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Property values could drop 30%

By Tim Croft
The Port St. Joe Star | 850-227-7827
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The board of Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. heard a presentation Monday concerning the impacts on property values and tax rolls in just one county hit hard by Hurricane Michael. It was sobering news.

Gulf County Property Appraiser Mitch Burke provided the information his office has gleaned so far in their work to craft a property roll, with a long way to go before the tentative roll is certified in July.

“We still have a great deal of work to do,” Burke said. “We are very early in our appraisal.”

But if the numbers in July look anything like the numbers Burke presented Monday, local governments will be in for serious sticker-shock come budget time this summer.

As just one example, at the high end of Burke’s current calculations, the Board of County Commissioners would see a decrease in

revenue of nearly \$4 million next year alone, based on current millage rates.

Triumph staff is reviewing a pre-application from three Gulf County taxing authorities, the BOCC, Gulf District Schools and the city of Port St. Joe, seeking over \$21 million in grant funding to abate a loss of tax revenue over the next three years.

At least one other county is seeking tax abatement grant dollars from Triumph due the storm.

After the hurricane, the Triumph board communicated with all eight counties to which it is disbursing BP fine dollars that if they wished to change or eliminate

See **VALUES, A5**

Medical school selects Gulf County for site

By Tim Croft
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Michael Bishop, a Marine veteran in his 60s, was told he was too old to become a doctor.

A friend’s daughter, a high school valedictorian, was unable to earn entry into medical school.

According to recent statistics, among roughly 41,000 students applying annually to medical school, 40 percent, less than half, were admitted.

Meanwhile, research indicates that within a very short period of time the country will experience a shortage of physicians that could reach into six figures, particularly impacting rural areas already deemed underserved.

“That is food for thought,” Bishop said.

With that food, after attending medical school in the Caribbean Bishop and some associates decided they should create their own medical school, seeking to tap into the supply of quality students not admitted to medical schools.

And to give those students four years of accredited training, with an emphasis on clinical work from the get-go and seeing those students

return to rural and underserved areas to practice medicine.

It is model very similar to that followed by Florida State University when it founded its medical school some two decades ago.

“Our mission is simple, we want to train good doctors,” Bishop said. “And we want them to get out in the communities that they came from and practice good medicine.”

The school Bishop helped found, St. Alyssa School of Medicine, a faith-based non-profit in Nacogdoches, TX, has selected Gulf County as the site for its main campus, following a long road to find coastal Florida and a receptive county.

Bishop said he had no firm timeline, though he added he wanted the school “two years ago,” but he will be in town early next month to lay the ground work, including selecting a site for the new medical school from several options.

“I am excited,” Bishop said. “I don’t like talking, I like doing. I have heard more than my share of talkers. Now it’s time to do.”

Bishop’s dream hit repeated walls in his home state of Texas, ranging

See **SITE, A2**



Levi Anderson and David Rose are two of six scouts who along with their fathers made the trip from Nebraska to Port St. Joe to assist in the cleanup after Hurricane Michael. [TIM CROFT | THE STAR]

In service

Nebraska church group assists cleanup

By Tim Croft
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Levi Anderson explained his presence in Port St. Joe, hundreds of miles from his Nebraska home, in straightforward terms.

“I wanted to help the people down here,” said Anderson, a middle-schooler. “I feel good about it.”

“This is the service part of Trail Life.” Trail Life is a father-son faith-based discipleship program and service organization that emphasizes outdoor adventure to develop leadership and character, according to the national organization’s website.

An Omaha, Nebraska chapter arrived this week to provide five days of service to the community, primarily small yard cleanup and debris removal.

To trace the passion that fueled their weekend trip from Nebraska to Port St.

See **SCOUTS, A2**



Trail Life emphasizes the father-son connection and service. [TIM CROFT | THE STAR]



Elizabeth “Liz” Lentz, Port St. Joe Elementary School [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]



Victoria Holmes, Wewahitchka Elementary School [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

Schools select teachers of the year

By Tim Croft
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The schools have picked their teaching jewels for 2019.

Faculty at each of the four public schools voted last month for Teacher and Employee of the Year, selecting candidates to represent their school in district-wide competition.

The four teachers named by their peers represent the spectrum, from veteran to youngblood, guiders of youngsters to teens.

The four will be observed in the classroom and interviewed by a panel of administrators from other districts on Jan. 23, with a winner named later.

The district Teacher of the Year will advance to a state

conference in the spring where the Florida Teacher of the Year will be selected.

Victoria Holmes

Holmes teaches kindergarten at Wewahitchka Elementary School, serving as a mentor for new teachers and grade group leader.

See **TEACHERS, A2**



SITE

From Page A1

from the regulatory environment to basic economics of getting the school up and going.

"We are in deep East Texas," Bishop said. "The rules are so stringent and arcane and expensive you can't start and grow a business."

A bit of research about the parallel climates in other states ultimately landed Bishop in Florida.

"Florida was the most receptive, the best climate to start a medical school in the country," Bishop said. "The economics of locating a school in Florida are so good."

He noted the availability of economic development grants as well as a smooth licensing process.

And after striking out with inquiries in a few other counties, Bishop found Gulf County and Economic Development Coalition director Jim McKnight.

"His plan is a bit outside of the box," said McKnight, who as a trustee with FSU has experience in such an effort. "But it is not so outside of the box that it can't work."

The St. Alyssa School of Medicine seeks to "break the mold of traditional education" while seeking to enlist from the tens of thousands of qualified students who have been unable to gain admission to medical school, Bishop said.

Bishop noted some of the ways he and St. Alyssa will do things a bit differently.

Some of the introductory first-year courses, with an emphasis on clinical exposure, will be taught by nurses or EMTs, and a pharmacist will teach pharmacology, not a doctor.

"We want our people to understand patient care from the fundamentals," Bishop said. "We are doing things a bit different. We are changing some of the traditions."

Bishop is seeking a building of roughly 4,000-5,000 square feet to begin the school, with plans to ultimately build a campus with dormitories.

The Gulf County campus will become St. Alyssa's main campus.



After driving all weekend from Nebraska, the Trail Life group spent five days working in Port St. Joe, here the yards of James and Glenda Kennedy. [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

SCOUTS

From Page A1

Joe, one need only look at the roster of fathers and sons participating in the program.

One last name stands out: Belin.

Phil Belin, son of Jake Belin, Jr., long-time Port St. Joe Mayor as well as president of the St. Joe Company, and Phil's son, Simon, are among the six Trail Life scouts and their fathers who made the trip.

"I had the idea pretty much right after (Hurricane Michael) and pitched it to the guys and there was no hesitation at all," Phil Belin said.

"We typically have a summer adventure.

"We figured we would make it a winter adventure this year. Part of our emphasis is service. We thought this was a good opportunity."

They diverted funds earmarked for their summer adventure as well as camp-outs in January and February to the effort.

A 15-passenger van was donated and St. James Episcopal Church was lined up to put the group up while in Port St. Joe.

The group undertook raising money in earnest, establishing a GoFundMe campaign among other efforts.

"My son just walked up and down the neighborhood seeking donations," Phil Belin said.

And, finally, the

"It's a blessing to have these guys come around. God is still good. He is providing help from so many sources you would not imagine. We are strong in Port St. Joe. We are all working together. We'll be back on our feet."

James Kennedy, whose yard was getting the cleanup from the Trail Life team on Monday

group was connected to Diana Burkett and the Christian Community Development Fund for home projects they could accomplish during the week.

Burkett, of course, had plenty of work and the Trail Life team is only the latest to step up and assist.

Forty Auburn University students just left after a week of projects around the community and this weekend Burkett and CCDF have 40 students from Georgia Tech and 10 from Florida State University coming down.

"It's a blessing to have these guys come around," said James Kennedy, whose yard was getting the cleanup from the Trail Life team on Monday.

"God is still good. He is providing help from so many sources you would not imagine. We are strong in Port St. Joe. We are all working together. We'll be back on our feet."

As for those boys from Nebraska, they are enjoying, however briefly, a respite from the wintry, snowy cold back home.

Some of them have never seen the beach or an ocean and time is set aside later this week to pay a visit to the coast.

David Rose figured

when they return home there will just be more snow to play in, but the "heat" isn't so bad for a few days, though he will be glad to go home at the end of the week.

And, Rose added, this campaign to help Port St. Joe would boost his traveling portfolio while allowing him to do good works.

"I like that I can travel to other states," Rose said.

"This is probably the only chance I may get to come to Florida.

"I think it will be a great time and I get to do Kingdom work."

Phil Belin added that the group hopes to inspire others, inside and outside the community, to provide fuel for recovery.

"We hope is it a shot in the arm to the people in this community," he said.

"As much as anything, we hope it is encouragement, inspiration for others."

Funds for travel expenses are still needed and 100 percent of all donations go toward the work they will do in Port St. Joe.

"Please pray we will be a blessing for others as we show Jesus' love for them," said Jonathan Milligan in the video introduction to the fundraising page.



Lindsay Summerlin, Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High School [PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE STAR]



Cameron Totman, Wewahitchka Jr./Sr. High School

TEACHERS

From Page A1

While Holmes was chair of the grade group, she researched and helped create a plan for small group instruction, Williams noted, instilling a mission of meeting every student's individual needs.

That small-group instruction is now a reality.

"Victoria is always eager to volunteer her personal time to help new and seasoned teachers as well as take on extra responsibilities within our school," wrote fellow kindergarten teacher Jessica Williams in her nomination letter.

Williams noted that Holmes is considered a "Gifted Instructor" and it was not uncommon to see current and former students running up for a hug when seeing Holmes.

"Along with her willingness to help others, she seeks help from others as well," Williams wrote.

Due to her easy nature, Williams said that Holmes is easy to talk to and ask questions of, eager to share and gain knowledge.

"Her infectious desire to learn more has found her seeking professional development seminars and podcasts relevant to kindergarten continuously and has motivated me to pursue a higher degree in education," Williams wrote.

"Victoria displays a positive attitude that not only is infectious to her cohorts, but her students as well."

Elizabeth "Liz" Lentz

Lentz, a third-grade teacher at Port St. Joe Elementary School, arrived in Gulf County with vast experience in public and private schools in Pensacola and Chapel Hill, NC.

After concentrating on family and home following the move to Port St. Joe, Lentz joined the PTO, becoming president for three years and volunteering at the school.

"Liz knew she needed to be in the classroom daily to love and teach the children," wrote Katrina Glass, a fellow third-grade teacher in nominating Lentz.

The following year, Lentz joined the faculty at the elementary school.

She also serves on the School Advisory Council and mentors other teachers in the use of a math computer program.

"She is always researching for new ways to reach and teach every student," Glass wrote.

And after Hurricane Michael, despite the destruction of her home, Lentz never missed a day.

"She wanted to be at school for her students, to help them feel comfortable, to know she cared, to give them a sense of normalcy and to continue encouraging them to set goals, work hard, to learn and do their personal best," Glass wrote.

Lindsay Summerlin

Summerlin could be

considered the new kid on this block, having joined the district about a year ago after her husband became the new baseball coach at Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High School.

She's needed little time to fit right in.

Summerlin is not only a teacher, but also the advisor to the Student Government Council.

"She is truly an inspiration to this faculty and our students," wrote fellow teacher Laurel Riley. "She brings an energy and spirit to the classroom that is quite refreshing."

On a personal, but nonetheless objective note, having observed her corralling her SGA kids for a constructive weekly meeting is something to behold.

"She has a calling and is a natural within her teaching assignment which some of us would find most difficult," Riley wrote in nominating Summerlin.

"Her students are exceptional and can be challenging, but her positivity rises to that challenge."

Summerlin gives each of her students an individual greeting period after period, Riley observed, often with a smile or hug.

Riley also noted that two SGA students are currently living with her and sing Summerlin's praises.

"They love Mrs. Summerlin and so do I, as a parent and a colleague," Riley wrote.

Cameron Totman

Taking a straightforward approach, one could describe Totman as a teacher of English Language Arts at Wewahitchka Jr./Sr. High School.

However, in the words of Misty Wood, principal designee, that only scratches the surface.

Wood and Totman worked together at Wewahitchka Middle School before their paths diverged, Wood moving to the high school and Totman taking an instructional position at an innovative school in Orlando.

But the personal interactions with students led Totman to return to Wewahitchka and the English teaching position.

"Cameron brought her experiences from teaching in Orlando back with her into the classroom," Wood wrote in a nomination of Totman.

She personalized learning, took on the job of bringing up students in danger of not graduating.

And there is also the guitar. With the school establishing a fine arts program only to discover the guitar teaching leaving the profession, Totman spent a summer taking guitar lessons and in turn took the reins of the fine arts program.

Totman was also responsible for the school's linkage to the Khan Academy in New York, with Totman filmed while teaching a lesson in reading.

"She is truly a top-notch teacher," Wood said.

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Recovery committee takes shapes, charts course

By Tim Croft
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In the weeks after Hurricane Michael, as response transitioned to recovery and now to rebuild, federal emergency management officials have pointed to a Long Term Recovery Committee as an essential step for the county.

That step has been taken and more as a committee meeting last week resulted in the election of officers, committee assignments and an agreement with the United Way as the committee seeks 501 c 3, non-profit status.

Jim McKnight, executive director of the county's Economic Development Coalition was charged with getting the committee up and running.

He noted that nearly 60 people attended last week's meeting, the committee's third during which it became organized, drafted and approved bylaws and established an executive committee.

"We elected a great group of people who will do extraordinary things for Gulf County in the coming years," McKnight said. "It is an important committee to have."

"(The executive committee) is a superstar committee."

The executive committee includes officers as well as sub-committee chairpersons, the

voting for each position completed in an open, transparent fashion.

Vicki Abrams was elected chair.

"We couldn't have found a better person," McKnight said of Abrams, a former top state agency official.

In addition to Abrams, Nancy Stuart was elected vice-chair, Robyn Rennick secretary and Debbie Maulding secretary.

Among the sub-committee chairs are Paula Ramsey Pickett (Communications), Sarah Hinds (Community assessment), James Sickles (Case Management), Kelli Godwin (Volunteer Coordination) Andrew Rutherford (Crisis Counseling), Clayton Studstill (Finance Donations) and Pat Hardman (Construction/Coordination).

"I could not be more happy," McKnight said. "My job was to get this committee started and now I can kind of take a step back and let these very talented people lead the way."

The Recovery Committee adopted a mission statement: "The mission of Citizens of Gulf County Recovery Team is to strengthen Gulf County's recovery from Hurricane Michael and other disasters through a coordinated community-wide approach which provides for the immediate and long-term unmet needs of our citizens, along with advancing



The Long-Term Recovery Committee selected officers and committee assignments during last week's meeting.

[SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

preparedness for future disasters."

The committee also approved a memorandum of understanding with United Way to act as the board's fiscal agent while it pursues non-profit status.

A key aspect of the committee's role is to access long-term federal and state dollars as well as private-sector funding for the community as it recovers.

In addition to securing federal and state economic assistance, a committee goal is creating programs with federal tax incentives to spur private-sector funding.

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Premarin 0.625mg	84	\$95.00	Voltaren Emulgel 1%	300 g	\$85.00
Combivent 18mcg/103mcg	600 ds	\$140.00	Armour Thyroid 60 mg	100	\$70.00
Symbicort 160mcg/4.5mcg	360 ds	\$215.00	Dexilant 60 mg	90	\$340.00
Entocort 3mg	100	\$130.00	Onglyza 5mg	84	\$310.00
Januvia 100mg	84	\$260.00	Effexor XR 150 mg	84	\$40.00
Aggrenox 200mg/25mg	200	\$140.00	Boniva 150 mg	3	\$70.00
Abilify 5mg	84	\$140.00	Tricor 145mg	90	\$140.00
Colcrys 0.6mg	100	\$110.00	Pradaxa 150mg	180	\$475.00
Ventolin 90mcg	600 ds	\$80.00	Synthroid 100mcg	90	\$60.00
Vytorin 10mg/40mg	90	\$155.00	QVAR 80mcg	400 ds	\$135.00
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OPINION

College is not for everyone

By Jason Shoaf
Special to The Star

For decades, government has been working to improve high school curriculum so our kids are college-ready. What about the kids who aren't going to college? What have we done to help them be successful in life?

College is not for everyone. In House District 7, roughly 75 percent of residents didn't choose to go to college or didn't finish college[i]. Too many of our kids are left behind with just a high school degree and a ticket to a minimum wage job.

But I believe you don't need a college degree to be successful in life. I'm one example of that.

When I graduated from high school in Port St. Joe, I moved to Tallahassee and enrolled in Florida State University. I worked several jobs all through college and after completing many hours of silly liberal arts classes, I realized that college wasn't for me. I stopped going to class and chose to work instead. Eventually, I finished my AA from Tallahassee Community College.

Most importantly, I realized you can be successful in life without a diploma on your wall. You just need the right skills and training.

Instead of pursuing a bachelor's degree, I started a career in real estate. That career enabled me to launch my own real estate business. I grew that business. I hired employees,

and I managed a payroll. I learned the challenges of running a business and how government can get in the way.

Most importantly, I realized you can be successful in life without a diploma on your wall. You just need the right skills and training.

When I'm elected to serve our community as a state representative, I'm going to create two pathways for students in high school.

One option already exists. It's the path for kids who want to be college-ready. They can take AP classes and dual enrollment classes. They graduate with the prerequisites necessary to get into college or university, and their high school experience provides a strong foundation for the challenges of higher education.

The second option will be for students who want to be career-ready. Schools should provide more vocational training and more industry-specific certifications so that when these students graduate from high school, they're ready to start a career.

Providing high tech industry certifications for our high school students will open doors for them. It will give them an advantage entering the workforce and allow them to remain in our North Florida communities. It will give our businesses in North Florida the workforce pipeline they need to grow and thrive.

Growing up in a mill town, I saw firsthand what happens to a person who has the rug pulled out from under them. The paper mill shut down, and overnight everyone's plans for the future washed away. Some turned to drugs and alcohol while others simply moved away separating generations of families.

It doesn't have to be that way. There are rewarding, good-paying careers that can support a family. Our students just need the right skills and training.

As your state representative, I'll work to make sure no child in our community graduates high school without the hope of a promising future.

Jason Shoaf of Port St. Joe is a candidate for Florida House District 7

HUNKER DOWN

Leon, God, Tarzan and Archie Moore's cows



Kesley Colbert

I've run into a couple of people who blamed God for Hurricane Michael and its devastation. And rest easy here, this is not going to be an extraterrestrial, ecclesiastical, out of body treatise on the proper use of Divine powers. I don't have a clue about such things.

But blaming anything on God automatically takes me back to Leon's attempt to do so after his high dive over at Paris Landing went awry. The whole thing actually started at the Park Theatre. The Saturday matinee featured "Tarzan's New York Adventure." I know you remember this movie. Boy was kidnapped from his jungle home by some really bad circus people.

Tarzan and Jane hustle to Nairobi, hop on the first available flight to New York, and immerse themselves in an all out Big Apple effort to rescue Boy.

I need to see this movie again. I can't for the life of me remember how they got the money to make the trip. Or how Johnny Weissmuller, the only real, true Tarzan, traded his breechcloth for that tailor-made suit. Or how he and Jane adjusted to indoor plumbing.

We sat in awe as he dived off what we all figured afterwards to be the Brooklyn Bridge. I'm telling you, he was "in the air" for five minutes. I'm not sure

exactly, then or now, how this leap saved Boy from a lifetime of circus captivity. But I do remember Buddy Wiggleton gave him a 7.6 on the landing!

You can already figure "the rest of the story." Leon spent Saturday night and all of Sunday rolling over in his mind the possibility of an ordinary citizen surviving such a dive. Of course, the flaw in his thinking was there wasn't nothing about Leon that was ordinary!

Monday morning found him running up on that high bridge where US 79 crosses the Tennessee River. He didn't hesitate as he climbed on the railing, gave a virtuoso rendition of the Tarzan yell and flung himself off the bridge.

He didn't seem to be in the air for five minutes. We didn't get a "close-up" of his face as he gently fluttered earthward. He rocketed toward the water like a runaway freight train! And apparently the Tennessee River down near Paris Landing flows a heck of a lot faster than the East River.

When Leon finally came to the surface, he was a hundred yards downstream. We took off running along the bank but we couldn't keep up with him. We saw him sputtering, waving his arms and going under. It didn't look nothing like how Tarzan did it.

The current pushed him ashore a half of mile from where he went in. He was coughing and choking something awful when we got to him. I was just thankful he was alive! After we got him turned over and pumped a bucket of water out of his stomach and he caught his breath, he smiled that big ole Leon grin up at us

and said, "Who's next?"

I don't believe God, in all of His infinite glory, would ever come up with such a crazy idea. And I don't think He was punishing Leon. As we helped him to his feet nobody in the crowd doubted that Leon's latest escapade was solely of his own making.

And I'm not saying that Hurricane Michael was anyone's "making." It's a weather thing for goodness sakes! Maybe Jim Cantore could explain it to us.

I didn't have time to blame God when I got caught throwing rocks at Mr. Moore's cattle. It just scattered them a bit, no real harm. Except for one crazy heifer who got so excited she tore down a barbwire fence trying to escape my well aimed missiles. It cut her up something awful.

Dad didn't wait for an explanation. He didn't explain the obvious about proper cow care and treatment. He didn't elaborate on how I was going to repay Mr. Moore.

He didn't say this was going to hurt him more than it did me. He didn't even bother with how I had embarrassed the whole family.....

He whipped my little back side for three days and nights!

When his arm finally gave out he unceremoniously dropped me to the floor. He was still so mad he could barely speak but he did manage to eke out, "That's more like something your brother would do."

I haven't decided in all the years since.....if that was a compliment or not!

Respectfully,

Kes

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Not Veterans Park

Dear Editor,
I hope that I am not the only one to see the dangerous idiocy in selecting the "Beacon Hill Park" (actually Veterans Memorial Park) as an "ideal location for disaster housing." What should be considered when selecting a suitable location for "temporary housing" for 50-plus families? I would think things like: elevation, electrical access, public access, traffic flow, easy access and egress from the area, public safety and heavy equipment access (without highway destruction).

Only our esteemed County Commissioners (aided by a past Commissioner Warren Yeager) could think that this location met even most of these criterion? Taking them one at a time, 1. Elevation: Yes, along with 80 percent of the county. 2. Electrical access: yes (aided in part by oil spill funds for the benefit of the county recreational facilities and finally giving long overdue respect to the veterans of Gulf County). 3. Public access: no. Veterans Park is the prime public access point to the Gulf beaches (and the closest access point to the residents of northern Gulf

County). Adding 40 families from Gulf County (as well as unspecified numbers from Bay County (Mexico Beach residents) would effectively eliminate public access, and prove to be a dramatic safety hazard for visitors and residents alike. 4. Traffic flow: no. Traffic would be a nightmare for all! The only access to the park is off of the most heavily traveled highway in Gulf County (U.S. 98). The entire neighborhood adjacent to the park (including an assisted living center) must enter and exit through the park access road. There is no other access road! 5. Safety, no! Children and families routinely walk to the beach and park on that only access road. I also should mention that one must cross the access road to get from the parking to the public beach. 6. Heavy equipment access: no. We have real time experience with that by the utility trucks bivouacked there for two months. They provided an invaluable service to the community but left the park a virtual mud field (even though wood pallets and asphalt paving were used). The semis could not make the turn and often the traffic was reduced to one way using a flag person.

It should be evident to all residents (except maybe the commissioners) that this is a dangerous choice and one which is not in the best interest of the residents.

Let's explore some other alternatives for this needed temporary housing. Less than five miles away there are numerous locations on Highway 386 which meet all the requirements set forth (one is a resource marshaling area owned by Duke Energy). There is a number of existing RV parks along that stretch. This area also has adequate Highway access, as well as heavy equipment access.

Another good location would be the little used "Industrial Park" where taxpayer funding has already paid for the utility infrastructure. Then there is the vast amount of land as you travel north on State 71 out of Port St. Joe, providing easy access to both Port St. Joe and Wewahitchka. There are many more and much better locations than Beacon Hill / Veterans Park. In the interests of the community you serve, make the right selection - not the easy one.

James McKenzie
Port St. Joe

Have something to say?

Join the community discussion by sending a letter to editor Tim Croft at tcroft@starfl.com. Letters will be edited for length and clarity.



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LOCAL

GULF COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE LAW ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY

Jan. 7-13

On Jan. 7, Michael C. Howell (31) was taken into custody at the Bay County Jail by Deputy P. Young and was transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility to be booked on a warrant for Violation of Probation. Howell was on probation for Possession of Methamphetamine.

On Jan. 7, Deputy C. Harvey conducted a traffic stop on State 71 near the intersection of Doc Whitfield Road. Deputy Harvey identified the driver as Victor Rudolf Cobham III (27) of Lithonia, Georgia. During a driver's license check Deputy Harvey learned that Cobham's driver's license was suspended so he was placed under arrest for driving with a suspended driver's license. Due to Cobham's driving history, his charge was a felony. On Jan. 8, Deputy V. Everett executed two arrest warrants at the Gulf County Detention Facility. Jessika Louis Turner (26) was arrested on a warrant for Violation of Probation on the original charges of Possession of Methamphetamine and Amanda Lee Shipman arrested on a warrant for Violation of Probation on the original charges of Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and driving with a suspended driver's license.

On Jan. 8, Deputy C. Harvey arrested Jamy Michelle Roberson (27) on two warrants for Stalking and Tampering with a Witness. The charges against Roberson stemmed from a report made on Dec. 19, 2018, where it was determined that Roberson was stalking and intimidating a victim in a domestic violence case where she is name as the defendant.

On Jan. 9, Sgt. P. Williams went to the 100 block of Johnson Lane to execute an arrest warrant on Marcus Leonard Cain, Jr. (50). Cain was wanted for Violation of Probation on the original charge of Possession of a Controlled Substance. Cain was located and apprehended and transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility.

On Jan. 9, Deputy M. Peek and Investigator S. Ferrell conducted a traffic stop at the intersection of Jones Homestead Road and Rutherford Road. Deputies contacted two occupants in the vehicle who were identified as Johnny Arnez Williams, Sr. (58) and Michael Laverne Quinn (52). Quinn was wanted for Violation of Probation for the original charges of Resisting Law

Enforcement with Violence and Fleeing and Eluding so he was taken into custody. It was learned that Williams had an active warrant out of Bay County so he was taken into custody as well. During a vehicle inventory a personal amount of crack cocaine and marijuana was located in the vehicle where Quinn was sitting in the vehicle. Quinn was additionally charged with Possession of Cocaine, Possession of Marijuana and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

On Jan. 9, Deputy M. Peek and Investigator S. Ferrell executed a felony arrest warrant on Ponderosa Pines Drive by arresting Soni Jo Rouse. Rouse was wanted for Violation of Probation on the original charges of Possession of Cocaine, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and Theft.

On Jan. 9, Deputy S. Sheline was assigned to investigate a report of a storage unit burglary in the 200 block of Desoto Street. It was reported that sometime during the night before someone had cut locks off of two storage units, belonging to the same person, and burglarized them. Approximately \$3,000 worth of miscellaneous tools and electronics were subsequently stolen from the units. A fingerprint was collected from the scene, which will be analyzed for comparison.

On Jan. 10, Deputy S. Sheline conducted a traffic stop on Old Dairy Farm Road in Wewahitchka. Deputy Sheline identified the driver as Christopher Thomas Yakkey (25). While conversing with Yakkey, Deputy Sheline asked him for consent to search his vehicle for narcotics. Yakkey declined and explained that he did not know what was in the car. K-9 Deputy M. Peek arrived on scene to assist and deployed K-9 Brix to conduct an open-air sniff around the vehicle. Brix gave a positive reaction indicating the detection of an odor of illegal narcotics coming from the vehicle. A probable cause search of the vehicle ensued and deputies found methamphetamine and a meth pipe in the center console. Yakkey was placed under arrest and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

On Jan. 11, Deputy C. Harvey conducted a traffic stop on CR 386 after he observed a vehicle traveling 72 mph in a 45 mph zone at the intersection of CR 386 and Floating Bridge Road. Deputy

Harvey identified the driver as Richard Karl Davis (38) from Pearl River, Louisiana. While speaking with Davis he learned that Davis did not have a valid driver's license. Deputy Harvey also detected an odor of marijuana coming from inside the vehicle. Davis and other occupants in the vehicle admitted to smoking marijuana earlier but said none was left. Deputy Harvey conducted a probable cause search of the vehicle and found approximately 11.3 grams of marijuana and a glass pipe used to smoke marijuana. Davis claimed ownership of the marijuana and the pipe so he was placed under arrest and charged with Possession of Marijuana and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Davis was also charged with Driving without a Valid Driver's License.

On Jan. 12, Deputy J. Page was dispatched to a residence on Catalpa Street in reference to someone trespassing on another's property. Clarissa Marie Fryer (34) was arrested after she entered a neighbor's home without consent and entered the victim's bedroom, and in doing so, damaged the bedroom door. According to the report, Fryer was under the influence of a substance so her motive was unknown. Fryer was charged with Trespassing and Criminal Mischief.

On Jan. 12, Deputy V. Everett took a report of a burglary from the 200 block of Whiting Street in Highland View. The victim reported that someone had entering into the property and stole a television, a Playstation 4 (PS4) gaming console and some PS4 games.

On Jan. 12, Deputy M. Peek and Investigator S. Ferrell conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle near the intersection of Our Town Road and Byrd Avenue. The driver of the vehicle was identified as Christopher Darrell Peoples (41). During the course of the traffic stop deputies found that Peoples was in possession of several partially burnt marijuana cigarettes and a baggie of methamphetamine. Peoples was taken into custody and charged with Possession of Marijuana and Possession of Methamphetamine.

On Jan. 12, Gulf County Sheriff's deputies went to the 100 block of Linton Drive in Wewahitchka to execute an arrest warrant on Ryan Michael Carver (27). Carver was wanted for violation of probation on the original charges of Possession of Methamphetamine and Burglary of an Unoccupied

Structure. Carver was located and taken into custody. Carver was transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility and is being held on a \$7,500 bond.

On Jan. 12, Deputy J. Page was investigating the theft of a camper trailer from Presnell's Bayside Marina & RV Resort that was originally reported to her on Dec. 30, 2018. Her investigation led her to Commerce Blvd. in Port St. Joe. Deputy Page located the stolen camper in a storage facility. The camper was recovered and returned to the owner. The person responsible for stealing the camper was identified as Lawrence Joseph Prosper (53). There is currently an active warrant for Prosper's arrest for Grand Theft.

On Jan. 12, Deputy C. Harvey conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle at the intersection of State 71 and Lake Alice Drive for operating on the roadway at night with no headlights on. While conversing with the driver and the passenger, Deputy Harvey could smell an odor of marijuana coming from inside the vehicle. Deputy Harvey began inquiring about the odor of marijuana and the passenger, Dominic Richard Demunck (20), told the deputy he had marijuana on him and proceeded to give Deputy Harvey two plastic baggies containing approximately 32 grams of marijuana. Demunck also had a substance which was identified as a THC (Tetrahydrocannabinol) concentrate. Demunck was placed under arrest and charged with a Possession of Marijuana (more than 20 grams) and Possession of a THC Extract.

On Jan. 13, Deputy M. Peek and Investigator S. Ferrell conducted a traffic stop on State 71 near the intersection of East Lake Avenue in Wewahitchka. Deputies identified the driver as John Dimetris Skipper (49). During the course of the traffic stop, Skipper gave deputies consent to search his vehicle. During a vehicle search they found a plastic baggie containing methamphetamine. Skipper was placed under arrest and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine. During a driver's license check they discovered that Skipper's driver's license was suspended so he was additionally charged for driving with a suspended driver's license.

On Jan. 13, Deputy M. Peek and Investigator S. Ferrell conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle in the 200 block of Osceola Avenue for not

having a registration plate on it. Deputies identified the driver as Zeikel Paul Pitts (39) and determined that Pitts was driving with a suspended driver's license. Pitts was placed under arrest and during a search of Pitts' clothing, deputies found a plastic baggie containing methamphetamine and a used syringe.

On Jan. 13, Deputy M. Manley was dispatched to the 2000 block of Victoria Avenue in reference to a residential burglary. The reporting person in this incident was checking on his home that was damaged by Hurricane Michael when he observed a vehicle parked in front of it that did not belong there. As the homeowner drove closer, he observed a subject standing across the street from his home holding some items that he believes came from his house. The subject dropped the items, entered the vehicle and drove away. The homeowner reported some items missing, which would later be recovered by Deputy Manley while investigating a motor vehicle theft. A suspect was developed but no charges have been filed at this time.

On Jan. 13, Deputy M. Manley responded a report of a stolen vehicle in the 7000 block of Americus Avenue. A 2004 black Subaru Baja was parked on the side of the road, unlocked with the keys inside. The owner of the vehicle parked the vehicle there the day before and, on this morning, he noticed it missing. Later in the day, Deputy Manley's investigation would ultimately lead him Carolina Street, where he was able to locate the vehicle. Inside the car were stolen items from an unrelated burglary that occurred earlier this morning on Victoria Avenue. The vehicle and the stolen goods were returned to their owners. Suspects were developed during the investigation but no charges have been filed at this time.

On Jan. 13, Deputy P. Young traveled to the Bay County Jail to arrest Alan Michael Lambert (37) on a Gulf County warrant and transport him to the Gulf County Detention Facility. Lambert was wanted for failing to appear in court after being charged for driving with a suspended driver's license.

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.

VALUES

From Page A1

submitted projects, the board was keen to work with them.

"We are very sensitive to the devastation and costs from the storm," said Don Gaetz, Triumph board chair. "This is monumental challenge for leadership."

Burke said his office and staff must look at each of the county's roughly 19,000 parcels and has received some help from the office of the St. John's County Property Appraiser and his staff.

As of this week, Burke's office had completed assessment of 32 percent of the county's parcels.

His job is complicated, Burke noted, by the lack of sales since Hurricane Michael, with just 77 sales

since the storm compared to some 800 total for the year.

Assessing comparable recent sales, indicating market conditions, is a significant component of the work the property appraiser must do each year.

"The lack of sales since the storm will make it difficult," Burke said.

In addition, due to the extent of beach erosion his staff has found along the Cape and peninsula, which accounts for some 40 percent of the county's tax base, many land values in coastal areas will have to be looked at again, Burke said.

He expressed a concern that in many cases, a home has been structurally compromised, a factor the property appraiser may not become aware of until the home does not survive the next storm.

Burke provided

broad-strokes for the current numbers.

The county's property value last year was \$1.739 billion, \$918 million of that value found in land.

Burke's office is currently estimating a loss of 10-15 percent, or \$91 million to \$137.8 million, in land values.

Another \$602 million in value was derived last year from primary structures and Burke is currently estimating a drop of 30-40 percent in that component, equal to \$180 million to \$240 million.

In the area of so-called extras, accessory buildings, pole barns, etc, Burke said the estimated decrease in value would be 50-60 percent.

The drop in the value of personal property was estimated at 10-20 percent.

And in classified agricultural lands, Burke noted a recent report from a Florida Senate committee detailing

the devastation to the timber industry from Michael.

The statewide loss in commodities, forestry, cattle, peanuts, is estimated at \$1.475 billion, Burke said, citing the report and noted that in the case of forestry, the impact will be felt for at least four years as forests must be replanted and grow.

In the county, the decrease in value of agriculture lands is currently estimated at 50 percent, Burke said.

"We will probably see a reduction in (agriculture) for at least the next few years," Burke said.

In all, county property values are currently estimated to fall by 30-40 percent, \$347 million to \$521 million, Burke said.

"Your task is monumental," said Triumph board member Jason Shoaf. "I will be very anxious to learn the final numbers in July."

"Your task is monumental. I will be very anxious to learn the final numbers in July."

Jason Shoaf, Triumph board member

"We are very sensitive to the devastation and costs from the storm. This is monumental challenge for leadership."

Don Gaetz, Triumph board chair.

STRONGER THAN THE STORM

It has been a difficult time for all of us as we cope with the effects of Hurricane Michael. The day after the storm passed, we began to do our part by announcing that the St. Joe Community Foundation is committing \$1 million towards relief efforts in our region. Our foundation is working directly with local groups that are in need because we believe locals know best. Northwest Florida is truly a special place and not just for its natural beauty, but for the spirit and resiliency of its people. In their time of need, we have been overwhelmed by the neighbor-helping-neighbor attitude we have seen.

\$312,500 GRANTS CURRENTLY FUNDED TO BENEFIT GULF COUNTY SINCE HURRICANE MICHAEL



\$100,000

\$100,000 to Methodist Learning Center, one of Port St. Joe's largest childcare and Pre-K facilities to assist in becoming operational after sustaining major damages.



\$50,000

\$50,000 to Sacred Heart Foundation, to assist with transitional housing for the staff of Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf, located in Port St. Joe.



\$25,000

\$25,000 grant to Gulf Coast State College Foundation will assist students, faculty and staff in all locations, including the Gulf County Campus.



\$100,000

\$100,000 to The Education Foundation of Gulf County, Inc to replace technology lost in the storm



\$12,500

\$12,500 grant to Christian Community Development Fund, Inc. to fund materials needed for Port St. Joe home repairs due to the storm.



\$25,000

\$25,000 grant to Port Theater for a roof replacement due to the storm.

HOW CAN THE FOUNDATION HELP YOU? JOEOFUNDATION.COM

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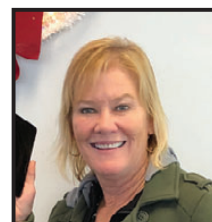

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“OUTTA’ THE WOODS”

Florida offers unique waterfowl hunting opportunities



Tony Young

“When people from out of state think about Florida, often the first things that come to mind are the state’s beautiful beaches and Disney World,” said Matt Coffey, senior communications specialist for Ducks Unlimited. “And I myself used to think the same thing – until I experienced my first Florida duck hunt.”

Coffey had an opportunity last year to hunt waterfowl at central Florida’s T.M. Goodwin Waterfowl Management Area.

“I didn’t realize how vast the estuaries and wetlands are and how much waterfowl habitat there is in Florida,” Coffey said. “Florida waterfowl hunters have great opportunities, especially with duck species like the black-bellied whistling duck and the fulvous whistling duck, where populations in the U.S. mainly occur in Texas, Louisiana and Florida. Hunting Florida mottled ducks is a totally unique experience because the only place in the world they exist is the Florida peninsula.”

Coffey also said he appreciates the fact that even in winter, temperatures are usually moderate and comfortable. Plus, there’s so much to do in the Sunshine State.

“The group I was with hunted teal, pintails

and mottled ducks in the morning, snipe at midday, and then we fished for tarpon in the Intracoastal in the afternoon,” Coffey said. “Some of them even slipped off to enjoy the beach! Where else can you do all that in a day?”

Waterfowl hunting guide

Check out the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s (FWC) Guide to Waterfowl Hunting in Florida at MyFWC.com/Duck. It’s a valuable resource that lists where duck hunting is available, decoy placement setups, scouting and hunting tips, and provides duck identification photos of most duck species you’re likely to see in Florida.

Waterfowl seasons and license requirements

Waterfowl and coot season runs through Jan. 27 statewide. In addition to a hunting license, duck hunters also need a Florida waterfowl permit, federal duck stamp and migratory bird permit. And if you’re hunting on a WMA, you’ll also need a management area permit and maybe a quota permit. All licenses and permits are available at GoOutdoorsFlorida.com, county tax collectors’ offices or license agents, or by calling 888-HUNT-FLORIDA (888-486-8356).

Bag limits

The daily bag limit on ducks is six. But there may be only one mottled duck and one fulvous whistling duck; only two may be canvasbacks, black ducks, scaup, pintails or redheads; and only three may be wood

ducks. And you may have no more than four scoters, four eiders, four long-tailed ducks and four mallards (of which only two may be female) in your bag. The daily limit on coots is 15, and there’s a five-bird limit on mergansers, only two of which may be hooded.

You also may take light geese statewide during the waterfowl and coot season, which includes the taking of snow, blue and Ross’s geese. There’s a 15-bird daily bag limit on any combination of these geese.

Waterfowl hunting regulations

Shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. Shotguns must be plugged to a three-shell capacity (magazine and chamber combined), and hunters may use only nontoxic shot – iron

(steel), bismuth-tin and tungsten alloys.

Ducks Unlimited and FWC partnership

In 2017, Ducks Unlimited, the FWC and others partnered to conserve, improve and restore nearly 30,000 acres of wetland habitat in Florida.

“The partnership between the FWC and DU is making an important difference in Florida,” Coffey said. “The FWC identifies local areas that need the most help, and DU delivers sound wetland restoration that benefits both Florida’s wildlife and people.”

WEEKLY ALMANAC

Date	High	Low	% Precip
Thu, January 17	64°	53°	0%
Fri, January 18	68°	57°	40%
Sat, January 19	70°	58°	80%
Sun, January 20	62°	28°	20%
Mon, January 21	46°	36°	0%
Tues, January 22	57°	50°	10%
Wed, January 23	64°	49°	40%

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
17	Th	6:24p 1.3		3:58a -0.7	
18	Fr	7:08p 1.4		4:46a -0.9	
19	Sa	7:58p 1.6		5:36a -1.0	
20	Su	8:52p 1.7		6:27a -1.1	
21	Mo	9:48p 1.6		7:17a -1.1	
22	Tu	10:46p 1.3		8:05a -1.0	
23	We	11:46p 1.1		8:48a -0.8	

APALACHICOLA BAY, WEST PASS

Date	Day	High Tide	High Tide	Low Tide	Low Tide
17	Th	3:02p 0.9	10:58p 1.2	7:06a -0.4	5:38p 0.9
18	Fr	3:56p 1.0	11:49p 1.2	7:57a -0.6	6:56p 1.0
19	Sa	4:38p 1.0		8:45a -0.8	7:58p 1.0
20	Su	12:44a 1.3	5:13p 1.0	9:30a -0.9	8:49p 1.0
21	Mo	1:41a 1.3	5:42p 1.0	10:14a -0.9	9:37p 0.9
22	Tu	2:40a 1.3	6:08p 1.0	10:56a -0.8	10:26p 0.8
23	We	3:39a 1.3	6:30p 1.0	11:37a -0.6	11:18p 0.6

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Post Hurricane Michael fishing has proven to be good in some areas and not so good in other areas. We are going to hit the high spots in this report and give you some much needed info that will be helpful boat fishing. As most everyone knows our Marina in St Joe and of course the Marina in Mexico Beach have been devastated. There is an active clean-up process going on in Mexico Beach to remove debris from the Canals and Marina areas and hopefully within a few weeks to a month we may be able to launch again from there. The city launch in St Joe is open. Now we must stress that anywhere you launch from at this time you must use extreme caution. There is untold debris in the shallows and even in deeper water in the bay. We have already seen parts of homes, sunken boats and appliances in many areas. So make sure you slow down and pay close attention to your navigation in the bay. Let’s talk about the fishing end, for the last several weeks the Highland View Bridge has been the hot spot with plenty of Redfish, Trout and some very nice Striped Bass have come from that area. Live shrimp and dark colored Vudu Shrimp has been one of the top producers in that area. We had gotten a few positive reports for Trout over at the Town Beach area as well. As we continue to gather fishing and Marina and boat ramp info we will pass it along here. Until next time, Happy Fishing!

Special to The Star

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) completed the final step in reevaluating five Species of Special Concern, one of six key objectives outlined in Florida’s Imperiled Species Management Plan. As a result, several fish and wildlife species no longer warrant listing.

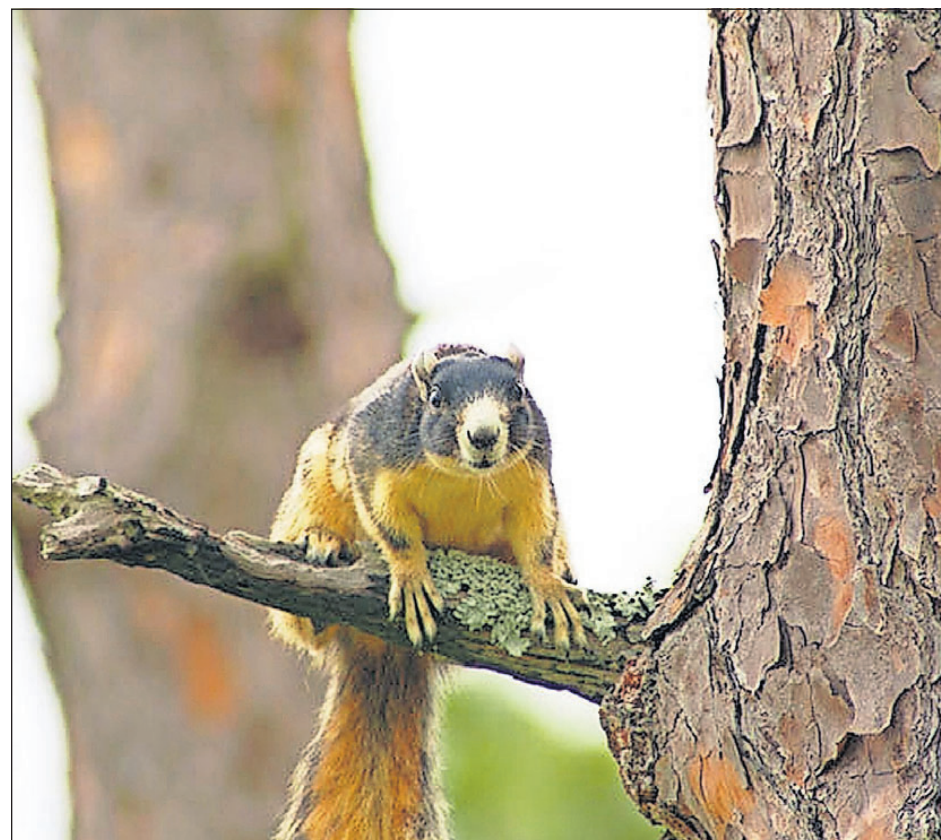
Based on thorough scientific review, the FWC determined the harlequin darter, Homosassa shrew, southern fox squirrel and the Monroe County osprey population no longer warrant listing as Species of Special Concern.

Through the process, FWC biologists and partners agreed that Florida has three distinct species of alligator snapping turtles. Two of these species do not warrant listing. However, the Suwannee alligator snapping turtle will now be listed as State Threatened.

The new listing status for these species took effect Dec. 23, 2018.

These changes, along with current protections for the reclassified species, are reflected in Florida’s Imperiled Species Management Plan. Species no longer classified as Species of Special Concern remain protected from take and possession under Florida’s General Prohibitions and Requirements.

More information on protections for these



Southern fox squirrel. [FWC PHOTO BY STEVE GLASS]

species can be found in the Species Action Plan Summaries of Florida’s Imperiled Species Management Plan. Voluntary conservation measures and activities that may require the need for a permit are outlined in Species Conservation Measures and Permitting Guidelines for species included in the Imperiled Species Management Plan, including those recently reclassified.

“The FWC is committed to ensuring the long-term stability of Florida’s native wildlife,” said Dr. Brad Gruver, head of the FWC’s Species Conservation Planning

Section. “Ongoing conservation efforts for species recently removed from Florida’s Endangered and Threatened Species List will ensure populations remain healthy.”

The Species Guidelines are designed to be a tool for landowners, consultants, conservation partners and other interested parties to promote species-specific conservation.

The Guidelines offer options for avoidance, minimization and mitigation of take for listed species. For species removed from the list, Guidelines outline

recommended conservation practices that will maintain the status of the species. They provide species-specific information on key issues relevant to real-world conservation, including:

- Essential behavioral patterns.
- Survey methods.
- Recommended conservation practices.
- Exemptions or authorizations for take.
- Coordination with other regulatory programs.
- Permitting options.

For an overview of how Florida conserves imperiled species, visit MyFWC.com/Imperiled.

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SPORTS

Port St. Joe boys 5-3-1 on pitch

Star Staff Report

After a fast start and bit of a let down just before the Christmas break, the Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High School boys' soccer team has won its last three to improve to 5-3-1 with postseason play on the horizon. Port St. Joe is at Wakulla and home to Bay this week.

Tallahassee John Paul II 7, Port St. Joe 0

Before the Christmas break, the Tiger Sharks traveled to Tallahassee and were dominated by the more experienced Panthers.

Coach Don Maples made some line-up changes, but nothing worked. "We were out of sorts, but we learned," Maples said.

Bay 7, Port St. Joe 0

Back at home five days later, the Tiger Sharks faced another quality opponent and held their own for the first 10 minutes before an own goal put them behind.

Port St. Joe was down just 2-0 at halftime.

"This game was another opportunity to put players in uncomfortable situations," Maples said, adding that he was not positive it was helping or

hurting. "I feel their frustration, but I also see the little things that are getting better and a light at the end of the tunnel."

Tallahassee Godby 7, Port St. Joe 2

It was back on the road to Tallahassee in the final game before the break.

After Godby went up 2-0, Port St. Joe's Marlon Lopez found the net to make it 2-1.

The second half started much like the first, Port St. Joe controlling the flow, getting opportunities.

But Godby scored a pair of goals in quick succession before Lopez, off an assist by Larry Lance, scored again to make it 4-2. "There aren't many games I can say I am completely disappointed in, but this was one," Maples said. "To be playing that well, and someone loses focus, effort for five seconds takes the wind from our sails.

"The score does not indicate how we did play."

Port St. Joe 3, Walton 0

Energized by the break, Port St. Joe hit the road again.

Lopez got the Tiger Sharks on the board in the first two minutes off an from Elias

Alexander. With goalkeeper Joel Bogaert making 12 saves for the game, the halftime score remained 1-0.

A pass from Ford Kuhnel to Lopez extended the margin to 2-0, followed by a hat trick for Lopez with Alexander again getting the assist.

"Outstanding team effort from each member and we didn't travel with our strongest squad," Maples said. "But we traveled with perhaps our hardest working squad. Talent doesn't win games...that is a myth. Hard work coupled with talent gives you the best chance to win games."

Port St. Joe 4, Rocky Bayou 4

In a match rescheduled from December due to weather, Port St. Joe battled another district foe. A win would mean a first-round bye in the district tournament.

Port St. Joe was down 1-0 after the first seven minutes, but Lopez continued to find the back of the net to pull Port St. Joe even. Both teams scored again before halftime, Lopez nailing the equalizer on an assist by Grant.

Lopez, assisted by Alexander, put the Tiger Sharks on top early in the second half and



The Tiger Sharks are 2-0-1 since the Christmas break [COURTESY OF WAYNE TAYLOR]

just after the water break it was Lopez again, off an assist by Larry Lance.

But the Tiger Sharks could not hold the lead.

"It was a combination of things, some of our own doing and credit to Rocky Bayou showing tremendous resiliency to score two goals in the final five minutes to end the game in a tie," Maples said. "It is really all part of learning, especially understanding time left in the game, what do you need and what you don't need."

"Seems we panicked a bit, didn't stay tight and it cost us a big game."

Port St. Joe 3, Walton 0

Celebrating Senior Night, the Tiger Sharks gave themselves a boost with the playoffs looming. Six minutes in Port St. Joe's Gerson Flores found Lopez on the right wing, Lopez cutting inside and burying a shot just

under the crossbar.

When Lopez was taken down in the penalty area, Ford Kuhnel stepped to the spot and scored; he is 100 perfect on penalty kicks this season.

Lopez finished the scoring before halftime off an assist from Bogaert. "That last goal was a mental knife to Walton," Maples said. "For Joel to strike that type of ball 65 yards to Marlon was tremendous."

The Tiger Shark defense with Sean Farnsley, Christian Peacock, Halston Fulk and Will McCall, back from injury, held it together, stayed focused and preserved the win.

"First off what a way to send our seniors (Joel Bogaert and Marlon Lopez) out," Maples said. "It is fitting that the two most experienced players on our team led the team. "Secondly, our younger players, primarily the seventh, eighth graders and freshmen, are growing up and developing."

Lady Gators down Sneads in weightlifting

Star Staff Report

The Wewahitchka Jr./Sr. High School girls' weightlifting team defeated Sneads in the final regular season meet for both schools.

The team score was 39-19. Individual results (Name, school, bench press, clean-and-jerk, total):

110 pounds: 1. S. Montroy (SHS) 90-85-175; **119 pounds:** 1. H. McDaniel (WHS) 80-85-165; **129 pounds:** 1. K. Easter (WHS) 120-105-125, 2. T. Tousignant (WHS) 85-80-165; **139 pounds:** 1. K. Batson (WHS) 70-65-135, 2. D. Clayton (SHS) 70-55-125; **154 pounds:** 1. L. Johnson (WHS) 125-125-250, 2. L. Glover (SHS) 110-135-245, 3. K. Roberts (WHS) 75-70-145; **169 pounds:** 1. M. Baker (WHS) 125-135-260; **183 pounds:** 1. E. Thrasher (WHS) 140-115-255, 2. K. Leasman (SHS) 105-95-200; **199 pounds:** 1. K. Varn (SHS) 155-140-295, 2. K. Roberts (WHS) 70-65-135; **Unltd:** 1. K. Turner (WHS) 165-135-300, 2. A. Moneyham (SHS) 135-115-250, 3. A. Dougherty (SHS) 125-110-235.

Day of Basketball



[SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

Star Staff Report

A new season of Upward Basketball got underway last Saturday with a Day of Basketball.

First Baptist Church of Port St. Joe is sponsoring Upward Basketball and Cheerleading this winter at the Port St. Joe Elementary School gym. 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.

PSJHS girls continue undefeated district run

Star Staff Report

The Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High School girls' basketball team remain unbeaten in District 4-1A play during a 2-1 stretch last week.

The Lady Tiger Sharks are 10-6 overall and 6-0 in the district.

Port St. Joe hosts Bozeman 6 p.m. ET Friday and travels to Tallahassee Chiles 3:30 p.m. ET Saturday.

The Lady Tiger Sharks return home against Blountstown 5 p.m. Jan. 24.

Gadsden County 53, Port St. Joe 30

The Lady Tiger Sharks

traveled to Quincy last Tuesday, falling behind early and never clawing all the way back.

Port St. Joe was down 14-11 after the opening period, a lead the Lady Jaguars stretched to 26-16 at halftime.

Gadsden County continued to open the lead over the final two quarters.

Mari Johnson paced Port St. Joe with a double-double, 13 points and 16 rebounds to go with three steals and a block.

Jae Lenox had nine points, seven rebounds and an assist, MeMe Larry six points, five rebounds and one steal and TeTe Croom two points, four rebounds, one steal and

a block.

Port St. Joe 36, Blountstown 16

Two days later, it was back on the road and district play, this time to Blountstown Middle School to take on The Lady Tigers due to the extent of the damage to the BHS gym.

Though the Lady Tigers were coming off a big win over district foe Sneads, but the Lady Tiger Sharks jumped to a 12-1 lead out of the gate and were up 25-9 at halftime.

Port St. Joe shutout the Lady Tigers in the third period and stretched the lead to the final margin.

Johnson put up another double-double with 15 points and 17 rebounds, adding an assist, four steals and two blocks.

Larry chipped in six points, five rebounds, four steals, two blocks and an assist, Shadavia Hudgins 6 points and three rebounds, India Gant five points and a steal and Croom four points, seven rebounds and one steal.

Port St. Joe 48, Wewahitchka 8

The Lady Tiger Sharks returned home to face county and district rival Wewahitchka in a game that got away from the Lady Gators early.

Port St. Joe opened the game on a 12-2 run and turned the halftime score into a 35-6 rout after a 23-4 run.

By the fourth quarter the game was operating under a running clock.

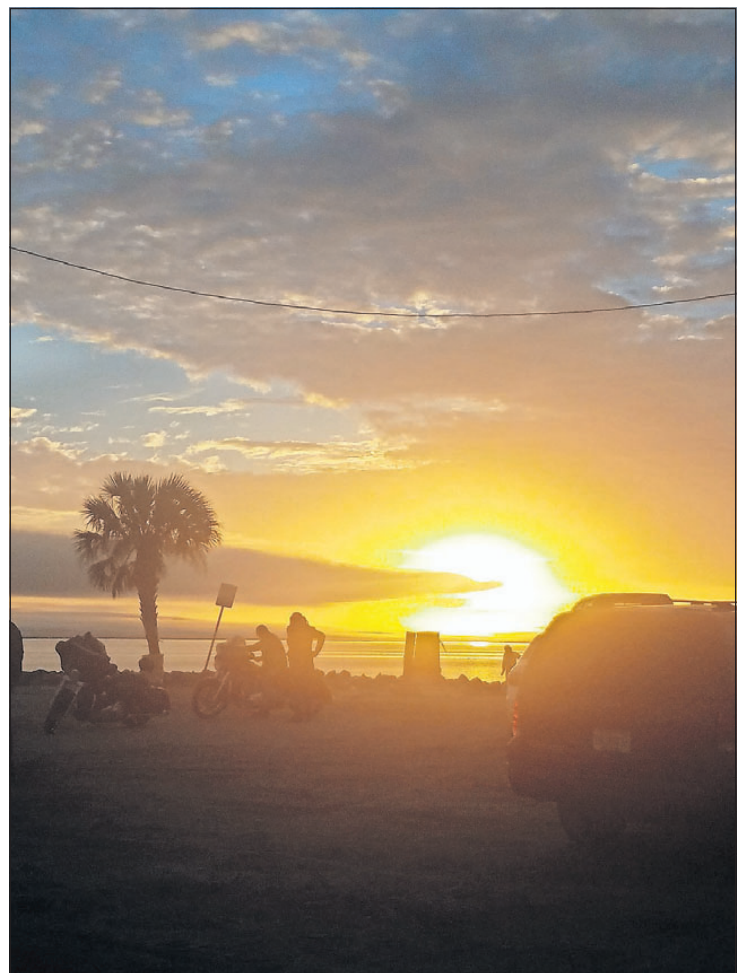
Lenox paced Port St. Joe with 14 points, five rebounds, four assists and a steal while Johnson had 12 points, seven rebounds, one assist and five steals.

Larry had six points, seven rebounds, three blocks, one assist and a steal, Croom six points and five rebounds, Gant five points, seven rebounds, five steals and a block, Quinci Elphinstone three points, five rebounds and five assists and Hudgins two points, two steals and one rebound.

SCENE AROUND

Star Staff Report

Hurricane Michael may have robbed our community of much, but not the essence of why so many of us are here and will remain here to dig out from what Michael wrought. So, we are going to keep this page as a reminder of all that has made this spot, and will once again make this spot, paradise for visitors and residents. Please submit your photos to tcroft@starfl.com.



Bent but not broken. [COURTESY OF SHERYL CHRIESTENSON VALENTINE]



A reminder of Michael's power. [COURTESY OF DAVE EVANS]



Fish for dinner. [COURTESY OF RON RUDOLPH]



The north end of the Cape, overlooking the Gulf of Mexico
[COURTESY OF BRANDON THRON]

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.



Beautiful and still is. [COURTESY OF CHARLES GRIFFIES]



"Hard to leave the Cape when this is in your rearview mirror. [COURTESY OF LARRY SHERIDAN]



Special for lighthouse lovers. [COURTESY OF BILL FAUTH]

COMMUNITY

'Walking together'

MLK Day parade, program Monday

By Tim Croft

The Port St. Joe Star
850-227-7827 | @PSJ_Star
teroft@starfl.com

In honor of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the city of Port St. Joe and Gulf County Tourist Development Council are sponsoring the annual celebration and program Monday.

"This is a day on, not a day off," said Rev. Tommy Curtis, one of the organizers of the event.

"We are all one humanity in peace, harmony and social justice."

The day's activities begin at 9 a.m. ET, with parade line-up at Port St. Joe City Hall.

The parade begins at 10 a.m. and will travel down Reid Ave. to First Street to Dr. David Langston Drive, down Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. and ending at Avenue G.

The program begins at 11 a.m. at the Washington High School gymnasium with free food, socializing and keynote speaker Dr. Timothy Beard.

There will also be youth sacred dancing presentations.

"Everyone is an honored guest," Curtis said. "We need to make this day-long celebration of togetherness a successful reality."

Beard is a native of Port St. Joe, graduating with honors from Port St. Joe High School.

He earned degrees from Florida A&M and Florida State University and is currently president of Pasco-Hernando State College.

Any local service organizations may establish a booth or table at the Washington High Gym.

For additional information contact Curtis at 850-545-8646.

"Everyone is an honored guest. We need to make this day-long celebration of togetherness a successful reality."

Rev. Tommy Curtis

TDC calendars winter fun/volunteerism

By Tim Croft

The Port St. Joe Star
850-227-7827 | @PSJ_Star
teroft@starfl.com

Kelli Godwin figured the release of bed tax revenue for November might prove a unique experience during the fiscal year ahead.

"It may be the only time I can say it this year, but November was actually up," said Godwin, Executive Director of the Gulf County Tourist Development Council.

Yep, November bed tax revenue reached nearly \$92,000, which was a 25 percent increase over the revenue total of November 2017.

Of course, there is mitigation

In addition, the numbers for the final month of the prior fiscal year, September 2018, also dropped precipitously, 44 percent, which was largely a product of the extension in reporting given bed tax collectors following the catastrophic impacts of Michael.

Kelli Godwin

to any celebration.

Revenue for the fiscal year's first month, October, was down 77 percent, almost a fait accompli given that only nine days of the month elapsed before Hurricane Michael came to town and changed everything.

In addition, the numbers for the final month of the prior fiscal year, September 2018, also dropped precipitously, 44 percent, which was largely

a product of the extension in reporting given bed tax collectors following the catastrophic impacts of Michael, Godwin said.

"I am positive that some of what we saw in November's numbers was actually some of our lost September numbers that had yet to be reported," Godwin said.

For the 2017-18 fiscal year, the TDC set a record with \$2.185

million in bed tax collections, 8.42 percent over the prior year, and the prior record.

The TDC eclipsed \$1 million in bed tax revenue just five years prior.

Just two months into a new fiscal year, though, bed tax collections are down 39 percent compared to the prior year, likely the beginning of what figures to be a painful fiscal year for the TDC given Michael's impacts.

Godwin and staff are wrapping up a spring campaign which will focus on six local businesses in the tourist industry and their recovery from Hurricane Michael.

See TDC, B6



[FILE PHOTO]

Full moon climb and, potentially, spectacular sights

By Tim Croft

The Port St. Joe Star
850-227-7827 | @PSJ_Star
teroft@starfl.com

The Cape San Blas Lighthouse at George Core Park will host its first full moon climb of 2019 6 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. ET Sunday, Jan. 20.

Weather permitting it could be the prelude to a vivid night show.

Cost to climb the tower is

\$5 per person.

The January full moon is known as the Wolf Moon and it will also be a "super blood moon" with a vivid reddish tint later in the night.

A supermoon occurs when a full or new moon is closest to the Earth in its orbit, making the moon appear 14 percent larger and 30 percent brighter than a typical moon.

Last January featured a super blue blood moon, not

seen from the United States since the 1860s.

The Wolf Moon dates to the time when Native American tribes went hunting at night and had to fend off wolves in the middle of winter.

The various names given to full moons assisted in tracking seasons.

In addition, a total lunar eclipse will be visible throughout the United States for about 62 minutes on the

night of Jan. 20-21

A total lunar eclipse occurs when the sun, Earth and moon are all perfectly aligned, placing the entire moon in Earth's dark interior shadow.

There will not be a total lunar eclipse visible in the United States until May 2021, according to NASA.

Last year's eclipse was not visible in the United States.

The eclipse will begin about 11:41 p.m. ET Sunday night.

PSJ library hosts two events this week

Star Staff Report

The Corinne Costin Gibson Memorial Port St. Joe Public Library will be hosting two events over the course of the next week.

Both events are free and open to the public, but those interested may want to arrive a tad early to secure a good seat.

Ukulele concert

The Ukulele Orchestra of St. Andrews will perform at 12 p.m. ET Saturday as part of the library's Saturday Concert Series. The Ukulele Orchestra of St. Andrews will play popular tunes that will have you dancing in your seats," said library director

Nancy Brockman.

"It is hard not to smile when listening to a Ukulele Orchestra concert."

Fishing secrets revealed during Tuesdays at Two

Fishermen may be surprised to learn that 90 percent of the fish are located in 10 percent of the water, and 10 percent of the fishermen catch 90 percent of the fish!

During his library lecture entitled "Catching More Fish on St. Joe Bay" which will be held Jan. 22 at part of the Port St. Joe Public Library's "Tuesdays at 2" series, Captain Phil Cox will help fishing aficionados increase the odds of a better catch with tips on



The Ukulele Orchestra of St. Andrews will perform Saturday at the Port St. Joe Library. [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

where to fish and the mental aspects of fishing.

As a bonus, Captain Phil will share his favorite recipes for cooking up the catch.

Cox grew up near Huntington, WV and attended college in Ohio where he graduated with a BS in Marketing. He fishes St Joe Bay,

East Bay, and the Inter-coastal waterway and feels truly blessed to do what he loves every day. He lives with his wife Chrystal in Port St. Joe and has been married 33 years.

The eight-week Tuesdays at Two lecture series is free and open to the public—and refreshments will be served.

Programs are held at 2 p.m. ET each Tuesday in January and February.

Additional topics will include a variety of presentations on the history and natural resources of Gulf County including turtles, the state park, moonshiners and hurricanes.

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

SOCIETY

Port St. Joe Garden Club news

Special to The Star

The Port St. Joe Garden Club (“PSJGC”) held its January meeting on Thursday, Jan. 10. The speaker, Jill Bebee, a master gardener and member of the garden club gave a presentation entitled “Don’t Plant Trouble-Keep Invasives Out of Your Landscape.”

An invasive plant is by definition a plant that is not native to Florida and has a negative impact on native habitat. Forty-two percent of all endangered and threatened plants are declining because of non-native invasive plants. The Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (“FEPPC”) prepares and posts lists of invasive plants and identifies them by region.



Jill Bebee presenting on invasive plant species at January meeting of the Port St. Joe Garden Club. [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

Invasives are categorized as either a Category I or II. Category I grow on

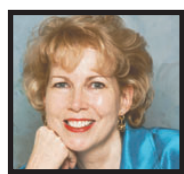
their own and disrupt and degrade natural ecosystems.

Invasives that have increased in abundance or frequency but have

not yet altered Florida plant communities to the extent shown by Category I species are identified as Category II. Invasive plants spread in a myriad of ways including dispersal of seed or spore by wind, water, birds and other animals; dumping of yard waste; plant expansion; contaminated clothing, mulch or equipment; and plants bought or traded by gardeners. As we begin planning our yards post Hurricane Michael please help our native Florida species by not planting invasive plants. If you would like additional information on invasive species please come join us at the Garden Club for our next meeting and join the discussion.

The next Port St. Joe Garden Club meeting will be held on Feb. 14 at the Garden Center. February’s presentation is entitled, “Saving a Species: How You Can Help Monarchs.” The speaker will be Nancy Jones, the retired Executive Director and founder of the Blue Heron Nature Preserve in Atlanta, Georgia. Nancy is also a Port St. Joe Garden Club member. Please check out our Port St. Joe Garden Club Facebook page for additional information on this or future presentations or email psjgardenclub@gmail.com to RSVP or request further inquiry. The Port St. Joe Garden Club is a national and historical site and is available for rental.

Do you know someone who is spiraling downward?



Sheryl H. Boldt

Shssplat! Zacchaeus wiped the spit off his face for the fourth time that morning. Nobody liked him. And no one – except the other tax collectors – wanted anything to do with him.

Then one day, Jesus

sought him out. “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today” (Luke 19:5 ESV).

And soon Zacchaeus’ heart – and his life – changed!

The man who had built a career by cheating his neighbors joyfully welcomed Jesus into his home. He went from being a dishonest greedy man, hated by his own people, to a sincere and generous man, probably well-liked and respected by his community. (You

can read this remarkable story in Luke 19:1-9.)

What changed Zacchaeus?

Perhaps for the first time in many years, instead of experiencing coldness, judgment and hate, Zacchaeus experienced genuine compassion, understanding and love. The mercy Jesus showed him – even before Zacchaeus began to change his behavior – enabled him to make different choices.

Eventually, people saw a different man.

Zacchaeus probably grew to see himself differently, too.

What would happen if we applied the lessons we learn from Zacchaeus’ story to our own lives? After asking the Holy Spirit to examine our hearts, might we need to confess our shameful tendency to look down upon and judge those we consider worse sinners than ourselves? Are we willing to allow God to help us see others as He sees them – even

before we see evidence of a changed life?

Or will we continue pointing our fingers and wagging our tongues until the person does something to deserve our compassion and support? If this is the criteria, what must a person accomplish before we begin to pull for her or hope for the best for him?

What would happen if we sincerely prayed and – as God leads – got involved when we see signs that

someone is spiraling downward? How might our churches and communities benefit if we show God’s mercy to those caught in the consequences of their bad or sinful choices?

Isn’t this what we’d want if we were the “Zacchaeus” in our community – or in our church?

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

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SHH’s Bixler honored with Best on the Forgotten Coast Award

Special to The Star

Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf (SHHG) recently recognized Dr. Rachel Bixler, family medicine doctor with Sacred Heart Medical Group, for winning two 2018 Best of the Forgotten Coast Awards.

Each year, the readers of The Star newspaper in Port St. Joe cast their votes for businesses that they view are the best in their specialty. The winners reflect the businesses, services and individuals that represent what makes life on the Forgotten Coast the best.

Bixler was voted Best General Practice Doctor and Best Family Physician Office by residents of Mexico Beach, Gulf and Franklin Counties.

Bixler was recognized for the exceptional care she provides to her patients, outstanding dedication and her commitment to the community throughout Hurricane Michael.

After the devastation



[SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

caused by hurricane Michael, Bixler was the first doctor to open a free walk-in clinic to the community at the hospital’s medical office building.

“I am honored that the community has recognized me with this award and grateful for the support of my colleagues within Sacred Heart Medical Group,” Bixler said. “It is truly a blessing to be able to practice medicine in my

hometown especially as it moves to recover from Hurricane Michael.”

“I am extremely proud of our physicians and providers,” said Roger Hall, president of Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf. “Every day they exhibit compassion and respect for the patients they serve, explaining things in a way that people understand and listening to the needs of their patients.”

DAR news

Special to The Star

The St. Joseph Bay Chapter of NSDAR will hold their first meeting after Hurricane Michael on Wednesday, Jan. 23 at 12 p.m. in the St. Joe Library.

County GOP meets Monday

Special to The Star

The monthly meeting of the Gulf County Republican Executive Committee will be held Monday, Jan. 14 starting at 6:30 EST at the Port St. Joe Garden Club located at 216 8th Street.

Mike Watkins,

candidate in the upcoming special election to replace outgoing State Representative, Halsey Beshears, will join us. He will present his vision for District 7 and answer questions from the audience.

Also, Gulf County Tax Assessor, Mitch Burke will

present preliminary information regarding loss of tax revenue due to damage by Hurricane Michael and how it will potentially impact property owners.

For further information please call Barbara Radcliff, Chairman GCREC at 340-0256.

SCHOOL NEWS

District, schools elect employees of the year

By Tim Croft

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

Classroom teachers might be the primary components of any school, but no system runs well without the glue provided by those outside the classroom.

Those who maintain and drive the buses, who keep the books and help create calm from the chaos of front offices.

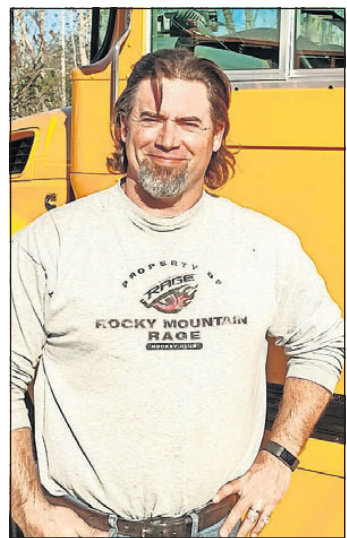
Employees at school sites and district offices elected employees last month to represent them in the Employee of the Year award given annually to single out non-instructional personnel.

The six employees will be interviewed by a panel on Jan. 22 and the district will select an Employee of the Year.

The district winner is eligible for statewide awards.

Brumbaugh is professional in everything she undertakes, seeking to do her best.

"She is very loyal and has a great work ethic," Worley wrote. "As her supervisor it has always been a joy and pleasure to work with Evan."



Michael Dunn, Jr., Transportation

[SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

Michael "Mike" Dunn, Jr.

The honoree out of Transportation, Dunn started in the district as a bus driver in 2012.

Diana Dykes, Transportation Specialist, has worked with Dunn as his trainer, co-worker and supervisor and nominated Dunn.

"Mike is a tremendous asset to the transportation department," Dykes wrote in her recommendation letter.

"He doesn't hesitate to perform any task that is asked of him with a positive attitude."

Dykes characterized Dunn as a diligent worker conscientious about his job, applying plenty of care and concern to his tasks.

"Mike exhibits a great attitude at all times on the job," Dykes wrote. "His pleasant demeanor radiates outward to everyone with whom he comes in contact with, including fellow workers, administrators, students and parents."

Ashley Forehand

With the district for nearly three years, Forehand is the secretary for Wewahitchka



Ashley Forehand, Wewahitchka Jr./Sr. High School

[SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

Jr./Sr. High School Principal Jay Bidwell.

As Bidwell noted in his letter of recommendation, little did he know when he set out to replace his secretary about 18 months ago that he would "discover the elusive unicorn, the gold pot at the end of the rainbow."

But he did in Forehand, who brings enthusiasm, interpersonal skills and work ethic infectious to all, he wrote.

"Students, parents and staff that visit our office feel special because Ashley deals with them in a timely and attentive manner and she always (and I mean always) has a smile on her face," Bidwell wrote.

Forehand's presence and manner have created an environment in which Bidwell and teachers are more effective and the school can be more of a service-oriented school.

"Ashley is a special lady and a great employee," Bidwell wrote.

Equillar Gainer

Gainer is the food service cashier in the lunchroom at Port St. Joe Elementary School, where she has been for the past 11 of her 13 years with the district.

It is a testament to her demeanor and character that she listed the favorite part of her job as "making everyone that enters the cafeteria feel welcomed."

Principal Joni Mock, who



Equillar Gainer, left, Port St. Joe Elementary School

[SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

nominated Gainer, said Gainer brings a high standard for performance to her duties.

"Mrs. Gainer is a team player and popular with students, families and colleagues," Mock wrote. "She is kind, caring and always the friendly face in our cafeteria."

Calling her "an incredible asset to our school" Mock



Wanda Nixon, Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High School

[SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

continued by writing that Gainer "deserves this honor."

Wanda Nixon

Nixon, a recent winner of the award, is the administrative secretary at Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High School.

Nixon has been with the district 35 years, her jobs ranging from bus driver to secretary.

"Mrs. Nixon has



Mary Ann Peak, Wewahitchka Elementary School

[SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

demonstrated a plethora of skills and tricks that ensure that Port St. Joe High School's daily schedule runs as smoothly as possible," wrote Assistant Principal Sissy Godwin.

"Her efficiency and dependability are immeasurable and in an environment where many unexpected circumstances often arise, she helps foster a sense of normalcy and reliability for staff and students."

Nixon, Godwin added, is in a position unique to the district and one that no one but Nixon can fulfill.

Mary Ann Peak

A multiple nominee for this award and 23-year veteran of the district, Peak is the secretary at Wewahitchka Elementary School.

Peak brings a positive attitude to the school office each day, wrote teacher Jennifer Guffey in nominating Peak.

"She also maintains a demeanor of high moral ethics in her relationships with students, parents and teachers," Guffey wrote.

She displays honesty, confidentiality and integrity in the way she performs her job and carries a soft heart for the school and its community.

"I am confident Mary Ann does her job at the best of her ability and will all efforts to be the best," Guffey wrote. "She is a hard-working individual and deserves great recognition."



Evan Brumbaugh, Finance

[SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

Evan Brumbaugh

With a smiley emoji alongside, Brumbaugh explained that her list of duties, which is substantial, includes anything Finance Officer Sissy Worley instructs her to do.

Worley nominated Brumbaugh, the district's assistant payroll manager and a four-year employee of the district.

"She is a team player, always ready to assist others with their duties," Worley wrote in her recommendation letter, noting that Brumbaugh works "extremely well" with everyone, including the public.

And, Worley added,

GCSC Foundation accepting scholarship applications

Special to The Star

PANAMA CITY – The Gulf Coast State College Foundation has begun the scholarship application cycle for the 2019-2020 school year, and all students planning to attend Gulf Coast in the fall 2019 academic term are eligible to apply. High school seniors are highly encouraged to apply now in anticipation of their freshman year at GCSC.

Applicants must have a

cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher and plan to take six or more credit hours at Gulf Coast State College. The deadline to apply is March 15, 2019. Last year, the Foundation awarded more than 800 scholarships to students totaling more than \$900,000.

"In most cases, our scholarships can be used to help cover about 45% of a student's tuition expenses," said Dunkin McLane, Assistant Director of the GCSC Foundation. "They can be used

to help cover tuition, books and other educational costs. Our scholarships can also be used in conjunction with other forms of financial aid such as Bright Futures, Pell Grants, Stafford Loans, or other non-Foundation scholarships. If you're planning to take classes in the fall of 2019, now is the time to apply."

To learn more about the scholarships offered and how to apply, please visit www.gcscfoundation.org/scholarships. For additional

information, contact Dunkin McLane at 872.3810 or dmclane@gulfcoast.edu.

ABOUT THE GCSC FOUNDATION

The Gulf Coast State College Foundation, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization dedicated to providing scholarship opportunities and program support for students enrolled at Gulf Coast State College.

The Foundation is

committed to the belief that every deserving student merits a chance to continue his or her education regardless of cost.

The Foundation, with the support of individuals, businesses, other foundations and grants, has created and endowed more than 650 scholarships. For 50 years, the Foundation has served Gulf Coast State College by donating more than \$13 million for scholarship and program support.

S.O.A.R.-ing at PSJES



S.O.A.R. students for the week of Jan. 11 at Port St. Joe Elementary School. [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

COLLEGE NEWS**Rebecca Kerigan earns Dean's List at Valdosta State University**

VALDOSTA, Ga. – Rebecca Kerigan of Port St. Joe, has earned a spot on the Fall 2018 Dean's List at Valdosta State University.

Students who achieve a semester grade point average of 3.50 or higher on nine or more semester hours with an institutional grade point average of 3.00 or higher are recognized by being placed on the Dean's List.

Developmental studies, transients, and graduate students are not eligible for Dean's List status.

Valdosta State University is proud to announce that more than 1,700 students earned a spot on the Fall 2018 Dean's List.

Callie Fleshren named to Troy Chancellor's List

TROY, Ala. – 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 two semester hours and who earn a grade point average of 4.0.

FAITH

ADA OPHELIA BORDERS

Mrs. Ada Ophelia Borders of Wewahitchka, Florida, born May 27, 1927 at Broad Branch, Florida, passed away on Thursday, January 10, 2019, surrounded by her family.

She was preceded in death by her parents, John Elton Fortner, Sr. and Dora Viola Vickers; and her husband Haywood Borders.

Left to treasure her memory are her brother, John Elton Fortner, Jr.; her sisters, Edna Pearl Weeks and Dora Jean Gortman; her children, Charles Haywood Borders and wife Helen,

Lynda Gayle Shealy and husband Gil, and Shirley Juanita Watts; her grandchildren, Lynn Ward, Woody Borders, Haywood Shealy and wife Robin, and Ashley Watts; five great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; and many children she raised.

Funeral services were held at the graveside in Pleasant Rest Cemetery on Saturday, January 12, 2019 at 11 a.m. CT conducted by the Rev. Mike Stroud.

Services were under the direction of Comforter Funeral Home.

AUDREY D. KING

Audrey D. King, loving wife, mother, grandmother, and sister, passed away peacefully at home on Saturday, January 12, 2019 surrounded by her family. A long-time resident of the Wewahitchka area, she spent the last few years in Panama City, FL, and was a lifelong member of Glad Tidings Assembly of God Church in Wewahitchka. She spent her life loving her children and grandchildren and she loved her Lord.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Rosco Purswell and Mazie Purswell; her sisters, Helen Purswell and Cheryl Roberts; and two sons, Donnie Nunnery and Timothy Nunnery.

Survivors include her children, Ronnie Nunnery and wife Patty, Sandy Nunnery, Steven Nunnery, Sherri Glass and husband Darrell, Kenny King and

wife Tammy, James King and wife Susan, and John King and wife Brandi; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and her siblings, Mary Chason and husband Thomas, Elaine Davidson and husband Bobby, Jennell Pitts, Jim Purswell and wife Toni, Joe Purswell and wife Jo Ann, David Purswell and wife Barbra, Janice Lyles and husband Carlton, Faye Causey and husband Roy, and Carrol Thomas.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. CST on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at Glad Tidings Assembly of God Church, conducted by the Rev. Joey Smith. Interment followed in Roberts Cemetery. She lay in state at the church for two hours prior to the service.

Services are under the direction of Comforter Funeral Home.

JESSE CARL EUBANKS, JR.

Jesse Carl Eubanks, Jr., 73, of Wewahitchka passed away on January 9, 2019. Jesse was born in Eufaula, Alabama on June 30, 1945.

Jesse was preceded in death by the love of his life, his wife Barbara Sue Barnes Eubanks, his parents, Jesse Carl (JC) Eubanks, Sr. and Louise Penuel Eubanks, son, Dennis Ray Wills and infant brother Curtis Eubanks.

Jesse is survived by his children Berry Eubanks and wife, Jennifer; Michael Eubanks, Deborah Elia, Walter Wills and wife, Ronda, and Gregory Wills and wife, Deann; many loving grandchildren and great grandchildren; siblings:

Bobby Eubanks and wife, Jeanne, Brenda Little and husband, Charlie, Jane Wade and husband, Timmy, and Harold Eubanks; and many nieces, nephews, and other family members.

Visitation was Saturday, January 12, 2019 at the family home at 253 Eubanks Drive, Wewahitchka, FL, from 5-8 p.m. CST.

Funeral services will be held at 3 p.m. CST, Sunday, January 13, 2019 at Glad Tidings Assembly of God Church in Wewahitchka, FL. The family will receive friends one hour prior to service.

Services are under the direction of Comforter Funeral Home.

JAMES E. MARTIN

Mr. James E. Martin, aka James E. Ward, age 59, of Panama City, FL formerly of Port St. Joe, FL went home to be with the Lord on Thursday, January 10, 2019 in Panama City, FL.

James was born on October 4, 1959 to Martha E. Ward Freeman and Lawrence Martin, Sr. in Port St Joe, Florida.

James attended school at Washington Elementary School and Port St Joe High where he graduated in 1977.

James served in the US Navy for 11 years. James lived and worked in Panama City, Florida.

James survivor includes a daughter, Charron Addison of Tallahassee Florida; his sibling: Yolanda Pittman, Cathy



Williams (Clifford), Darrell Ward, Elder Arion Nick Ward (Debbie), Dexter Baxter, Annette Davenport, Lawrence Martin, Jr, Carl Martin, Paul Wright, Melvin Martin, Eunice Martin, Dennis Martin Rusty Martin, LaShunda Martin, Audrey Lowery (Robert

III), Sharon Freeman, Montez Freeman, Valeria Freeman, Larry Freeman (Sylvia), Debra Freeman, Brenda Garland (Kenneth), Alvin Freeman and Calvin Freeman (Erica); stepfather Arthur Freeman; numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Visitation will be Saturday, January 19, 2019 from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. ET at The Body of Christ Jesus Church in Port St. Joe, FL.

A celebration of life will commence at 1 p.m. (EST) from The Body of Christ Jesus Church, 106 Harbor Street in Port St. Joe, FL.

He will be laid to rest in the Forest Hill Cemetery under the directions of Christian Memorial Chapel of Graceville, Florida.

JAMES "AL" SCHEFFER 1950-2018

James "Al" Scheffer passed away at his home on St. Joe Beach, Thursday, December 27, 2018. Al was born to the late Foy and Marguerite Scheffer on August 21, 1950.

Al graduated from Gordon Military School and Gulf Coast Community College. He worked at the Port St. Joe paper mill and Liberty Mutual Insurance Company, before becoming affiliated with Costin Insurance in Port St. Joe, from 1980 until his retirement in approximately 2014.

He was preceded in death by his parents; siblings, Johnny Scheffer,



Sandra Scheffer Williams and Richard Scheffer.

Those left to cherish his memory include his wife of 40 years, Janice Scheffer; son, Albert Scheffer; brother, Larry

Wayne Scheffer (Vickie); nieces, Shelby and Julia Scheffer, Beth Scheffer, Melinda Palso, Elizabeth Brown and Krista Peebles; nephews, Nickolas Scheffer, John Cogburn and Zack Cogburn.

A memorial service will be held 11 a.m. EST, Friday, January 25, 2019 at the Gainous VFW Hall, Highland View (Port St. Joe), Florida.

The family request no flowers, but covets your thoughts, prayers and happy memories of Al Scheffer.

Those wishing to extend condolences may do so at www.heritagefhllc.com.

MARSHA LYNN DEWSBURY

Marsha Lynn Dewsbury nee Williams died early on January 4, 2019 at her home in Port St. Joe, FL.

Born in West City, IL on February 22, 1947 to James Lester Williams and Valera Adele Williams, she grew up in Joliet, IL where she met and married her husband of fifty-one years, Graham Morley Dewsbury. During their marriage they lived in Elmhurst, IL; Orange and Riverside counties in Southern California; Orlando, FL; Lincoln, Ne; Merriam, Ks; Noblesville, IN; and Xenia, IL where

Marsha contributed many news photo pictures to the Home Town Journal before retiring to Port St. Joe.

Marsha considered being a mother to be the paramount goal of her life. She raised six children: Johnathon Morley (Heather), Boise, ID; Tamara Lynn Seigel (Robert), Xenia, IL; Bryce Graham, Shawnee, KS; James Lester (Cheryl Diana), Greenville, NC; Frederick Burford (Biljana), Evansville, GA; and Graham Morley (Jennifer) Fayetteville, IN.

The children successfully settled in life and

grandchildren appearing regularly, Marsha had time to enjoy her other passions of photography, mineral collecting, shell collecting, the beach and, of course, her art.

Her studio in Port St. Joe remains full of her treasured collections and creations.

Marsha is survived by her husband, six children, 13 children and two brothers: James Michael Williams and Jonathan Hugh Williams.

Memorials and interment are for the immediate family only.

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. 26 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.

Men's Fellowship breakfast at New Life

New Life Christian Center will host a Men's Fellowship Breakfast at 9 a.m. ET Saturday, Jan. 26 at the church, located at 504 Sixth Street in Port St. Joe. The guest speaker will be Minister Aaron Ward from New Covenant Church.

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Winter, SAD and the January Effect



Margaret McDowell

"Ain't it foggy outside... all the planes have been grounded; Ain't the fire inside...let's all go and stand around it." "Sandman" as performed by America

All four of our seasons enthral me. Sometimes, though, I love winter just a little less than the others.

Days are shorter. Outdoor activities take a backseat to indoor gatherings. Last year's national winter flu epidemic was historic. More folks pass away in winter than in other seasons, especially older citizens. There's even an illness associated with winter and decreased sunlight and lowered serotonin levels: Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD).

So why do stock prices traditionally increase in January, right in the heart of cold, depressing weather? Or does the January Effect actually exist?

One reason stocks have risen in January is because there's often been a drop in December prices, as

investors and advisors frequently perform tax-loss harvesting to offset realized capital gains. This selling can cause a drop in prices, and January's buying returns them to normal. Some also believe that investors often employ year-end cash bonuses into the market in January, and this can cause prices to rise.

Some even believe that January is a "new beginning" for many investors, and the month benefits from financial resolutions associated with the New Year. A study which analyzed stock prices from 1904 to 1974 noted that the average return for stocks in January was five times that of any other month, and that this was especially true for small cap stocks.

That said, the impact has lessened over the last several decades; so much so, that some economists believe that the cost of transactions negates the possible small gain associated with purchasing stocks in January. Another concern is that stocks that rise in January may not hold their value in other months.

There's an urban legend that if you buy in January and sell in May (sell in May and go away), you'll profit every year. Here we arrive at the heart of investing strategy, which begs the

answer to two questions. One, what do you want this money (your investing dollars) to do for you, and two, when will you need it? If you want your investment dollars to make a small, extremely short-term profit, one that you'll capture in four months, the January Effect might interest you. But a seasoned investor with a longer time horizon won't be lassoed into this type of thinking. Say you're 65, and plan to retire at age 70. You want your assets to grow, and possibly produce income along the way if you need it. And you want to begin using the money at retirement. This is a plausible, common scenario. You've got a five-year time horizon. So what stocks do month to month is not your major concern.

Margaret R. McDowell, ChFC®, AIF®, author of the syndicated economic column "Arbor Outlook," is the founder of Arbor Wealth Management, LLC, (850.608.6121 - www.arborwealth.net), a fiduciary, "fee-only" registered investment advisory firm located near Destin, FL. This column should not be considered personalized investment advice and provides no assurance that any specific strategy or investment will be suitable or profitable for an investor.

UF/IFAS-Developed 'Florida Brilliance' shines for state's strawberry industry

By Brad Buck
UF/IFAS
Special to The Star

GAINESVILLE — For years, University of Florida scientists looked for a few characteristics in a more desirable strawberry. Among those traits was a higher yield in November and December — the early part of the Florida season when prices are highest.

They also sought better fruit for the consumer. That meant a longer shelf life, better flavor, improved shape and other traits, said Vance Whitaker, an associate professor of horticultural sciences at the UF Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

After a lot hard work, and through traditional breeding methods, UF/IFAS researchers came up with 'Florida Brilliance.'

"Our farmers need to produce more strawberries during this period in order to remain profitable," Whitaker said, the strawberry breeder for UF/IFAS. "This variety has beautiful, flavorful fruit that is available consistently throughout the season, from Thanksgiving to late March in Florida, and thus on grocery store shelves in

the eastern United States during this period. Much of the beauty of the fruit comes from its glossy, shiny appearance, thus the name 'Florida Brilliance.'

Adam Young, who runs a farm in Dover, Florida, said he's using 'Florida Brilliance' on about 45 acres, which represents about 25 percent of his land. Thus far, he's happy with the results.

Todd Jameson of Berry Bay Farms in nearby Wimauma, Florida, said rain does little damage to 'Florida Brilliance' strawberries.

Whitaker and his research team developed 'Florida Brilliance' through conventional cross-pollination, in which scientists choose two strawberry varieties as parents. Researchers chose the parent strawberries for their different but complementary characteristics.

They transfer pollen from one plant to the flower of the other using a camel's hair brush and collect the seeds from the resulting strawberries. Scientists then grow a couple of hundred seedlings from each cross and evaluate them. They choose and test the seedlings with the best characteristics from both parents.

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District drone program receives final approval from Triumph

By **Tim Croft**

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

Meeting in Gulf County seemed like the perfect time to provide final approval to a grant agreement between Gulf District Schools and Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.

The Triumph board, meeting at the Gulf/Franklin campus of Gulf Coast State College Monday, unanimously approved a \$750,000 grant to the school district to establish a multi-faced unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) program at the two high schools.

The \$750,000 represents 53.5 percent of the total cost of the program's implementation over the next five years with the school system matching that with \$652,000.

The district's contribution represents instructor salaries and benefits.

The Triumph portion will pay some salaries, stipends and dues as well as the cost of equipment, storage buildings, curriculum and supplies.

Under the terms of the grant agreement, in five years at least 200 students will obtain industry certification in small UAS safety, agricultural use of UAS or visual line of sight operation.

According to a press release from Triumph, "UAS is a high demand and growing industry sector that is well-matched to the needs of the local economy."

And Warren Yeager, county assistant administrator, said officials at Skyborne Technology, a designer and manufacturer of manned and unmanned aviation systems which recently located and expanded into Gulf County, are excited about the school program and the workforce it will help create.

Yeager came to the podium after Triumph board chair Don Gaetz asked if the county was still in support of the grant application in the wake of Hurricane Michael.

"We think this is a great opportunity for our new Skyborne Technology and we're excited about moving forward with this project," Yeager said.

The Board of County Commissioners has already decided to step back from a grant application for funding for floating dry dock in the shipping channel.

The BOCC, Gulf County School Board and city of Port St. Joe are instead seeking \$21 million over the next three years to mitigate projected loss of tax revenue.

The Gulf District Schools application was one of two formally awarded Monday, the other to Franklin District Schools for creation of a welding program and upgrades to computer

education and summer programs.

"I think these are wonderful examples of bringing vocational programs to rural areas," said Triumph board member Jason Shoaf. "And I think good jobs will follow."

Triumph to date

Monday's meeting marked 17 months into the 15-year term of Triumph Gulf Coast, legislatively charged with disbursing \$1.5 billion to eight Northwest Florida counties impacted by the 2010 BP oil spill.

Triumph has agreed to fund 14 grant applications that span all eight counties and totaling more than \$118 million, Gaetz detailed, citing a staff report.

Those funds have in turn leveraged private, state and federal dollars in the amount of \$405 million, a 3.4 to 1 return.

"We are generating substantial private investment and dollars from other sources," Gaetz said.

The seven infrastructure projects already funded will generate 3,380 direct and 5,056 indirect jobs in the region.

All the jobs are guaranteed as part of the grant funding contracts and pay higher than prevailing wages in Northwest Florida, according to a staff report.

The career and technical grant applications will result in 9,300 industry certifications in high demand sectors, Gaetz added.

Extrapolated out for the entire term of Triumph, Gaetz said the board was on track to create 42,000 direct and 69,000 indirect jobs in the region while leveraging Triumph's \$1.5 billion into more than \$5.1 billion.

"We seem to have come out of the blocks pretty fast," Gaetz said.

TDC

From Page B1

In short videos, the days, and damage, after Michael are reviewed and updated with business owners explaining why they chose to stay and rebuild in Gulf County and why the community remains a great one to visit.

"I'm very excited about this campaign," Godwin said.

"The message is reBuild, reVisit and reDiscover."

The campaign will target markets from which visitors have long made Gulf County a vacation spot.

"We are going to push it out to our loyal markets," Godwin said. "We want to get the word out to the people who love us."

And as the spring campaign is put in the can for unveiling in the next week or so, the calendar for winter visitors embraces those

concepts of rebuild, revisit and rediscover.

One of the earlier snowbirds to arrive came to the Welcome Center one day and wondered about opportunities to assist the community in rebuilding.

Spurred by the suggestion, the TDC assembled a winter fun calendar which includes a variety of activities to spruce the neighborhood.

There are three park beautification events, a blood drive and a clean-up of St.

Joseph Bay.

Three days will be set aside for an "Adopt a Mile" project cleaning local roadways as a well as a program through which a winter visitor can adopt a local family to assist with small home repairs, shopping, cooking or other household chores.

There will also be a one-day coastal cleanup in partnership with the Coastal Conservation Association.

Winter visitors can also volunteer with a local

non-profit on several initiatives.

"We put together these programs that we think helps everybody feel like they are part of the community and helping us rebuild," Godwin said.

The winter calendar also includes the popular Welcome Back reception at WindMark, though out of necessity it will be a tad scaled back.

"The people who are coming to help we are going to thank," Godwin said.

FRANKLIN COUNTY'S

DR. MLK, JR
BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

MONDAY, JANUARY 21, 2019

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THE STAR APALACHICOLA THE TIMES

WHAT SOUTHERN FOLKS EAT

Crock-pot soup and fragrant memories



Stephanie Hill-Frazier

"The smells of slow cooking spread around the house and impart a unique warmth matched only by the flavour of the food."

—Chef Yotam Ottolenghi

I bet you're like me and grew up in a home with a slow-cooker, or a Crock Pot, as it's most commonly known. I remember my mom's first one in the late '70s; it was green and had vegetables around the bottom edge for decoration, and the crock part was dark brown; a perfect representation of 1970s kitchen style.

It was all one piece; no convenient removable crock as they feature now. Washing it was always a tricky undertaking, because under no circumstances should the cord get wet or the pot be immersed!

I'm certainly glad modern manufacturers figured out that we needed removable crocks so we don't risk zapping ourselves in the name of cleanliness. Nonetheless, the meals these pots turned out made the trouble worth it.

I always enjoyed walking into the house after school when mom had a roast or some soup or chili in the crock pot. It was so fragrant and welcoming after a long day of P.E., algebra, and bus rides along Highway 98.

To walk in the door and know that someone had been thinking ahead and planning what our family would eat for dinner was comforting and home-y. Mom's beef stew was



Cheesy taco soup by Mama Steph. [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

especially fantastic after a full day of simmering, the flavors merging to create the most tender carrots, potatoes and meat.

I still use my slow-cooker frequently, though now it's a programmable one so I can tell it how long to cook on high or low before it switches to "keep warm."

That's a handy feature when one is busy working. I typically make soups and roasts in mine, like mom did, as well as chili.

The convenience of a slow cooker is exactly what every busy person needs; a meal ready when walking in the door in the evening is a happy greeting, taking the stress out of your day in a practical way.

Below I'll share a couple of my favorite recipes, including a dessert.

First, a rich, creamy taco-inspired soup. I didn't add any carbs, such as corn or beans, so if you're one of those folks who are low-carb dieting, this will work for you as well as for all the other folks in the house. Everyone loves this soup.

This delicious soup will fill your belly and keep you

warm...oh, and it's delicious, most importantly! Give it a try this weekend.

Cheesy taco soup by Mama Steph

- **2 pounds meat:** I used ground pork and ground turkey
- 2 eight-ounce blocks cream cheese
- 2 cans Rotel
- 4 cups of chicken broth
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- cayenne pepper, to taste (start with ½ teaspoon; work your way up to two teaspoons or more if you want a nice kick!)
- 1 large jalapeno, minced (remove seeds if you don't want spicy heat)
- Shredded cheese, for topping (Cheddar or Fiesta blend work well)

Method:

Brown the crumbled ground beef in a skillet; season with a teaspoon of salt. Add the jalapeno to allow it to soften in the pan for a minute or two while cooking the meat.

Drain off any fat that has rendered from the meat, then transfer meat and jalapeno to the slow cooker.



Crock-pot cooking. [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

Add the seasonings to the slow cooker, stirring into the meat. Add the cream cheese, chopped into chunks, and the Rotel. Stir. Pour the broth over all, and cover. Cook for two hours on high or four hours on low, until all is melted and heated through. Serve topped with a sprinkle of shredded cheese and, if desired, a dollop of sour cream. Enjoy!

Next, something sweet. Now, I'll be honest, crock pot desserts don't fall into the "lovely" category. They're not about beautiful presentation. They're about warmth, and slowing down, and enjoying something sweet and delicious on a cool night.

I came up with this easy recipe after buying an excess of apples, which became a happy accident. This was simple to put together and the result was warm, gooey, fruity goodness.

Apple-pecan crunch cake with cinnamon whipped cream

Ingredients:

- 5 large Granny Smith apples, peeled and sliced thin
- One yellow cake mix
- One stick of butter
- 1/3 cup sugar (optional)
- ½ cup dry oatmeal (not instant)
- ½ cup chopped pecans
- Cinnamon

Method:

1. Place sliced apples in bottom of slow cooker that has been sprayed with cooking spray (or use a slow-cooker liner for easiest clean up).

2. Sprinkle apples with sugar and a generous teaspoon of cinnamon.

3. In a medium bowl, combine cake mix, oats and pecans. Sprinkle evenly over apples.

4. Top cake mix with pats of butter, sprinkle with more cinnamon, then cover.

5. Cook on low for six hours or on high for four hours.

Makes six servings.

Top with whipped cream or a scoop of vanilla ice cream. You won't be disappointed!

What's your favorite slow cooker recipe? I'm always looking for new ones to try, so feel free to share with me via email at Steph@what-southernfolkseat.com.

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 substantially taller than she is. You can find more of her recipes at What-SouthernFolksEat.com.

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