

Storm stories

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Adults: Saturday, February 9 from 10:30- 12:00
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STORM STORIES B1

County seeks debris deadline extension

By Tim Croft
The Port St. Joe Star
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County officials were in Tallahassee Wednesday with a focus on securing an extension of the deadline for placing storm debris on the roadside.

County Administrator Michael Hammond, initially expressed pessimism the county could secure an extension beyond Jan. 31 for placing storm debris roadside for pick-up by county and state contractors.

But Tuesday, Hammond struck a somewhat more

optimistic tone.

Hammond referenced recent conversations across a broad range of topics with State Sen. George Gainer, a top topic being the roadside debris removal deadline.

"There is a pretty good chance we'll get an extension," Hammond said, adding a note of caution but also that Gainer supported the idea.

The county will need two approvals to secure a deadline extension.

One would be the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which Hammond believed to be the lower of the two hurdles.

The second would be the

Florida Department of Transportation, which under an October 2018 order by former Gov. Rick Scott is picking up the tab for storm debris removal in several rural counties, including Gulf.

The Gulf County bill on removal of over 2 million cubic yards and counting of storm debris is estimated to ultimately fall between \$50 million and \$100 million.

When county commissioners set the Jan. 31 deadline, officials noted that the FDOT had stated a preference for a deadline 11 days earlier.

At the time, Hammond did not believe the county could secure an extension, but a

significant percentage of property owners and homeowners are still dealing with insurance companies and decisions to rebuild.

Meeting that deadline would be problematic for many expressing views on social media and in county meetings.

The Jan. 31 deadline is for placing storm debris roadside.

The debris, commissioners continued to note, will continue to be picked up until all storm debris is gone, with the FDOT and FEMA aiming for an early March completion.

See COUNTY, A2

PSJ mayoral race takes shape

City awards bid for lift station repairs

By Tim Croft
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The election season remains a few months away, but the race to be the next mayor of the city of Port St. Joe is already being cast.

A pair of public announcements last week indicated that when Election Day rolls around in early May, incumbent Mayor Bo Patterson will face a challenge from former commissioner Rex Buzzett.

There might be more candidates when May rolls around, but for right now, at least, Patterson and Buzzett is the field.

During a meeting of the City Commission last week, Patterson announced he would seek another term.

"I did a lot of soul searching," Patterson said. "I decided I'd like one more term."

Patterson will be seeking his third term as mayor after two prior terms as city commissioner.

"If I win another term I would be 10 years in office," Patterson said. "There are a lot of people who depend on me."

Days after Patterson's announcement, Buzzett indicated that he would seek the office of mayor.

Buzzett ended a 10-year tenure as a city commissioner a year ago.

Hurricane Michael was a determining factor.

"When the storm hit I wanted to be part of recovery back to where we were or even better," Buzzett said.

Two other commission seats will be in play this spring.

Commissioner Eric Langston would be seeking a full two-year term after earning re-election to the appointed seat a year ago.

Commissioner David Ashbrook would also seek a new term.

Ashbrook and Langston have not signaled their plans.

Election qualifying

Commissioners last week approved moving ahead with an ordinance which would eliminate paying a fee as the only way to qualify for a city election.

The city hopes to adopt a model similar to the county, which requires candidates to secure signatures from a certain percentage of the voting populace.

If not completed within a defined window, a candidate would have to pay a qualifying fee.

Commissioner Scott Hoffman, making a motion after recommendation from Patterson, said he did not want to disqualify any potential candidate due to the \$500 qualifying fee.

See PSJ, A2

County, FEMA move on housing at Veterans Park

Governor pays a visit to site

By Tim Croft
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The governor got a sneak peek.

A couple of hours before the Board of County Commissioners last week unanimously approved moving ahead with placing FEMA emergency housing at Veterans Memorial Park at Beacon Hill, newly-elected Gov. Ron DeSantis paid a visit to the site.

Part of a tour of areas impacted by Hurricane Michael and the progress of recovery, county and FEMA officials gave DeSantis a tour of the proposed site for trailers or RVs for displaced residents.



Gov. Ron DeSantis greets George Duren to discuss the Honor Walk proposed for Veterans Park
[TIM CROFT | THE STAR]

See HOUSING, A6

County awards contracts for solid waste, Eastern project

By Tim Croft
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County residents will have a new trash collector and the Eastern Shipbuilding project on the former paper mill bulkhead took a leap forward Tuesday.

During a regular monthly meeting of the Board of County Commissioners, the board formally awarded the bid for the contract for solid waste collection to BCC Waste Solutions with offices in Florida and

Alabama.

BCC was deemed by county staff to be the low bidder for a new five-year contract as the county's current five-year deal with Waste Pro is set to expire in the spring.

Waste Pro was the determined to the second-lowest bidder; Waste Management also bid on the contract but was significantly more costly than the bids from BCC and Waste Pro.

The new five-year contract will bring with it yard debris pick-up; the contract calls for weekly yard debris pick-up

but County Administrator Michael Hammond was given leeway to negotiate monthly or bi-monthly pick-up for a lower price.

Under the new contract, customers in the county, now currently paying about \$17 per month with no yard debris pick-up, will pay \$22.75 with yard debris pick-up.

The contract with BCC would also include a 2 percent annual cost-of-living increase.

Waste Pro's price under a five-year contract with yard debris pick-up was \$22.90.

Waste Pro would additionally charge a 4 percent annual cost of living increase.

Hammond said BCC was also lower across the board with commercial rates.

Commissioners approved notification to Waste Pro that upon completion of the current contract, the county will move to a new vendor and also notice to Waste Pro concerning the purchase of the transfer station at the Five Points landfill.

Waste Pro leases the site from the county.

See PROJECT, A2



COUNTY

From Page A1

Hammond said should the county not receive an extension of the Jan. 31 deadline, commissioners needed to be ready to address "derelict" properties which have gone virtually untouched since Hurricane Michael.

He said if the county did not step in and begin the process of clean-up, placing liens on property for taxpayer funded work, the county would be dealing with trash and debris for years.

"We've got to get some of these eyesores cleaned up," said Commissioner Sandy Quinn, Jr.

In the past week, the Board of County Commissioners approved two resolutions which will allow work to begin clearing debris posing a health or safety threat from private roads and property.

Triumph grant to abate taxes

An application from three local taxing authorities for relief from ad valorem tax shortfalls passed the first hurdle toward a grant from Triumph Gulf Coast.

Staff at Triumph, charged with disbursing \$1.5 billion in BP fine dollars to eight Northwest Florida counties, has approved a pre-application from the BOCC, city of Port St. Joe and Gulf County School Board.

The three governing bodies are seeking more than \$21 million over the next three years to provide revenue to offset projected loss of property and sales tax revenue.

The initial projections from Property Appraiser Mitch Burke estimate the BOCC tax loss as much \$4 million for the coming year.

The city of Port St. Joe is estimating larger losses due to revenue dips from sewer and water revenues.

Hammond said he believed the Triumph board may hold back on any final action until

after the current session of the Florida Legislature, which carries the potential for legislative relief.

Volunteer work post-Michael

A brief summary of work performed by Samaritan's Purse in Northwest Florida from its Wewahitchka site highlighted the relief effort of the non-profit organization.

According to Jennifer Metello, 1,523 work orders were filed out of the Wewahitchka site with 742 completed by Samaritan's Purse, 517 completed by other organizations or groups with 264 left to be completed.

In all, the organization expended 48,496 volunteer hours, which under FEMA reimbursement guidelines represents money that will come back to the community.

Samaritan's Purse closed the Wewahitchka site last week and is due to complete outstanding work orders by Feb. 16.

PROJECT

From Page A1

Commissioners also emphasized the importance of BCC hiring local residents currently working for Waste Pro.

"The employees on the trucks have been great," said Commissioner Sandy Quinn, Jr. "It's a different story when dealing with the company."

Eastern project

Commissioners also approved bid awards for several components of Eastern Shipbuilding's Gulf County project to create an outfitting yard at the former paper mill site.

Groundbreaking took place earlier this year after the county was awarded a \$6 million grant from the Florida Department of Transportation to facilitate the expansion of Eastern operations.

Specifically and immediately, Eastern intends to outfit three Staten Island ferries at the facility.

The bids awarded Tuesday were for site work and construction of a security fence along the bulkhead area Eastern is leasing from the St. Joe Company.

No bid was submitted for construction of a warehouse; Hammond said the county would rebid that contract on an expedited basis.

The costs of all projects will be paid from the FDOT grant, Hammond said.

Sand project

Another bid awarded Tuesday went to Roberts and Roberts, low bidder on a project to excavate

the county's sand pit in Dalkeith.

The county is seeking an additional revenue stream from selling the sand, which may also turn out to be suitable for a beach restoration project hopefully beginning in the spring.

Business update

Economic Development Coalition director Jim McKnight provided a brief overview on the state of the local business sector following Hurricane Michael.

As of last week, 78 percent of the county's businesses, or 201 of 259, had reopened.

That included 63 percent of the county's restaurants.

On the south end of the county, 73 percent of businesses had opened, including 75 percent of Port St. Joe businesses, McKnight said.

On the north end, 98 percent of businesses have re-opened.

"Our businesses are doing their best to rebuild," McKnight said.

As for Gulf Correctional Institution, McKnight said the projected opening for the main facility is May of this year with May 2020 the target date for re-opening the annex.

Hammond and Commissioner Ward McDaniel expressed frustration with the projected timeline and Hammond was asked to lobby the Department of Corrections for a quicker turnaround.

Currently, former GCI employees are working at DOC facilities in Franklin, Calhoun and Washington counties.

And public school enrollment is at 95.4 percent of pre-Michael levels.

"We did not lose our workforce," McKnight said of the school numbers. "We've kind of held ourselves together."

PSJ

From Page A1

Disaster funding

In what surely will be the first of a long series, the city last week awarded contracts for repairs wrought by Hurricane Michael.

In this case, the city will spend \$417,000 to repair 12 lift stations within the water/sewer infrastructure.

Paperwork has been submitted to the State Revolving Fund for disaster funding through the Department of Environmental Protection, with hopes of securing a grant/loan package to cover the costs.

However, the city still faces the costs of fixing the three

Paperwork has been submitted to the State Revolving Fund for disaster funding through the Department of Environmental Protection, with hopes of securing a grant/loan package to cover the costs.

largest lift stations in the city; at First Street, 20th Street and Oak Grove. All are larger, more complex and more costly projects than the repairs to the other 12, all damaged during Michael.

The city has been considering methods of funding the First Street station repairs for some two years without success, the costs beyond the city's means.

Solid waste collection

As the Board of County Commissioners finalized its next solid waste contract Tuesday, the city is still out to bid for its next


contractor.

The county-adopted bid from BCC Waste Solutions included a price of \$17.52 per month per customer to serve the city, including yard debris.

Under the current Waste Pro contract, which does not expire until the fall, city customers pay about \$13 per month, but the city provides the yard debris pick-up.


A consideration for city officials is the loss of several employees in the aftermath of Hurricane Michael, which has eliminated the city's ability to perform yard debris pick-up.

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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.

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OPINION

Practicing politics at a high level

By Lee H. Hamilton
Special to The Star

Over a lifetime in politics, I've met a lot of interesting, impressive politicians. But those I truly admired were men and women who were adept at the arts both of politics and legislating — a rarer combination of talents than you'd hope for in our representative democracy. They're a reminder these days of what consummate skill looks like.

For instance, Wilbur Mills, a Democrat from Arkansas who chaired the House Ways and Means Committee, was a master of legislative detail. When he brought changes to the tax law to the floor, members of the House of both parties would simply ask him questions, rather than challenge him, because his grasp of the internal revenue code was so overwhelming. When Mills was on the floor, it was never really an equal debate.

The same held for Jim Wright of Texas and Hale Boggs of Louisiana, also both Democrats. They were great orators with vibrant, unique voices that drew audiences to the House floor and galleries simply to hear them. They seldom referred to notes, but I suspect they practiced — the chuckle in the right place, the extended pause at the perfect moment. They were masters at using humor as an effective weapon to counter an opponent and deflect critics.

Edith Green, a Democrat from Oregon, served ten terms in the House from the mid-'50s to the mid-'70s. She specialized in education and was a potent force behind Title IX, the 1972 law that did so much to end sex discrimination in education. Green, too, was a highly effective debater, who did not back down from a fight she chose to wage — but who also had a keen sense of when the time was right to wage it. She paved the way for many talented women who followed her.

Charlie Halleck of Indiana and H.R. Gross of Iowa, both Republican, were parliamentary masters. I often saw them block or delay measures I personally supported, and had to admire their skill at stalling, slowing down or just plain defeating legislation by the adroit use of just the right parliamentary maneuver.

Meanwhile, John Anderson of Illinois served as the principal Republican voice at a time when the GOP was in the minority. He was a powerful debater, took delight in verbal combat, and was often the lone voice against an onslaught of speakers from the majority party. He spoke forcefully, and out of a genuinely deep devotion to the nation that made plain his ideals.

You couldn't call Tip O'Neill, the legendary Speaker of the House from Massachusetts, a great orator. But he was a truly great politician. He had a knack for putting people at ease, calming tensions, and softening debates. He made everyone in the room feel as though they were all in it together — whatever the "it" was that O'Neill was focused on.

Mike Mansfield, the Senate Majority Leader from Montana, had similar gifts. He was easily the most popular man in Congress during the years he served: he was decent, humble, fair-minded, and he spread credit to everyone around him while taking none for himself. He had a bedrock integrity about him and knew how to use his consummate personal skills to make the process work — even dealing with the difficult egos you could find in the Senate.

I routinely watched Senators Hubert Humphrey, a Democrat from Minnesota, and Jacob Javits, a Republican from New York, come into a meeting, quickly grasp the issues, speak to them forcefully and right to the point, and then move on to their next meeting — on an entirely different issue — and give the same performance. Their ability to jump from agriculture to nuclear proliferation to health care to education — all in the course of a few hours — was astounding.

Finally, Speaker Carl Albert of Oklahoma somehow managed to unite both northeastern liberals and southern conservatives in his party. They were opposed to one another in ideology and culture, yet Albert often reconciled the irreconcilable with grace and insight. He spent hours listening patiently to people, trying to understand their points of view, patch things up, and find even the tiniest plot of ground for consensus.

Next: What they all had in common.

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

HUNKER DOWN

Humbled to be in their company



Kesley Colbert

E Elvis was born in January. So was Martin Luther King, Jr. And Dolly Parton, Benjamin Franklin, Edgar Allan Poe, Jackie Robinson, Sir Isaac Newton and Joan of Arc. You know all about these guys.

Dennis Geoghagan was also born in January. You ask Dennis how he is doing and his answer every time is "better than I deserve." The ole boy ain't lying either. He married an absolutely beautiful — inside and out — lady who can sing better than Rosemary Clooney, Tammy Wynette and Diana Ross combined!

Dennis and Kay are the parents of the three most wonderful daughters I ever played chase with under the pews after the preacher mercifully finished the benediction. Those girls are now grown up, just as pretty as their mom, and blessing lives all around them in most remarkable ways. I thank God every day for their touch and influence on my life!

Dennis is quick to tell you how "lucky" he is and how "blessed", but that ain't exactly the way it is. He might not have made the famous list in the first paragraph, but he's obviously done something right with his life!

Robert Holmes Brewer is another January baby who also didn't make the above list — except in my mind. Bobby

is two days younger than me. But he was a whole lot smarter! He'd take our boring stacks of firewood and make forts out of them. He showed me how to take charcoal, sulfur and saltpeter and make gunpowder. You couldn't count the hundreds of army men we blew off our side porch.

Bobby had the first BB gun in our group. And the first pellet gun. We hunted unsuspecting cans, mailboxes, glass insulators high up on those electric poles, birds.....and the remains of the army men we'd blown off the porch. To say we tasted — and tested — life together would be the understatement of the century.

Pamela Ruth Collins was a January girl. And like Bobby, I don't remember a day in my life that she wasn't there. Of course, we didn't speak much in kindergarten or elementary school; it was the girl-boy thing. And we never dated one day in our whole lives. But by junior high I was more than confused over lots of things; foremost was this feeling that girls didn't all have cooties.

Pam set me up with her cousin Charlotte in the eighth grade. She was there the January we all turned sixteen AND life got complicated. She was never shy about telling me how to live, and when needed, jerking me back to reality. But she had a great shoulder when life threw me a curve. Pam, in retrospect, was a girl-friend indeed!

James Edward Wiggleton also joined us in January. Buddy taught me how to laugh. I'm telling you, the glass was completely full with Bud. He enjoyed every moment more

than anyone I've ever known. Oh, he could get mad as a wet hen, but it never lasted. And even his mad was funny. The joy he brought to every life in his path is immeasurable. I loved to see him coming. I can see why God called him home so early. Listen, if I was God and had a choice between me and anybody else....or Buddy, I'd pick Buddy every time!

Franklin D. Kennedy was as good as they come. Born in the January ten years prior to mine, he was the uncle that picked me to be his best buddy. He'd get down on his knees in the early days, so we'd be "eyeball to eyeball". In granddaddy's back yard he'd stay out and play pitch with me when all the others had gone in to eat.

Uncle F.D. would let you break the rules. And laugh about it. He kept my older brother off my back. And best of all, he never left the house without me. He didn't say I was special in his life.....he proved it by his every action! He was way more of a friend than an uncle.

His eldest daughter, Tami, is also a January-ian. She is my second favorite cousin and I wouldn't dare throw off on her.....but she'll drive you nuts with questions about Pa and Gran, Uncle Hugh, Aunt May White..... Our family history is in good hands!

And the first month of this year, we celebrate the twelfth birthday of our eldest granddaughter, Addison Grace Colbert. I'm telling you, the January celebrities just keep on coming.....

Respectfully,
Kes

CRANKS MY TRACTOR

Afraid of the music



BN Heard

Still being temporarily away from my normal day job and office, I have been hanging out more at the college that I teach for on a part-time basis. I have enjoyed the extra time with others who work there and my students. As I sat working on the next week's lectures and assignments, a gentleman came in to work on the computer and the large monitor that sits in front of the classroom.

Asking what the issue was, he noted that another instructor had been having trouble getting videos to play on the monitor, specifically YouTube videos. He and another fellow determined that the problem wasn't with the computer, the instructor just didn't know which "button to push" on the remote control.

To prove it, the fellow pulled up a video on YouTube and had it playing (loudly) in the front of the classroom. It caught me by surprise and as a matter of fact, I had one of those milliseconds of fear moments that you sometimes get when you "almost" get in a car accident or "almost" drop your dinner plate on the stone tile covered kitchen floor.

The song was "Dueling Banjos" which most folks, including myself, associate with the movie, "Deliverance." If you have seen the movie, you should understand my millisecond of fear moment and

my quickly looking over my shoulder. The movie had three Oscar nominations and five Golden Globe nominations. Not that those accolades are important to me, but only that a lot of folks seemed to enjoy murder and all kinds of bad stuff going on in the Deep South.

It is another movie that stereotypes Southerners as red-neck inbred uneducated folks in my opinion. But, it was made in a time that if you put Burt Reynolds in a movie, folks were going to watch it. "My Cousin Vinny," which I love watching, does the same thing, poking fun at Southerners, specifically Alabamians — I love it, too.

When I get past the millisecond of fear associated with the tune, Dueling Banjos, or "Feuding Banjos," as it was first named, I do enjoy the song. And there is actually an interesting story that goes along with the song and the movie that a lot of folks do not know about.

The movie makers used the song without the permission of the fellow who wrote the song. The writer, Arthur Smith, was known primarily for two of his songs at his death in 2014. One was called, "Guitar Boogie" and the other, "Feuding Banjos," which was called "Dueling Banjos" in the movie "Deliverance."

Mr. Smith hired a lawyer and went after the movie makers for using it without his permission. They offered him \$15,000 to go away, and of course he did not. He took them to court and won a very large settlement that included all the royalties and future royalties owed to him for his song, being such an important part of the movie and its success.

Arthur Smith was born on April 1, in 1921, in Clinton, South Carolina. His father, a mill worker, taught music and played in a band — giving Arthur his musical roots. Arthur was playing cornet with his daddy's band by the time he was 11. By age 14, he had his own radio show, and by 15 he had made his first record, for RCA Victor.

Mr. Smith turned down two college football scholarships and an appointment to the Naval Academy to focus on his radio/music work. In the early 1940s, he moved to Charlotte, North Carolina, to work for a CBS affiliate radio station, WBT. Afterwards, he performed with the Navy band during World War II. He had his own syndicated country music variety show from 1951 to 1982.

His song, "Guitar Boogie" was considered a precursor to the rock and roll music of the coming decades, and has been covered by musicians including Les Paul, Chuck Berry and Alvin Rey. More than a decade after the song was released, a nervous young guitarist messed up the solo during his first performance with a Liverpool group called the "Quarrymen." The young guitarist was Paul McCartney and the "Quarrymen" would go on to evolve into "The Beatles."

Perhaps I should not worry about those "milliseconds of fear," it is noted in Psalm 32:7, "You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance." With that, I will give you a wink.

Read more stories at www.CranksMyTractor.com.



Published every Thursday at 135 W. U.S. 98, Port St. Joe, FL 32456

Publisher: Tim Thompson
Editor: Tim Thompson

Circulation: 850-522-5197

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6 Months: \$15.75 \$21
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LOCAL

SBA accepting late applications for physical damage loans

Special to The Star

If you are located in a declared disaster area, you may be eligible for financial assistance from the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA). In the aftermath of Hurricane Michael in the Florida Panhandle several counties were declared under the Presidential declaration to receive disaster assistance. Gulf County is one the eleven counties that were listed as primary counties in the disaster area.

The U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA) provides low-interest, long-term disaster loans to businesses of all sizes, private non-profit organizations, homeowners, and renters to repair or replace uninsured/underinsured disaster damaged property. SBA disaster loans offer an affordable way for individuals and businesses to recover from declared disasters.

The U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA) provides low-interest, long-term disaster loans to businesses of all sizes, private non-profit organizations, homeowners, and renters to repair or replace uninsured/underinsured disaster damaged property. SBA disaster loans offer an affordable way for individuals and businesses to recover from declared disasters.

What Types of Disaster Loans are Available?

Home Disaster Loans: For their primary residence, homeowners may be eligible for up to \$200,000 for repair/replacement costs not covered by insurance. Renters may be eligible for a property damage loan up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property, including clothing, furniture, appliances and even vehicles. Deadline passes on December 17, 2018. Local DRC is accepting late filings. (The SBA Customer Services Representatives at

the local DRC will decide on case-by-case basis the validity and acceptance of any loan application pass the deadline. We ask you to bring a written statement with the reasoning for your late application.)

Business Physical Disaster Loans: Repair or replace disaster damaged property owned by the business, including real estate, inventories, supplies, machinery and equipment. Businesses of any size are eligible. Private, non profit organizations such as charities, churches, private universities may also be eligible. The law limits business loans to \$2,000,000 for the repair or replacement of

real estate, inventories, machinery, equipment and all other physical losses. Deadline passes on December 17, 2018. Local DRC is accepting late filings. (The SBA Customer Services Representatives at the local DRC will decide on case-by-case basis the validity and acceptance of any loan application pass the deadline. We ask you to bring a written statement with the reasoning for your late application.)

Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL): Working capital loans to help small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture, and most private, non profit organizations of all sizes meet their ordinary and necessary financial obligations that cannot be met as a direct result of the disaster. These loans are intended to assist through the disaster recovery period.

The law limits EIDLs to \$2,000,000 for

alleviating economic injury caused by the disaster. The actual amount of each loan is limited to the economic injury determined by SBA, less business interruption insurance and other recoveries up to the administrative lending limit. EIDL assistance is available only to entities and their owners who cannot provide for their own recovery from non government sources, as determined by the U.S. Small Business Administration. Deadline is July 11, 2019.

Even after the deadline, if you had hardship and extreme circumstances that precluded you to file an application timely, you may go to the local Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) and apply for a physical damage loan.

Once the DRC closes, we will not be able to offer in-person assistance close to your location. Your option at the time will remain the SBA Customer Service Center that

can be reached at 1-800-659-2955 or the ELA for checking status of your application.

In Gulf County the Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) managed by FEMA is still opened at the Wewahitchka Branch Library (314 N. 2nd St., Wewahitchka, FL 32465)

The hours of operations are (CST) Monday-Friday 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

All applicants could call the SBA Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 and ask for a list of the open centers close to their location at any time.

Three ways to apply: 1) online; 2) in-person at a disaster center; or 3) by mail.

Apply online at the SBA's secure website <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>

For additional information on SBA disaster assistance loans, please visit our website: <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/Information/Index>

Seinfeld, The Diner Bill and Gregg Allman



Margaret McDowell

"These days I seem to think a lot... about the things that I forgot to do...for you... And all the times I had the chance to."

"These Days" as performed by Gregg Allman

George Costanza is in a diner and he thinks he's having a heart attack and tells Jerry and Elaine. Right about then the bill comes and George looks at it. There's a mistake and he's been overcharged. The trio delay rushing George to the hospital

I recently read several articles about what people regret most at the end of life. All the expected responses were listed, including spending too much time at the office; not trying hard enough to save a struggling marriage; failing to spend more time with family and children; regrets about being a better parent; not paying proper attention to our health; not reconnecting with old friends who were once important to us; and not following our "true north" in a choice of vocation. Surprisingly, one item listed that many people regret is not taking better care of their finances.

so he can complain to the waitress about the erroneous amount.

This genius episode of "Seinfeld," written by Larry David, tells us a lot about our relationship with money. It's something we care deeply about, even when we think we're dying.

I recently read several articles about what people regret most at the end of life. All the expected responses

were listed, including spending too much time at the office; not trying hard enough to save a struggling marriage; failing to spend more time with family and children; regrets about being a better parent; not paying proper attention to our health; not reconnecting with old friends who were once important to us; and not following our "true north" in a choice of

vocation. Surprisingly, one item listed that many people regret is not taking better care of their finances.

Isn't that interesting? You'd think that that would be the last thing on peoples' minds during life's final stage, but instead, it's often a major consideration. And it makes sense when you think about it. How we handle our financial affairs is related to our quality of life and the lifestyle that we're able to enjoy and provide for our family and our heirs. And it's often commensurate with exercising willpower in various other areas: if we don't have the self-discipline to exercise or balance our home and office hours, we probably won't have the willpower to organize and care for

our financial health. People very much regret not saving and investing money during their peak earning years or having squandered their resources.

Of course, it goes without saying that many folks delay addressing estate planning issues. One of the great entertainers of our generation, Aretha Franklin, died last year without proper estate planning. We're all guilty of postponing these duties. Nobody wants to spend an afternoon poring over the details of their own demise. That said, estate planning is something we address as an important kindness to those around us.

The fact is, organizing our personal finances, saving for retirement, and living on a

reasonable budget are all significant factors in creating a healthy life for ourselves, and in minimizing regret. We ignore our financial health at our own peril, just as we fail to take care of our selves physically at our own risk.

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.

FEMA appeal clinics

Star Staff Report

If you have been denied for assistance by FEMA and wish to find it is you qualify to appeal that decision, the office of Florida Sen. Marco Rubio will host two appeal clinics in the county.

The first will be held 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. ET

Jan. 29 at the Port St. Joe Public Library, located at 110 Library Drive.

The second will be held 1-5 p.m. CT Jan. 30 at the Wewahitchka Gulf County Senior Citizens Center, located at 314 N. 3rd Street.

Please bring a denial letter and recent FEMA correspondence.

CCA annual meeting Feb. 9

Star Staff Report

The Coastal Community Association of Gulf County will hold its annual meeting 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. ET Saturday, Feb. 9 at St. Joseph Bay Golf Club.

State and local elected officials have been invited to speak

and there will be presentations on Salinas Park upgrades, T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park, Triumph Gulf Coast and Florida Department of Transportation priorities.

The meeting is open to the public.



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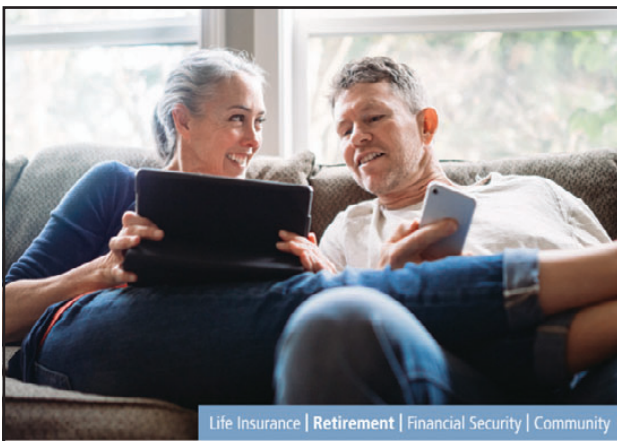
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HOUSING

From Page A1

They were joined by a couple of dozen neighbors of the park who questioned the governor and county officials about the site and future plans.

The questions continued during a special meeting two hours later during which the BOCC formally adopted the FEMA plan and voted to move ahead on requisite paperwork.

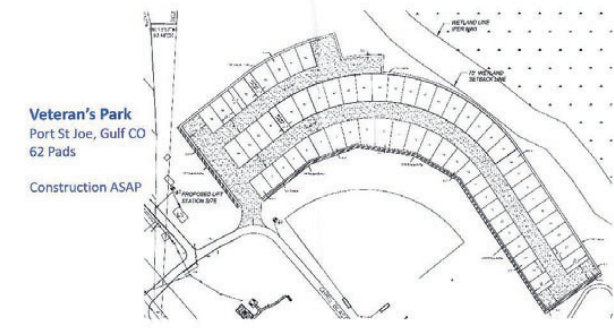
The 2.94 acres for the housing, of the park's 40 or so acres, are located in the back of the park, near an existing tree line.

The current proposal is for 62 sites for trailers or RVs, with FEMA constructing the pads and installing all utilities.

FEMA officials said due to the extent that wetlands dominated the county, the Veterans Park site was the best and quickest way to bring badly-needed emergency housing to the county.

Disposing of one rumor while the governor was on the site, a FEMA official said the housing was only for displaced residents, not for workers in the area as part of the recovery effort.

While it is possible that some residents of Bay County, specifically Mexico Beach, may be located at the park, the housing will be occupied by Gulf County



Veteran's Park
Port St Joe, Gulf CO
62 Pads
Construction ASAP

The tentative plan calls for 62 pads for RVs/trailers at the back end of the park. [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

residents.

Fencing will be placed around the site and a vegetative barrier will be part of the landscaping to provide as much separation from the main park as possible.

There will also be wetlands setbacks.

"We are doing everything we can to make it aesthetically pleasing and not impact the park of community as best we can," said County Assistant Administrator Warren Yeager.

Once all the paperwork on a lease agreement between FEMA and the county is formalized, construction would take about 45 days, FEMA officials indicated.

During the special meeting, held before a near standing-room-only audience, neighbors of the park expressed concerns about traffic, noise, lights and safety.

Several wondered if there would be a constant police presence.

But, by far, the most significant issue for residents was what would happen when FEMA leaves.

The goal, a FEMA official said, is to have everybody out of emergency housing and into permanent housing by April 2020.

Once everybody has left, FEMA provided the option of returning the park site to its original state or leaving behind all infrastructure for the county.

Residents wanted assurances, even in writing contained in any lease document that the park will return to its current state once the housing mission is completed.

"I don't think anybody here doesn't want to help people," said resident Randall Copeland. "All we ask

you is something in writing that says this will be returned to its natural intent."

And that intent, several residents noted, extended beyond a park and green space to the park's demarcation as a tribute to the county's veterans.

"I want to see Veterans Park go back to what it was intended to be and not become Beacon Hill RV Park," said resident Deborah Mayes.

Brian Cahill is a member of the board currently fundraising for construction of an Honor Walk, with large, distinctive flags honoring the branches of the military, along the bluff at Veterans Park.

George Duren, another member of the committee, was present for the governor's visit with a sign and photo of the proposed Honor Walk.

Cahill noted the county commissioners approved the Honor Walk concept, and spending bed tax dollars, to make the walk a showcase for Gulf County.

"I don't think it would be true if it became an RV park," Cahill said.

During the governor's visit, County Administrator Michael Hammond said the final decision on what happens to site will rest with commissioners.

Commissioners emphasized that they were simply making the decision to move ahead on the plan last week.

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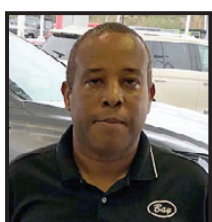
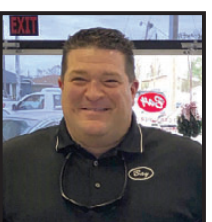

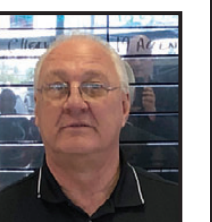



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OUTDOORS

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Public: Leave state park breach be

State should accommodate Mother Nature

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

A well-attended meeting last week highlighted a strong opinion from the public about what state park officials should do about the breach in the beach near Eagle Harbor at T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park.

Leave it be and plan the park's next phase around the breach.

Reflecting the opinion of the vast majority of those commenting on social media, all but one of the nearly dozen speakers at last week's public meeting at the Gulf/Franklin campus of Gulf Coast State College expressed a desire for the breach to be left to

Mother Nature.

Several speakers, including local boater Don Waits and Dusty May with the organization BAYSAVERS, said the breach provided a "golden opportunity" to enhance what is already one of the state's most popular parks.

Their paths to that consensus converged from different starting spots.

Waits said with armoring to hold the beach sand in place on either side of the breach, the park, with an island at the northern end, would be even more attractive to visitors.

"Everybody loves to visit an island," he said, adding that by rehabbing and expanding existing infrastructure, the island would further the park's mission of providing natural habitat.

Capt. Mark Howze, a charter fisherman, said the breach also saves miles, and fuel and dollars, for



State officials say the breach at the peninsula state park has filled significantly with accreted sand. [FILE PHOTOS]

charter boats operating out of St. Joseph Bay.

For May, and several others who spoke, the breach is all about the health of St. Joseph Bay.

As with Howze and Waits, May said the bay waters appear to be improving due to the flushing influx of salt water into the ecosystem.

May noted that the bay receives an outsized amount of freshwater discharge through the Gulf County canal, built for the benefit of the St. Joe Company during the operational heyday of the paper mill.

That water, May noted, brings with its thousands of cubic yards of silt from industrial and farming operations to the north; that silt, May said, was being scraped out of many coastal homes in the days after Hurricane Harvey.

May said it is no secret that in recent years there has been significant loss of seagrass beds in the bay; many long-time users of the bay point to the discharges out of the canal.

"We ask what is happening to our bay ... it is filling



Several speakers said an island on the north end of the park would burnish the park's allure.

in with silt," May said.

But the salt water from the bay provides something of a cleansing solution, working its way south along the park side of the bay and park officials, he argued, should work to maintain the breach.

Speaker after speaker urged the breach to be left alone, with armoring and ferry system or causeway to allow access to the northern tip.

Not every speaker was of similar mind, with resident Danny Clay saying he would like to see the beach

restored to allow his family to visit their favorite parts of the park, the campgrounds and nature trails.

And a representative of the Florida Audubon Society urged park officials to carefully plan next steps while aiming to maintain the pristine nature of the peninsula's tip where many migratory birds, including the snowy plover, make an annual stop.

As Daniel Alsentzer, with the Florida Division of Parks, said, Mother Nature seems already to have an idea about the breach.

Originally, according to

one park official, nearly 300 yards wide and 30 feet deep, the breach has significantly filled with sand accreting from the south.

As the county's coastal engineer has long stated, the currents along the peninsula will naturally carry sand south to north.

The breach, park officials said last week, is now all not navigable by boat.

And, Alsentzer said, the price tag for renovating the park is already estimated at \$14 million and that cost is without doing anything to restore the breach.

The park sustained significant damage beyond the Eagle Harbor area, with the two primary campgrounds all but wiped out and trees downed throughout the park.

The state has already spent \$300,000 clearing and cleaning the park, which opened on a limited basis last Friday.

Access is limited to the south end of the park and is daytime only.

And there is a push to open the park, which attracts more than a quarter million visitors per year, bringing an economic impact to the area of \$21 million, and an estimated 300 jobs, Alsentzer said.

Alsentzer said the Division of Parks has put no plans to paper for the park and last week's meeting was the first step in soliciting local feedback.

Written comments will be taken until Feb. 1.

Alsentzer added that due to the extent of the damage, a new 10-year unit plan must likely be drafted for the park; the park was in year four of its current unit plan when Michael hit.

He added that has plans are formulated, the agency will return to the public for additional feedback.

WEEKLY ALMANAC

Date	High	Low	% Precip
Thu, January 24	54°	37°	10%
Fri, January 25	56°	35°	0%
Sat, January 26	56°	39°	0%
Sun, January 27	56°	42°	10%
Mon, January 28	59°	45°	20%
Tues, January 29	61°	36°	20%
Wed, January 30	48°	33°	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
24	Th			9:20a -0.4	
25	Fr	12:48a 0.8		9:26a -0.1	
26	Sa	1:59a 0.4	3:58p 0.3	8:41a 0.1	11:01p 0.0
27	Su	3:53p 0.7			
28	Mo	4:20p 0.9		1:40a -0.2	
29	Tu	4:59p 1.1		2:51a -0.4	
30	We	5:43p 1.2		3:44a -0.7	

APALACHICOLA BAY, WEST PASS

Date	Day	High Tide	High Tide	Low Tide	Low Tide
24	Th	4:40a 1.2	6:51p 1.0	12:15p -0.4	
25	Fr	5:44a 1.0	7:13p 1.0	12:16a 0.5	12:52p -0.1
26	Sa	6:56a 0.9	7:38p 1.0	1:22a 0.3	1:27p 0.1
27	Su	8:24a 0.7	8:06p 1.0	2:39a 0.2	2:02p 0.4
28	Mo	10:21a 0.6	8:40p 1.0	4:03a 0.0	2:38p 0.6
29	Tu	1:01p 0.7	9:21p 1.0	5:21a -0.2	3:27p 0.7
30	We	2:42p 0.8	10:09p 1.0	6:29a -0.3	4:52p 0.8

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FISHING REPORT



Fishing has been up and down on the Forgotten Coast the last couple weeks. There have been sweet spots along but again not very active in a lot of areas.

Under the Highland View bridge continues to be a hot spot for Redfish, Black Drum and Sheepshead. A variety of baits including live shrimp and several VuDu brand shrimps have been taking fish.

We would think that with the little cold spells we've been having that the Trout would moved up into the streams and rivers but trout bike have been slow even in the Apalachicola River.

Granted we have had many inches of rain the last couple weeks and this could have an effect on the bite. Stay at it anglers and let us know your progress. Until next week.

Happy Fishing!

February gardening tips

Treating those cold-damaged plants

By **Ray Bodrey**

Gulf County Extension Director
UF/IFAS
Special to The Star

January and February are typically our coldest months in the Panhandle. Even temperatures above freezing can damage some plants. With a little care, cold damaged plants can recover.

After freezing temperatures and high winds occur, check the soil around your plants. Plants may not be getting the water they need if the soil has either dried out or if the water in the soil is frozen. Watering the area can help defrost the soil and provide your plants with an available source of moisture. Even injured plants need water.

You'll be tempted to fertilize and prune to

speed up recovery, but please resist. Fertilizing too early can encourage new growth before the cold weather season is over, adding to the recovery. Also, some plants are in a dormant to semi-dormant state, and will not take up nutrients, therefore rendering the act of fertilizing useless.

Pruning cold-damaged plants right away can be an issue. Although the dead foliage is not pleasant to see, it does help insulate the plant. It's best to wait until early spring to fertilize and prune most landscape plants. Pay close attention to herbaceous plants (impatiens, begonias, etc.). These plants will collapse after a freeze. It is best to remove them as soon as possible. Bacterial and fungal problems can emerge in a landscape after these plants decay. Remember, lawns

will turn brown during these months, as this is a normal winter dormant season for turfgrass.

So, what can I plant now? For annuals and bedding plants, choose plants that can take the chill like dianthus, pansy, viola, and dusty miller. It's not too late to plant petunia or snapdragon, either. For bulbs, dahlia, crinum, and agapanthus are good choices. Be sure to provide adequate water for establishment and protect them from cold by applying mulch. For the vegetable gardener, potatoes should be planted soon.

So, what can I do? Prune roses in February and improve the overall form. After pruning, fertilize and apply a fresh layer of mulch. Blooming will begin 8-9 weeks after pruning! For your lawn, apply a pre-emergence

weed killer when temperatures rise to around 60°F for 4-5 days to prevent warm-season weeds. Timing is essential for control.

Following these best management practices will surely help maintain a healthy lawn, landscape or garden. For more information please contact Gulf County Extension at 639-3200.

Supporting information for this article and further information can be found in the following the UF/IFAS EDIS publication: "North Florida Gardening Calendar" by Sydney Park Brown: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/EP/EP45100.pdf>

& the UF/IFAS Gardening Solutions website: <http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/care/weather/treating-cold-damage.html>

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SPORTS/LOCAL

Tiger Sharks streak hits four before defeat

Star Staff Report

The Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High School boys' soccer extended to four games its recent winning streak before falling to Wakulla Christian.

The Tiger Sharks, 6-4-1, finish the regular season tonight with a game at Bay High.

Port St. Joe hosts Franklin County 5 p.m. ET Monday in the opening round of district tournament play.

Port St. Joe 4, North Bay Haven 2

The Tiger Sharks have been experiencing a resurgence of sorts since coming back from Christmas Break, with three consecutive wins.

Marlon Lopez put Port St. Joe on the board in the fourth minute off corner kick from

Elias Alexander.

Just 1:30 later, Lance Larry assisted as Lopez neatly beat the North Bay Haven keeper on a one-on-one to put Port St. Joe up 2-0.

With North Bay Haven picking up the pressure, Lopez earned a free kick and completed the hat trick to make it 3-0.

The Buccaneers continued to find gaps in the Tiger Shark midfield to score their first goal and the remainder of the half was played on even terms as the teams entered intermission 3-1.

The second half started much like the first half ended with both teams playing between the 18-yard boxes.

Just before the water break, Lopez received a pass from Chase Lanford, created separation on the left side to slot a pass to Larry who finished in

the back of the net from the top of the six to grow the PSJ lead to 4-1.

As time started to tick down, NBH earned a free kick against and converted for a 4-2 margin, which was the final score.

"Our possession was better, but still very sporadic," said Port St. Joe coach Don Maples. "It is on, it is off...consistency is our next step."

"We worked the ball out of some difficult spots, got better movement off the ball, made some quality decisions and executed with proper skill against a quality team. That is positive and considering some new players got time tonight makes it even better."

Maples noted the improvement of younger players, Chase Lanford, Jaydon Gant and Christian Peacock as positives for the future of the program.

Wakulla Christian 8, Port St. Joe 0

The Tiger Sharks hosted Wakulla Christian, a team which beat them 5-0 loss earlier in the season.

"Last time we played, Joel Bogaert was still playing football, Will McCall was injured and even with a 29 player roster, our inexperience and youth showed in trying to fill those spots," Maples said of the earlier game.

"No excuses, we have to step on the field with whomever is eligible, and available to play and deal with it."

But the result was another shutout loss.

"This game was good for us and a curse for us at the same time," Maples said. "Good that we had to play without Marlon Lopez for the first half, which leading into the district

tournament is an opportunity for other players to step in and learn.

"It was also a chance to try players in new positions such as attacking mid-fielder for Ford Kuhnel. Bad, that we had other starters sick or absent, so seeing how we could truly match up wasn't in the cards."

Maples said his team came out "flat, uninspired, using little from what we have been training and when that happens, it is no recipe for being competitive let alone successful."

Youngsters Judson Griffies, Tanner Fogle, Aiden Gainer, Jaydon Gant, and Monie Phillips got some significant time and some positives, including confidence, was shown.

"We had some good build up, created opportunities, one of which was a near miss from 20 yards out by Lance Larry," Maples said.

Lady Tiger Sharks maintain perfect district record

Star Staff Report

One win in district play, one outside of district play defined the past week for the Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High School girls' basketball team.

The Lady Tiger Sharks kept their district slate clean with a win over Bozeman and traveled to Tallahassee to drub Chiles.

Port St. Joe is 12-6 overall and 7-0 in District 4-1A.

The Lady Tiger Sharks host Blountstown at 5 p.m. ET tonight and Franklin County 5 p.m. ET Friday in the final

two district contest.

Port St. Joe is at Tallahassee Godby Saturday and hosts Arnold 5 p.m. ET Tuesday for Senior Night.

Port St. Joe 55, Bozeman 13

Wearing maroon uniforms last Friday to honor the former Washington High School program, the Lady Tiger Sharks started slow, leading just 8-7 after one period.

But it was a different game

in the second period, as Port St. Joe outscored the Lady Bucks 24-6.

The Lady Tiger Sharks did not allow a point the rest of the way.

Mari Johnson had a double-double to lead Port St. Joe, scoring 20 points, pulling down 13 rebounds and adding five steals, two assists and a blocked shot.

Jae Lenox (14 points) and Te Te Croom (10 points) also scored in double figures, Lenox added three assists, four steals and a rebound and Croom chipping in eight

rebounds and five steals.

Mimi Larry filled the stat sheet with seven points, nine rebounds, six assists, six steals and a blocked shot and Shadavia Hudgins had three points, two rebounds and five steals.

Port St. Joe 51, Tallahassee Chiles 28

Port St. Joe jumped to a 13-4 lead in the opening period against Class 7A Chiles and built a halftime lead of 26-14.

After three the lead was

stretched to 38-18 and Port St. Joe cruised from there.

Lenox led the way for Port St. Joe with 23 points, five rebounds, four assists and six steals and Johnson had another double-double with 10 points and 11 rebounds, adding three steals and two assists.

Hudgins added six points and four rebounds, Croom five points, eight rebounds and one steal, Larry four points, six rebounds, three steals and an assist and Kyasia Baker (a transfer from Texas) three points.

They walked together

Star Staff Report

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

The day's activities began at 10 a.m. ET with a parade

down Reid Ave. to First Street to Dr. David Langston Drive, down Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. and ending at Avenue G.

A program, featuring keynote speaker Dr. Timothy Beard took over from there at the Washington High School gymnasium.



[COURTESY OF DEBBIE HOOPER AT JOEBAY.COM]



[COURTESY OF DEBBIE HOOPER AT JOEBAY.COM]



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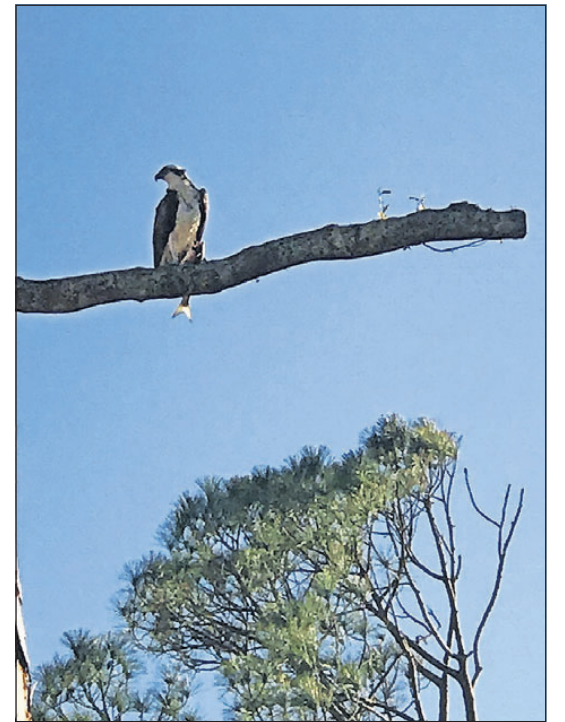
SCENE AROUND



From up above [COURTESY OF CHARLIE WOMACK]



Sunset as seen from Treasure Drive [COURTESY OF JOHN SELLERS]



Lunch at the Garden Club. This osprey is feeding on some fish in a tree next to the Port St. Joe Garden Center. [COURTESY OF PATRICIA DUNLAP]



Standing in the face of adversity [COURTESY OF LARRY SHERIDAN]



Ambiguous sky [COURTESY OF CANDICE WARREN]



A feathery vigil over St. Joseph Bay [COURTESY OF TERRY LIND]



New ponds and lakes make new friends [COURTESY OF DAVE EVANS]

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.

COMMUNITY



[PHOTOS COURTESY OF RON RUDOLPH]

Night show

Star Staff Report

The weather cooperated and the skies, for those who wished to stay awake until the early morning hours, provided a nice show.

Here local photographer Ron Rudolph, and in one case another local photographer Larry Sheridan, provide some images from Sunday/Monday's show.

Last weekend's full moon was also known as the Wolf Moon and it was also a "super blood moon" with a vivid reddish tint as the night turned into early morning.

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.

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.

The lunar eclipse was visible for about an hour.

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.



McKnight named GCSC board chair

College enrollment down 8 percent after storm

By Tim Croft

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

Another appointment for Jim McKnight could mean good things for the Gulf/Franklin campus of Gulf Coast State College as well as the broader community.

McKnight, the director of the county's Economic Development Coalition, was voted by his peers to become chairman of the Gulf Coast State College Board of Trustees.

The election for chair and vice-chair came last week as the board visited and held its monthly meeting at the Gulf/Franklin campus.

McKnight, who been serving as board chair on an interim basis, succeeds Katie Patronis, whose term had expired.

"I am honored," McKnight said. "We do things right here. We do everything we can in the interest of our students."

The college board includes two other Gulf County residents, businessmen Ralph Roberson and David Warriner.

They were somewhat apologetic about forcing other board members to make the drive, and see all the damage between Mexico Beach and Port St. Joe.

"We have lost a lot of stuff, but we have not lost our faith," Roberson said.

McKnight noted the college has a strong economic development mission, beginning with college President Dr. John Holdnak.

He said the college is a driving force behind several Bay County economic development initiatives and also Gulf County's partnership with Skyborne Technology, which last week was fabricating drones inside the county's Industrial Park.

Enrollment

Holdnak told the board that the college saw a drop of about 8 percent in full-time equivalent students for the

See MCKNIGHT, B5

TRIVIA FUN



Wilson Casey

considered to be America's first female ...?

Sheriff, Journalist, Minister, Doctor

3. Which state had "Hospitality State" on its late-1970s license plates?

Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana

4. In what game is the number "21" of utmost importance?

Bridge, Gin Rummy, Poker, Blackjack

5. Jif, Skippy and Peter Pan are popular brand names of ...?

Hairbrushes, Peanut butter, Coffee, Sewing scissors

6. What is hominy primarily made from?

Rice, Wheat, Corn, Potatoes

ANSWERS: 1. Sack of money, 2. Journal, 3. Mississippi, 4. Blackjack, 5. Peanut butter, 6. Corn

"Trivia Fun" with Wilson Casey, Guinness World Record Holder from Woodruff, S.C., is published in more than 500 newspapers across the country. Comments, questions or suggestions? WC@TriviaGuy.com

1. What new player token was added to the U.S. Monopoly board game in 1999?

Scrapcraper, Sack of money, Computer mouse, U.S. flag

2. Anne Newport Royall was

'Storm Stories': share and heal at the library

Star Staff Report

The Port St. Joe Public Library announced this week two new workshops called "Storm Stories."

Learn how writing and sharing your story can build resilience; take advantage of an opportunity to record your experience with an invitation to share with others.

The first workshop, for adults, will be held 10:30 a.m. until 12 p.m. ET



Corinne Costin Gibson Memorial Public Library
110 Library Drive, Port St. Joe
Free and open to all- call 229-8879 for more information



[SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

Saturday, Feb. 9 and will be led by Ellen Ryan. She facilitates memoir writing and edits the "Writing Down Our Years" series.

A popular workshop and retreat leader, Ellen has spent years encouraging

adults to share memories in poetry and prose.

"Our hope with this workshop is to offer an opportunity for residents to write about their

See STORIES, B5

SOCIETY

Strong women supporting each other

Dr. Patricia Hardman
Special to The Star

The Coastal Community Association has teamed with First United Methodist Church to bring Dr. Pamela Valentine back to lead a series of meetings for Strong Women Supporting Each Other. Dr. Valentine is a Tallahassee therapist and FSU adjunct professor who had already led two meetings here before Christmas for women dealing with the trauma left by Hurricane Michael.

The earlier meetings were focused on learning more about how the “normal progression” of trauma works and how each individual has to deal with it in their own way, based on factors such as their past experiences, own situation, financial and emotional support (or lack of it), and basically how to keep moving forward.

Individuals in the group discussed where they were, how they were trying to cope, and what they needed. Some have lost everything, some very little. Some are not only coping with taking care of themselves, but also helping family and friends. Some discussed being “afraid” for the first time in their lives, while others shared how angry they were at the changes in their lives. Even those who aren’t dealing with the physical damages caused by Michael, noted



Dr. Pamela Valentine [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

how they sometimes feel powerless or don’t know how to help their community recover.

Part of each meeting will be a short talk by Dr. Valentine on how to deal with different aspects of living through this time. After this, the group will break up into focus groups to discuss different issues

such as: dealing with their anger, being supportive of others, ways to set positive boundaries with family members, how to foster hope and recognizing the positive steps forward.

The next meeting will be held Thursday, January 31, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the First United

Methodist Church’s Great Hall. Pastor Lentz noted, “We want to be a part of the healing and strengthening process for our community and are happy to be able to support this group.” The full schedule of meetings will be available by then.

New participants are welcome.

CROSS SHORES CORNER

Coming back

By Shelly Cain
Special to The Star

I think I’ve forgotten how to write. I don’t think I’ve had the heart for it. As I write this, I can’t even imagine how I’m going to finish. For over 3 months I’ve had a job that I did not like, but, at the same time, I’m very grateful to have kept my job. Maybe I didn’t like my job because I felt like I had no clue what I was doing managing a building and maintenance crews. I felt like I was winging it every single day. I do not like that feeling. It’s so unsettled. Thank goodness there are professionals out there that do this for a living. They helped step me through it. The fed me my first hot meal. I will say that this has been an experience that I will never forget. I have learned so much about things that I never wanted to know about! You would not believe how many toilets are in this building!

I had a lot of days where I didn’t feel needed or appreciated. But, most days I was starving to hear the sounds of laughter, singing, music, and people complaining that something was taking too long to load on their computer! I missed the wonderful smells coming out of the kitchen. I missed

taking care of our residents and staff. I miss everyone’s families.

Over the last year they have all become part of my extended family. There it is. I need to take care of people. I need to take care of a building full of people. I need to be needed. I need the relationships I have with residents and staff. I noticed I say ‘I’ a lot. So, I’m going to switch to ‘we’.

We have been working very hard and we are ready to bring people home! Our residents have been away from home too long. When we evacuated we all expected to be home by the weekend. We had a lot of staff join our residents in other facilities to continue to care for them and give them a familiar face. Talk about ROCK STARS! A lot of our staff who made the decision to work 300 miles away slept on cots in a conference room in the facility they were working in just so they could take care of your friends, family, and neighbors.

We are ready. By the time you read this we are all home. Please come in and see us. It’s really pretty! We miss you all. Remember to treat everyone with importance and always be kind.

Shelly Cain is the director of Cross Shores Senior Center in Port St. Joe

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Woman’s Club bake sale

Special to The Star

The GFWC Wewahitchka Woman’s Club Sweetheart Bake Sale is coming Feb. 13.

Buy something sweet for your Valentine. Cakes, cookies and assorted bake goods. Place your orders early, now through Feb. 13.

Items can be picked up or delivered before or on the Feb. 14.

Contact one of the following: Patty Fisher at 832-9436, Carolyn Watson at 340-1984 or Pat Stripling at 819-2838

If you would like to learn more about all the exciting programs and projects we do in support of our community and more, visit our Facebook page, GFWC Wewahitchka Woman’s Club and join us at our regular monthly meeting, the second Tuesday of each month at 6PM central time at the Glad Tidings Church Fellowship Hall in Wewahitchka.

Our next meeting is 6 p.m. CT Tuesday, Feb. 12. Hope to see you there!

Services for elders

Special to The Star

Services available for caregivers

Funds are currently available to provide a variety of services to persons 60 and above who quality.

1) Individuals that need assistance with self-care, nutrition and/or homemaking activities because of chronic health conditions or other problems of aging.

This program is Community Care for the Elderly, there are no income restrictions, but a co-pay based on income is required.

2) Persons who live with a caregiver and need assistance with self-care, nutrition and/or homemaking activities because of chronic health conditions or other problems of aging.

A small stipend for the caregiver is part of the benefit.

This program is Home Care for the Elderly; income and asset restrictions apply.

Respite services are available to caregivers of persons 18+ who have memory-loss related to Alzheimer’s disease or other types of dementia. The caregiver must provide care on a regular basis and live in the same home to qualify

Caregiving is an act of love, physical, emotional, and a financial challenge. The Alzheimer’s Disease Initiative Program recognizes these challenges and seeks to provide support for the caregiver of the person.

Assuring that our older citizens have the resources needed to age in place in their own homes and communities is the priority for these programs. They make it possible for elders to age with dignity and purpose and improve the quality of their elderhood.

For more information or to access the services provided please contact the Elder Helpline at 1-800-963-5337.

Kokedama workshop Jan. 29

Next edition of library’s Tuesdays

Special to The Star

What is Kokedama? A quick Google search will tell you that it is a ball of soil, covered with moss, on which an ornamental plant grows. The idea has its origins in Japan, where it is a combination of the bonsai and kusamono planting

styles. This “hands on” workshop is led by members of the Garden Club of Port St. Joe. After the session, participants will walk away with their very own planting to take home and enjoy.

The eight-week Tuesdays at Two lecture series is free and open to the public—and refreshments will be served. It will be held each Tuesday in January and February at 2 p.m.

ET at the Corinne Costin Gibson Memorial Public Library located at 100 Library Drive in Port St. Joe.

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

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

SCHOOL NEWS



[PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

Attacking with marshmallows



Star Staff Report

Each January, Darlene Ake's Pre-K class at Wewahitchka Elementary School enters into a skirmish.

Armed with marshmallows, the kids engage in a "snowball" fight with parents, teachers, administrators, anybody in the field of battle.

Last week's "fight" was much like previous years; plenty of fun and no injuries.



GCSC EPI forum set for Jan. 29

Special to The Star

PANAMA CITY – Florida's teacher shortage has created new opportunities for teaching careers, and Gulf Coast State College's Educator Preparation Institute (EPI) is holding a free community forum for those interested in learning more about the profession. The EPI program is designed for people with any four-year degree who have a desire to teach in Florida's K-12 system. In as little as six to eight months, the state-approved EPI program prepares students to take the Florida Teacher Certification Exams. Professionals from diverse backgrounds and all kinds of varied careers have found tremendous success in the classroom.

The GCSC EPI program has an exceptional track record:

- Since the program began in 2005, all completers who have sat for the certification exams have passed.

- Since 2011, 15 EPI completers were selected as Teacher of the Year nominees in Bay District Schools, two were selected as Rookie of the Year in Gulf County and one was awarded the Golden Apple Teacher of the Week.

- In 2015, Dr. John Wade facilitated the creation of the Pre-Med Academy at Mosely High School.

- In 2016, Kesia Blenn Milner was selected as Teacher of the Year for Bay District Schools and also received the Governor's Shine award. Nathalie Hall was selected for the Henshaw-Whitley Teacher Excellence Award.

The community forum will be held Tuesday, January 29, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. in the Social Sciences Building, room 112 at the Panama City Campus. For more information about the EPI program, visit www.gulfcoast.edu/epi or contact Teresa Salter at tsalter@gulfcoast.edu or (850) 769.1551, ext. 3393.

S.O.A.R.-ING AT PSJES



S.O.A.R. students for the week of Jan. 17 at Port St. Joe Elementary School.

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THE STAR THE APALACHICOLA TIMES

FAITH

New coat applied to church

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

The congregation at Bible Based Fellowship Church in Tampa has taken to viewing natural disasters as a challenge.

Just as they did after Hurricane Harvey in 2017, the congregation sought to assist their brethren in the aftermath of Hurricane Michael.

"People really wanted to do something," said Pastor Anthony White.

So, the congregation passed a special collection, the church matched those funds and a couple of vans were donated to the effort.

That left the where and who.

For that, White turned to a friend, Dr. Timothy Beard, president of Pasco-Hernando State College.

Beard was born and raised in Port St. Joe and is frequently a participant in local endeavors. He put White in touch with a few Port St. Joe residents.

That the celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, which has become known as a "Day of Service," was fast approaching provided appropriate timing.

So, a group of 18, from millennials to seniors, as White said, packed into



Members of a congregation in Tampa painted Mt. Carmel Baptist on Monday. [PHOTOS BY TIM CROFT | THE STAR]



The paint job was part of "Day of Service" amid the Martin Luther King, Jr. national holiday.

vans and made the drive from Tampa to Port St. Joe over the weekend.

And on Monday, that "Day of Service," the group was painting Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Church on Avenue D.

They started at 6 a.m. and were hard at it well into the afternoon.

"We are so blessed to have them here," said Pastor Kenneth Frame.

In turn, the Mt. Carmel congregation provided sustenance in the form of food and beverages.

"They made us feel right at home," White said, noting the church was also putting his group up for the night.

On Tuesday morning, the caravan returned to Tampa, leaving behind a church with a brand new coat.

OBITUARIES

WILLIAM EDWARD "BILL" CRAWFORD

Gunnery Sergeant William Edward "Bill" Crawford was born on March 19, 1931 in Cranford, New Jersey. He died on January 7, 2019 in Panama City, FL.

He is predeceased in death by his parents Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Francis Crawford, his loving wife of 32 years, Catherine Rowan Power Crawford; his brother Thomas Crawford; his daughter Marilyn Maroon; his son, John Power; and his grandson, John Maroon. He is survived by his daughter Carol Baratta and her husband, Jack of Pompton Plains, New Jersey; several grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and dear Friend Stacey Helms.

He believed in and embodied the following qualities: Service to others, Integrity, love, kindness, wisdom, a sense of humor, and a quick wit. He will be missed, but these values are instilled in his family and friends as his legacy.

Bill's story begins in Cranford, New Jersey where as a 7-year-old child he secured employment with a local bowling alley cleaning and setting pins. He remained in the New Jersey area moving from time to time. In 1948 he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. During his military career he was associated with the Marine Corps Supply system at all levels, from the operating unit to the inventory control point. After his discharge in 1968, from the Marine Corps, he entered the Fleet Marine Corps Reserve.



Never being the type to do nothing, Bill also obtained employment as a Logistics Planner with ITT Federal Electric Corporation. While employed he met his wife Catherine and they relocated to Port St. Joe to embark on another Career.

With very little cash and a car borrowed from a Marine friend, Bill and Catherine purchased the Gulf Sands Motel in Port St. Joe Beach, Florida. They successfully operated the motel until the sale and transfer in 1995. While in Port St. Joe, Bill joined Rotary International.

He thoroughly enjoyed his affiliation with Rotary and through training and global networking opportunities, Bill became District Governor in 2000-2001. He attributed Rotary International with the ability it gave him to do GOOD in the world. And Good he did, traveling to India for National Immunization Day for Polio and traveling to Costa Rica to build specialized matrix wheelchairs for severely handicapped children. He also excelled and received the "Service Above Self" and the Paul Harris Fellow Award. Traveling became his passion and he and Catherine attended

over 16 International Conventions all over the world. He took the Rotary Motto to heart "A stranger is a friend you haven't met yet." He met and made friends worldwide.

Rotary wasn't Bill's only passion, Bill loved his Church. He was a member of the Equestrian Order and Knights of Columbus. Taking very seriously his duties while participating.

He was a Life Time Member and Commandant of the Marine Corp "Pops" Summer Detachment here in Panama City. Bill was also a Lifetime Member of the AMVETS and the VFW club. He also was a member of the American Legion. He supported the various clubs with donation of his time and efforts.

Along with military involvement after his discharge, he also was a volunteer and served on the Board of Directors for Family Services Agency. He was happiest when giving!

A Funeral Mass will be held on Saturday, January 26, 2019 at 11 a.m. CT at St. Dominic Catholic Church in Panama City. A Celebration of Life will immediately follow at the AMVETS Club 2298, 5510 East Highway 22, Panama City, FL. An additional service will follow on Saturday, February 2, 2019 at the Church of the Annunciation in Paramus, NJ. Interment will follow at George Washington Memorial Park, Paramus, NJ.

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

Do you know someone who is spiraling downward?



By Sheryl 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 SherylH-Boldt@gmail.com.

JOHN PATRICK HOWARD, SR.

John Patrick Howard, Sr., born December 26, 1932, devoted father, son, brother, friend, mentor, and servant of God, went peacefully home to be with his Father in Heaven on Thursday, January 17, 2019. John was born and raised in Blakely, Georgia, and led a giving life in Port St. Joe, Palatka and Tallahassee, Florida. He is best known for his strong faith, work ethic, patriotism, love of family and helping

individuals in need. He served his country as a Navy Seabee, was an Episcopal lay reader and vestry member, and worked as an executive with St. Joe Paper Company for thirty-seven years. He was preceded in death by his father, Martin Thomas Howard, Sr.; his mother, Sallie Lou King Howard; brother, Martin Thomas Howard, Jr.; and sister, Catherine Howard Davis. He is survived

by his sister, Patricia Howard James of Miami Springs, Florida; son, John Patrick Howard, Jr. (and wife Tiffany Carr) of Tallahassee; past wife and close friend, Cynthia Allen Howard; and numerous nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence Foundation at <https://www.fcadv.org/foundation> or to a charity of your choice.

DANNY BROGDON

Daniel Clyde Brogdon, 76, of Wewahitcha, passed peacefully on January 20, 2019, surrounded by family and friends. Danny was a farmer for all his life and retired from the Apalachicola Northern Railroad Company.


Danny was preceded in death by his parents, Clyde and Daisy Brogdon and sister Sheila.

Danny is survived by his wife of 43 years, Opal Brogdon and brother, Charles. He leaves behind children, Candi and Charles Laird (Brenda); special daughter/granddaughter, Tiffany; grandchildren, Jennifer and TJ Rhodes (Amber), Charlie Laird (Kaitlyn), Taylor Wilkerson (Jeffrey), Megan (Jeff) and Cassie Whittington; and great-grandchildren, James

and Autumn.

He is also survived by family Cydne Dillard (Bucky), a niece, numerous cousins and friends.

The memorial service was held Wednesday, January 23, 2019, at New Harvest Fellowship Assembly of God on Highway 71. The family received friends at 10 a.m., services at 11 a.m. and burial to follow at Buckhorn Cemetery.



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MCKNIGHT

From Page B1

fall semester due to Hurricane Michael and is projecting that enrollment for the year will be down 16 percent compared to projections.

"It's a pretty big negative for us," Holdnak said, adding that the financial cost will be at least \$1.2 million.

That would break down to \$400,000 for return of tuition or fees for the fall and a \$600,000 reduction in tuition and fees for the spring.

Holdnak said college officials are examining all options to fund the coming year.

"It will take a lot of finesse on the budget side, and we are looking at legislative solutions," he said.

But, Holdnak said, the decrease in enrollment could have been significantly worse.

He applauded efforts by the college's foundation to expand and update scholarships (\$1.5 million in emergency funding) for current students.

"We made it hard for current students to leave," Holdnak said.

Michael's damage

Amazingly, considering the damage inflicted in Gulf County, the Gulf/Franklin campus emerged from Michael with minimal damage, particularly



Jim McKnight succeeds Katie Patronis as chair of the Gulf Coast State College Board of Trustees. [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

compared to the main campus.

Holdnak provided a few statistics:

- 28 of 28 buildings sustained damage; one building being deemed a near total

- loss;
- \$44 million in repairs thus far and counting;
- 156,000 2x2 ceiling tiles have been replaced;
- 17,000 sheets of dry wall have already gone up in buildings.

STORIES

From Page B1

experiences with Hurricane Michael and help with the healing process of dealing with the aftermath," said Nancy Brockman, Coordinator for Port St Joe and Wewahitchka Libraries.

Teens and Tweens will have a workshop hosted

on March 2 that will be facilitated by writer and entrepreneur, Kerry Kathleen Heaps.

The teen workshops will be broken up according to age.

Ages 12-14 will be hosted at 10:30 a.m. and ages 15-and-older will meet from 12-1 p.m. ET.

The teen workshops will cover writing in addition to video diaries that can be created with Snapchat and Instagram, which most teens

use on a daily basis. "We have to keep in mind that the effects from the storm are just as impactful on our young people," Heaps said.

The workshops are meant to be a healing process for our communities who have been hit so hard by this devastating storm.

All are welcome to participate, listen or share according to their comfort level.

Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf names new VP of Nursing

Special to The Star

Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf (SHHG) is pleased to announce that Robin M. Godwin has been named Vice President of Nursing for Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf in Port St. Joe.

Godwin brings 21 years of experience in the medical field to her new position. Godwin previously served in a southwest Georgia health system in a variety of roles including emergency department (ED) staff RN, clinical coordinator, assistant director - ED, and director of nursing for critical care, respiratory & clinical education.

She will be responsible for leading and directing nursing and ancillary services.

"Robin brings a wealth of experience to her leadership role. She has demonstrated a commitment to our mission of providing compassionate, personalized care to all persons, with special attention to the poor and vulnerable," said Roger Hall, president of Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf.

"Our hospital has been recognized as one of the best hospitals in the nation for patient satisfaction, and we're confident Robin will help us to continue that high standard of care."



Robin M. Godwin
[SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

Sacred Heart is part of Ascension, the largest non-profit health system in the U.S. and the world's largest Catholic health system.

Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf is a 19-bed community hospital serving residents of Gulf and Franklin counties.

Godwin earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in Nursing from Valdosta State University. Married to her husband Matt for 18 years and mom to three boys, Max, Eli and Finn, their family recently relocated to Port St. Joe from Georgia.

The Godwin family enjoys outdoor activities such as camping, kayaking and sporting events, and look forward to becoming a part of the Port St. Joe community.

"Robin brings a wealth of experience to her leadership role. She has demonstrated a commitment to our mission of providing compassionate, personalized care to all persons, with special attention to the poor and vulnerable."

Roger Hall, president of Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf

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