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50¢



Annual Bay Day promotes
buffer preserves, B1

BOCC approves millage, tax increase

By TIM CROFT
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As they put the finishing touches to next fiscal year's budget last week county commissioners arrived at a bumping of the heads.

With one commissioner, Warren Yeager, absent and two commissioners, Joanna Bryan and Ward McDaniel, refusing to cast a vote in support of a tax increase, the Board of County Commissioners spent nearly three hours in a stalemate.

The deadlock was finally broken when Yeager was linked to the meeting, audibly and visually, by phone and cast the deciding vote to approve the budget as presented at the beginning of the night.

That budget includes an aggregate millage rate, taking into account the general fund and fire districts, of 6.8740, an increase from last year of 11.98 percent.

The rollback rate, that millage at which the county would realize the same revenue as the current fiscal year, is 6.1408.

A mill is equal to \$1 for every

\$1,000 in taxable property value. The budget includes a property tax increase of \$1.073 million.

Clerk of Courts Becky Norris cited several reasons she said accounted for the increase.

Those included \$200,000 for a Public Works excavator; increases in Florida retirement system contributions over \$200,000; pay raises pledged and budgeted last year and implemented this year on top of raises approved this year which combined for over \$400,000; increased costs for landfill monitoring and more than \$100,000 for new vehicles for

the Gulf County Sheriff. Commissioners Tan Smiley, Yeager and Carmen McLemore voted to approve the budget; Bryan and McDaniel dissented.

"It's going to be hard to look people in the eye," McDaniel said. "We're just kicking (the issues) down the road."

The deadlock was evident early as commissioners debated what had and had not been done to cut the budget and, most prominently in the discussion, lessen the burden on property taxpayers in favor of user or service fees.

"We need to shift some of the

burden, the cost, from the taxpayer," said Pat Hardman, president of the Coastal Community Association.

Hardman noted that commissioners had taken up several measures to do that – including adding to the gas tax, an increase to the bed tax, mandatory garbage – and failed to ratify any.

The gas tax died by deadline and the increase to the bed tax was found to not be the panacea for assisting the sheriff's budget as it was proposed.

See BOCC A5

WOW, NELLIE!



Somewhat more than 100 residents of Wewahitchka surprised Nellie Wade for her birthday party. Wade was under the impression she was headed to Bay County to shop until the car she was riding in entered the First Baptist Church parking lot.

Florida's oldest practicing nurse and Wewa treasure turns 90

By TIM CROFT
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One longtime patient of nurse Nellie Wade said Wade had seen more backsides than most anyone in Wewahitchka.

Wade basked in smiling faces last Saturday as the community gathered at the First Baptist Church Fellowship

Hall to provide a healthy Happy Birthday to a woman who has helped keep them healthy for decades.

Since the end of the Second World War and Harry Truman was President.

Wade turned 90 this year, one week prior to last Saturday's celebration.

And she continues to show up for work every day, treating the patients of Dr. Michael Barnes, one of the last family physicians in the area.

She does the weighing, the blood pressure checks, the checking of temperature and gauges what brings each patient in that day.

And as another patient put it, she gives good shots.

She is, by nine years, the oldest practicing nurse in Florida, according to research done by Barnes.

See NELLIE A5

Parker house discussion continues at a standstill

By WES LOCHER
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MEXICO BEACH — Move over city clerk, the Parker house is the hot button topic in Mexico Beach.

During the city council's monthly workshop last Tuesday, Brian Cathey of Cathey Construction was invited to speak on the status of the historic building that was purchased by the city in mid-2011 with the intention of using it as

a new city hall.

The building caught fire several months later and suffered massive damage.

For the last two years the city has gone back and forth about whether it would be more frugal to tear down the fire-damaged home and erect a new structure or attempt to rebuild what is left while also installing an elevator and other improvements that would bring the building up to commercial code.

The city's insurance com-

pany paid the city \$660,000 for the damage and sent a representative to assess the existing foundation slab.

The rep verbally told the council that is fit to build upon but according to city administrator Chris Hubbard, the city has not received formal written documentation of the assessment.

Engineers from Cathey Construction had conducted their own assessments of the building, Cathey said. Their results indicated that the founda-

tion was not usable.

"There's no way we can reuse the foundation as it sits today," said Cathey. "The foundation has problems that are impossible to overcome without dismantling the building."

Cathey explained that the bricks in the structure are cracking and shifting and that the ground beneath the current foundation may not support a new structure.

Previously the area had

See PARKER HOUSE A5



Annual Bay Day promotes
buffer preserves, B1

Americus Ditch ongoing problem for county

By TIM CROFT
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The Board of County Commissioners, with one notable exception, has insisted that the Americus Ditch project is a thing of the past.

To residents in the area, and the commissioner who serves them, it is an ever-present problem.

Last week pipes were again exposed, as residents called this paper to express frustration, revealing issues with how the pipes are connected and highlighting that a significant portion of the water flowing through the ditch is not reaching its proposed destination.

"It is a mess," resident Bill Koran told the BOCC during a meeting two months ago. "With heavy rains, my house has been flooded twice. I would like to know how this contract was awarded and how it was inspected. This project was not done correctly."

"Was the contractor qualified for this kind of project? And according to my research, Preble Rish designed and inspected the project and I think that is a bit like the fox guarding the hen house."

According to county staff, the county

See DITCH A5

Federal lawsuit against PSJ dismissed

By TIM CROFT
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A lawsuit filed in federal court against the city of Port St. Joe, two police officers and a local businessman was formally dismissed Monday in the U.S. Northern District Court of Florida.

The lawsuit, brought by Lynne Carr, was dismissed with prejudice, meaning the same claims against the same people can not be brought again in litigation.

The dismissal filing came from the Tallahassee office of Marie Mattox, who was handling Carr's case.

This is the second federal suit Mattox has filed against local governments this year; one from a local political action committee against the Board of County Commissioners and several commissioners individually and the other against the city of Port St. Joe.

See LAWSUIT A5

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Packing local love

Semper Fi Sisters collecting for Boxes of Love for soldiers

By TIM CROFT
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The boxes are piling up and the love is pouring in.

To understand, just browse through the conference room at the newspaper, which has been for the past few years a depository for all things Boxes of Love and Semper Fi Sisters.

The Sisters, who will begin to arrive in two weeks, will finish their fifth annual Beach Blast on Oct. 19 with a packing party for Boxes of Love.

Those boxes, and the aim is to top last year's 1,200, will be sent to deployed soldiers overseas, particularly Afghanistan and Iraq.

And as happens as the weeks wind down, the UPS and Fed Ex delivery folks are carting in to these office boxes of increasing size and quantity from Long Island, N.Y., Mullen, Neb., Grand Rapids, Mich., with a bit of Easton, Pa., and Savannah, Ga., among other locales.

And those are the boxes among the stacks for which we can actually make out the labels.

Locals are on board to as Centennial Bank branches put up donation boxes and the Piggly Wiggly and Harold's Auto Parts become part of the drive.

"We have received generous support and donations from the VFW and American Legion here in Port St. Joe," Semper Fi Sisters president Brenda Garth said.

The Sisters raffled a GPS fish finder at the Gulf County Sheriff's Office Bass Tournament, the proceeds helping to ship as many as 50 boxes overseas.

The local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution provided postage funds.

Preston Russ with Coastal Realty and Brian and Scott of Coastal Joe Vacation Rentals joined to donate a welcome to Gulf County lunch and afternoon treats for the arriving Sisters on Oct. 16.

And for the fifth consecutive year,

WANT TO HELP?

Donations for the Boxes of Love can be dropped off at any branch of Centennial Bank, Piggly Wiggly in Port St. Joe, Harold's Auto Parts in Wewahitchka. An account to help defray shipping costs for the Boxes of Love has been set up at Centennial Bank.

Smiley's Beach Rentals will roll out the complementary beach chairs and umbrellas for the Sisters.

"George Duren will continue to support our efforts and Forgotten Coast Highway donated some bright beachwear and bags for our annual basket raffle, which helps raise funds for shipping the Boxes of Love," Garth said.

Laura Adams of Dog Grooming Plus is collecting funds for items specifically requested for military working dogs and their handlers.

As always, on packing day, the Semper Fi Sisters will host their Market Place at the Centennial Building offering a variety of crafts and wares for sale, assisting with postage.

And, of course, the Basket Raffle.

The city of Port St. Joe lends support with the use of the Centennial Building for the packing party and the Gulf County Tourist Development Council provided grant support.

Lest any forget the impact of those Boxes of Love on the troops, consider Sarah House, a Port St. Joe native soon to be deployed to Afghanistan for the second time.

"Like most care packages that are received (Boxes of Love) are always shared," House wrote in an email from California. "We're all family. It is always a good day when we get mail. Everyone anticipates mail day, it is almost like Christmas. It is a huge morale booster."

"Honestly, we appreciate anyone and everyone what supports us. Whether it is by sending packages, cards or just sending up an extra prayer at night or during the day for us, it reminds what and who we fight for; why we wear this uniform and what makes our country so great. The biggest thing I can say to our supporters is thank you from the bottom of my heart."

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WES LOCHER | The Star

The annual Blast on the Bay Songwriters' Festival returns in October with Nashville talent who have written for country music stars George Strait, Faith Hill and Garth Brooks.

Blast on the Bay songwriters' fest returns to forgotten coast

By WES LOCHER
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The sound of music will soon encompass the beach as the fifth annual Blast on the Bay Songwriters' Festival kicks off Oct. 17.

The free event sprawls across the Forgotten Coast from Mexico Beach to Indian Pass and welcomes Nashville-dwellin', Grammy-winnin' country songwriters who have penned tunes for the likes of superstars Faith Hill, Jason Aldean and Garth Brooks.

Songwriter Charlie Black and his wife, Dana, who have written hits for George Strait, Alan Jackson, Reba McEntire and many other country crooners, will perform for the fourth time.

Years ago the couple traded in the busy streets of Nashville for a relaxing life on the Forgotten Coast, and each and every year, the Songwriters' Festival brings their friends to town.

The festival will begin on Oct. 17 with a luncheon happy hour at Triple Tails and the following day, a workshop will be held at Dockside Seafood and Raw Bar, where a panel of songwriters will participate in an informal open discussion on the art and business of songwriting.

Topics will include the craft of songwriting, songwriting as a career and music production, followed by a critique for participants who bring a sample along with them.

"Fellow writers will be able to get insight on the process," event coordinator Jason Bogan said. "It's a good place for both novices and seasoned writers to learn from the pros."

The festival utilizes a writer's round format like those commonly found in Nashville. Each show consists of four performers who trade off playing songs while the other writers can choose to join in with harmonies, extra guitar riffs or rhythm or just sit back and enjoy the tune.

Perhaps more fun than hearing these hit songs is learning the stories behind them. The writers are encouraged to offer up the



The festival celebrates the songwriters who normally find themselves behind the scenes.

inspiration behind their hits and discuss where they were and what was happening in their lives when they originally put pen to paper.

"It's the untold story," Bogan said. "They share what they were feeling when they wrote it."

"It's all raw, live, unfiltered and unplugged, but it's laid back and low-key. It's not just for fans of country music but fans of music and how it was created. It's nice to see the writers of the hits get a little recognition."

"A lot of serious songs had goofy beginnings," Black said. "You never know what you're going to hear."

Black said he enjoys hearing and sharing the stories, but for him, the best moments are getting to hear a song the way it sounded right after the songwriter had completed the first draft.

While some of the hit songs are performed similarly to their well-known counterparts, others might have completely different words, arrangements or be performed on a different instrument altogether.

This year's event will welcome 27 writers, a new record and a significant increase from the five who played the inaugural event in 2008.

The first festival was founded with the idea of keeping things quaint. According to Bogan it was never meant to be rival the size of similar festivals in bigger cities.

"The first couple of years, the writers were asking us, 'Where's Port St. Joe?'" laughed Bogan.

The growth happened organically as word got around. More writers heard of the festival's success and intimate setting and offered to share their stories. Bogan and fellow organizer Will Rambeaux seek out writers with great energy and an established hit on the radio to participate.

Bogan encouraged musicians and music lovers to take advantage and experience the performances in such an intimate environment. He said that each show acts as its own meet-and-greet.

"The writers are regular folks and they're ridiculously talented," he said. "Everyone is super accessible and they're happy to come down and share."

Black said that he was looking forward to some great music and sharing lunch with old buddies that he'd written songs with over the years.

"I'm looking forward to it and it's going to be a lot of fun," said Black. "The whole town should come out and have a blast."

Bogan noted that the festival was designed as a "listening event" for people to appreciate the songs and be respectful to the writers who in most cases have driven a minimum of nine hours to perform.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Coastal Songwriters Education Coalition Inc., a 501(c)(3) not for profit. The Blast on the Bay Songwriter's Festival runs from Oct. 17-20. To register in advance for the songwriter's workshop, visit www.blastonthebay.com.



Port St. Joe Commission finalizes fiscal budget

By TIM CROFT
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The Port St. Joe City Commission put the final touches on the 2013-14 fiscal year budget during the final public hearing on Monday.

The city, in a sense, stayed relatively in place.

For the third consecutive year commissioners set a tentative millage rate one mill higher than the current millage to provide flexibility in planning, all the while pledging to return to the beginning.

With Monday's unanimous vote commissioners did just that, approving a budget that barely budges and to maintain the current millage rate, 3.5914 mills.

A mill is equal to \$1 per \$1,000 worth of tangible taxable property.

The city of Port St. Joe levies the lowest millage in the county.

The millage does come with an ever-so slight tax increase.

Due to an increase in property values in the city, largely due to the construction and opening of the Dollar Market store on U.S. Highway 98, the millage is above the rollback rate of 3.5798.

The rollback rate is that millage at which the identical amount of ad valorem revenue would be generated as the current fiscal year.

The tax increase amounts to .32 percent.

The city budget includes a 5 percent increase in water and sewer rates, a 3 percent pay increase for employees and a few necessary major capital expenditures.

The city also has over \$500,000 representing its settlement with BP over the Deepwater Horizon oil spill of 2010.

Commissioners intend to hold a workshop in the near future to consider spending those funds.

PSJ, Regions agree on terms for long-term debt

By TIM CROFT
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Two weeks can not pass fast enough for Port St. Joe city commissioners.

The board on Tuesday unanimously approved the most recent offer from Regions Bank for refinancing the city's \$15-plus million in long-term debt.

But the interest rate commissioners must pay, 3.41, remains a floating one until the deal closes, which should come in the next two weeks.

"We've reviewed this proposal, and it is lowering the rate," said Ralph Roberson of the city's financial committee. "We are locked in for 15 years. There is no penalty (for refinance) after seven years."

"It's as good a deal as we can get right now."

During a public budget hearing Monday commissioners tabled a proposal from Regions that included an interest rate of 3.47 percent with a 15-year amortization.

That interest rate was above the 3.39 percent in the original offer for refinancing the city's long-term debt.

"We can't do that," said Commissioner Rex Buzzett of the higher rate.

Regions returned with a new offer in time for Tuesday's regular bi-monthly meeting with the lower interest rate and the same 15-year term with no penalty for refinancing after seven years.

"Interest rates are about as low as they are likely to be for a while," said City Manager Jim Anderson.

Roberson noted that the margin between 3.47 percent and 3.41 percent would represent a roughly \$10,000 a month savings for city taxpayers.

In addition, Regions provided an index, a kind of sliding scale for broader interest rates which could impact the rate paid by the City Commiss-

"We've reviewed this proposal, and it is lowering the rate. We are locked in for 15 years. There is no penalty (for refinance) after seven years. It's as good a deal as we can get right now."

Ralph Roberson
PSJ financial committee

"Interest rates are about as low as they are likely to be for a while."

Jim Anderson
city manager

sion, which provides commissioners a cushion to work with if rates go up before closing.

"The worst case scenario if something crazy happens in the bond market, we don't close," Roberson said.

Commissioners have uniformly said if a deal with Regions is not favorable they will shop the refinancing in the market.

Further, city staff built and commissioners approved Monday a budget that was based on a slightly higher interest rate, allowing further cushion for commissioners in the next two weeks.

Refinancing the debt prior to December 2014 was critical.

In 2015 commissioners faced a balloon payment – the entire \$15 million – with the current loan and annual interest rates would climb to over \$1 million this year and next.

The refinancing will maintain the annual payments just above the current level. The annual payments will be \$912,000.

"It looks like we got a pretty good deal provided we can get it done," Buzzett said.

Commissioners approved the deal, which should close in two weeks, Anderson said, pending legal review.

Ghost on the Coast

Commissioners jumped on board an effort by Reid

Avenue merchants and the Chamber of Commerce for assistance with candy for the annual Ghost on the Coast Halloween celebration.

At the request of the Chamber, notices will be placed in monthly water bills to solicit donations of candy. City staff will also establish a drop-off point for donations.

Downtown merchants spend hundreds of dollars on candy and other goodies for the annual celebration and have sought help the past several years to make the event a success for the children.

"We are trying to figure out how to help the people downtown and the community," Anderson said.

Yard debris amnesty month

Commissioners encourage citizens to take advantage of Road-Side Pick-up Amnesty Month during October as city staff will pick up larger amounts of yard debris, couches, certain large appliances and other items.

In essence, the city is expanding its yard debris pickup for October and doing so at no charge to citizens.

The city can not collect potentially dangerous items such as treated wood, paint, batteries, etc.

Residents are encouraged to visit www.cityofportstjoe.com for a complete list of

items that will be collected.

Cape San Blas Lighthouse

Anderson said city staff and its engineers continue to review the two bids received for relocation of the Cape San Blas Lighthouse into the city's George Core Park without a final resolution.

Under normal bid rules, bids are good for 60 days.

Anderson said staff is trying to determine if money can be saved through value engineering and other methods to bring down the bid prices, which were roughly \$200,000 above what the city has banked thus far for the relocation.

Anderson said he hoped to have a recommendation for commissioners at their next meeting in October.

Boat launch fees

Commissioners will hold a public workshop at 5 p.m. ET Oct. 15, prior to their next bi-monthly meeting, to discuss charging fees for use of the city boat ramp.

Commissioners encouraged all those who use the boat ramp and adjacent areas for trailer parking to attend and provide input.

The goal would be to charge a fee which would be placed in a fund earmarked for improvements to the boat ramp.

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\$1 98



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\$1 18



128 fl oz btl
Shoppers Value
Vegetable Oil
\$6 98



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Short-legged chairs and Dixie cups

As fall knocks on our doors, we greet it by opening the windows and enjoying the cooler temperatures. There is nothing like being able to work with the windows open. I'm fortunate to have that luxury and I know it. So many new buildings have pretend windows or glass walls that won't allow you to feel the breeze.

Baseball season is winding down and the playoffs are getting ready to start.

Again, it is my favorite time of year. In my office, sit two funny looking wood chairs with the legs sawed off at just below where the stretchers hit the legs. Most folks would have put them by the side of the road for trash.

I could never do that...

There are too many memories associated with those "short-legged chairs." Please note that legged is pronounced "leg - id." My earliest memories of the chairs were about 40 years ago as 10 or 11 year boy. When I would visit the newspaper, I knew where to find "Reese," as everyone called him. He would be over next to the window "taking a break" sitting in one of the chairs with his knees almost at the same level as his shoulders.

One of the legs had broken on the chairs and Mr. Reese sawed the legs off so they could still be used. Mr. Reese was my friend and as I got older, he was the fellow who kept me from doing too many stupid things or getting hurt while I was working at the newspaper.

I started working/getting paid at the newspaper when I was 12, cutting the grass and moving things. As I got older, I got to clean the restrooms, move big rolls of paper and pretty much anything Mr. Reese wanted me to do. However, the best times, were those times sitting in those short-legged chairs "taking it easy," as Mr. Reese would say. We would work for 30 minutes or so and Mr. Reese would proclaim, "We need to take a break." And we would.

Mr. Reese would always justify these breaks by saying my Daddy didn't want me getting hurt or overdoing it. I'm pretty sure; especially as Mr. Reese got older that our breaks were because he enjoyed doing nothing and talking about life with me.

So did I. Mr. Reese knew all about baseball and knew all about the stars of the old Negro Leagues. He taught me about Cool Papa Bell and Satchel Paige. He looked



CRANKS MY TRACTOR
BN Heard

as if he would have been a good ballplayer in his younger years; he was probably about 60 years older than I.

He loved the Atlanta Braves, although through the years that I worked at the newspaper, the Braves were never very good. But still, we talked baseball and about other topics a grandfather would talk to his grandson about.

When I look at those chairs, I can almost hear Mr. Reese humming a little tune, "tat a tat tat tat." He was a like a blues or jazz singer stuck on the same tune. His humming seemed to be loudest on Fridays, particularly paydays.

As I got older and was allowed to drive the newspaper's van, I would chauffeur Mr. Reese over to a house where they seemed to selling something in Dixie Cups out the backdoor. He seemed to hum a little louder when we would make those stops on Friday afternoons. That was ok. Mr. Reese didn't even own a car or want one; he caught rides back and forth to work.

He was a good man, who enjoyed life and took it easy, a lesson that we all need from time to time when we get in a hurry.

Whatever was in the Dixie Cups seemed to get him in a little trouble at home though, because his wife, "Ms. Helen," did not approve of it. Ms. Helen was a school teacher and one of the best cooks around. She made these pecan candy things that I was always happy to help eat when I would go over to Mr. Reese's house, which was pristine.

Mr. and Mrs. Reese never had children. They would have been good parents. To the day he died, Mr. Reese thought it was his fault that they lost the one child that she was carrying. He told me the story many times.

Mrs. Reese was pregnant, he brought a frog home in a paper bag and opened the bag and showed it to her. Soon after, she lost the baby. It was heartbreaking, but he really thought "the frog scared the baby out of her." Some folks might call that simple-minded.

Mrs. Reese passed away and without her guidance and friendship, he didn't last very long afterwards. I have the short-legged chairs, the memories and I don't care what was in the Dixie Cups. Simple people make the best friends.

Find more stories at www.CrankMyTractor.com.

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Leon Victim Of Nuclear Fallout



HUNKER DOWN
Kesley Colbert

When I was a kid I greatly feared an atomic attack. My feeling was enhanced by the seriousness with which every adult approached the "Cold War". I was far too young to understand oxymoron, paradox or even onomatopoeia ... but something didn't sound right here! All the fighting I'd ever heard tell of somebody got heated up! A "Cold War" didn't seem like much of a conflict to me. I understood my age and my place so I didn't say nothing, but that didn't mean I couldn't scratch my head and wonder.

It became a little more unsettling when our fifth grade teacher passed out the ugly yellow and black colored pamphlets entitled "What to do in case of a nuclear attack." The first thing we had to recognize was the Civil Defense signs that marked the nearest fallout shelter. Those signs were also yellow and black with triangles in the background. I think it was Ricky Hale who pointed out that not only did our little school not have a single fallout shelter, there was not one to be found in the whole town!

Now, I'm telling this story with my hand up. I went to school one morning thinking I'm going to be asked to spell "article", and maybe, "rarefied" and ended up under my desk with my head tucked between my legs. It was in the booklet! We had, as per instruction, air raid drills. We dived under our desks at different speeds depending on whether it was a "Red Alert", "Blue Alert", "Yellow Alert" and so on. It was also Ricky who took his life in his hands by leaning out from under his desk and asking, "Will this save us if the bomb lands anywhere close to us?"

That atomic Cold War saber rattling could scar a guy for life!

Me and David Mark went to building a fallout shelter just as soon as we got home. It was a good thing we were small. There wasn't much crawl space beneath the floor joist. We pushed the excess dirt to the far reaches of the underpinning and hauled a few loads out to the field beside Aunt Jessie's house.

It took us a month to get it where we could stand up in it. David found some old cans of Vienna sausage and I begged Mom for a sleeve of saltine crackers. We hauled in some black walnuts from Mrs. Boaz's yard and figured we'd be set if this nuclear attack only lasted for a day or two.

The very first "Weekly Reader" we were exposed to in junior high had a map of Russia right on the front page. That danged country which had us ducking and digging for two years was on the other side of the world! Why would they want to bomb us? We must have really made them mad. And, maybe more to the point, how could they get over here to drop an atomic bomb on us? Course, those Civil Defense folks had done thought of that. We had NORAD, the DEW line across Canada and a Ballistic Missile Early Warning System to alert us to exactly when to sound the CD sirens. I scratched my head again. Why would we put in a Weekly Reader for the whole world to see detailed information about our nuclear missile defense system?

Sometimes I think America is not the smartest country on earth.

Daddy bought a TV a year or so later and Walter Cronkite kept a close eye on the commies for us. That Khrushchev guy never looked happy in black and white. We played ball,

learned to drive, dated, spent some great afternoons out at the clay pits

and made plans to graduate and move on, all under the specter of a nuclear attack from the Soviet Union. We raced them to outer space, cheered against them in the Olympics and faced off against them in Berlin, Korea and Cuba. Even Vietnam always seemed to be a pawn in a larger game.

Old habits die hard. But the fear slowly left me as the passing years revealed a Russia that seemed more bent on threatening and posturing, than bombing. They toned down the rhetoric and tore down the Wall. "Red Alerts" and air raid drills drifted into obscurity. I turned my attention to making a living and raising children....

The fear for the safety and welfare of America has once again awakened in my heart. This time is has nothing to do with Russians, Taliban, foreign agents or intercontinental ballistic missiles.

I am afraid that America is going to self destruct from the inside out! We rant and rave at each other on the Senate floor, "Meet the Press", traffic jams and local get-togethers. "My way or no way" has become the national yell. We seem more angry and hostile than friendly and hospitable. It's enough to make you re-read Edward Gibbon's "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire".

Leon was the only casualty I know of from the atomic threat in the 1950's. Daddy whipped him when he couldn't find our hammer. Dad allowed that the oldest son was responsible for the tools. It didn't dawn on Dave or me until it was too late that we had taken that hammer down to our fallout shelter to bust open those walnuts in case of an emergency.

I'm not sure we can all come out with just a whipping if the "bomb" blows up from within.

Respectfully,
Kes

Letters to the EDITOR

Costing taxpayers dollars

Dear Editor,

"Government, even in its best state, is but a necessary evil; in its worst state, an intolerable one" - Thomas Paine, Common Sense 1776.

"In Gulf County, the citizens must protect our Community by watching their government closely, insuring it does only the necessary; and identifying, exposing, and punishing the evil whenever and wherever they observe it. It is your Duty" - Citizen T. Paine

In case you missed it, at the last commission meeting the BOCC quickly and quietly reported that they owed their Insurance Company's Attorney \$10,000 of our hard-earned tax dollars to respond to a Citizen's PAC lawsuit. The suit stemmed from a

"particularly disgraceful" as opposed to the "routinely ridiculous" BOCC meeting. This one dubbed the Bevy of Circus Clowns during the last election cycle. This \$10,000 debacle Commission Meeting was the capstone of their ridiculous efforts (described by a resident in a letter to the editor titled "Cops Robbers and Cronies" see the "STAR" April 4, 2013). Simply told it was an attempt to silence the residents of the county by government intimidation that included, lying to or collusion with the State Attorney's Office to unleash a bogus investigation of residents whose views they did not like. They hoped/intended to discredit them, intimidate voters, candidates, and The Citizens PAC. (think - Obama - Abuse of Government Power -IRS). The effort resulted in

for the minority of Gulf Countians who actually pay ad valorem taxes. As to the other three commissioners that was quite a display of Texas 2 stepping and socialism in action.

Those of us who fund this

harassment and slander. Oh by the way, it appears that one resident, Mr. Garth, is still waiting for clarification or an apology from the SAO, Mr. Hess, resulting from a bogus finding/charge that he was a previously convicted felon. Maybe ole Glenn and his dunkin donut denizens should be the next target of a lawsuit, see "evil" above. However, not happy with their results they (the BOCC) and a citizen crony engaged in a disgraceful exhibition of dirty politics, slander, and intimidation. If you don't remember it or missed it look it up and watch the County Commission Meeting Oct. 25, 2012. All five Commissioners, including Bill Williams, who along with Yeager looked like the ring leaders, the County Staff and Attorney all participated either

deliberately, or negligently, or just too mentally slow for the job. To paraphrase the crony (it is in the record).

None of this activity was "necessary"; it was a dumb, malicious, dirty politics abuse of government power; not governance. It was "evil"; lies, conspiracy, cronyism and intimidation. It is time now for the vigilant citizens to do their duty, root it out; four of them are still there. Support Commissioner Bryan the "new one" who is working to make the Government transparent and only gets harassment and cover up from the Circus Clowns.

Get rid of McDaniel and Smiley November 2014, and then get ready to dump the other two. It is "intolerable" all four owe us \$10,000. It is your duty. Do it!

Citizen T. Paine
A 20 year resident/
Gulf County taxpayer

the bills.

Can't wait for the day I can vote for or against all board members who decide how much to tax the few.

Tom Knoche
Gulf County resident
and taxpayer

Thanks for Mosquito Control

Dear Editor,

With all the emphasis on tourism and events to draw tourists to our area, some things are just taken for granted. This summer, once again, was a banner season for those who thrive on the tourist trade. We at Happy Ours Kayak & Bike Outpost, after 13 years of doing business in Gulf County, have learned that those summer months are crucial to our survival. This season we had a tremendous amount of rainfall, creating ideal breeding conditions, but the familiar hum of the mosquito truck making its nightly rounds assured us a

bug-free morning. Let me backtrack about 10 years when we literally met our customers at their cars with a can of OFF so they could rent a kayak and escape the mosquitos in the safety of St. Joseph Bay. Imagine the effect on bed taxes if we had to hand out bug suits along with keys to the rental homes when visitors checked in. I dare not even mention the risk of illness from mosquito-borne disease. Each time Mosquito Control sprays our area, I make a note on my calendar. They are so diligent compared to the old days that I hear them spraying even during the dry periods. So I called one day to ask why they sprayed

when there was no rain. Mark Cothran answered my question succinctly when he said, "We have traps at Dead Man's Curve about ½ mile from you and they are full, so we're taking action." Wow! I was impressed. Not only were they taking preventative measures, I got a straightforward response. It reminded me of what the great baseball player Willie Mays said when they asked him why he was so good. He replied, "They throw the ball. I hit it. They hit the ball. I catch it." The purpose of this letter is to give praise to the Gulf County Mosquito Control for advances made by their research, technology and hard work.

I'm sure their funding has been cut like most public projects, but they still get the job done. Just imagine what they could do about biting flies if given the responsibility. So next time you are sitting at the Scallop Festival or watching the sunset from your outdoor balcony or waiting for a table at the Raw Bar, take note of the absence of mosquitos that would normally drive you away. Even with all the rains of this summer, we can thank someone who was out there "throwing the ball" and hitting it ... with a big fly swatter. Thank you Gulf County Mosquito Control, Dan Van Vleet Happy Ours

BOCC from page A1

"We are very restricted on how we could use those funds," said Sheriff Mike Harrison.

Mandatory garbage pickup was kicked down the road by commissioners who set a referendum for November 2014 to consider a sales tax to fund mandatory garbage.

"These are no-brainers to me," Hardman said of the measures discussed and not implemented.

She said she found "some bacon" but not "a lot of fat" in the budget but noted a reserve balance of nearly \$5 million.

"I find that incompetent" that commissioners did not do more to ease the burden on property taxpayers, Hardman added. "You need to spread the cost of operating the county to those who use it and can afford it. You are going to have the exact same problems next year."

The budget vote had urgency as last week was the final budget hearing and commissioners had to gavel the meeting with a budget formalized.

McDaniel, echoing Hardman, said he wanted to dip into reserves to close the tax increase margin, but found early resistance from McLemore and Bryan.

McDaniel and McLemore swapped figures, as if at a bargaining table, on how much would be palatable to take from reserves, but the numbers never narrowed sufficiently.

"I do not support going into reserves," Bryan said. "I'm not in favor of a tax increase and I am not in favor

of going into reserves."

After the board took two recesses in an attempt to calm emotions and arrive at a solution, McLemore challenged the dissenters, Bryan and McDaniel, for places to further cut the budget.

Bryan said she had raised a number of issues, from considering the operational costs of a \$1.2 million jail that was out of compliance with Model Jail Standards to mandatory garbage, and found herself roundly shut out by her fellow commissioners.

"I have been told not to even discuss them," Bryan said. "I've discussed (these) many times and you have no interest in supporting (them)."

"I am not in favor of raising taxes if we are not being good stewards of the taxpayers' money."

McDaniel said he had suggested at the last public budget hearing that commissioners comb through department budgets line by line but the suggestion gained no traction.

While the individual savings in a given department might not add up to much, McDaniel said, savings could be found, but commissioners squandered the opportunity.

"We had plenty of time to look at this stuff," McDaniel said.

County administrator Don Butler said he had a conference call with the county's bond consultant and said the consultant would want to know if a tax increase was not passed would the county use reserves or cut

expenditures.

And, Butler said, would the county continue to spend more than is coming in on the revenue side?

Both questions, Butler said, could impact the county's bond rating.

"If we live above our means we have to pay the price someday," Butler said.

During an extended recess McDaniel thought he had brokered a deal by which the BOCC would dip into reserves, not purchase an excavator for Public Works and make other smaller cuts to arrive at a tax increase in the neighborhood of \$100,000 or less.

One by one commissioners, save Bryan, went into a back room with staff to discuss the parameters but as commissioners gathered back together, after nearly 40 minutes, Butler entered the meeting room with a phone.

He said county attorney Jeremy Novak, also connected by phone, indicated that if Yeager was linked by audio and video to the meeting, he could vote.

"I felt blindsided," McDaniel said later.

Yeager, not present during any of the nearly three hours of discussion, cast the vote to approve the budget with tax increase.

"We've got to show some leadership," Yeager said. "We have to move forward with the county's business. This is a tough call. At the end of the day we are going to have to address a lot of this next year."

DITCH from page A1

has undertaken repairs of the project that number in the hundreds, from fixing pipes to, this week, placing fill dirt in areas where pipes have popped up, not fully connected, above ground.

This beyond the original price tag, which Clerk of Courts Becky Norris said at a recent BOCC meeting was over \$1 million.

When he first came before the BOCC Koran provided a list of questions he wanted answered by commissioners and got no response in a subsequent meeting.

Commissioner Carmen McLemore suggested staff did not have time to research the particulars of the project and said questions ought to be directed to the State Attorney.

McLemore was the lone member of the current board who voted on the Americus Ditch project, casting a dissenting vote.

When Koran initially approached the board, McLemore fundamentally agreed with the faults with the project.

"That is our \$1 million pipe that doesn't work," McLemore said.

However, Commissioner Joanna Bryan ran into a wall from fellow commissioners when she pressed the subject. Commissioners said at the first meeting in September they had no desire to look backward at a

project bid and constructed more than six years ago.

"I want to move this county forward," said Commissioner Warren Yeager.

Commissioners approved by a 4-1 vote, Bryan dissenting, to have county administrator Don Butler decide the legitimacy of requests for information; the jail and Americus Ditch were hot button topics as Bryan was seeking information on those two in addition to how road bond money had been spent in the past.

Commissioners also voted in the past two months to reaffirm that contract negotiations be overseen by Butler and county attorney Jeremy Novak.

But Bryan noted last week that the Americus Ditch project remains a problem, with constituents calling her about the ongoing issues with the project in St. Joe Beach.

Bryan said her original questions about the project were as much centered on Americus Ditch as county policy for bidding and letting contracts, particularly \$1 million contracts.

"This is a poster child for the wrong way to do business," Bryan said. "It concerns me about how many other projects have been done this way and the exposure for liability."

Brad Bailey, whose com-



WES LOCHER | The Star
Pipes, unconnected, popping from the ground have been an ongoing problem since the Americus Ditch project was constructed more than six years ago.

pany was the contractor on the project, and Ralph Rish from Preble Rish Engineers appeared before the BOCC to clarify what they said were false statements made about the project.

Rish acknowledged there were problems with the project and pledged that Preble Rish would assist the county in addressing those problems.

Bryan said she intended to hold Rish to that promise, noting that the problems, despite the comments from commissioners, continue with little relief for residents in the area.

NELLIE from page A1

"I am not doing anything but putting in my time," Wade said with the Cheshire smile and gleaming eyes with which she greets every patient.

"My kids are all grown. What else would I do?" she said with a shrug belying the boundless heart beneath.

Therein lies the beauty, the grace of Nellie Ann Wade who came out of the military as a nurse and found her way to the small community of Wewahitchka, where what passed for major thoroughfares were dirt roads.

"She came here out of the military and just fit right in," said Feraline Greer. "Her energy level is just phenomenal."

Since 1946 or so, she has aided a lineage of medical professionals from Wewahitchka, named Anderson, Canning and, for the past 15 years, Barnes, who would attest he remains active in significant part due to Wade.

And through those decades, she has helped "raise" generations, knowing them by name just

as they know her, especially for those shots which go in smooth as warm butter.

"She is a legend," said Christy Smith, receptionist at Barnes' office.

"Everybody knows her and she knows everybody. First thing when anybody in town feels bad, they call to see Ms. Nellie."

"She's a go-getter. She knows just what to tell people, how to make them feel better. She's just Ms. Nellie. She is one of a kind. I tell her all the time when I grow up I want to be like her."

But as was clear last Saturday, there is really only one Nellie Wade.

As Smith said, "They broke the mold."

And as the community gathered to feast, enjoy a birthday cake, hand out presents to their nurse, their neighbor, their loved one, they treasured that the mold wasn't broken until Nellie Ann Wade arrived in Georgia some 90 years ago.

"She has been a blessing to this community over the years," said one speaker. "She has been a shining spirit for this community."

PARKER HOUSE from page A1

been a swamp and for many years the spoils of canal dredging had been put in the area which according to soil borings has made the ground unstable for the first 15 feet below the surface.

ster," said Cathey.

Previously, Cathey had provided a bid that included the costs of improving the foundation and rebuilding on the existing structure, but Councilwoman Tanya Castro asked to see numbers on the cost of a new structure.

"The insurance company called the building a 'total loss,'" said Castro. "We need to move forward."

Castro said that after comparing the bottom lines, she'd be better informed to make a final decision on how to proceed.

The project has been at a standstill for two years and Cathey was eager for the council to provide some direction.

An executive meeting to review the costs will be scheduled for early October.

LAWsuit from page A1

Both were ultimately dismissed with prejudice.

In dismissing the case, the court left each side to bear their own legal costs.

Carr sued the city, her estranged husband Billy Carr, Jr. and police officers Jake Richards and David Garner, accusing them of violating her constitutional right against illegal search and seizure as well as abuse of power and abuse of process.

Lynne Carr also sued Port St. Joe Mayor Mel Magidson, but he was dismissed from the case nearly two months ago.

She alleged that search, which followed a similar search of the businesses, lacked probable cause.

"We knew it would end this way," said Richards. "We did not do the things the affidavit stated and we would just like our reputations restored now that the case has been cleared. We were never under (conducting) any investigation and did not violate any policy and surely did not violate the constitutional rights we are sworn to protect."

"Frivolous lawsuits have become an every day part of law enforcement over the years. Most are filed then dropped. Some are settled to save taxpayer's money on attorney fees. I feel as though it was a personal attack to diminish our reputations."



Sandy Price | Community Banker

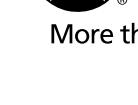
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Middens a window into how early people lived

By Tom Baird

The fringe of St. Joseph Bay and certain islands in the bay, St. Vincent Island, St. Vincent Sound, Apalachicola Bay, and numerous nearby coastal sites all contain the remains of Indian middens. The dictionary defines a midden as "an area of an archaeological site that contains domestic refuse such as food waste, broken pottery, and pieces of other household artifacts, indicating long-term human occupation." In other words, a midden was where the Native Americans discarded their trash. To the archaeologist and biologist these sites are a window into how early peoples lived and used the bay, and they are an encyclopedia of what creatures lived in St. Joseph Bay in the past and how people used them.

For instance, oyster shells are not common in middens on St. Joseph Bay because the bay has a high salinity, very little freshwater flows into St. Joseph Bay, and oysters prefer estuarine conditions with a good mixing of salt and freshwater. If the Indians wanted oysters, they went to nearby St. Vincent Sound or Apalachicola Bay, and the midden sites there are mainly huge piles of oyster shells.

Besides fish, here they mainly came for the big conchs and whelks.

The prehistoric refuse piles around St. Joseph Bay (the earliest sites date to 1000 B.C.) are filled with the eroding shells of lightning whelks, horse conchs, and crown conchs, all of which still inhabit the bay. The most obvious of the three in middens is

the lightning whelk or left-handed whelk, Busycon contrarium. This was valuable to the early peoples in several important ways.

First, it was a source of meat, although to eat the flesh of the lightning whelk is, as one archaeologist said, "like eating shoe leather." Indeed the meat of the lightning whelk has the consistency of the soles of your sneakers. Properly prepared, queen conch fritters are delicious, and the meat of the related knobbed whelk or the cold-water channeled whelk, Busycotypus canaliculatus, is the basis of the Italian dish scungilli. How the Indians prepared lightning whelk meat isn't known, but it might have been dried or smoked and eaten like jerky.

The second use was for tools. This was especially necessary here because the nearest source of tool grade stone was up in present-day Calhoun or Jackson Counties, a 50-mile collecting trip or obtained by trade. Throughout Florida, the Indians would haft the shell onto a stick to use it as a hoe. Parts of the shell became scrapers, and the hard, massive central column of the shell (the columella) could be fashioned into hammers, punches and awls.

The third use was for their ceremonial drinking cups for black drink. Black drink was and is made from brewing the lightly roasted leaves of yaupon holly, Ilex vomitoria, the only plant in North America to contain caffeine. Ilex grows in healthy profusion around the bay and in the gulf coastal zone. The use of black drink in ceremonies and its association with the lightning



Special to the Star

whelk shell was so common that the shells were traded as far away as present-day Wisconsin and Oklahoma. Inscribed with religious symbols, the shell drinking cups are often found in the graves of high-status individuals, sort of like being buried with your favorite coffee mug. This use of the Busycon shell in black drink ceremonies also meant it was in demand as a trade item, and doubtless many of the mollusk shells collected in our bay were collected to trade.

If people were collecting the left-handed whelk here for thousands of years, it is a brief time compared to how long these mollusks have been around. Fossil shells of these whelks date back 60 million years. They are endemic to the southeastern United States, and range from New Jersey to Florida. They feed almost exclusively on clams, using their muscular foot to grasp the clam and using the lip of their shells to wedge the clam shells apart. The whelk then inserts its mouth and rasps the flesh away with its radula — a file-like device with

horny teeth possessed by many gastropod mollusks.

These whelks can attain very large sizes, some over 16 inches long. The shells less than 7 inches often have axial brown streaks that sort of look like lightning bolts, hence one common name for the mollusks — lightning whelk. The larger shells are usually all white or cream-colored. The other common name, left-handed whelk, derives from the fact that it is one of very few species of gastropods whose shell spirals to the left. Almost all snail shells spiral to the right. Pick up a univalve shell at the beach or in the bay and hold it so that the apex, the point of the shell, is facing toward you. The opening will always be on your right, unless you are holding a lightning whelk and the opening is on the left. If the shell is large enough, another way is to insert one hand and then the other hand in the shell. The hand that curls naturally in the same direction as the shell is coiled indicates the handedness.

Many people find the long,

coiled egg cases of these whelks washed onto the beach or drifting on the bay bottom. The whelks lay their eggs in linearly attached disc-like capsules and the whole strand looks like a Hawaiian lei. There may be up to 200 eggs in each capsule, and 50 — 175 capsules in a string. The young pass through all of their larval stages within the capsule and emerge as miniature snails.

While many people love to collect seashells, the left-handed whelk is an important component of the bay ecosystem, and one should never collect the live animal, no matter how pretty the shell is. Likewise, the smaller empty shells should be left in the bay also. They are homes to hermit crabs. Many a tourist has brought home a beautiful shell as a souvenir; only to have a smelly mess of a rotting hermit crab on their porch, and the shell is thrown out.

St. Joseph Bay is a great place to see the large whelks as they feed in the clear shallow waters. Enjoy them, and reflect on how important this big whelk was to the early people who lived here.

Tom Baird has been a fisheries biologist, high school and community college teacher (oceanography and microbiology), director of a science and environmental center, teacher of science and principal in Pinellas County as well as an educational consultant. He retired from the Florida Department of Education and he and his wife divide their time between Tallahassee and Cape San Blas.

WEEKLY ALMANAC

Date	High	Low	% Precip
Thu, Oct. 3	84°	75°	55 %
Fri, Oct. 4	83°	77°	70 %
Sat, Oct. 5	81°	72°	82 %
Sun, Oct. 6	86°	72°	55 %
Mon, Oct. 7	84°	65°	55 %
Tues, Oct. 8	83°	63°	11 %
Wed, Oct. 9	83°	69°	41 %

TIDE TABLES MONTHLY AVERAGES

To find the tides of the following areas, subtract the indicated times from those given for APALACHICOLA:

Cat Point	HIGH	Minus 0:40	LOW	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:

Bald Point	HIGH	Minus 9:16	LOW	Minus 0:03
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APALACHICOLA

Date	Day	High Tide	High Tide	Low Tide	Low Tide
3	Th	318am	1.7	351pm	1.7
4	Fr	337am	1.7	441pm	1.7
5	Sa	358am	1.8	532pm	1.7
6	Su	421am	1.8	626pm	1.7
7	Mo	448am	1.9	723pm	1.7
8	Tu	520am	2.0	829pm	1.6
9	We	558am	2.0	943pm	1.5
10	Th	642am	1.9	1106pm	1.5
11	Fr	739am	1.8	210am	1.4
12	Sa	1218am	1.5	854am	1.7

CARRABELLE

Date	Day	High Tide	High Tide	Low Tide	Low Tide
3	Th	153am	2.7	226pm	2.7
4	Fr	212am	2.7	316pm	2.7
5	Sa	233am	2.9	407pm	2.7
6	Su	256am	2.9	501pm	2.7
7	Mo	323am	3.0	558pm	2.7
8	Tu	355am	3.2	704pm	2.6
9	We	433am	3.2	818pm	2.4
10	Th	517am	3.0	941pm	2.4
11	Fr	614am	2.9	1053pm	2.4
12	Sa	729am	2.7	1141pm	2.4

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4514350

Rose of Sharon remains traditional favorite

"I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys. As the lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters. As the apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved among the sons. I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste."

The Song of Songs

The rose of Sharon is a common name used for several unrelated plants. In our area, it is commonly identified as althea, properly named Hibiscus syriacus.

Althea is definitely not the original rose of Sharon, since it is native to East Asia. Scholars think the plant in the poem was probably Pancratium maritimum, a lily commonly known as the sea daffodil.

Nevertheless, our althea is worthy of use in local gardens because it produces abundant blooms and grows remarkably well here.

An early introduction to American gardens, it was probably carried over by Dutch or English colonials.

Although naturally a multi-stemmed shrub, this plant can be trained through pruning to a single trunked "tree." It can also be trained for espalier and hedges. Other than regular pruning to prevent weediness, this plant requires little

attention. Watering and fertilizer should be kept to a minimum.

Althea prefers full to partial sun in our area, is heat and salt tolerant and likes dry feet.

While it is deciduous, it remains green most of the year here and can bloom year round. It can be propagated by cuttings but be aware that it will grow from seed and can produce numerous volunteer shoots. Unfortunately, these are generally hybrids lacking the characteristics of the parent plant including flower color.

The commonest criticism of althea is the color of the flowers can be muddy, so be sure to choose your plant when it is in bloom. Flowers come in shades of red, pink, white and purple.

Althea can reach 10 feet in height. Dwarf varieties, which only grow to six feet tall, are available.

Although they are strong growers, especially older plants might experience a variety of problems, most of which can be solved by pruning or adjusting water and fertilizer.

The commonest pest of althea is aphids, which accumulate at the tips of stems, causing new growth to be misshapen. Aphids may cover the leaves with sticky honeydew, which

turns black when infected by sooty mildew. Aphids can be dislodged with high-pressure water sprays or pruned off with infested foliage.

Be sure to remove pruned greenery from the garden. Over-fertilizing increases aphid infestations.

Japanese beetles are particularly fond of the flowers.

Leaf spot is a symptom of bacterial infection. Pick off and destroy the infected leaves. Canker can cause bright, reddish-orange fruiting bodies to appear on the bark. Prune out infected branches.

Flowers are subject to fungus.

After pruning a diseased plant, always clean tools in bleach before using on another plant.

Bud drop can be caused by too much or too little water or over fertilization.

The flowers of althea, both dried and fresh, were

traditionally used as a winter tea and contain abundant antioxidants.

"Urban Forager" a website produced by the University of Georgia wrote, "Besides the obvious use as a garnish, the flowers of Rose of Sharon can be chopped and added to dishes, or left whole for salads. They make colorful, edible, presentation cups for dips. The leaves are edible when cooked, and can be added to quiche or greens."

Unripe seedpods are also edible.

Flower buds contain mucilage, a gooey medicinal compound made of polysaccharides. This substance has been used to treat burns, wounds, gastric ulcers and internal and external inflammation and irritation, such as sore throats or urinary tract infections.

The bark is being studied for cancer inhibiting properties. The Chinese use the root bark as an antifungal remedy.

FISH REPORT SPONSORED BY



Inshore/Bay

The freshwater is moving out and the water is clearing up. Redfish are picking up and the trout have picked up as well in the bay. Many good slot-sized redfish have been caught under the George Tapper Bridge, along with flounder.

Offshore/Bottom

Gag grouper continue to show up in shallow water this week, especially around the Car Body site. Soaking pinfish is the best bet. Live pinfish are plentiful and great baits. Kingfish are still hanging around near-shore structures and in the channels. Flounder have slowed down but some continue to be caught at Jetty Park at the Port St. Joe Marina and under the George Tapper Bridge.

You're Invited To Join Us

Wednesday, October 16, 2013, 5-7pm ET

Capt. Rick Murphy of the Florida Chevy Insider Fishing Report

To give a seminar on

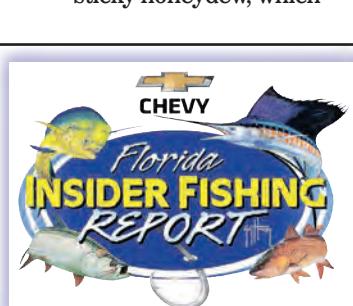
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PORT ST. JOE WEWAHITCHKA SPORTS

A
Section

Thursday, October 3, 2013

www.starfl.com

Page 7

Chipley runs past Port St. Joe

By RANDAL SEYLER
Halifax Media Group

CHIPLEY—Chipley rushed for 368 yards to overcome Port St. Joe 28-16 Friday at Philip Rountree Stadium in a nondistrict Class 1A game between teams with playoff aspirations.

Kobe McCrary rushed for 177 yards and two touchdowns on 23 carries and Darren Stewart added 165 yards and a TD on only seven attempts for the Tigers, 3-1. The Tiger Sharks dropped to 3-2.

The victory wasn't secured until Chipley rallied from a 16-14 deficit with the final two touchdowns. The Tigers' defense also played a major role, stopping Port St. Joe inside the Tigers' 10 on the opening possession of the game.

Port St. Joe's Dewayne Griggs, Jasmin Thomas and Aaron Paul combined to roll up 45 yards following a 30-yard kickoff return by Griggs.

But Chipley recovered a Port St. Joe fumble inside the 10.

"We did a good job offensively," said Port St. Joe coach Chuck Gannon of his Tiger Sharks who amassed 292 total yards. "But we had a couple of mistakes that hurt us."

A holding penalty negated a 60-yard run by McCrary and neither team was able to do much damage the remainder of the first quarter.

The second quarter began with Port St. Joe's



COURTESY OF STEVE WHEALTON

Carter Thacker (21) and the Tiger Sharks rushed for 234 yards against Chipley.

WANT TO GO?

Port St. Joe hosts Franklin County 7:30 p.m. ET Friday for Homecoming.

Thomas scrambling with a fake punt on fourth-and-5 to the Chipley 12.

Again the Tigers' defense held, and a field goal by Port St. Joe's Drew Lacour gave the Tiger Sharks a 3-0 edge.

Stewart produced a 67-yard sprint on Chipley's next series to the Port St. Joe 5. McCrary went up the middle for the touchdown and Chipley led 6-3 lead with 8:59 left in the half.

"That's a tough place to play," Gannon said. "They use McCrary, who is a big back, and then they come back with a scat back."

They are a tough team to defend.

"But I thought we played hard all night. Overall we played well as a team, again."

Port St. Joe went three-and-out and punted the ball back to Chipley. The Tigers took over at their 47 and within six plays were threatening. McCrary had a key run inside the 20 and Zack Campbell went the final 7 yards to score. McCrary's conversion made it 14-3 with 4:23 left in the second quarter.

The Sharks responded by driving 66 yards in eight plays, Griggs (a team-high 108 rushing yards and 16 total tackles) finding the end zone on a sweep from the 4.

Lacour's point-after was blocked and the Sharks had closed to 14-9. McCrary had a 42-yard run shortly before intermis-

sion, but Port St. Joe held him out of the end zone at the 2 on the final play of the half.

The Tigers Sharks reclaimed the lead on their first possession of the third quarter. A nine-play, 50-yard drive culminated in Paul (98 rushing yards) scoring from the 5 and Lacour's kick made it 16-14.

The lead was short-lived.

Twenty-five seconds later Stewart ran 70 yards to put the Tigers back on top and McCrary's second conversion made it 22-16. With 4:18 to play McCrary broke free from a swarm of Port St. Joe defenders at the 50 and went the distance to punctuate a hard-fought triumph.

Star News Editor Tim Croft contributed to this report

Wewa routs Franklin for 1st victory

Star Staff Report

We wahitchka managed just seven offensive plays from scrimmage in the first half Friday night as the Gators hosted Franklin County.

On the flip side, those seven plays helped produce a 26-0 halftime lead.

The Gators (1-4) rushed for over 250 yards and dominated the winless Seahawks in a 40-14 contest decided by halftime.

We wahitchka had the ball for only seven offensive plays in the opening half, but Jonathan Palmer rushed 45 yards in the first quarter to stake the Gators to an early lead.

WANT TO GO?

The Gators host North Bay Haven 7 p.m. CT Friday for Homecoming.

The lead bulged in the second period as Javar Hill scored on a runs of 15 and 25 yards and Willie Hill put the icing on an impressive first half by scooping up a fumble at the Seahawks 35 and running in for the touchdown.

Rashard Ranie continued the onslaught when he dashed 54 yards for a third-quarter touchdown and Shannon Jones, getting

some varsity playing time, covered 16 yards on the ground for the Gators' final score.

Peter Setterich was 4 for 6 on extra-point kicks for We wahitchka. Ranie, who attempted just one pass which fell incomplete, rushed for 111 yards.

Palmer added 53 rushing yards and Javar Hill 42. Burley Parker and Ervin Maiben each rushed for 31 yards and Jones added his 16-yard touchdown.

Parker also had an interception to go with Willie Hill's fumble recovery touchdown.

The Gators host North Bay Haven for Homecoming at 7 p.m. CT this Friday.

Dixie board members needed

Special to The Star

We encourage everyone to participate in this organization to create a strong program that will directly benefit children in our community. The following positions need to be filled and are very important for the success of our program: President; AAA vice president; Ozone vice president; secretary; equipment manager; and concession manager.

The league returns three officers.

The board meeting will be 3 p.m. ET on Sunday, Oct. 13 at the STAC House on Eighth Street in Port St. Joe.

If you have any questions or would like to participate and cannot attend the meeting, please contact Bobby at 527-3707 or Carly at 481-6631 or Carly.Pickels@gmail.com.

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PSJ volleyball endures difficult stretch

Star Staff Report

The Port St. Joe Jr/Sr. High School volleyball team suffered two defeats against tough squads sandwiched around a win over West Gadsden.

The Lady Tiger Sharks lost in straight sets to North Bay Haven and in four sets to Liberty County but swept West Gadsden.

The Lady Tiger Sharks are 10-6 overall and 5-3 in the district.

The week began with a visit from Liberty County and both varsity and junior varsity matches followed a similar theme: Port St. Joe winning the first match and losing the next three.

The junior varsity lost 25-12, 22-25, 21-25 and 18-25.

The varsity fell by scores of 25-18, 23-25, 21-25 and 18-25.

"They were both hard-fought matches," said Port St. Joe coach Wayne Taylor.

For the JV, Halie Jasinski had eight kills and for the varsity Shannon Pridgeon had 10.

The following night Port St. Joe traveled to West Gadsden and overwhelmed the far younger team in a varsity-only match. Port St. Joe had 44 service aces and 13 kills in sweeping the three games.

On Thursday, North Bay Haven came calling for what Taylor called



COURTESY OF STEVE WHEALTON

Sophomore Callie Fleshren serves against Bozeman earlier this season.

two more "hard-fought" matches.

The junior varsity took the opening game but lost the next two and the match by scores of 25-14, 22-25 and 11-15.

The junior varsity is 6-4 overall, 3-2 in the district.

The varsity fell in straight sets 20-25, 23-25 and 21-25.

"The close scores of the sets are indicative of how hard the ladies battled for the match," Taylor said. "North Bay Haven played a very fundamentally sound match and we just never could really pull ahead."

Port St. Joe travels to South Walton tonight.

On Monday the team will travel to Bristol for another district match at Liberty County. Tuesday night Port St. Joe will play its final district match at home against the Franklin County Lady Seahawks.

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The new College of Applied Studies at FSU Panama City was approved by the FSU Board of Trustees in June 2010 and allows the campus to more easily respond to workforce needs in our area. We invite you to support The Campaign for Our Community's University by helping us build an endowment for tomorrow's jobs. Our goal is to establish a \$5 million endowment for the College of Applied Studies by 2017, which will allow FSU Panama City to establish student scholarships, implement new degree programs and provide new equipment and technology.

To learn how you can support our community's university, contact Mary Beth Lovingood at (850) 770-2108 or mblovingood@pc.fsu.edu.



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SPECIAL TO THE STAR
From left, Dave Ashbrook, Lynn Marshall, Jason Bogan.

New faces, developments at the Port Inn

Special to The Star

Tapper & Company Properties Management announces the hiring of Lynn Costin Marshall as the new General Manager of the historic, 100-year-old Port Inn in Port St. Joe.

As a graduate of Georgia State University with a degree in hotel and restaurant management and the past executive director of the Mexico Beach, Tourism and Visitors Bureau, Lynn brings her special talents to the established team known to deliver the best hospitality experience in the area.

"We feel that Lynn is the perfect fit for the Port Inn. Her lively personality and attention to detail will be a tremendous addition as we continue to 'do our best for every guest, every day'; delivering a first class hospitality experience here in Port Saint Joe," Jason Bogan, vice president, said.

February of this year marked the 10-year anniversary of the re-creation and re-opening of the Port Inn in the heart of downtown Port Saint Joe. With its growth and the success of the added amenities like its daily hot breakfast service and an expanded dinner menu and service hours, Tapper & Company wanted to re-affirm their commitment to the historic Inn and the guests they serve. It has been four years since the Port Inn has had a dedicated General Manager.

"With Dave Ashbrook responsible for the Mainstay Suites and Jason concentrating on systems and processes at both properties, it has come time for someone to focus all their time and attention again on the Port Inn. I look forward to providing an exceptional experience for each and every guest that visits the Port Inn and the Thirsty Goat Bar and Grill," Marshall said.

This summer has seen many new additions, including the successful opening of the Port Cottages directly behind the Inn. These cozy cottages give families the opportunity to stay together with two bedrooms, 1.5 bathrooms, and a full kitchen.

"The addition of the cottages to our inventory provides tremendous flexibility to our guests. Sometimes it is nice to have a larger space to stay with your family and family pet," Marshall said.

Marshall will also be working on creating more events for the Thirsty Goat Bar and Grill. The Lounge currently has Martini Mondays and Wine-Down Wednesday's and live music every Friday and Saturday evening.

"I am excited about the energy Lynn brings to the Tapper team. I have asked her to develop new events that can take place at the Port Inn that will include more and varied live music, arts and events the entire family can enjoy. I believe Lynn will help us continue to make the Port Inn and the Thirsty Goat two of the most inviting and memorable locations in Gulf County and on the Forgotten Coast," said David Warriner, President of Tapper & Company.

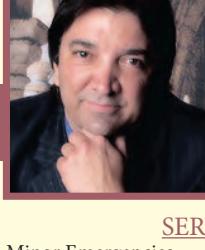
For more information on the Port Inn, call 850-229-7678 or email Lynn directly at Lynn@PortInnFL.com.

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For full event schedule,
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October 17-20th, 2013



BLAST on the BAY

Friday, October 18th

Triple Tails Seafood & Raw Bar
3 p.m. & 5 p.m.

Provisions

6 p.m.

The Thirsty Goat

6:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m.
& 10:30 p.m.

Mango Marley's

(central time zone)
7 p.m. & 9 p.m.

Saturday, October 19th

Dockside Seafood and Raw Bar
11:30 a.m., 12:45 p.m.
2 p.m. Free Songwriters Workshop

Lookout Lounge

5 p.m. & 7 p.m.

Toucans

(central time zone)
6 p.m., 8 p.m., & 10 p.m.

Haughty Heron

7 p.m. & 9 p.m.

VisitGulfCounty.com

Sunday, October 20th

Indian Pass Raw Bar
2 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5 p.m.,
6:30 p.m., 8 p.m.

10 p.m. - Late Night Jam Session

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This Project received financial assistance from the Gulf County TDC.

This Project received financial assistance from Visit Florida.

Showing gratitude

State park appreciation day turns up the volume

By WES LOCHER
229-7843 | @PSJ_Star
wlocher@starfl.com

It's safe to say that the T.H. Stone St. Joseph Peninsula State Park was fully appreciated last Saturday.

The Friends of St Joseph State Park hosted its annual State Park Appreciation Day at Eagle Harbor on Cape San Blas.

Held in conjunction with National Public Lands Day, the morning kicked off with a shoreline cleanup to keep the park pristine.

Information booths and environment displays surrounded Eagle Harbor and shared information with the 300 attendees about wildlife, park history and sea turtles.

A low-country shrimp boil fed hungry Friends and visitors alike, while Scallop Cove provided free ice cream for the kids.

Friends president Dewey Blaylock estimated the event welcomed 70 percent more attendees than last year's and had four times as many new members enroll.

"We're really pleased with the membership increase," Blaylock said. "I think we accomplished what we set out to do."

A sandcastle competition took place on the beach while local band Sonic Tonic kept revelers entertained with a mix of cover songs from years past.

"The park getting the stage was an incredible addition," Blaylock said.

Attendees were treated to ample seating or took in the festivities from the comfort of their boats.

A volunteer staff of 25 kept the event running smoothly and beautiful weather kept spirits high.

It was the first time on the board for Friends marketing director and events coordinator, Crystal Follin.

Given this was her first time promoting the event through a website, social media and flyers she said she was happy with the turnout for the event.

"It was a great event and the weather was perfect," Follin said. "There were so many families, and everyone was in a great mood."

The Friends of St Joseph State Park is a non-profit organization that provides support to missions at T.H. Stone St. Joseph Peninsula State Park.

The park is home to a shoreline named in 2002 as the top beach in the world and last summer, destination website America's Best Online, named St. Joseph Peninsula State Park the top state park in the country.



PHOTOS BY WES LOCHER | The Star

Local band Sonic Tonic provided entertainment from Eagle Harbor's new stage.



Attendees were treated to a low-country shrimp boil.

Families headed out to Eagle Harbor on Cape San Blas for State Park Appreciation day.



COMMUNITY

B
Section

Thursday, October 3, 2013

www.starfl.com

Page 1

Annual Bay Day promotes preserves

By TIM CROFT
227-7827 @PSJ_Star
tcroft@starfl.com

From its creation in 2003, the Friends of St. Joseph Bay Preserves has performed to a succinct motto.

"People must be stakeholders in the land," founding members said as a mission statement.

To promote the Preserves, to create more stakeholders and increase membership the Friends will hold Bay Day this weekend, with the event kicking off Friday with an astronomy walk and continuing through Saturday with tours, music and food.

Bay Day events begin 7 p.m. ET Oct. 4 with an Astronomy Walk & Talk led by Dr. Cliff Harris from Gulf Coast State College. Walking in the preserve you will get a feel for just how large the solar system is and have fun observing the stars and night sky.

A Low Country Boil will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. ET and the menu includes boiled shrimp, sausage, potatoes, corn on the cob, Cole slaw, garlic bread and beverages.

A \$10 donation is asked per meal.

During the February Bay Day 458 plates of shrimp boil were sold, representing a major fundraiser for the Friends.

New this Bay Day is a Kayak Adventure led by Kim Wren, former Aquatic Preserve Manager and now Stewardship Manager at the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve in Eastpoint. There are a limited number of spaces available so come out on Oct. 5 and sign up for the adventure. Happy Ours Kayak and Kite Outpost is sponsoring the Kayak Adventures.

Ten years after its creation, the Friends group remains a vibrant and active partner working with the preserve staff to keep St. Joseph Bay, one of Florida's 41 aquatic preserves, pristine while assisting with work on the uplands when called.

"If you are not familiar with the



SPECIAL TO THE STAR



Tram tours in search of wildflowers and butterflies will be led by Bill Boothe (right).

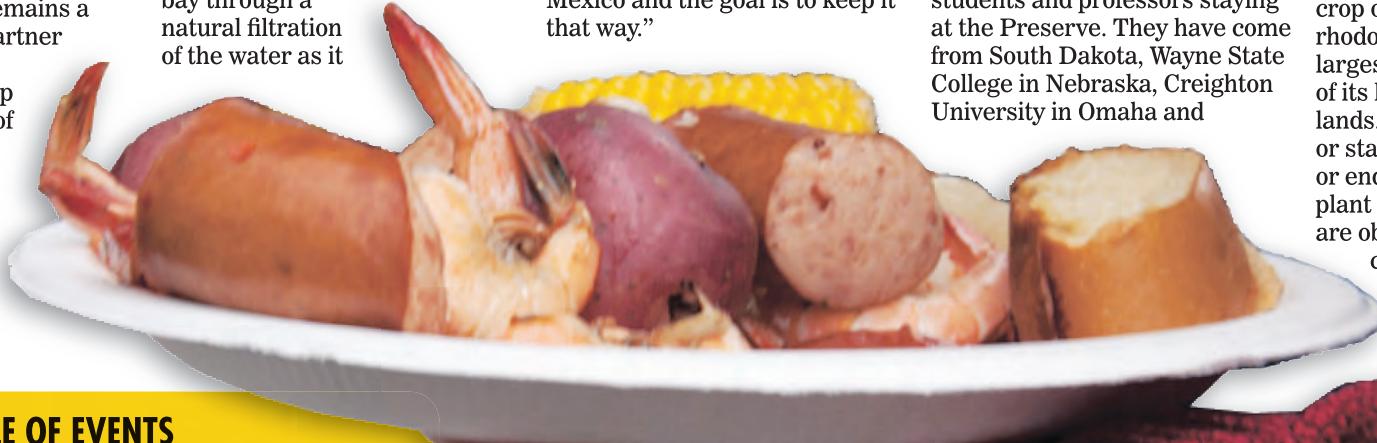
Bay Day will offer visitors a host of tours into the wilds of the 5,000-plus acre Buffer Preserve.

Buffer Preserve or the Aquatic Preserve stop in for a visit at the Preserve Welcome Center and learn how the Buffer Preserve helps to protect the bay through a natural filtration of the water as it

descends to the bay via the watershed," said Sandra Chafin, on staff at the Buffer Preserves. "St. Joseph Bay is one of the most pristine bays on the Gulf of Mexico and the goal is to keep it that way."

The Preserves Center is also a mecca for scientists and researchers.

Since January there have been almost 20 groups of students and professors staying at the Preserve. They have come from South Dakota, Wayne State College in Nebraska, Creighton University in Omaha and



SPECIAL TO THE STAR

The Low Country Boil is a highlight of the annual Bay Day in support of the St. Joseph Bay Preserves.

Trivia Fun

Wilson Casey
WC@Trivia Guy.com

"Trivia Fun" with Wilson Casey, Guinness World Record Holder from Woodruff, S.C., is published in more than 500 newspapers across the country and is a weekly feature in The Port St. Joe Star.

1) What would a cruciverbalist ordinarily be looking for in a newspaper?

Sports, Weather, Headlines, Crosswords

2) Ataxia is a medical condition as a consequence of which organ?

Liver, Heart, Brain, Kidneys

3) What was the first name of Lear, founder of the Lear Jet?

Joseph, Lawrence, William, Glenn

4) Since when have Girl Scouts been selling cookies?

1917, 1939, 1956, 1970

5) What is the most popular U.S. garden plant?

Squash, Cucumber, Tomato, Carrot

6) Which decade saw Major League Baseball build a record 11 ballparks?

1930s, 1950s, 1970s, 1990s

7) Who hosts a yearly celebration to honor

the blue-footed Bresse chicken?

France, Spain, Brazil, India

8) What antacid gum did Wrigley release in 2001?

Chaco, Surpass, Johnny, Steptoe

9) Whose name at birth was Issur Danielovitch?

Kirk Douglas, Usher, Burt Reynolds, Sinbad

10) Which is a thief whose specialty is robbing women?

Slipper, Scobberlotcher, Roddikin, Moll-buzzer

11) What's the public name of Trevor Tahiem Smith?

Busta Rhymes, E-40, Red Café, Rockwilder

12) Where is the football stadium of Heinz Field?

Pittsburgh, Milwaukee, Denver, Miami

13) Who issued the first presidential pardon?

Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe

14) What means to pour a drink for someone?

Yerd, Franch, Walm, Shench

ANSWERS

1) Crosswords. 2) Brain.

3) William. 4) 1917. 5)

Tomato. 6) 1990s. 7)

France. 8) Surpass. 9) Kirk

Douglas. 10) Moll-buzzer.

11) Busta Rhymes. 12)

Pittsburgh. 13) Washington.

14) Shench.

SALT AIR FARMERS MARKET



TIM CROFT | The Star

The next Salt Air Farmers Market will be held on Saturday, Oct. 5 at City Commons Park in Port St. Joe. Farmers from around North Florida and Georgia will have fresh produce for purchase and vendors will sell homemade crafts and jewelry. The Salt Air Farmer's Market promotes a sustainable food system on Florida's Forgotten Coast. The Market runs from 9 a.m. ET until 1 p.m.

Birth

**Marron Lance is born**

Bladen, Hailyn, Stratton, Stetson and Adley would like to announce the arrival of their baby brother, Marron Lance Moses!

Marron was born at Bay Medical Center on Sept. 6 at 2:26 p.m. He weighed 8 pounds, 15 ounces and was 22.5 inches long.

Proud parents are Marcus Moses and Stephanie Watson. Marron was welcomed by many family members.

He is the grandson of Sandy and Jerry Mitchell and Geraldine Conlon of Howard Creek, Rhonda and Steve Smeby, March (Runt) and Deborah Moses, Glenda Newell and Geraldine Nash of Apalachicola, Charles and Donie Sasser and the late W.C. and Shirley Robinson of Wewahitchka.

Proud aunts and uncles include Rhett and Brittne Butler, Lance Watson, Jessica Chancey and Chandler and Tanner Moses. Marron has many other aunts, uncles and numerous cousins.

Welcome to the world, little man. You are perfect in every way. We love you!

Birthday

Lily is 2!

Our sweet baby is a big 2 years old! Lillian Alice Henderson celebrated her Sept. 9 birthday with her family and a Minnie Mouse party at the White City Fire Department. The celebration continued at her school with cupcakes and treats for all her friends. Lily is the daughter of Heather Henderson of Apalachicola. She is the granddaughter of Donnie and Donna Harcus of White City and Michael Henderson of Apalachicola. She is the great-granddaughter of Bill and Edna Henderson of Eastpoint.

Happy Birthday Lily! We love you so much!

**Houseplant pests come in all shapes, sizes**

Thoughts of insect infestations usually bring to mind attacks on outdoor ornamental planting and vegetable gardens, but houseplants are not immune to insect invasions. Of course, plants growing indoors are better protected than those exposed to outside conditions. However, a number of insects might infiltrate your home in search of a leafy meal.

ROY LEE CARTER
County extension director

Major enemies of indoor plants include spider mites, mealy bugs, aphids and scales, all of which cause damage by sucking out plant juices.

Spider mites, which may be green, yellow, red or almost colorless, are very small — only about 1/50 inch long. They're difficult to see without a magnifying glass. As the name implies, they look like tiny spiders and are usually found on the undersides of leaves. If your plants are heavily infested with spider mites, you'll see fine webbing on the foliage.

Mealy bugs are small, soft-bodied insects, about an eighth of an inch long, covered with a white powdery material. Some species have a long, waxy filament at the rear of the body.

Aphids, which may be green, pink, brown, black, yellow or blue, are usually less than an eighth of an inch long. They are pear-shaped and have long antennae and two short tubes that extend



SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Many kinds of pests attack indoor plants.

from the rear of the body.

Scales, like aphids, are found in a wide range of colors. They range from an eighth to a third of an inch in length, are covered with a waxy material and may be circular, oblong or pear-shaped. Scales are found on both sides of leaves, as well as on twigs and branches, where they hide in crevices.

Although primarily an outdoor pest, whiteflies occasionally are found on houseplants. These

pests, which resemble tiny moths, are about one-sixteenth of an inch long, and as you'd expect, they're white. You can usually tell if you have a whitefly problem by gently shaking suspected plants. If the pests are present, they'll swarm around the plants for a few seconds. They also can be found on the undersides of leaves. Like the other critters we've described, whiteflies injure plant by sucking out juices. They cause the most damage while feeding in their immature stage, when they look like tiny green to whitish fish scales.

Other house plant pests include fungus gnat maggots, psocids (soe-dids) and springtails. These soil-borne pests cause little or no damage. However, large populations may become a nuisance. Fungus gnat maggots are white, worm-like and reach a length of about one-quarter of an inch at maturity. Psocids generally are six-tenths of an inch or less in length. They're grayish in color and may or may not have wings. Springtails range in size from microscopic to as much as a fifth of an inch long. They're usually white, and they jump when disturbed.

Bugs often invade our homes on new plants. It pays to give such introductions a close inspection, before placing them near established plant residents.

For more information on houseplant pests, call the Gulf County Extension Service at 639-3200, or visit <http://gulf.ifas.ufl.edu> and see Publication ENY 476, ENY 317 & ENY 320.

Society BRIEFS

Star Staff Reports

New VSO, new office hours

The new Gulf County Veterans Service Officer is Joe Paul, who replaced the recently retired James Kennedy. The new office hours are 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. ET Tuesday and Wednesday. For appointments, call 229-6125.

Senior citizens group needs your help

Gulf County Senior Citizens, 120 Library Drive in Port St. Joe, is asking for donations of nonperishable

foods such as juice, canned tuna and chicken, soup or vegetables for low-income seniors. Small, inexpensive bingo prizes are always needed for our clients who love to play bingo several times a week. Also needed are donations of items for arts and crafts.

We provide a hot nutritious noon meal Monday through Friday to seniors 60 and over. Transportation may be available to our meal sites.

Anyone interested in coming to our sites in Port St. Joe or Wewahitchka for meals and activities or who would like to donate any of the items noted above may call Debbie at 229-8466.

Gardening BRIEFS

Star Staff Reports

Sea Oats and Dunes club to meet Oct. 8

Please join the "Sea Oats and Dunes Garden Club" at its next monthly meeting at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 8 at Beach Baptist Hall, 311 Columbus St. in St. Joe Beach.

**PSJ Garden Club to meet Oct. 10**

The Port St. Joe Garden Club will have its monthly meeting at noon Thursday, Oct. 10, at its garden center on Eighth Street. David Goodson of Bayside Florist & Gifts will present a program on floral design.

Visitors are welcome. To attend, contact a garden club member or leave a message on our Facebook page. Our garden center is on both national and state historical site lists and available for rental.

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PET OF THE WEEK

St. Joseph Bay Humane Society



Angel is a 45# Amstaff Terrier. She is playful, friendly and outgoing. Angel walks fairly well on her leash and knows the command of sit and down. She loves to cuddle with everybody. Angel gets along well with most dogs but does not care for the company of kitties.

FREE SPAY OR NEUTER FOR THE DOGS OF 32456 ZIP

Please do not hesitate to email townsend.hsdirector@gmail.com or adopt@stjosephbay.org or call the St. Joseph Bay Humane Society at 850-227-1103 and ask for Melody or Debbie! Applications are available at www.sjbhumane.org. We require all potential adopters to complete an application form. Adoption fees include our cost of spay/neuter and current vaccinations.

Our hours for the shelter are Tuesday-Saturday from 10 am-4 pm!

Faith's Thrift Hut is always in need of donations also, and all the proceeds go directly to support the animals in our care! The hours for the store are Thursday-Saturday from 10 am-3 pm. Volunteers are always welcome at both our store and our shelter! Our store and shelter location is 1007 Tenth Street in Port St. Joe! Hope to see you all there soon!

If you are missing a pet or want to adopt a new pet, please check with your local Humane Society or Shelter. Follow us on Facebook: St. Joseph Bay Humane Society

www.sjbhumane.org

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Wewahitchka Elementary spotlights kindergarten

Star Staff Report

Wewahitchka Elementary School is welcoming three new faces to the kindergarten classes this year.

Ms. Ashley Taunton

has taught second grade at WES for the past three years and is delighted to be with Kindergarten.

Ms. Kayla Chumney Bailey comes from Blountstown Elementary. She is happy to return to

WES are student teaching at the school.

Ms. Julie McMillian is a local Gulf Countian and is excited to join the Kindergarten and re-join the WES family after also student teaching at WES.

PSJ Elementary honored with 'School of Distinction' award for fourth year

By WES LOCHER
229-7843 |@PSJ_Star
wlocher@starfl.com

Four was a charm for Port St. Joe Elementary School.

The College for Every Student organization (CFES) honored Port St. Joe Elementary with its fourth-straight "School of Distinction" award in a ceremony held on Monday.

The award recognized the school's efforts to broaden horizons and raise expectations among students during the 2012-13 school year.

Port St. Joe Elementary is one of just 25 schools nationwide to receive the "School of Distinction" award and one of four schools to receive it four years in a row.

The award recognizes schools with exemplary programs that incorporate the three CFES core practices: Leadership through Service, Mentoring, and Pathways to College.

These schools not only provide intensive exposure to the three practices for

targeted students, known as CFES Scholars, but create a college-going culture that promotes college readiness and success for the entire student body.

"The 'School of Distinction' program was created four years ago and Port St. Joe Elementary has received the honor all four years," said CFES President and CEO Rick Dalton. "They have shown and continue to show their commitment to providing students with the tools and skills they need to be college-ready."

CFES school liaison and program director Carol Cathey was on-hand to present the award to Principal Sue Gannon along with guidance counselor DeEtta Smallwood and a handful of student Scholars.

"We have a great school and a great program," said Gannon. "We've had the CFES program since I was a teacher at the high school."

"We're continuing to implement these programs even though our funding

has dwindled because they're so beneficial to students."

After presenting a new banner recognizing the school's achievements, Cathey shook the hand of each of the students and congratulated them on their accomplishments so far.

"The faculty and staff who implement the program do so as volunteers," Cathey reminded the students. "They're very good at it."

Cathey mentioned recent high school graduate Javarri Beachum who upon graduation, was accepted to the Naval Academy Prep School. Cathey reminded students that Beachum had been part of the CFES program, too.

CFES has partnered with Gulf Coast State College to provide services to the school that include a two-year scholarship to an excelling student once they graduate.

"Gulf Coast State College is actively involved in helping Gulf County students get ready to get to college and stay there,"



WES LOCHER | The Star

The College for Every Student organization presented Port St. Joe Elementary with its fourth "School of Distinction" banner.

said Cathey.

To apply for the recognition, the school faculty and students created a submission portfolio to show that students could not only set goals, but reach them. A written plan for what the

staff hoped to accomplish within the school year was also included in the portfolio.

The CFES program aims to help schools with global awareness of what makes students successful and more aware

of their futures. Students in the program will mentor others and raise college awareness through college T-shirt day and complete various other projects throughout the year both inside and outside the classroom.



Faith Christian School

The Lion's Tale

Special to The Star

The third-grade reading class of Faith Christian School presented a "Living History" report for family and friends. The children read a biography, collected information for a written report,



DAZZLING DOLPHINS

SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Port St. Joe Elementary School

Front Row: Jasmine Sandoval, Karli Moore, Santana Causey, Kailah Thomas

Back Row: Brandon Heckinlively, Davis Varnes, Sean Farnsley, Alexis Gathers

Autumn Action

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Sunday October 6, 2013
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Page B4

Fields of Faith event to be held in Port St. Joe

Special to The Star

Students from Gulf to Franklin county schools will be joining thousands of other youth on athletic fields all across the nation on Wednesday to share their Christian faith with fellow students during the seventh annual National Fields of Faith event. This rapidly-growing, interdenominational outreach event will be held at more than 475 locations throughout the nation on this same date.

Though many Christian

rallies are anchored to an entertainer or professional speaker that creates a spectator event, Fields of Faith is structured as a student-to-student ministry. Peers invite their own classmates and teammates to meet on their school's athletic field to hear fellow students share their testimonies, challenge them to read the Bible and to come to faith in Jesus Christ.

This will be the second Fields of Faith event for Port St. Joe Junior/Senior High. Last year, about 250

students and supporters attended at the Shark Stadium.

The national growth of Fields of Faith has been remarkable. Since the beginning of Fields of Faith in 2004, more than 600,000 students have joined in the movement. In 2012 alone, more than 160,000 students gathered on 424 fields across 37 states to participate in the event.

It's not just those numbers that have FCA organizers excited about Fields of Faith. It's the real-life impact these

gatherings are having on young people. Last year's series of events saw 3,710 students make first-time faith commitments to follow Jesus Christ, 4,809 recommitted their life to Christ and 6,885 committed to reading the Bible daily.

The impetus for Fields of Faith began with Jeff Martin, an FCA staff person, who conceived the idea from an Old Testament reference in 2 Chronicles 34 after searching how to help today's generation of students face spiritual battles and temptations. In

the scripture, King Josiah, an influential teenager very similar to Fields of Faith attendees today, gathered his people and challenged them to read the Bible. As a result, they changed their culture.

In 2004, the Josiah-influenced dream came true when 6,000 students gathered on school athletic fields throughout three states for the first Fields of Faith event. That was the beginning of what has become one of the most significant faith-related gathering of students in a

single day.

While Fields of Faith has its roots with FCA leadership, the event is designed to include multiple national Christian organizations, local churches and ministries. A local leadership team will determine the program of each Fields of Faith event.

More information about Fields of Faith is available at FieldsofFaith.com. To learn more about the event in Port St. Joe, contact Dena Sapp (478) 957-4501 or email boxwoodhome@yahoo.com.

FUMC hosts Blessing of the Animals

Special to The Star

Please join us under the sails at First United Methodist Church at 4 p.m. ET on Sunday for the Blessing of our Pets.

If you don't have a pet to receive a blessing, the St. Joseph Bay Humane Society will have a few available for adoption.

After the Blessing Ceremony we will head to the Humane Society on 10th Street to offer Blessing to those animals that remain at the shelter.

Please join us for the service "Under The Sails" and, if you like, the service at the shelter.

We will be collecting donations for the Humane Society. They don't need pet food, as Science Diet has a special program for the shelter; but they sure could use kitty litter, dog and cat toys and treats. And of course ... cash!

Join us and see if it's true, "People look like their pets!"

Key question about religion explored at Lifetree Café

Special to The Star

Is there one true religion? Or many? These questions will be discussed at 7 p.m. CT on Monday at Lifetree Café.

The program, "Only One Way to God? Can One Religion Really Have All the Answers?" features the filmed story of Valerie Winn, an American whose spiritual journey led her to a Chinese village where she encountered an underground church.

Winn describes her encounters with various religions and how they

shaped her.

"I finally said, 'God, would you just show me if you're real?'" Winn said.

Admission to the 60-minute event is free. Snacks and beverages are available. Lifetree Café is at 1602 U.S. 98 in Mexico Beach across from El Governor Motel.

Lifetree Café is a place where people gather for conversation about life and faith in a casual coffeehouse-type setting. Questions about Lifetree may be directed to Gary Grubb at 334-806-5667 or lwlifetreecafe@fairpoint.net.

Faith BRIEFS

FUMC Men's Club BBQ Chicken Supper

The First United Methodist Men's Club will host a BBQ Chicken Supper from 4-6 p.m. ET on Friday.

Half chicken, beans, slaw, bread and tea will be served for \$8 a plate. Carry-out or eat-in.

The First United Methodist Women's Bake Sale will be happening simultaneously.

St. James celebrates feast of St. Francis

St. James Episcopal Church will celebrate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi with a Blessing of the Animals on at 4 p.m. ET Saturday, Oct. 5.

The blessing will be under the gazebo and any 'overflow' will be in the adjacent parking lot.

Pets are welcome! Father Tommy does expect leads or enclosures be utilized so as to avoid any undue over activity or anxiety.

St. James Episcopal Church is at 800 22nd St. in Port St. Joe.

Obituaries

Fred 'Freddy Flintstone' White

Fred "Freddy Flintstone" White passed way in his Overstreet home on Sept. 25, 2013. A Floridian most of his life, he was an amazing husband, father, grandpa, son, brother, uncle and friend. He was a Master of Carpentry and was passionate about growing things and feeding his birds and squirrels.

He is survived by the love of his life of 40 years, Debbie White; four children and 7½ grandchildren. He is also survived by his father, two brothers and one sister and their families.

He was a great teacher to all and will be dearly missed. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to El Governor Hotel, c/o Wylie Petty, Mexico Beach, Fla.

Theodore Daniels, son of the late Annie Bell Peterson and the late Adam Daniels, was born Aug. 11, 1921, in Vernon, Fla. He was educated through the Washington County School System.

He was joined in holy matrimony to the late Hazel White, of Bonifay, Fla., from 1940-1965. Nine children were born to this union: Theodore Jr. (Ann, deceased) of St. Petersburg, Fla., Mary Helen Blanford (Raymond) of Elizabeth, Colo.; William Hard of St. Petersburg; the late Richard Ervin (Barbara) of St. Petersburg; The Rev. Linda Kilpatrick (Pat, deceased)

of Kent, Wa.; Brenda Givens (Charles) of Port St. Joe; Velma Smith (Charles) of Orange City; Cary (Rosalyne) of St. Petersburg, and Ronald (Valerie) of Hinesville, Ga.

Theodore was married to the former Olivia Seabrooks of Apalachicola from 1971 until his demise. He and Olivia have one son, Walter (Charlotte) of Port St. Joe and one daughter, Yolanda, of Pensacola. He also had a love for his special dog, Peppa.

Being the oldest of 15 children, he was preceded in death by nine of his siblings. He leaves behind two brothers and three sisters to cherish his

Theodore Daniels

memory: James Peterson of Green Cove Springs; Robert Peterson, Mae Bell (David) Vann, Annie K. Davis and the Rev. Savannah Frederick, all of Vernon. He also leaves to cherish two sister-in-laws; Rosa Lee Peterson of Vernon and Cheryl Peterson of Caryville, Fla.

He will be greatly missed by his numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Theodore was a Steward at New Bethel A.M.E. Church since the late 1960s. He was gainfully

employed at the St. Joe Paper Company for over 30 years. He was an avid fisherman, hunter and gardener. He loved nature and the outdoors.

Funeral services for Theodore were held on Saturday, Sept. 28, at New Bethel A.M.E. Church in Port St. Joe. He is interred at Forest Hill Cemetery.

The Daniels family would like to extend their sincere appreciation to friends and neighbors for the many kind and lovely expressions of sympathy. You were, and continue to be, a comfort in a time of need. May God forever bless you and keep you.



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Jury scam reported

Special to The Star

The United States District Court for the Northern District of Florida has received several calls this week from concerned local citizens reporting a jury scam.

According to the reports, the caller, who claims to represent the Court, tells the person that he/she has failed to report for federal jury duty and then states that the person will be arrested and jailed by the judge unless he/she appears at the courthouse with a MoneyPak card.

Please be advised this

is a scam. If you are a victim of this scam, please contact the FBI's Internet Crimes Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov.

If you have any questions or concerns about federal jury service please contact the Office of the Clerk:

District Jury Office at 850-521-3705 or by email at jury_fnd@fld.uscourts.gov;

Gainesville Division at 352-380-2400;

Pensacola Division at 850-435-8440;

Tallahassee Division at 850-521-3501;

Panama City Division at 850-769-4556.

St. Joseph Catholic Church Men's Club to have Spaghetti Dinner

Special to The Star

Cannolis, tiramisu, ameretti, cioccolato and pizzelles are Italian desserts that will be served at the St. Joseph Catholic Church Men's Club annual Spaghetti Dinner 5-7 p.m. ET on Saturday.

This event will take place in the church hall, just east of the church on 20th Street in Port St. Joe.

In addition to the great spaghetti, Italian beer and wine and the desserts, entertainment and door prizes are included. Tickets are limited to the first 200 buyers, so get yours soon at the Church Hall (227-1417), Hannon Insurance, No Name Café or call President Dan Van Treese at 227-8138.



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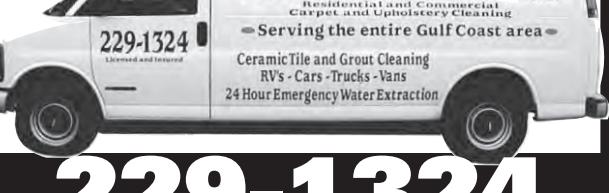
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