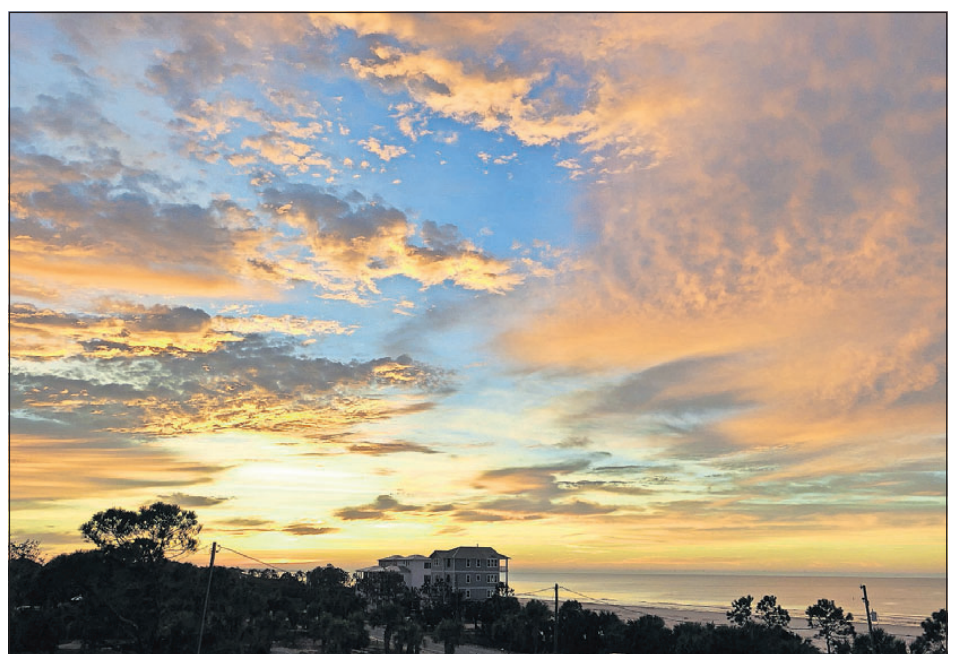
Sunrise over St. Joseph Bay [COURTESY OF FRED RICHTER]



Perfect timing for this shot of New Year's Eve fireworks over the Cape San Blas Lighthouse [COURTESY OF ROB MARTIN]



Good morning, Mexico Beach [COURTESY OF JUDIE MCCORMICK]



Worth waking up for...Indian Pass sunrise [COURTESY OF KEKA SPOONEMORE]

COMMUNITY

Chamber town hall to cover hurricane claims, legal rights

By **Tim Croft**
The Port St. Joe Star
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tcroft@starfl.com

Monday's town hall meeting had its inception at a small gathering for business owners impacted by Hurricane Michael.

Hosted by the Gulf County Chamber of Commerce, as with Monday's town hall, the focus of that first gathering was providing as much information as possible about property damage and insurance claims.

Monday, attorney Larry Moskowitz and his team, including an engineer and former head of the state association of insurance adjusters, will offer a third informational session, 6-8 p.m. ET at the Port St. Joe City Commission meeting chamber on Garrison Ave.

The town hall is free and open to all residents.

"I found that this demographic of people are not used to insurance companies, never filed a claim, never dealt with insurance companies," Moskowitz said, noting that when he polled the audience at the first meeting just one person raised their hand as having filed a property insurance claim.

"In addition, none of the vendors we have dealt with in Panama City are prepared to deal with insurance companies. They simply don't know how. They don't have the expertise."

What is the difference between a field adjuster, desk adjuster and an independent adjuster?

How to handle mold issues? Inventory contents?

Are you aware in Florida if you are represented by a lawyer in such a claim and win, attorney's fees are awarded above and beyond the claim?

"We want to get the information out," Moskowitz said. "This is what I do for a living, but, say, only 5 percent of those in attendance end up hiring me, that's fine."

"I feel good about what I am doing by providing the information."

Moskowitz has been practicing law for 29 years and specialized in property damage claims following hurricanes the past 14 years.

Now, he is working in Bay and Gulf counties in the aftermath of Hurricane Michael.

Moskowitz said after Hurricane Andrew in 1992, residents and businesses filed and were paid fairly quickly by national insurance companies.

Lives could be rebuilt at relatively breezy pace.

However, he added, since Andrew those national companies tend to stay out of Florida, leaving local and regional insurance companies to fill the void.

"The landscape has drastically changed since Andrew," he said.

See **CHAMBER, B7**

Companies have 90 days to underpay, deny or pay the claim and too often, Moskowitz said, the goal is to deny or underpay claims with an idea of "circling back" in later months and years, if ever.

Public meeting on Peninsula State Park Tuesday

By **Tim Croft**
The Port St. Joe Star
@PSJ_Star | 850-227-7827
tcroft@starfl.com

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection will hold a public meeting Tuesday to discuss and receive comments regarding recovery at T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park.

The meeting will be held 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. ET in Building A at the Gulf/Franklin campus of Gulf Coast State College on Garrison Ave. at U.S. 98.

It is free and open to the public and everyone is invited to attend and participate, according to a DEP release.

"We will be generous with the time," said Daniel Alsentzer with the Office of Park Planning in the Division of Recreation and Parks.

"We will be arriving early and we will stay as long as people wish to provide comments. We will be sticking as close as we can to the time limit so that as many people who want to speak can."

There will be three-minute limit per speaker.

Topics will include both



A main topic at Tuesday's meeting will be what to do about the breach in the beach at Eagle Harbor.

[FILE PHOTO]

short- and long-term plans regarding access, facilities, natural and cultural resources, practical solutions and creative opportunities, according to the release.

And, certainly, a primary topic will be what, if anything, to do to address the breach in the beach at Eagle Harbor

which has linked the Gulf waters with St. Joseph Bay.

"We have considered plenty of planning options," Alsentzer said, ranging from a ferry service, filling in the breach, armoring to keep sand in, allowing sand to accrete in and leave it as is.

"But before we got into

specifics of engineering and design we wanted to receive feedback from the public. There may be a lot of local people, because of their trade, who know more about that beach and those waters than we do."

See **PARK, B7**

Vacationer finds rare shell, again

By **Tim Croft**
The Port St. Joe Star
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tcroft@starfl.com

Something aligns correctly for Lori Deavers, her annual vacation to the area, hurricanes and rare Junonia shells.

Deavers and her husband, Robert, dedicated shellers from Selma, AL, arrived as usual last month for their annual vacation in the area.

And, while searching for shells on the east side of the Mexico Beach canal just before Christmas, Lori found another Junonia.

Now, the eerie portion of the story.

In 2016, following the visit of Hurricane Hermine to the coast, Deavers found a Junonia while walking the beaches of Crooked Island.

The Junonia shell comes from a species of large sea snail that live deep beneath the water, only washing ashore following strong storms and hurricanes.

The sea snail is named for the ancient Roman goddess Juno and the shell is prized due to its rarity and unique beauty.

The shell is so rare that when found on Sanibel Island, one of the world's prime shelling locations, those who make the find are photographically featured in the local newspaper.

And, naturally, the Deavers have had their photos taken twice after Junonia finds on Sanibel Island.

In 2009, Robert found two; the following year the Deavers scored three.

Finding one in Mexico Beach was a long-held dream.

"We've been vacationing for eight years and we've only found two pieces of Junonias," Lori said in 2016.

One fragment they found in 2015, the other just days before their 2016 find.

Most Junonias secured by shelling enthusiasts come from deep-sea anglers who often find the shells in nets as bycatch.

While the shell is not particularly valuable, for many



Lori Deavers has found rare Junonia shells in the area twice in the past three years. [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

"The Junonia represents that you never know what's going to come along in your life and you need to appreciate the small things."

Lori Deavers

shellers it is something of a Holy Grail.

"The Junonia represents that you never know what's going to come along in your life and you need to appreciate the small things," Lori

said in 2016, a statement that seems all the more apropos given the destruction of Hurricane Michael.

"It's just amazing what wonderful, beautiful, interesting things you can find at

the beach and what you can do with them. You just have to slow down and enjoy all the wonderful gifts that come from the sea."

She added of her latest find, "I hope it gives somebody a smile. I was ecstatic when I found it."

She added she hopes such a find encourages other visitors to make the trip to the areas beaches, despite the wreckage from Michael found inland.

SOCIETY



[SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

Legion Post donates to Jarheadz

Special to The Star

Willis V. Rowan American Legion Post 116 presented a check to Brian Padgett, Managing Member of Jarheadz BBQ, LLC for serving meals to the community continuously since Hurricane Michael. Pictured are Brian Cahill, Commander Post 116, Brian Padgett, Kenny Wood, Finance Officer, Post 116.

Learn about honey bees during Tuesdays at 2

Special to The Star

Many of our everyday food sources depend on pollinators such as honey bees—but what do we really know about our busy friends? Daphney Glass, the Head Beekeeper from Sweet Lips Honey, will share her knowledge about caring for honey bees—including interesting facts about their Queen—at her lecture titled Honey Bees, an Amazing Insect. You'll discover how

honey is made and what it takes to make a teaspoon of the sweet nectar. Daphne became a Head Beekeeper, or Apiarist, when she was looking for a new direction in life and has found peace while working a honey bee hive. Just like storms, keeping honey bees looks like a lot of chaos, but there truly is a calming effect that happens during an inspection.

The eight-week Tuesdays at Two lecture series is free and open to the

public—and refreshments will be served. It will be held each Tuesday in January and February at 2 p.m. ET at the Corinne Costin Gibson Memorial Public Library located at 100 Library Drive in Port St. Joe. Additional topics will include a variety of presentations on the history and natural resources of Gulf County including turtles, the state park, bees and fishing.

For more information call 229-8879 or visit www.nwrsl.com

JACKIE SPANN

Jackie Spann, 84, went to be with her Lord and Savior on Friday, January 4, 2019 in Warner Robins, GA.

Jackie worked Civil Service at Robins Air Force Base from 1972 until 1989, retiring as an Aerospace Quality Control Specialist.

Jackie loved life. She established Seaways Seafood in Warner Robins, Georgia in 1982. Jackie and her husband retired to the quaint fishing community in St. Marks, Florida and then to Mexico Beach, Florida in 1988. She was involved in the Community Improvement Program (CIPs) in Mexico Beach, and also ran for Mayor. Her hobbies consisted of anything to do with the beach, boating, fishing, reading books, cooking and painting.

She was a strong advocate of the beautification of Mexico Beach and participated in several community committees. She always lent a helping hand with



an open heart for her friends and neighbors. Jackie was a member of First Methodist Church Mexico Beach and loved all of her church family. She had a strong love for feeding and taking in stray cats and supported ASPCA.

Jackie was preceded in death by her loving husband of 62 years, Howard Walter Spann; parents, Charles Edwards and Pearl Watson; sisters, Carolyn Vaughn, Margaret Smith, and Dorothy Bridges; and brother, Charles "Bubba" Edwards.

Left to cherish her memories are her children, Howard Loris Spann (Carol) and Steven Eric Spann

(Dee Dee); her grandchildren, Lori Spann Smith, Howard Walter Spann II "Bubba," Erica Spann, James Spann and Lucas Spann; and great-grandchildren, T.J. Smith, Conner Smith, Dylan Spann, Tristan Spann and Mason Spann.

A private memorial will be held in Mexico Beach, Florida, details to be announced at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully suggests memorial donations be given in memory of Jackie Spann to the Mexico Beach Artificial Reef Association. Please go to <http://www.mbara.org/donate.cfm> to donate, or mail a check to MBARA, P.O.

Box 13006, Mexico Beach, FL 32410. Include a memo on the website or the check for the Howard and Jackie Spann Reef.

Go to www.mcculloughfh.com to sign the Online Registry for the family. McCullough Funeral Home and Crematory has the privilege of being entrusted with Mrs. Spann's arrangements.

CareerSource Gulf Coast hosting healthcare job fair

Special to The Star

PANAMA CITY—CareerSource Gulf Coast is hosting a Healthcare Job Fair on Saturday from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. CT. The event will take place at Gulf Coast State College, 5230 US-98 in Panama City, in the Student Union East building.

This job fair is for qualified candidates looking to gain employment in the healthcare industry. Candidates will be able to meet with employers face-to-face to discuss employment opportunities.

As of Jan. 6, nine (9) employers were registered to attend the event, including Blountstown Health & Rehab Center,

Gulf Coast Regional Medical Center, Covenant Care, Orlando Health, Tallahassee Memorial Hospital, Florida State Hospital and Sunland Center. These employers are hiring for various healthcare industry occupations, including Registered Nurses (RN's), Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA's) and Medical Assistants.

There is still time for employers to register for the event. If you are an employer in the healthcare industry interested in participating, please contact a member of the CareerSource Gulf Coast marketing team at (850) 876-4342 no-later-than Jan. 9 by 4 p.m. CST.

If you are interested in participating as a job seeker, we encourage you to come dressed in business-casual attire with printed copies of your resume and contact information. Please be prepared for on-the-spot interviews. For more information on this event, please visit www.careersourcegc.com/Newsroom-Events

CareerSource Gulf Coast provides free services to job seekers and employers in Bay, Gulf and Franklin Counties, with offices operated in all three counties. Visit www.careersourcegc.com to learn more about our professional workforce development and job placement services.

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FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

PANAMA CITY

PSJ Garden Club news

Special to The Star

The Port St. Joe Garden Club's January meeting will be held Thursday, Jan. 10 at the Garden Club Center located at 216 8th Street. A luncheon will be served at noon but come a little early to visit with members and guests.

Jill Bebee, a Master Gardener and Port

St. Joe Garden Club member, will present this month's program "Don't Plant Trouble-Keep Invasive Species Out of Your Landscape." In the aftermath of hurricane Michael, many of us are just starting to think about what to do about our devastated yards. Now is the time to start planning your

landscaping, well before Spring.

At this month's program learn what not to plant and why.

This event is open to the public. If you are interested in attending, or would like to rent our historic Garden Center in the near future, please email psjgardenclub@gmail.com.

STUFF IS STUFF

Emptying my dishwasher and putting my plates, glasses and silverware away.

I realize stuff is more than stuff for those who lost everything.

Pots and pans are a blessing. Stuff that's a necessity.

clothes
cars
food
shelter
all necessities

yet all stuff

so stuff is not stuff

there is a magnitude of

measurement to stuff

stuff we need to get through the day
stuff we need to communicate and reach out
stuff that helps us get from place to place
stuff to keep us warm and keep us cool

all stuff, all necessary to sustain us

without such stuff somehow in some way we survive
we manage to carry on with help

we share what hurts
we share what's good
we share light and

find a light to help us get through the darkness

we work we play we laugh we cry we carry on

we move forward
some stuff we need
some we don't like memories and mementos

yet stuff is stuff
is a way to say we survived
we have our health
we have our loved ones

stuff is stuff
says we have hope
and light shines through the darkness

Debbie Hooper

SCHOOL NEWS

Delta Kappa news

Special to The Star

The Delta Kappa Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International met in Franklin County last month to enjoy an ornament exchange and fellowship with members as well as to induct Sarah Kesterson from the ABC School into the Society and provide a \$100 Grant-in-Aid to Malory Whaley, who completed her education internship and is now a 4th grade teacher at the Franklin County School.

The Delta Kappa Chapter also provides a \$500 scholarship to a FCS senior entering into education. A Dollar for Scholars bake sale was held in December and thanks to the generosity of many people a little over \$300 was raised. Another bake sale will be held in the spring.



Natasha Pennycuff, Delta Kappa Chapter president, left, and Missy Cumbie, chapter treasurer, right, induct ABC School teacher Sarah Kesterson from the society. [PHOTO COURTESY ARLENE OEHLER]

The mission of the DKG Society is to provide professional and personal growth for women educators and excellence in education. There are approximately 80,000 members in 17 countries.

Troy University news

Special to The Star

Daniel Jones graduates from Troy University

TROY, AL -- Daniel Jones of Port St. Joe graduated from Troy University during the Fall Semester/Term 2 of the 2018/2019 academic year.

Jones graduated with the Bachelor of Science degree.

Teresa Thursbay named to Provost's List

Teresa Thursbay of Port St. Joe has been named to the Provost's List at Troy University for the Fall Semester/Term 2 of the 2018/2019 academic year.

The Provost's List honors full-time undergraduate students who are registered for at least 12 semester hours and who have a grade point average of at least 3.65.

Callie Fleshren named to Chancellor's List

Callie Fleshren of Port St. Joe has been named to the Chancellor's List at Troy University for the Fall Semester/Term 2 of the 2018/2019 academic year.

The Chancellor's List honors full-time undergraduate students who are registered for at least 12 semester hours and who earn a grade point average of 4.0.

Tax tips for students

Special to The Star

Income tax season is approaching, and students may want to consider these tips from KHEAA to help the process go more smoothly.

Although you may not have earned enough to be required to file, you may be able to get a refund if your employer withheld taxes from your pay. Before you file, discuss the situation with your parents. They may be able to claim you as a dependent, which could save them thousands of dollars.

Students and parents may be able to take advantage of these programs on their federal taxes:

- American Opportunity Credit, available for the first four years of college.

- Lifetime Learning Credit, available if a taxpayer or a dependent is taking college courses to acquire or improve job skills.

- Tuition and fees deduction, which lets taxpayers deduct qualified education expenses paid during the year for themselves or a dependent. The expenses must be for college.

- Student loan interest deduction, which lets people deduct up to \$2,500 per year on federal taxes for interest paid on federal student loans.

For more detailed information about federal programs, go to www.irs.gov to download the free Publication 970 Tax Benefits for Education.

Tax rules may change from year to year, so make sure you have the most up-to-date

information before filing.

KHEAA is a public, non-profit agency established in 1966 to improve students' access to college. It provides information about financial aid and financial literacy at no cost to students and parents. KHEAA also helps colleges manage their student loan default rates and verify information submitted on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). To learn more about those services, visit www.kheaa.com.

In addition, KHEAA disburses private Advantage Education Loans on behalf of its sister agency, KHESLC. For more information about Advantage Education Loans, visit www.advantageeducationloan.com.

Scholarships available for program

Special to The Star

PANAMA CITY - CareerSource Gulf Coast is now offering scholarships to eligible students to attend Tom P Haney Technical Center's Industrial Pipefitter Program. The scholarships will cover the costs of books, tuition, and supplies for the program.

"We are excited to be working with Haney Technical Center, providing scholarships to students in the Industrial Pipefitter Program," said Kim Bodine, Executive Director of CareerSource Gulf Coast. "This industry is one of the highest paid construction professions in Florida; the average wage is

estimated at almost \$42,000 per year. This is an amazing opportunity for men and women in our community to learn a transferable skill that will also provide a sizeable income."

The Industrial Pipefitting program is a new training program for Haney Technical Center that was developed to meet the growing demand for this skill set in the job market. It is a six (6) month program will teach students broad, transferable skills with an emphasis on the pipefitting industry. Registration for the program is taking place at Haney Technical Center Monday through Friday this week and classes begin on

Monday.

To apply for the scholarships online, visit our website at <https://www.careersourcegc.com/Job-Seekers-Special-Programs.aspx>.

If you have any questions or want to apply in person, please visit the CareerSource Gulf Coast office located onsite at Tom P Haney Technical Center in Room 104.

CareerSource Gulf Coast provides free services to job seekers and employers in Bay, Gulf and Franklin Counties, with offices operated in all three counties. Visit www.careersourcegc.com to learn more about our professional workforce development and job placement services.

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**PORT ST. JOE
JANUARY 13
1-5 P.M.**

Gulf County Senior Center
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FAITH

ADDITIONAL OBIT ON B2

BETTY TEMPLE GODFREY

Betty Temple Godfrey (Nanny), 93, passed into the presence of her savior on December 31, 2018 at Capital Regional Medical Center in Tallahassee, FL after a brief illness. Betty was born February 1, 1925 in Warren, AR and moved to Port St. Joe in 1938 when the St. Joe Paper Co. began operations. She graduated from Port St. Joe High School in 1941 and attended Centenary College in Shreveport, LA. She married Elmore Myrick Godfrey III on June 1, 1943 and spent 75-and-a-half years with him until his passing on Nov. 5, 2018. She is now reunited with the love of her life and her Lord whom she loved so dearly. Betty accepted Christ as her savior in 1955 and was on the charter members of Faith Bible Church, founded in 1959, where she taught Sunday School.

Betty was founder of J.O.Y. Clubs in Port St. Joe during the 1970s and 1980s. J.O.Y. stood for Jesus, Others and You and taught young girls the message of love from Jesus Christ.

Joy was indeed what Betty expressed when she shared her faith with others. She was full of joy when she would talk about never being separated from the people you love and spending eternity with them, joyously.

There is a celebration in heaven today as she is rejoicing with her husband, son and loved ones.

Betty was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother who truly adored her grandchildren. She will truly be missed by all who knew her.

Betty was predeceased by



her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J.L. Temple, her husband, Capt. Elmore M. Godfrey, III, her son, James Pope Godfrey and great-grandson, Kaleb Allen.

She is survived by her son, Elmore Myrick Godfrey IV and wife Sandra; nieces, Ellen Luttrell and Sarah Harper and husband Roy; grandchildren, Cheyenne Edwards and husband Rob, Brigitte Yeager and husband Ryan, Meredith Allen, Stone Swatts and wife Dana J and Dana Kerigan and husband Jack; great-grandchildren, Cole and Taylor Grace Edwards, R.J. and Drew Yeager, Kyleigh Baxter, Kelsey and Karter Allen, Abby Swatts, Campbell and Camryn Swatts, Brooke and Bayleigh Hattaway, Jaclyn and Joseph Kerigan.

A special thanks to all her caregivers over the past year; Emerald Coast Hospice, Covenant Hospice, Cross Shores and Cross Winds Nursing Homes and Home Health Care. You always treated her with such dignity and kindness.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Gideons International in the name of Betty Godfrey.

Episcopal Presiding Bishop to visit Panama City, Port St. Joe churches

Special to The Star

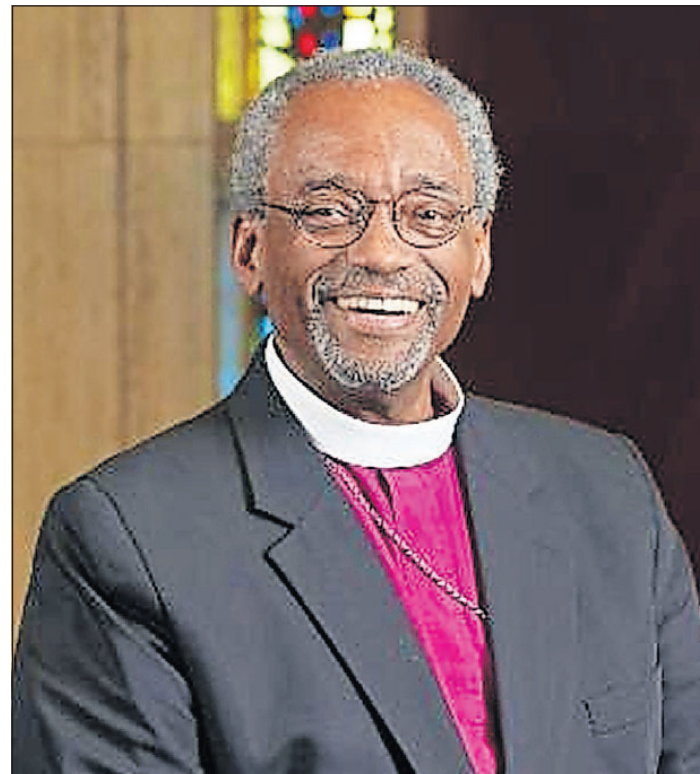
The Right Reverend Russell Kendrick, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast, will host the Most Reverend Michael Bruce Curry, presiding bishop and primate of the Episcopal Church, when he visits churches affected by Hurricane Michael in Panama City and Port St. Joe.

Presiding Bishop Curry will visit with Episcopal clergy and parishioners from local churches to hear their storm-related stories and discuss their recovery efforts to date.

Parishioner forums will take place 10 a.m. Jan. 12 at Holy Nativity Episcopal Church in Panama City and 3 p.m. ET at St. James Episcopal Church in Port St. Joe.

Eight Episcopal churches in Hurricane Michael's path were significantly impacted when Hurricane Michael came ashore on Oct. 10, 2018. Each church continues to work through their recovery efforts, providing ministries for their members as well as their surrounding community.

Presiding Bishop Curry's visit intends to provide



Bishop Michael Bruce Curry. [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

pastoral reassurances to the local Episcopal community that the thoughts and prayers of the entire Episcopal Church continue to be with everyone affected by Hurricane Michael and its aftermath.

Presiding Bishop Curry was installed as the 27th presiding bishop and primate of the Episcopal

Church in November 2015. Bishop Kendrick was ordained bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast on July 25, 2015. The Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast includes 62 Episcopal churches from Mobile, AL, east to Apalachicola, including churches in the southern-most communities across Alabama.

CLAIR PHILLIPS ROBERSON

Clair Phillips Roberson passed away peacefully after a short illness on January 7, 2019 at Halifax Hospice Care Center in Orange City, Florida. She had been temporarily relocated to central Florida from Lisenby Care Center in Panama City after Hurricane Michael.

She was born on August 4, 1932 in Montgomery, Alabama where she lived until moving to Port St. Joe in 1967. The most important thing in her life was her family. She was married to Walter H. Roberson for 59 years prior to his death. She was preceded in death by her parents, Wiley and Velia Phillips, brothers, Wiley Phillips, Jr., George Phillips, Ray Phillips and Glenn Phillips. She is survived by her sons, Ralph C. Roberson (Margaret), Kevin Roberson (Stephanie), and daughters Selina Waller (Bill), and Tamara Barnes; brothers, Robert Phillips (June), Johnny Phillips

(Sue); sisters, Nancy Fisher, Wila Halbert (Robert). She leaves nine grandchildren: Chris Roberson (Kiki), Matt Roberson (Beth), Karen Waller, Lee Waller, Blake Barnes (Caitlin), Brett Barnes, Nancy-Clair Freeman (Josh), Katie Roberson, Cameron Roberson, and six great-grandchildren.

She was affectionately known as "Banny" to her grandchildren, and the many children she taught in Sunday school and G.A.'s as a longtime member of the Highland View Baptist and Long Avenue Baptist churches. She was a community Mom to the many friends of her children where they were welcome with good food always available.

Her services will be held at Highland View Baptist Church, 310 Ling Ave., Highland View, on Saturday, January 12, 2019, with visitation at 2 p.m. ET and funeral service at 3 p.m. ET.

DOROTHY LOUISE MATLOCK

Dorothy Louise Matlock, age 79, of Wewahitchka, FL passed away Wednesday, January 2, 2019, in Panama City, FL. Dorothy was born in Port St Joe, FL on September 26, 1939 to Willie and Minnie (Dampier) Newsome and lived in Wewahitchka, FL for most her life. She was a homemaker, loved reading and cooking. Dorothy was a member of the White City Assembly of God.

Survivors include: one son, Allan Matlock of Port

St Joe, FL; three daughters, Cindy Ake and Tim of Wewahitchka, FL, Julie Miller and Eddie Haddock of Wewahitchka, FL and Edwina Matlock of Port St Joe, FL; one sister, Kate Anderson of Dalkeith, FL; three grandchildren, Jacob Barlow, Dylan Ake, Carla Mock; and two great-grandchildren, Harleigh Mock, Colton Johnson.

Funeral services were held Sunday, January 6, 2019 at 2 p.m. (CST) at White City

Holiness Church in White City, FL with Reverend Charles Jackson officiating. Interment followed at Pleasant Rest Cemetery in Overstreet, FL. The family received friends Sunday, January 6, 2019 from 1 p.m. (CST) until service time at 2 p.m. (CST) at White City Holiness Church in White City, FL.

All arrangements are under the direction of Marlon Peavy of Peavy Funeral Home in Blountstown, FL.

RAYMOUTH SHIRLEY NIXON

Mrs. RAYMOUTH SHIRLEY NIXON, age 81, of White City, FL passed away Wednesday, January 2, 2019 in Panama City, FL. Shirley was born on January 27, 1937 in Franklin County to Ernest and Caroline (Scott) Barfield and had lived in Gulf County for most of her life. She was a homemaker and a member of Highland View Assembly of God Church.

Shirley was preceded in death by her parents, Ernest and Caroline (Scott) Barfield; husband, Joseph Nixon; two daughters, Debra Davis

and Sandra Elane Nixon.

Survivors include three sons: Michael Nixon and wife Liz of White City, FL, Bruce Nixon and wife Wanda of White City, FL, Chris Nixon and wife Bogey of White City, FL; son-in-law, Glenn Davis of Overstreet, FL; one sister, Nora Everett of Ocala, FL; 10 grandchildren: Leigha Thursby, Heather Harris, Adam Nixon, Melissa Brogdon, Whitney Nixon, Michael Davis, Kristy Davis, Richard Davis, Hope Nixon, Joseph Nixon; 14

great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at 10 a.m. (EST) Saturday, January 5, 2019 from the graveside at Holly Hill Cemetery in Port St Joe, FL with Reverend Adam White officiating. Interment followed in Holly Hill Cemetery. The family received friends Saturday, January 5, 2019 from 9 a.m. (EST) until service time at 10 a.m. (EST) at Holly Hill Cemetery.

All arrangements are under the direction of Marlon Peavy at Peavy Funeral Home in Blountstown, FL.

PHILIP DEMERY STEVENS

Philip Demery Stevens, age 75, of Wewahitchka, FL passed away October 7, 2018. He was born to Wilson and Gertrude Stevens. He served his country honorably in the U.S. Army from 1964 to 1967 attaining the rank of

sergeant along with numerous awards and decorations.

He worked for Southern Bell/AT&T as a PBX Engineer, retiring in 1989.

Survivors include his wife, Barbara of Wewahitchka; sister, Becki (Bert) Calvert of

Nashville, Tennessee; two nephews, Dr. Adam (Tiffany) Lotts of Houston, Texas and Major Seth (Brittany) Lotts, U. S. Army; four step-children, Wade (Bonnie) Hamlett of Mobile, Alabama, Pam (Wayne) Taylor of Lynn

Haven, Florida, Bryan (Jennifer) Carroll of Tallahassee, Florida and Leann (George) Lee of Atlanta, Georgia; three grandchildren, Gavin (Kinsey) Taylor, Katie Hamlett and Wade Hamlett II; two cousins, Lynda (Bill) Zayner

and Barbara (John) Daniels.

A memorial service was held January 6, 2018, graveside at Jehu Cemetery at 2 p.m. CT.

Services under the direction of Comforter Funeral Home.



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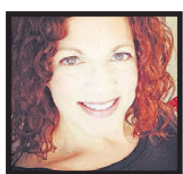
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WHAT SOUTHERN FOLKS EAT

Who needs luck with food this good?



Stephanie Hill-Frazier

There are certain foods that we Southerners claim proudly as our own; things like cornbread, muscadine jelly, and, of course, greens. And on January 1, we make sure we get those greens on our table and into our bellies, as dictated by our tradition which says that black-eyed peas, cornbread and greens will bring us luck all year if eaten on New Year's Day. Even better are the leftovers which have time to hang out in the fridge a day or two, developing an even better flavor as they do. Talk about lucky!

Whether you believe in luck or not, you probably follow along with the tasty traditions, as do I, simply because in the South, it's what we do. It's part of our lovely culture.

First, I always make greens. Collards and other types of greens, (and according to some folks, cabbage) are considered "lucky" foods for the New Year. They are said to represent green "folding money," and by eating it, you open yourself up to prosperity in the New Year. The same is believed true of cornbread; its golden color might just bring gold coins into your pocket, tradition says.

There's no doubt that greens have a storied history in the South. Believe it or not, they didn't originate in our soil. Research by food historians indicates that collard greens, for example, originated in eastern Mediterranean countries.

It was many years later that they were brought to this continent, arriving from Africa via slaves in the 1600s.

Turnip greens are a tender green, with the perfect hint of bitterness, often cooked with a splash of vinegar and a sprinkle of sugar to complement that bitterness. While most people simmer them with ham hocks, they're also easy to use as a stir-fried green or in soups. Turnip greens are believed to have been cultivated in Hellenistic and Roman times, more than 4,000 years ago.

Though they arrived in the U.S. at different times and in various ways, we are certainly happy that these greens, along with the familiar spinach and kale, are popular on Southern tables. If any



Mama Steph's Good Luck tacos with black-eyed peas and cabbage. [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

are new to you, try them out in the soup recipe below, for starters, keeping in mind that you can use any type of green in the recipe. Remember that thicker greens, like collards, will take longer to cook to tenderness than a delicate green like baby kale.

Perhaps most famously, Southerners eat black-eyed peas on January 1. Why is that? The most widely told story my research revealed says that during the Civil War, black-eyed peas were a prevalent crop in the South. The peas were primarily grown as food for livestock, and they did well in the soil and climate of the Southern states.

The story that has been passed down for decades says that when General Sherman and his Union soldiers raided the Confederate soldiers' food supply, they left behind the "livestock food," the black-eyed peas, considering them unworthy of human consumption. This left the Confederates with a plentiful source of nourishment, and they considered themselves lucky to have the peas to eat as the war waged on.

Lastly, pork, especially fatback or hog jowls, is said to bring good luck in the new year. Pigs are believed to be lucky in many cultures around the world, but in the South, the pork that most folks had readily available during the cold month of January was cured meat, like bacon and hog jowl meat, so this is what they'd eat on New Year's Day.

Luckily for us, greens, cornbread, peas and salted pork of any kind go well together, making our celebration of the New Year really satisfying and delicious.

Here are a couple of my favorite soup recipes featuring these "lucky" ingredients to help you kick off 2019 with delicious satisfaction:

Black-eyed pea soup with ham and greens:

- 1 TBS olive or canola oil
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 1 cup celery, chopped
- ½ cup bell pepper (any

- color), diced
- 6-8 oz ham, chopped
- 4-5 cloves garlic, diced (or 4 tsp minced jarred garlic)
- one quart vegetable or chicken broth
- two cans black-eyed peas, drained (or soak and cook your own, about three cups worth)
- 2 cups chopped turnip greens, kale, or spinach (fresh or frozen)
- 28 ounce can diced tomatoes
- 1 tsp Johnny Chacheres or other Creole seasoning

salt and pepper, to taste

Method:

1. Heat oil over medium heat in large soup pot or Dutch oven. Add onion, celery, and bell pepper. Cook until onion is translucent. Do not allow to burn.
2. Add chopped ham and garlic, and cook for two minutes, just long enough to warm them.
3. Add chicken broth, peas, greens, tomatoes and seasonings.
4. Simmer over low heat for 30 minutes or longer, stirring occasionally. Alternatively, you may cook together in crock pot for six hours. Your house will smell wonderful!

Mama Steph's Simple and Spicy Black-eyed Pea Soup

- 1- 16 ounce bag of dried black-eyed peas, soaked according to package directions, then cooked and seasoned with salt to your taste. (alternatively, use two 15 oz. cans of the peas, drained and rinsed.) I cook my peas with an onion, chopped, and a teaspoon or so of olive oil, and I don't salt until they're almost done.
- 1 medium onion, chopped (this is separate from any onion you cooked your peas with.)
- 2 cloves of garlic, peeled and minced
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 package of polska-kielbasa or other favorite link sausage, sliced into medallions
- Chicken broth (6 cups or so if you have it; fill in with water



Mama Steph's Simple and Spicy Black-eyed Pea Soup. [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

- if you feel you need a bit more broth)
- salt and pepper or Tony Cachere's seasoning, or other seasoned salt, to taste
- 1 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 1 tablespoon dried parsley flakes

Method:

Pour olive oil into the bottom of a stock pot or dutch oven on a burner at medium heat.

When the oil is hot, add sliced sausage and chopped onion.

Cook, stirring, for three minutes or until the onions begin to turn clear.

Add minced garlic, stir in, and cook for another minute.

Add cooked peas. (note: while I cooked a whole 16 oz package, I took out about a cup of the cooked peas for another use. There were still plenty.)

Add chicken broth and stir.

Season with salt (or a seasoning blend like Tony Cacheres' Cajun blend in the green can, which is our favorite) to taste.

Add red pepper flakes and parsley flakes.

Gently simmer ingredients for at least 20 minutes, stirring often so that peas do not scorch.

Don't allow your peas, as you're cooking them, or the soup itself, to come to a full rolling boil. Simmer gently, so that your peas don't turn into mush.

Bonus recipe, for those of you who want something really different!

Mama Steph's Good Luck tacos with black-eyed peas and cabbage

Ingredients:

- 1 can of black eyed peas, drained and rinsed
- 1 small onion, minced
- ½ large cucumber, peeled and diced
- ½ head of green cabbage,

- shredded
- 8 oz. sliced mushrooms (optional)
- cooked pork roast or pork steak leftovers, shredded
- Low-sodium soy sauce or • Bragg's Liquid Aminos
- Vinegar of choice
- Small corn tortillas

Method:

1. Warm tortillas in oven on low while you prep the other ingredients.

2. To prepare cabbage mixture: Place shredded cabbage in wok or skillet that has 1 tablespoon warmed oil in it. Begin to stir fry the cabbage. After five minutes, add the mushrooms, and continue to cook until all veggies are tender. Add a tablespoon soy sauce, and toss to coat.

3. To prepare relish: Place diced onion and cucumber in a bowl, and sprinkle generously with vinegar. Allow to pickle for at least 10 minutes.

4. Assemble: Place a warm corn tortilla on plate. Top with one or two tablespoons shredded meat. Top with cooked cabbage mixture, then add a spoonful of black eyed peas, and then of pickled onions and cucumbers.

Dig in and enjoy!

During this new year, I wish only the best for each and every one of you, especially those still recovering from Michael's destruction. May 2019 be full of health, happiness and healing for us all.

Stephanie Hill-Frazier is a writer, food blogger and regional television chef, whose on-air nickname is "Mama Steph". She grew up in Gulf County, on St. Joe Beach, a place she will forever call home.

She is married and has three sons who are considerably taller than she is. You can find more of her recipes at WhatSouthernFolksEat.com, and she'd love to hear about your own favorite recipes via email at Steph@whatsouthernfolkseat.com.

A radical way to handle temptation in the New Year



Sheryl H. Boldt

How would you rate your "joy level" for 2018? Did your choices throughout the year (specifically behavior-related) bring an abundance of joy or way too many regrets?

I hope you're among those in the "abundance of joy" group. But if 2018 was a tough year, I pray 2019 will be better.

Perhaps you've been struggling with a temptation that has had such a tight grip on you that you've just about decided to stop resisting it.

Or you continue to give

in to a behavior, even though you hate yourself every time you do.

Many of us struggle with actions we're not proud of. Whether they're as addictive as pornography or as destructive as being disrespectful to our spouse, sinful deeds leave us feeling ashamed and hopeless.

Why do we sabotage ourselves and doom ourselves to failure by falling for the lie that participating in these activities will fulfill us?

What if, rather than spending time justifying why we should visit that porn site, mouth off to our spouse or cheat on our income taxes, we mentally switched course and did something radically different?

How would it change our mindset if we spend

that time worshipping God instead?

I realize this sounds crazy – especially when we're in the grips of temptation. But what if we chose to place ourselves in the grips of praise instead? Wouldn't it be worth trying, at least once?

I'm not minimizing the stronghold of that sin. I'm maximizing the power of praise – no matter what we're up against.

Let me illustrate. Let's pray, using Exodus 15:11 as a baseline to get us started:

"Father, there is no god like You. There is no god that compares to Your majesty and Your holiness, for You, alone, are awesome in splendor. So I come humbly before You in great need of Your wonder-working

power to change my heart and my will."

Then, be completely honest with your heavenly Father about your struggle.

Thank Him for all the times He's delivered you and acknowledge that you've made it this far because of Him.

Will you consider trying this? Just once, give it a sincere effort. See how praising a holy, wonder-working God can change your heart and will.

Then consider doing it again the next time. The more often you do this, the higher your 2019 will rank on the "joy-level" scale.

Sheryl H. Boldt is the author of the blog, www.TodayCanBeDifferent.net. You can reach her at SherylHBoldt@gmail.com.

FAITH BRIEFS

Seasoned Women anniversary at Victory Temple

Victory Temple First Born Holiness Church's Seasoned Women Department will be observing their 21st anniversary on Saturday, Jan. 26.

There will be prayer breakfasts at Saturday, Jan. 16 at 10 a.m. ET and Sunday, Jan. 27 11:30 a.m. ET Jan. 27 with Prophetess Jackie Nickson of the Body of Christ Jesus Church in Port St. Joe as guest speaker.

There will be an evening service Sunday, Jan. 27 at 5 p.m. ET with guest speaker Alma Pugh of Love Center Church, Inc. in Apalachicola. The colors are purple and gold.

Everyone is invited to attend these services.

Prophetess Marilyn Bolden, president; Evangelist Iris (Bolden) Gathers, vice president; Pastor Elder Willie Ash, Jr. and Associate Pastor Elder Andrew Gainer, Jr.

GULF COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE LAW ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY

Dec. 31-Jan. 6

• On Dec. 31, Deputy A. White was dispatched to the 400 block of Triton Street in Beacon Hill in reference to a report of two stolen bicycles. The bicycles, last seen on Dec. 27, were described as a GX7 Cruiser style bicycle, silver and black in color, with a luggage rack on the back and a BCA Margaritaville cruiser style bicycle, aqua/yellow in color with a yellow basket.

• On Jan. 1, Deputy G. Desrosier received a report of a stolen trailer from the 100 block of Ponce De Leon Street in St. Joe Beach. The trailer, which was parked on the shoulder of the road, was reported stolen when it was noticed missing on the morning of the 1st. The trailer was described as a 2016, tandem axel, 18-foot Trailer World flatbed trailer, black in color. The trailer has double ramps with a broken ramp chain and a broken tail light. On Jan. 3, Deputy M. Manley was assigned to investigate a report of a burglary at the Westside Baptist Church on West River Road in Wewahitchka. Someone had allegedly broken into a storage she behind the church and stole five (5) Poulan chain saws, one (1) circular saw, thirty (30) bottles of chain saw oil and eight (8) fishing rods and reels. The stolen goods were donated to the church by charity organizations.

• On Jan. 3, Deputy C. Harvey conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle at the intersection of CR 386 and State 71. During the course of the traffic stop, Deputy Harvey obtained permission to search the vehicle for illegal narcotics. Deputy

Harvey discovered some methamphetamine in the driver's wallet. The driver, who was identified as James Leonard Ostman (49), was placed under arrest and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine. A pipe used to ingest the methamphetamine was found in the vehicle's ashtray so Ostman was additionally charged with Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

• On Jan. 3, Deputy M. Peek and Investigator S. Ferrell observed Amanda Lee Shipman (28) operating a motor vehicle on State 71 in Wewahitchka. Knowing that Shipman had an active warrant for her arrest for violation of probation, they conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle on State 71 near the intersection of Old Dairy Farm Road. Shipman was taken into custody and transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility. Shipman is on probation of Burglary of an Unoccupied Dwelling. Shipman was also operating a vehicle with a suspended driver's license and because of prior driver's license violations. She is classified as a habitual traffic offender. She was charged with VOP and Felony Driving While License Suspended or Revoked.

• On Jan. 4, Sgt. P. Williams was dispatched to the 200 block of Florida Avenue in reference to a physical disturbance. When Sgt. Williams arrived, all parties involved had disengaged. The belligerents were construction workers working on the house at the location. Sgt. Williams interviewed everyone involved and determined that Daniel Lloyd Curry (34) had grabbed a co-worker's wife

by her arm and attempted to drag her down a staircase against her will. Curry was placed under arrest and charged with Battery.

• On Jan. 4, Sgt. P. Williams served an arrest warrant at the Gulf County Detention Facility on Michael Dean Ward (50) for Violation of Probation on the original charge of Trespassing. Ward was already incarcerated for unrelated charges.

• On Jan. 4, Sgt. P. Williams served an arrest warrant at the Gulf County Detention Facility on James C. Holden (20) for failure to pay child support.

• On Jan. 5, Jessica Nicole Brock (36) was arrested at the Gulf County Detention Facility on two warrants for failing to appear in court on the charge of Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and Violation of Probation on the original charges of Possession of a Controlled Substance. Brock was transported from a detention facility in Georgia by a contract transport company.

• On Jan. 5, Deputy S. Sheline was dispatched to the 600 block of Lake Grove Road in reference to a residential burglary. Deputy Sheline learned that while the homeowner was away for a few hours, someone had entered the residence through a broken window covered with plastic. The intruder stole multiple purses, a cell phone and a carton of Marlboro cigarettes.

• On Jan. 5, Investigator S. Ferrell and Deputy M. Peek conducted a traffic stop near the intersection

of Britt Avenue and State 71 in Wewahitchka. The vehicle was occupied by Diana Lindsay Thompson (37) and Ian Christian Bradford (37). During the course of the traffic stop, deputies noticed that Bradford had throwing knives secured on his hip. Bradford was asked to exit the vehicle and his knives were secured. While recovering another knife from Bradford's pocket, Inv. Ferrell found a pill bottle containing methamphetamine. A search of the vehicle ensued and methamphetamine and marijuana were found inside. It was determined that Thompson was the owner of the items found in the vehicle so she was arrested and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine and Possession of Marijuana. Bradford was also arrested and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine.

• On Jan. 6, Deputy S. Sheline conducted a traffic stop in the 500 block of Gary Rowel Road. While conversing with the driver, who was identified as Fonda Lynn Chehardy (54), Deputy Sheline observed a beer bottle in a cup-holder inside the vehicle. Deputy Sheline obtained consent to search the vehicle and found a personal amount of methamphetamine inside of a pill crusher in the center console. Chehardy was placed under arrest and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

If you have any information regarding the aforementioned cases, please contact the Gulf County Sheriff's Office at 227-1115, 639-5717, or remain anonymous by calling Crime Stoppers at 785-TIPS.

GCSC offers active duty military students tuition assistance

Deadline to apply for spring is Jan. 11

Special to The Star

PANAMA CITY – Active Duty students interested in taking classes but who missed the Tuition Assistance cutoff due to Hurricane Michael may qualify for a Tuition Assistance Scholarship through GCSC. The current spring semester allows for registration through the add/drop period until Friday, January 11. Steps to apply:

1. Contact Base Education to ensure TA Eligibility, 850-283-4285 (Base Ed Center will send verification to GCSC).
2. Register for maximum of two (2) classes (A Session – 1/4/19 – 5/3/19 and/or B Session – 1/4/19 – 2/27/19).
3. Complete TA Deferment: <https://www.gulfcoast.edu/current-students/military-veterans-services/veteran-services.html>
4. Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid at www.fafsa.gov to apply for the Pell Grant.

Note: Scholarship funds will be awarded to active duty personnel who do not qualify for enough Tuition Assistance or Pell Grant to cover their spring 2019 in-state tuition and fees.

Please contact Suzanne Remedies, Director of Military & Veteran Services, at sremedies@gulfcoast.edu for additional questions and information.

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Arbor Day timely for hurricane recovery

By Ray Bodrey

Gulf County Extension Director
UF/IFAS
Special to The Star

Hurricane Michael left the Panhandle tree population in utter devastation. Let's do our part this year and make Arbor Day a success! National Arbor Day won't be here until April 26. However, individual states observe Arbor Day during different times of the year. Florida celebrates this day on the third Friday of Jan. (18).

Planting a tree comes with many advantages. Just to name a few, trees help tame stormwater and air pollution issues, can help in saving energy costs and they provide habitat for many plants and animals. However, Hurricane Michael's destruction has a lot of us pondering what kind of tree to re-plant in our landscape. There are trees that can withstand strong hurricane winds better than others. University of Florida IFAS researchers have found that live oaks, magnolias, crape myrtles, elms, bald cypress and sabal (cabbage) palms are some of the choices that have these qualities.

Here are ten steps to proper tree planting from UF/IFAS Extension that will ensure a successful Arbor Day.

Planting a tree comes with many advantages. Just to name a few, trees help tame stormwater and air pollution issues, can help in saving energy costs and they provide habitat for many plants and animals. However, Hurricane Michael's destruction has a lot of us pondering what kind of tree to re-plant in our landscape. There are trees that can withstand strong hurricane winds better than others.

Step 1: Look up. Or, as a principle of the Florida-Friendly Landscaping program - right plant, right place. In other words, make sure you pick the proper location to plant a tree. Avoid electrical wires, security lights and buildings. Not only can these objects interfere with tree canopy growth, poor planting practices like this can cause a major headache and can be costly later, when tree removal is necessary.

Step 2: Dig a shallow and wide planting hole. Measure the distance between the top roots and the bottom of the root ball. Dig the hole to compensate for this depth, but allow for no more than 2 or 3 inches of root ball above the soil, approximately 10% above grade. Digging too deep will aid compaction. This will lead to root system decline. Also, be sure to dig your hole in a popcorn bowl shape, as opposed to digging straight down. A popcorn

bowl shape will allow for a faster and stronger root system establishment, as it gives the emerging roots the area to expand in loose soil.

Step 3: Clean up any root defects. When shopping, look for a tree that has visible emerging topmost roots from the base of the trunk. If you purchase a tree with topmost roots they are not showing, they're most likely buried down in the root ball. These trees are a greater disadvantage if planted without cleanup. If this is the case, remove excessive soil to expose the top roots before planting. Also, cut or spread out any circling or kinked roots. Circling roots don't always strangle the trunk, but the tree may develop a severe lean in the future.

Step 4: Be careful when planting tree in the hole. If heavy, use straps to lift tree into place.

Never lift the tree by the trunk. Be sure to remove any burlap or plastic wrap round

the root ball.

Step 5: Position the top-most root to be 2-3 inches above the landscape soil. Most horticulturalist agree that it is better for the root ball to be planted too shallow instead of too deep.

Step 6: Be sure the tree is level and straight in the hole. Before you add the backfill soil, have someone view the tree from deferent directions.

Step 7: Remove any synthetic materials. Discard any string, rope, burlap, plastic or any other material that will be slow to decompose in the soil. Leaving material could cause root system issues.

Step 8: Add backfill soil. Make sure soil is loose, so break up any clumps. Do not over pack the soil. Add 10-20 gallons around the root ball and backfill area.

Step 9: Cover backfill area with mulch. Now that the tree is placed in hole, simply mulch around trunk, 2-3 inches in depth with a diameter of a few feet. Mulch reduces soil temperature fluctuations and helps control weeds. Mulch materials can include leaves, pine needles, bark, compost and wood chips. Peat moss and cypress chips should not be used. These materials tend

to hold moisture for long periods, and can be a factor of root rot.

Step 10: Stake and prune. Tree plantings with a trunk diameter of more than 1.5 inches rarely need stacking. However, if location is in an area where wind is often a factor, this may be needed. Attaching stakes with traps in three directions, positioned 3/4 from the ground to the first branch is a best practice. Be sure to prune any damaged or broken branches.

Following these best management practices will provide a health start for your newly planted tree. For more information please contact Gulf County Extension at 639-3200.

Supporting information for this article and further information can be found in the following the UF/IFAS EDIS publication: "Planting and Establishing Trees - Publication # ENH1061", by Edward F. Gilman & Laura Sadowski: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/EP/EP31400.pdf> and <http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/trees-and-shrubs/trees/trees-that-can-withstand-hurricanes.html>

UF/IFAS Extension is an Equal Opportunity Institution.

CHAMBER

From Page B1

Companies have 90 days to underpay, deny or pay the claim and too often, Moskowitz said, the goal is to deny or underpay claims with an idea of "circling back" in later months and years, if ever.

Adjusters sent to assess damage claims also too often lack full information concerning Florida laws and

building codes.

Builders and other contractors don't fully understand the fine print in insurance policies and Florida law and the result, Moskowitz said, is "a big mess."

"Two things I really love about working up here; one, the community has really come together even as the rest of the country has forgotten us," Moskowitz said. "You don't see anything on the news about it."

"Second, once I am done with my two or three hours, people are coming up

thanking me. They didn't know about this stuff."

Toss into the consideration the hundreds of contractors who have arrived from all over the country, and a secondary goal of the town hall is assembling something of a survival kit for navigating recovery and rebuilding through what is rendered a minefield.

"What I want to make sure is these people have enough tools in their tool box to look out for the thieves in this process," Moskowitz said.

PARK

From Page B1

On a Facebook post related to the breach, one which received more than 20,000 visits, the overwhelming majority of commenters urged the state to leave the breach alone.

And Alsentzer said that while exact measurements of the breach, which initially was about 300-400 yards across and estimated at 18 feet deep, have not been undertaken, the breach does appear to be filling in from

accreting sand. "The currents there do run north," Alsentzer said, noting sand from Cape San Blas and the southern end of the peninsula tends to move north toward the peninsula's tip.

"We watched a pretty skinny john boat turn around the other day so it is filling in," Alsentzer said. At this time, Alsentzer said, no long-term plans recovery plans for the park have been developed and the agency would likely have to completely overhaul the existing Unit Management Plan, which provides the guidelines for park operations.



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<p>LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100</p> <p>22260S</p> <p>FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT, Petitioner</p> <p>vs.</p> <p>ROBERT P. NEDLEY, Case #42269 Respondent</p> <p>NOTICE OF ACTION</p> <p>TO: ROBERT P. NEDLEY, Residence Unknown</p> <p>YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an Administrative Complaint has been filed against you seeking to revoke your CORRECTIONAL Certificate in accordance with Section 943.1395, F.S., and any rules promulgated thereunder.</p> <p>You are required to serve a written copy of your intent to request a hearing pursuant to Section 120.57, F.S. upon Dean Register, Director, Criminal Justice Professionalism Program, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, P. O. Box 1489, Tallahassee, Florida 32302-1489, on or before February 18, 2019. Failure to do so will result in a default being entered against you to Revoke said certification pursuant to Section 120.60, F.S., and Rule 11B-27, F.A.C.</p> <p>Dated: December 18, 2018 Dean Register, Professionalism Director FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT By: -s- Craig O'Connell, Division Representative Pub: December 27, January 3, 10, 17, 2019</p>	<p>LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100</p> <p>below.</p> <p>ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT:</p> <p>All persons on whom this notice is served who have objections that challenge the validity of the will, the qualifications of the personal representative, venue, or jurisdiction of this court are required to file their objections with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.</p> <p>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 THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.</p> <p>All other creditors of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against the decedent's estate must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.</p> <p>ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE BARRED</p> <p>NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.</p> <p>The date of first publication of this Notice is January 10, 2019.</p> <p>Attorney for Personal Representative: Charles A. Costin Kelly Florida Bar No. 699070 Post Office Box 98 Port St. Joe, FL 32457 phone: (850) 227-1159 email: ccostin@costin-law.com</p> <p>Personal Representative: Kelly Lynn Butler 1911 Long Avenue Port St. Joe, FL 32456 Pub: January 10, 17, 2019</p>	<p>LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100</p> <p>22370S</p> <p>IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR GULF COUNTY FLORIDA Case # 18 - 90 CA</p> <p>In Re Forfeiture of: \$470,640.00 IN US Currency</p> <p>Storm Cinque Sims Owner/Claimant</p> <p>NOTICE OF FORFEITURE PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>TO ALL OTHER PERSONS OR ENTITIES HAVING OR CLAIMING TO HAVE ANY RIGHT, TITLE OR INTEREST IN THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PROPERTY which was seized on December 12, 2018, in Gulf County, Florida by the Gulf County Sheriff's Office, who presently has custody of it. YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for forfeiture has been filed against the above described property and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, on William A. Lewis, Attorney for the Gulf County Sheriff's Office, whose address is P.O. Box 1699, Panama City, Florida, 32402, on or before February 8, 2019, and file with the Clerk of this Court either before service on attorney for the Gulf County Sheriff's Office or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.</p> <p>Rebecca Norris Clerk of Court Gulf County Court-house 1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Blvd., Port St. Joe, FL Pub: January 10, 17, 2019</p> <p>22555S</p> <p>NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE</p> <p>Notice is hereby given that Best American Storage Manager LLC dba Americas Mini Storage located at 141 Commerce Blvd Port St. Joe, FL 32456, intends to offer for sale the personal property described below to enforce a lien imposed under the Self Storage Facility Act Statutes 83.801-83.809. Unit C00026, 5x10 unit, household goods, Michael McClellan, 4737 N Ocean Dr Apt 173 Laud By The Sea, FL 33308. The auction will take place at 11am EST Jan 25, 2019. The auction will be held online on www.storageasures.com Pub: Jan. 10, 17, 2019</p> <p>22561S</p> <p>IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, FOURTEENTH</p>	<p>LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100</p> <p>JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR GULF COUNTY. CASE NO: 18CP-79 IN PROBATE</p> <p>IN RE: The Estate of SHALEEN D. SMITH, a/k/a ROSE SHALEEN SMITH, deceased.</p> <p>NOTICE TO CREDITORS</p> <p>TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS OR DEMANDS AGAINST THE ABOVE ESTATE:</p> <p>The administration of the estate of SHALEEN D. SMITH, deceased, whose date of death was November 4, 2018, File Number 18CP-79, is pending in the Circuit Court for Gulf County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Gulf County Courthouse, Probate Division, 1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Boulevard, Port St. Joe, FL 32456. The name and address of the personal representative and that personal representative's attorney are set forth below.</p> <p>All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is served within three months after the date of the first publication of this notice must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.</p> <p>All other creditors of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent, must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.</p> <p>ALL CLAIMS OR DEMANDS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.</p> <p>NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.</p> <p>The date of the first publication of this Notice is January 10, 2019.</p> <p>Thomas S. Gibson Rish & Gibson, P.A. 116 Sailor's Cove Drive Port St. Joe, Florida 32456 (850) 229-8211</p>	<p>LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100</p> <p>Attorney for Petitioner FL Bar No. 0350583</p> <p>DEBORAH R. SMITH 391 Bay Berry Drive Wewahitchka, FL 32465</p> <p>Personal Representative Pub: January 10, 17, 2019</p> <p>22571S</p> <p>NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE 2019</p> <p>January 24, 2019 February 28, 2019 March 28, 2019 (Franklin County) April 25, 2019 May 23, 2019 June 27, 2019 (Walton County) July 25, 2019 August 22, 2019 (Escambia County) September 26, 2019 (4:00 p.m.) October 24, 2019 November 14, 2019 (Gulf County) December 12, 2019</p> <p>*All meetings are scheduled to begin at 1:00 p.m., at District Headquarters, 81 Water Management Drive, Havana, Florida 32333, unless otherwise indicated. Pub: January 10, 2019</p> <p>22585S</p> <p>GULF COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS</p> <p>REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL BID #1819-14</p> <p>The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners will receive sealed bids for:</p> <p>JANITORIAL SERVICES</p> <p>Bid information with criteria, requirements and the scope of work may be downloaded from the County's web site at www.gulfcountry-fl.gov, or by contacting Leanna Roberts, Deputy Clerk, 1000 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd., Room 149, Port St. Joe, Florida, 32456, Phone (850) 229-6112.</p> <p>Bid submissions must be sealed and marked with the name of the proposer, this is a sealed bid, and the bid number. Each submission shall include one (1) original and three (3) copies of the proposal. Bids must be delivered to the Gulf County Clerk of Courts, 1000 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd., Room 149, Port St. Joe, FL 32456 no</p>	<p>LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100</p> <p>later than 4:30 p.m., E.T., on Friday, January 18, 2019. Bids will be opened at the same location on Tuesday, January 22, 2019 at 10:00 a.m., E.T. Proposals received later than the date and time as specified will be rejected. The Gulf County BOCC is not responsible for the late deliveries of proposals that are incorrectly addressed, delivered in person, by mail or any other type of delivery service.</p> <p>The Gulf County BOCC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. Each bid shall be valid to Gulf County for a period of ninety (90) days after the bid opening.</p> <p>The Gulf County BOCC does not discriminate upon the basis of any individual's disability status. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation as provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act or Section 286.26 Florida Statutes should contact Raymond Hart at (850) 227-1401 for assistance.</p> <p>BOARD OF COUNTY GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA /s/ Sandy Quinn, Chairman</p> <p>Attest: /s/ Rebecca L. Norris, Clerk Pub: January 10, 2019</p>	<p>CLASSIFIED NOTICES 1110</p> <p>Lung Cancer? And Age 60+? You And Your Family May Be Entitled To Significant Cash Award. No Risk. No Money Out Of Pocket. For Information - 855-259-0557</p> <p>AUCTIONS 3130</p> <p>Live & Online Public Auction Tues., Jan. 22, 2019 at 11:00 A.M. Premium Precious Metals, LLC. 3000 Sterling Road, Suite 29 Hollywood, FL 33021</p> <p>For sale: Fischerscope X-Ray XDAL 237 • Thermo Scientific Niton XL2 100 Precious Metal Analyzer • Thermo Scientific Mobile Test Stand Niton XRF Analyzer • Ambrell Complete Foundry System • Scales • Melting System • Tools • Exhaust System and more! Catalog and photos available at www.moekerauctions.com Preview: Day of sale 9-11AM. 15%-18% BP. Assignment for the Benefit of Creditors Case # CACE-18-026768 To register: \$100 refundable cash deposit and driver's license. (800) 840-BIDS info@moekerauctions.com AB-1098 AU-3219, Eric Rubin</p> <p>BUILDING SUPPLIES 3150</p> <p>SAWMILLS from only \$4397.00- MAKE & SAVE MONEY with your own bandmill. Cut lumber any dimension. In stock ready to ship! FREE Info/DVD: www.NorwoodSawmills.com 1-800-567-0404 Ext.300N</p>	<p>HELP WANTED 4100</p> <p>The MainStay Suites & Port Inn are now accepting applications for full time Front Desk Sales Agents and Room Attendants. These are full time positions. The ideal candidates will have previous computer, guest service skills and housekeeping experience, but we are willing to train the right person. If you are great with guests, an excellent problem solver, and have a desire to be the best, we want you. Come join our family! E.O.E. D.F.W.P.</p> <p>Apply in person at Mainstay Suites, PSJ 3951 East HWY 98.</p> <p>HOUSE RENTALS 6140</p>	<p>HELP WANTED 4100</p> <p>Dog Kennel Attendant / General Maintenance FT or PT Must have dog handling experience Send resume and cover letter to marygcurtis@gmail.com</p> <p>Spot Advertising works!</p> <p>MOVING/STORAGE 9512</p> <p>MINI STORAGE In Port St. Joe 229-6200 Climate Controlled Units Available NF-4527586</p> <p>HOUSE RENTALS 6140</p>
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