



4H Summer Camp fun
B1

District earns fourth consecutive 'A'

By Tim Croft
Star News Editor

Honor roll or drum roll—Gulf District Schools earned both in 2010-11.

The Florida Department of Education released school grades last week and Gulf District Schools again preformed at the highest levels.

With two "A" schools and two "B" schools among the middle and elementary

schools, the district was an "A" district for the fourth year in a row.

High school grades will be released later this year after graduation rates, dropout rates and participation in dual enrollment and other factors are rolled into the grading formula. This year, end of year exam results for students taking Algebra I will also be factored in the grading formula.

PORT ST. JOE SCHOOL GRADES										
	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
PSJES	A	B	A	A	A	C	C	C	A	B
PSJMS	A	A	A	A	A	B	B	B	A	A
WES	B	B	A	B	B	A	C	C	B	B
WMS	B	A	A	B	C	B	C	A	A	N/A

At the elementary and middle school levels, the primary component is performance in reading, writing,

math and science on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT). While high school

grades have not been released, performance by high school students on the FCAT is factored into the

district grade.

"I'm very pleased with

See **DISTRICT A6**



Fireworks for the Fourth

The beaches were packed, rental rooms were at a premium, stores and restaurants did brisk business throughout the recent holiday weekend. Boat parking in Port St. Joe and area boat landings and ramps was first-come, first-parked and St. Joseph's Bay was full of scallop hunters throughout a sunny, pleasant weekend. And, of course, the weekend was topped off by brilliant firework displays in Port St. Joe, Wewahitchka and Mexico Beach.

COURTESY OF BILL FAUTH

Property value erosion slows significantly

By Tim Croft
Star News Editor

After two years of more than 20 percent declines each year, county taxable property values dipped only slightly for 2011.

Property Appraiser Kesley Colbert certified the county property rolls last week with the county seeing a decline of just under 7 percent compared to the same time last year.

"I don't know if we are at the bottom yet, but I think we can see it," Colbert said.

For the Board of County Commissioners, the baseline for personal taxable property dipped from \$1.57 billion to \$1.46 billion, a 6.8 percent decline in revenue to the county budget under current millage rates.

The Gulf County School Board, which by law does not allow certain homestead exemptions allowed by the cities and county, saw its taxable property value decline by just 7.03 percent.

"The school board collects more than the county because the county allows more exemptions," Colbert said, noting the additional \$25,000 homestead exemption allowed to seniors by the county as one example.

Preliminary reports to both the county and school board earlier this year estimated that the decline in taxable property value would again be in double digits, around 10-12 percent, a number Colbert acknowledged he was looking at after three straight years of decline.

Property values fell 20 percent in 2010, 24 percent the year before

See **PROPERTY VALUES A7**

Commissioners consider RV ordinance

Tax Collector to assume driver's license duties in September

By Tim Croft
Star News Editor

The Board of County Commissioners held its first reading of a new RV ordinance last week.

Judging by comments from the public, the ordinance as written will not be the final word on the subject.

Opinions were generally divided during last week's regular bi-monthly meeting as county commissioners took up an ordinance regulating RVs

that has been six months in the making.

Commissioners heard from the public during two regular meetings, a special workshop and considered recommendations from the Planning and Development Review Board and the county attorney.

The final ordinance defines a tourist/coastal corridor along U.S. Highway 98, State Road 30-E and State Road 30-A, as well as County 30A.

Commercial use of RVs within the "coastal" cor-

ridors is prohibited. RVs may be stored in "coastal" corridors as long as it is located on the same lot as the primary dwelling of the property owner and is not being occupied.

Recreational vehicles set up on the "coastal" corridors must be used exclusively for residential purposes by owners of lots within the corridors and can not be in place for more than 45 days per calendar year.

See **ORDINANCE A10**

School board approves new Port St. Joe High School principal

By Tim Croft
Star News Editor

A newly-configured Port St. Joe High School had a new principal this week.

Last Thursday, the Gulf County School Board approved hiring Jeremy Knapp as the next high school principal, succeeding Duane McFarland who has moved to the district office as supervisor for business affairs.

"I heartily recommend Jeremy for the job," said Superintendent of Schools Tim Wilder during his last official meeting in Gulf County.

Knapp, who earned a Master of Edu-

cation degree from the University of Virginia after graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Education from Clarion University of Pennsylvania, spent the past school year as principal at J.P. King Middle School in Franklin, Va.

Prior to that Knapp was an assistant principal at Harrisonburg City High School in Harrisonburg, Va., and was a teacher and track coach at Dinwiddie (VA) County High School.

"It was as a teacher that I realized my desire and determination to become a school administrator," Knapp wrote in

See **SCHOOL BOARD A3**



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Classified deadline is Monday 5 p.m. ET 747-5020

Board says goodbye to Wilder

By Tim Croft
Star News Editor

For most of last week's regular meeting of the Gulf County School Board, board members managed to hold their emotions in check.

There were, however, moments when the tears and choked voices signaled it was a bittersweet day.

Board members bid goodbye to Superintendent of Schools Tim Wilder, who is leaving the district after seven years at the helm to take the same position for Dothan (Ala.) City Schools.

Particularly choked up was board Chairman John Wright, who said, his voice cracking and tears welling his eyes, that he had run for a school board seat specifically to serve alongside Wilder, a longtime family friend.

"I'm going to miss him," Wright said before gaveling the meeting to maintain his composure.

Wilder, who was sought out by a consulting firm to consider the Dothan job, also recognized the swirling emotions of the day.

"I appreciate my time with this board," Wilder said. "One thing I was most proud of, when we had disagreements, and we had some, we were able to get up and walk away from the table with our heads held high that we had done the best for the children."

"That is what makes me so proud: This board was always about the children in every decision it made. It's been an honor and pleasure to serve with them."

Board member Linda Wood acknowledged all the changes

taking place in the district, such as consolidation of middle and high schools, changes at the district office, and funding issues.

"This last year has been change, change and change," Wood said. "This is one change I am not sure I like. But it is a good move for you, and we are proud of you."

"And we will keep moving forward."

Board member George Cox, noting he had worked under or with five superintendents during his time as an educator and board member in Gulf County, said he wished he had Wilder's energy.

"I have some big shoes to fill," acting Superintendent Sara Joe Wooten said.

Board attorney Charles Costin added, "He was really aggressive in moving this district forward."

Several other staff members noted Wilder's vision and energy and his desire to make the district and its teachers and students the best they could be.

"It has been an absolute privilege," administrative assistant Mary Lou Cumbie said. "As a district, we will be fine because (he has) surrounded the district with so many good people."

After the board meeting, a reception was held for Wilder and attended by a number of local elected officials, including Judge Tim McFarland, Board of County Commissioners Chairman Warren Yeager, Supervisor of Elections Linda Griffin, Tax Collector Shirley Jenkins, Clerk of Courts Becky Norris and Property Appraiser Kesley Colbert, among others.

"It has been a great ride," Wilder said.

Wilder started his new job in



Above, Cmdr. Marty Jarosz from Port St. Joe High School gives Tim Wilder a token of appreciation of his work the past seven years as superintendent of Gulf County Schools. **Left,** a reception was held June 30 on Tim Wilder's last day as superintendent. Judge Tim McFarland, background right, was among the local officials in attendance.

Photos by TIM CROFT | The Star

Port St. Joe Dixie Youth fundraiser

Star Staff Report

The Port St. Joe AAA Dixie Youth

baseball All-Stars will be selling Paul Gant's BBQ chicken plates on July 10 from noon to 3 p.m. ET. Dinners will

consist of baked beans, coleslaw, bread and two pieces of chicken. Please come help support our team.

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SCHOOL BOARD from page A1

his application letter:

"The schools with which I have worked have continued developing within me a diverse range of experiences and opportunities and it is my desire to share these desires and experiences while helping students and teachers understand, develop, and obtain opportunities for individual and group success."

Knapp was hired from among six qualified applicants for the position at the high school. That group included two candidates currently working within the school system.

The targeted selection process used to winnow the field looks in depth at each candidate, said acting Superintendent of Schools Sara Joe Wooten.

Three interviewers trained in the process – one from Madison County, another from Franklin County and a third from Calhoun County – examine what each candidate has done, both in school and the community, and each interviewer uses a scoring formula to independently score each candidate.

Scores are based entirely on what "the candidate says," Wooten added, with no opinions or other filters from the interviewer.

"It is a truly objective process, not subjective," Wooten said.

The interviewers get together and arrive at a consensus on the top two candidates, whose names were forwarded to Wilder.

"We would do this if they are all local or not all local," said board chairman John Wright. "We do this process for any administrative position.

"It's not an exact science, but (staff has) really done their homework. We see one recommendation. The only way we can vote against the recommendation if we feel there is just cause."

"It's not an exact science, but (staff has) really done their homework. We see one recommendation. The only way we can vote against the recommendation if we feel there is just cause."

John Wright
School Board Chairman

In turn, Wilder had a committee of faculty from the high school interview each of the two finalists and followed up with his own interview of the candidates.

Knapp emerged as the top choice, which the board unanimously approved.

Knapp began work at the high school on Tuesday.

Budget

With the tax roll certified by Property Appraiser Kesley Colbert, District Financial Officer Sissy Worley provided an update of the budget for board members.

The year ended with the district in the black, a "good thing," Worley said with a chuckle, and crafting the budget for next year begins in earnest this month.

The district will see a 7.03 percent drop in the value of a mil, equal to \$1 for every \$1,000 in taxable property value, less than the 10-12 percent projected earlier this year.

"It is not near as bad as the last two years and that is good," Worley said, referencing two years of drops of more than 20 percent in taxable value for the school district.

Because of those better-than-expected numbers, it is possible, Worley said, that the state will slightly raise the required local effort portion of the public school funding formula, nearly all

of which is set by the Florida Legislature.

Taxpayers, who are footing less of the tab for public schools, percentage-wise, than in the past four or five years, will see a slight reduction in the millage rate, from 7.239 this year to a projected 7.153 millage rate for the coming fiscal year.

The district will realize a nearly \$1 million drop in revenue for the coming fiscal year.

"The millage rate is a little lower, but it is a loss of almost one million dollars because of the drop in property values," Worley explained.

During a budget workshop prior to last week's formal regular meeting, board members seemed inclined to slightly bump up the Local Capital Improvement (LCI) component of the funding formula to meet the bricks-and-mortars needs of schools.

At .350 mills, the LCI – the lone component of school funding over which the district has any control – in Gulf County is the lowest in the state.

And with aging buildings and needs throughout the district, the board asked Worley to run various options of bumping the LCI up to .400 mills.

"We are going to have to raise the LCI at some point in the future," Wright said. "It is ridiculously low given what we are trying to do."



TIM CROFT | The Star

Superintendent of Schools Tim Wilder, middle right, participated in his last school board meeting Gulf County last Thursday. Wilder began work for the Dothan, Ala., City Schools July 1.



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The Foxitarian

Having a 13-year-old son is wonderful in so many ways. I particularly enjoy conversations that start out with "There's this girl at school..." or "This girl at church..." Thirteen-year-old boys like girls; they just don't want to admit it yet.

I knew this must be a "woman of interest" when my son tells me multiple times that "_____ is bothering me" or "_____ is chasing me." He repeats it and then slips up and tells me these things that happen at church events, such as he used somebody's phone to text _____ (when she's across the room). He seems to want to put himself in a position to be "bothered." I understand this.

In the car the other day he seemed to want to tell me again how much she is bothering him. I asked him to tell me some more about her. He proceeded to tell me that she was a "flexitarian." I wasn't sure how a 13-year-old girl could have decided something like this, nor was I sure what a flexitarian was. However, it opened the door for just a little father-son ribbing.

I said "OK, tell me more about this foxitarian." "Flexitarian," he corrected me. I asked him if she was cute. "Kind of, but annoying" he replied. "She's a foxitarian," I insisted. He of course then asked "What is a foxitarian?" I told him it was a sixth grade girl who was kind of cute but annoying. "Oh, I guess she is," he agreed.

I looked it up; there's no such word as "foxitarian." I should get some sort

of credit for inventing a word. That's not my main point here (you know it never is). I had to go do a little research on what a flexitarian actually is.

A flexitarian is a "part-time vegetarian." Flexitarians try to decrease how much meat they eat without quitting all together. They "occasionally" eat meat. There doesn't seem to be any sort of rules about how much meat you can or can't eat in order to be a flexitarian.

Is three times a day "occasional"? I may very well be a flexitarian. This was an "Opie moment" (you would have to be an Andy Griffith fan). Chances are you are a flexitarian also. You can eat fish, chicken, pork, beef, potted meat, Slim Jims, etc. and still be a flexitarian.

The best part of the whole story is the little girl goes by a shorter name that I will not reveal. However, her real name is "Marian." You have to love it - "Marian the foxitarian," or "Marian the flexitarian." Do you suppose she just chose to be a flexitarian because it rhymes? My son and I will continue to call her "Marian the foxitarian."

How would he know what her real name was if she was so "annoying"?

A week or so later, the foxitarian had a "fainting spell" at school. She's OK. It's even better now (in a Scarlett O'Hara kind of way). I will have to change the definition of foxitarian now to include "prone to fainting spells."

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TIM CROFT
Star news editor

Keyboard KLATTERINGS

Taking it personally

Last week county Commissioner Carmen McLemore urged his fellow commissioners to file a lawsuit against The St. Joe Company over the access to a road known as Ditch Landing Road.

He talked about the long-held agreement between the county and St. Joe concerning the road - which winds down to a boat landing on the north end of the county - being maintained as public access, gates that are alternately taken down and put back up and a tangled situation that now involves multiple landowners.

The solution, said McLemore, was to sue The St. Joe Company, and McLemore was determined he was not leaving the meeting until he had that vote.

To what end? This is similar to watching the county wrestle with regulating RV's in a county in which the major industry is tourism; similar to observing the city of Port St. Joe tussle with a sign ordinance for much of two years and come away with a product that former Commissioner Greg Johnson called a jumbled mess.

County commissioners have wrangled with an RV ordinance for months, held special workshops on the issue and commissioners have before them a document that few in attendance at last week's initial reading seemed much enamored with.

Resident Pat Hardman summed it up: this is a county where one size does not fit all.

So though some argued

that the ordinance did not go far enough, others argued it was over-regulation and government interference with basic property rights.

That is a no-win for the county, compounded by the reality of how enforcement could even be accomplished given county staffing levels.

The county can, as was suggested, pass the ordinance and tweak as time rolls along, but as the Port St. Joe commissioners could attest the county will be tweaking long after 2011 is rendered to the history books.

The sign ordinance remains a boil to the city, a constant balancing act between nurturing sorely needed revenue streams, i.e. businesses, and the aesthetics of the business district.

Port St. Joe commissioners have talked of workshops to clean up the sign ordinance almost since the moment of passage.

But the zeal with which McLemore pushed the county toward a lawsuit, toward legal representation at taxpayer expense, against The St. Joe Company, over a road, begs questions.

This is, after all, The St. Joe Company that long ago demonstrated that even if the objective was moving a highway, say, U.S. 98, the company could get it done.

There might be some turbulence in the boardroom and at the highest ranks in the company, but this is still one of the largest landowners of choice Florida property in the state.

If the company doesn't wish to abide by an agreement over a road that has become the center of a sumo match among fishermen and hunters - the road leads to a boat landing and is surrounded by hunting leases - does this mean the county should be going to court?

What is the bang for the buck? And, most of all, where is that passion when it comes to countywide voting and getting to a court of law?

The attorney hired by the county to look at its options will provide a presentation at next week's meeting but that presentation has been seven years in the making - the time between a clear voter mandate and the attorney being prepared to provide options.

Where is the urgency over an issue that nearly 70 percent of the voting populace of the county weighed in on, as opposed to a road which might have great import to the constituents of McLemore's district but whose importance wanes beyond Howard Creek and Honeyville?

Where is the effort poured into an RV ordinance which commissioners arbitrarily altered on anecdotal evidence - Indian Pass is out because the commission chair received comments about the area being "different" and "not desiring" to be included? - when it comes to employee health insurance, and in turn taxpayer outlay for said insurance?

Yes, as one reader notes on the next page, commissioners took an overall sensible tact by questioning a proposal

and contract - whether on health insurance or any other contract, they should be so vigilant - but they did so in such a fashion that it led to a debate on coverage less on an informational than a personal level.

How did it take seven years, as Commissioner Bill Williams asserted a number of times over the past two months, for Williams to receive the information he sought regarding claims, losses and history? It was being hidden from him?

After all, Williams is in the health insurance business and has long been the health insurance leader on the commission.

Commissioners are the bosses, are they not? An RV ordinance can be accomplished in six months but information on insurance policy and premium basics takes seven years? The logic in that is elusive.

Too often it appears that commissioners are swatting bees in a phone booth, flailing wildly at the one buzzing around their nose while failing to prioritize action in proportion to the impact on county residents as a whole.

Regardless of what the attorney's information next Tuesday, it would be a new era to see commissioners employ the same energy concerning countywide voting as was shown concerning a road last week.

The county has a host of pressing issues - attracting businesses, shrinking budgets, rising costs of operations, to name just a few - and until commissioners are held accountable by all, they will be answerable only to their own agendas.

Why you need renter's insurance

One common misconception among people who rent homes is that they are covered under their landlord's insurance in case of an accident, burglary or other disaster. Let me dispel that myth: Landlords typically only insure the building and fixtures they own, so renters are responsible for lost or damaged possessions.

And, if someone has an accident in your

apartment, you're liable. Given this level of risk exposure, it's surprising

that up to two-thirds of renters don't have insurance. You may feel your belongings aren't worth insuring, but suppose you had an electrical fire or burst pipe: Think how much it would cost to replace your possessions - not to mention pay for alternate housing during repairs.



JASON ALDERMAN

See **INSURANCE A5**

Irene Acree shows her gall!

Irene Acree had her gall bladder taken out. I wasn't surprised at all. As a matter of fact, I thought it was about time. She has had too much gall for years! I go in to get a haircut, and she starts in on my old coaching days. What I should have done, what the school could have done, why she decided to take my class in the first place, who had the cutest legs ...

I'm trying to get her to pay attention to my hair! "Irene, leave those sideburns, please!" "Coach, are you trying to look like Elvis! Nobody wears them like that anymore! Let me just even them up a little."

She pays no attention to me. Absolutely none! Those clippers are just a buzzing. Hair is flying. You'd think she had that fishing boat cranked up and waiting! She had the operation on Wednesday. She was back cutting hair on Friday. And, yes, fishing by the weekend. It takes a lot of gall to live like that!

I'm telling you, they threw away the mold when they finished with Irene. Daddy helped prepare me for her. We lived out at the end of Stonewall Street. It was a far piece to town, and a store-bought haircut was 25 cents. Daddy found some electric clippers that were left over from World War II. He drove a truck for a living and farmed a little

on the side. He didn't know jack squat about cutting hair! But he could multiply three times 25. And he could save a trip to town.

He'd set a straight back chair out on the porch, wrap a towel around Leon's shoulders and buzz those clippers across his head about a half a dozen times, and presto, Leon's hair was gone. I think those clippers had

about three or four settings, but Dad realized early in the hair cutting game shorter meant less often. After he skinned Leon, he'd pat that chair and say, "Next." My fate was sealed even before he laid the towel to me. David followed without a word. Daddy had some gall of his own in 1956! We climbed down off the porch looking like Marines on our first day at Paris Island.

About the fourth grade or so I got to coveting the way Ricky Hale's hair curled down toward his eyes. I asked Dad if he couldn't move the setting on those shearers up to the highest notch. He mumbled something about not raising any Elvis Presley's in this house and laid them blades forward till I thought he was going to bring blood!

Mom finally intervened about 1960. After hours of behind the scenes begging and pleading from the three of us, she retired Dad from the hair cutting

business. Mr. Brooks, a neighbor just down the way, volunteered for the job. First day Mom sent us down there he comes out with the same type clippers Dad used. We just rolled our eyes and knew it wasn't going to do a hoot of good to bring up Troy Donahue, Fabian ... or Elvis.

By junior high we were making some money of our own. Mr. Gene ran a real barber shop down on the corner of Lee and Waldran. He had a pole, barber shop chairs with lifts, head rests and the works. Shoot, you could read "Field and Stream" while you waited. And the place smelled of Barbasol, talcum and bay rum aftershave. The price was up to 50 cents when I went in and ordered my first flat top. "Mr. Gene, I want it to stand up in front, take a little off the sides, but don't skin me. Can you leave a little extra in the back so I can start working on my duck tail?"

"Son," he said it like I was the 16 millionth head he had seen that morning, "you want a flattop, don't you!"

I got to know Mr. Gene pretty good over the years. And when Charlotte Melton told me she liked the James Dean-Elvis look, he and I had a long talk. He broke it to me gently, "Kes, do you know the story of the silk purse and the sow's ear?"

In college Bob-Bob White cut my hair. He had a pair of scissors and a

straight comb. He didn't have clippers, "Field and Stream" or tonic water. But Bob-Bob didn't charge nothing, and that was all I could afford in those days! And the haircut didn't look half bad as long as I didn't go out in public or take my hat off.

Mr. George Cooper cut my hair when I migrated to Gulf County. He didn't say much to me. He'd be talking to all the guys who were always sitting around his shop but never seemed to get a haircut. The Elvis craze was in its waning days when I met Mr. Cooper, so I let the matter drop. Besides, Charlotte had run off with a tractor parts salesman from Texas.

Irene has been telling me how to live for years now. She lets me know in a heartbeat if I take a misstep. I took to bringing her brownies and chocolate covered doughnuts in hopes of having a little sway in how my hair ends up. So far my plan hasn't panned out. She still pays absolutely no attention to me. "Irene, not too short on the top, I don't have much left up there anyway ... but cut that curly stuff in the back a little shorter ... and don't!"

"Coach, I'm cutting this hair!"

We're all hoping and praying that removing the over abundance of gall from her life will tone her down a mite. But I ain't betting the farm on it!

Respectfully,
Kes



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The spoken word is given scant attention; the printed word is thoughtfully weighed. The spoken word barely asserts; the printed word thoroughly convinces. The spoken word is lost; the printed word remains.

Homeless in Port St. Joe

Dear Editor:
I do not know anything about a need for a Rescue Mission in Port St. Joe, but I do know we are in need of a mission to rescue those who cannot help themselves. They are homeless, hungry and lost. They walk the streets everyday looking for someone who will help them.

If you want to see these pitiful, homeless souls, just ride the streets of Highland View, the Avenues or any back street in Port St. Joe early in the morning. You will see many starving, abused and neglected individuals everywhere. No one cares about them. No one gives them a food card, pays their rent or provides free medical care. They do not have a Rescue Mission to provide them with anything.

Who am I talking about? I'm talking about all of the unwanted pets that are breeding out of control.

Whenever a person acquires a pet, it should not be on a whim. Your pet relies on you for their well being for the rest of their lives. If you are not willing to provide even the basic pet care they require, you are not responsible enough to own a pet.

Do you ever wonder what happened to that cute puppy or kitten you brought home from your neighbors? Well, I can tell you. It grew up, it was no longer cute and you grew tired of it. It was put outside, got covered in fleas, pregnant and gave you and your neighbor's new pups and kittens. After a while everyone just got tired of them and called Animal Control.

In case you do not know, Animal Control does not take them home with them. They end up in a shelter waiting for you to come get them because they loved you and depended on you to take care of them. If they do not get adopted they will be destroyed.

Owning a pet is a full-time commitment. They rely on you for all their needs. They cannot properly feed themselves or seek medical care on their own. Nor do they have the ability to practice birth control. That is why these areas and others like them are overrun with feral cats and dogs.

I do not know if this problem comes from ignorance, affordability or just neglect. One of the best things you can do for you pet is to have it spayed or neutered. It does not make "Old Buck" less of a man, and you are not going to get rich breeding "Lady Fifi" with your neighbor's Bulldog, creating a hybrid breed. All you are going to do is add to the existing homeless pet problem.

It is estimated that between 6 million and 8 million unwanted pets enter shelters and over 3 million of them are

euthanized each year. Many of these needless deaths could have been easily avoided. All it would take is for you to have your pet spayed or neutered.

I guess we do need a Mission, a Mission to rehabilitate and educate responsible pet owners. That's the kind of Mission we need in Port St. Joe.

Debbie Fountain, Port St. Joe

Commissioners start win – win zone!

Dear Editor:

It is rare that I disagree with "Star" editor Tim Croft's position on the workings of the Gulf County Commission, but I must do so after his "Keyboard Klatterings" piece in the June 23, 2011 edition of the "Star." First of all, I was out of town the day of the meeting, so I could not attend. Upon returning I watched the meeting on television. After reading Mr. Croft's comments on "Commissioners in no-win zone" article, I knew it had to refer to the same meeting I had watched (because of the specifics of the meeting). I came away with completely different conclusions. To make sure that my initial impressions were correct (as I might have dropped off during the broadcast), I secured a copy of the meeting DVD and reviewed it multiple times.

The gist of the "Star" article was how Commissioner Bill Williams "badgered a local businessman and demeaned a longtime county employee." Now before you think me a completely heartless, insensitive cad, some of the interactions of the meeting were not too pleasant to watch. Let's take a slightly different view of the total interaction. Please note: I am viewing this from the standpoint of a retired Director of Sales of a major packaging company, a Gulf County resident, and a person on a fixed income.

Commissioner Williams was charged (by a 5-0 vote of the County Commission) with evaluating and making recommendations on our county employee's health care supplier. That "vendor" is chosen and managed through a local agent. For several years that vender has been Blue Cross / Blue Shield through their local agent Todd Torgenson (Combined Insurance Services) and as we found out in that meeting a silent partner Gaskin - Graddy Insurance.

In the May 23 County Commission meeting, the commission rejected a 9.7 percent increase to both the county and the employees. In one week's time the current agent came back and proposed a reduction to 4.6 percent increase (still a considerable increase to taxpayers and employees).

Commissioner Williams through his independent study found the substantiation for this

increase lacking and had a knowledgeable friend (and contributor) review the numbers. Their review revealed that more savings were possible to both taxpayer and employee. Isn't this what we elect / hire our commissioners to do? In private industry it's called due diligence and simply put — doing your job!

Commissioner Williams made a proposal to acknowledge Brown and Brown insurance as the "agent of record" to communicate with Blue Cross/Blue Shield to try and secure additional savings for the county and its employees. He asked for the tag "agent of record" to allow Blue Cross / Blue Shield to respond to their enquiries. If you don't think the "agent of record" title important, it is like trying to discover the origin of a credit card charge on an account upon which you are not a authorized (your wife or your husband's) — it ain't going to happen! This is necessary to research the costs.

As for Ms. Manuel's "negative job performance review in public"; she was not called to the podium to respond to a commission inquiry — she came on her own and challenged the Commission in general and Commissioner Williams specifically. Perhaps the reason that the county administrator (Don Butler) did not speak up on behalf of Ms. Manuel was that he felt her involvement in this venue was indeed inappropriate. I would guess that the reason Ms. Manuel unfortunately got so emotionally involved was her perception that her efforts were not valued appropriately. Efforts

were not the issue here. The issue at question was results received for the employees and taxpayers of Gulf County. A secondary issue is one of advising all who are or want to be a supplier to Gulf County. Bring your best efforts and value the first time. Don't expect a relationship(s) to automatically provide second and third opportunities.

Jim McKenzie, St. Joe Beach, FL

Dixie Youth thanks George Duren

Dear Editor:

On behalf of Port St. Joe Dixie Youth Baseball, its Board of Directors would like to extend a special thanks to Mr. George Duren and all his employees at Piggly Wiggly and Bluewater Outriggers for all your support to our kids that participate in Dixie Youth Baseball.

Sometimes, someone in the community gives so much back that after a while we just expect it of them. Over the years, Mr. Duren has given back to so many organizations along with Dixie Youth Baseball.

This year Mr. Duren's Piggly Wiggly purchased a new scoreboard for Dixie Youth Baseball at a cost of \$3,000 for reconstruction of our new Ozone field. Whether it is bagging for bucks, supplying side dishes for a fish fry or buying a scoreboard, the folks at Piggly Wiggly and Bluewater Outriggers has always stepped up to the plate! It's people like Mr. Duren that makes Port St. Joe a special place to live and raise your kids.

Thanks Mr. Duren for supporting our youth!

The Dixie Youth Board

INSURANCE from page A4

Here are a few tips for finding the right coverage:

• Ask what's covered.

Renter's insurance commonly covers property that's lost, damaged or stolen due to most occurrences including fire, lightning, windstorms, hail, explosions, smoke, vandalism, theft, plumbing leaks, electrical surges or falling objects.

You're also usually covered away from home — for example, if something is stolen from your car or hotel room, or if you get mugged. However, flood, hurricane and earthquake damage usually isn't covered, so you'll need a separate rider.

• Catalog everything you own and how much it would cost to replace.

Consider furniture, clothing, electronics, jewelry, art and other collectibles, books and CDs, sports equipment, etc. Many insurance companies and personal financial software packages provide free inventory forms. To settle claims faster and verify losses for tax purposes, save receipts and photograph or videotape everything; then store copies in a safe deposit box or other offsite location.

• Compare payout options.

"Actual cash value" (ACV) coverage pays the amount needed to repair or replace your belongings, minus depreciation and your deductible. The alternative method, "replacement cost" coverage, pays the amount needed to replace

the items in today's dollars, minus deductible.

Here's the difference: A five-year-old TV that cost \$500 is worth a fraction of that today. ACV would pay that depreciated amount, while replacement coverage would pay enough to buy a comparable new television. Replacement cost coverage is slightly more expensive, but often worth it.

Personal liability coverage protects you if someone files a claim alleging you caused them bodily injury or property damage, provided it's not vehicle-related or tied to business activities. Consider coverage well above the minimum amount, especially if you own significant assets.

• **Loss-of-use coverage.** Many policies pay an allowance for housing and living expenses if you're forced to move out temporarily. Check whether this coverage is included or costs extra and what the limits are.

• **High-value items.** Standard policies typically place limits on how much they'll pay to replace certain expensive items like jewelry, antiques, art, electronics and computer equipment — often well below replacement value. You'll probably want to purchase additional riders to fully cover these items.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs. To Follow Jason Alderman on Twitter: www.twitter.com/PracticalMoney.

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WEEKLY ALMANAC

Date	High	Low	% Precip
Thu, July 7	92°	75°	30 %
Fri, July 8	89°	75°	40 %
Sat, July 9	89°	75°	40 %
Sun, July 10	91°	75°	40 %
Mon, July 11	90°	76°	40 %
Tues, July 12	91°	72°	30 %
Wed, July 13	90°	76°	60 %

TIDE TABLES MONTHLY AVERAGES

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

Cat Point	HIGH	LOW
East Pass	Minus 0:40	Minus 1:17
	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	LOW
	Minus 9:16	Minus 0:03

St. Joseph Bay

Date	Time	Height	Type	Time	Height	Type
7/7	Thu 05:11AM	1.0	H	01:22PM	0.6	L
7/8	Fri 04:58AM	1.3	H	02:38PM	0.2	L
7/9	Sat 05:20AM	1.6	H	03:40PM	-0.1	L
7/10	Sun 06:01AM	1.8	H	04:42PM	-0.2	L
7/11	Mon 06:53AM	1.9	H	05:43PM	-0.4	L
7/12	Tue 07:50AM	2.0	H	06:40PM	-0.4	L
7/13	Wed 08:45AM	2.1	H	07:30PM	-0.4	L

Apalachicola Bay, West Pass

Date	Time	Height	Type	Time	Height	Type
7/7	Thu 02:04AM	0.5	L	08:38AM	1.4	H
	03:47PM	0.5	L	09:27PM	1.0	H
7/8	Fri 02:33AM	0.7	L	09:06AM	1.5	H
	05:11PM	0.3	L	11:40PM	1.0	H
7/9	Sat 02:54AM	1.0	L	09:40AM	1.6	H
	06:30PM	0.1	L			
7/10	Sun 10:20AM	1.6	H	07:38PM	-0.1	L
7/11	Mon 11:09AM	1.6	H	08:37PM	-0.2	L
7/12	Tue 12:07PM	1.6	H	09:29PM	-0.3	L
7/13	Wed 05:40AM	1.3	H	08:05AM	1.4	L
	01:08PM	1.6	H	10:15PM	-0.3	L

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DISTRICT from page A1

the grades," said acting Superintendent of Schools Sara Joe Wooten. "We had two 'A's' and we had one school that was within a couple points of an 'A'."

Particular kudos was directed to Port St. Joe Middle School during last week's School Board meeting. The middle school will be consolidated into the high school for the coming school year.

Port St. Joe Middle School earned an "A" for the sixth-straight year. Since the 1998-99 school year, Port St. Joe Middle has earned an "A" nine times in 13 years.

Port St. Joe Elementary, which after three consecutive years earning an "A" slipped to a "B" last year, was back in "A" territory this year, giving the Port St. Joe schools straight "A's".

In Wewahitchka, both the elementary and middle schools earned "B" grades but with a caveat - both were extremely close to an "A".

To earn an "A" grade, schools must score 525 points on the grading matrix, demonstrate adequate progress in reading and math by the lowest-performing students and test at least 90 percent of all students.

"We're showing improvement helping those kids. That's a big plus. To me that is significant. We are closing the gap for those students."

Sara Joe Wooten

Wewahitchka Middle School, an "A" school the past two years, earned 523 points, two points shy of an "A", while meeting requirements in other areas.

Wewahitchka Elementary School, a "B" school last year, earned 518 points, just seven points less than an "A".

"They were both very high 'B's'," said Sue Gannon, district supervisor for testing. "We are proud of what we have done this year."

As a district, Gulf District Schools - already designated as one of just 13 "high-performing" districts in the state for 2010-11 - earned the exact same number of points, 534, as last year.

Wooten also noted the gains made by students among the lowest-performing 25 percent.

At Port St. Joe Elementary, 55 percent made learning gains in reading and 87

percent in math; at Port St. Joe Middle the numbers were 66 percent and 58 percent, respectively.

The improvement was similar at the Wewahitchka schools.

At the elementary school, 61 percent of the lowest quartile students made learning gains in reading, 67 percent in math; at the middle school 67 percent made gains in reading, 66 in math.

"We're showing improvement helping those kids," Wooten said. "That's a big plus. To me that is significant. We are closing the gap for those students."

Through the Florida School Recognition Program schools that earn an "A" or improve one letter grade from the prior

year are eligible to receive \$70 per student.

The school grades and performance on the FCAT that provided their foundation are all the more remarkable given that the FCAT 2.0 test used this year was considered more difficult than the earlier version of the test.

"The test required more thought and application of knowledge rather than a regurgitation of facts," Wooten said. "That's a good thing because that is what you face in the real world."

Outgoing Superintendent Tim Wilder, who was attending his last board meeting before formally taking over as Superintendent of Schools for the city of Dothan, Ala., said he was "very proud" of the work of students and teachers in making the district an "A" district again.

"When anybody says they might not want to send their child to Gulf County to go to school, all you have to do is look at these grades," Wilder said.



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PROPERTY VALUES from page A1

and 8-9 percent the prior year. Before 2008, the county had never seen a decline in property values in its history.

"The decline this year is not near what it has been the past two years which is very good," said Sissy Worley, financial officer for Gulf District Schools.

The cities saw declines that sandwiched those realized by the county and school board.

In the city of Port St. Joe, property values dipped 10.7 percent, from \$328 million to \$292 million; the city of Wewahitchka saw a decline in taxable property value of just 2.9 percent, from \$67 million to \$65 million.

"I think (the smaller decline compared to the past two years) is a good sign. I think it bodes well for us," Colbert said. "I have had more activity, more inquiries and interest in property in Gulf County than I've had in years."

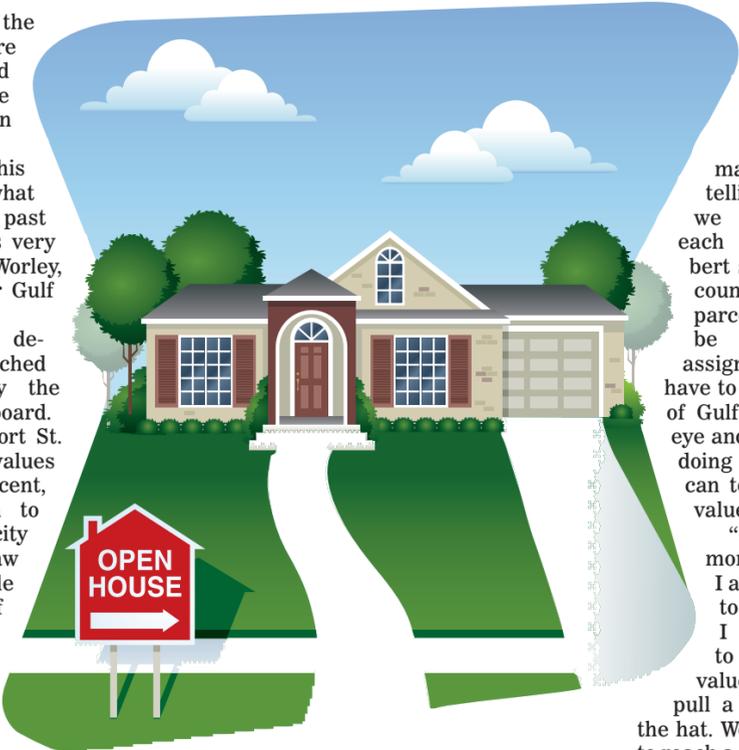
The certified property roll is, in effect, a snapshot of the past.

By law each county's property appraiser must assess taxable value as of Jan. 1 of each year. As Colbert noted, the market typically changes by the time of certification on July 1.

The rolls are also dictated by property sales from the prior year, not just an individual property, but like sales on a street or in a neighborhood, Colbert said.

"It is sales driven," Colbert said. "The people who audit me at the Department of Revenue are basing my audit primarily on sales. And I can't look at sales after Jan. 1."

Further, Colbert must come within 3-5 percent



"We've about got to the baseline, or bottom line. This is probably the best time to buy property if you don't have to borrow much."

Kesley Colbert
Property Appraiser

of what the Department of Revenue believes is the taxable value of property in the county or face an audit or serious discussions about how certain values were reached.

The DOR performs an audit of the property appraiser's work each year, with a more in-depth audit every other year.

And bank sales, foreclosure sales so prevalent the past few years have little to no impact on the final certified roll.

"I can't use those as qualified sales," Colbert said, noting that state guidelines characterize a qualified sale as one com-

pleted at arm's length, under no duress and the property must be on the market for a specified length of time.

Colbert said that there were likely fewer sales than in 2010, but the sales prices were not dropping at the rate they had the past two years.

"We've about got to the baseline, or bottom line," Colbert said, noting the value of the land in the county dictates that prices can't sink much lower. "This is probably the best time to buy property if you don't have to borrow much."

Colbert said his work

his one of common sense as much as number-crunching. "We try to make the most intelligent decisions we can make on each property," Colbert said, noting the county has 17,000 parcels which must be assessed and assigned a value. "I have to look the people of Gulf County in the eye and tell them I am doing everything I can to reach market value."

"I know I am six months behind but I am working hard to ensure that I do what I can to reach market value. We just don't pull a number out of the hat. We are not trying to reach a certain number. We are trying to assign just value and make the best decisions we can."

The volatility in the market the past few years, as logic would dictate, comes from waterfront or interior beach property.

"We saw the gains near the water, where prices were going up and up not long ago, but we now we are seeing those 20 percent drops near the water," Colbert said.

Global economic conditions also play a significant role in property value trends in the county. As consumer confidence declined around the country and internationally, as banks slowed lending and land prices dropped across the nation, those factors play a role in Gulf County.

"A lot of what we do is beyond our control," Colbert said. "All of the things that are happening financially around the globe accentuated what happened here. The more global it is, the more impact we

feel here.

"I don't know where that trust turns around."

However, Colbert added, Gulf County is nicely poised for a turnaround.

"The history of land in Florida has always run in cycles," Colbert said, noting that early in the 20th Century men such as Henry Flagler and John D. Rockefeller got rich buying up Florida land only to see the bottom drop out decades later. "We just happen to be in a down

cycle. It always bounces back.

"We have a community that is immeasurable and people will come to find it. They are going to come. We don't have to build it and they will come, it is already here."

"The beach, the water, the sunsets, they are already here. The land has value."

"You know there is value there. There is value in our property, it just isn't selling."

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If you're looking for a place to fish on a busy weekend and don't want to dodge boats, one of my favorite spots is St. Joe Bay. It is large and doesn't have a bottleneck pass like the one in St. Andrews.

St. Joe Bay has a pass about two miles wide, and the current doesn't come boiling through like St. Andrews pass. St. Joe Bay is a large body of water running north and south and more than three miles wide

from shore to shore running east to west.

The only bad part about fishing there is the scalloping currently going on. All the boat ramps will be full and this bay doesn't have

an abundance of them. The first ramps you will encounter east of Panama City are in Mexico Beach. If you want to have a place to park, I would advise you not sleep late.

If you are going toward the cape, an obstacle to watch out for is the amount of water you will have to cross to get there. When the wind gets up in the middle of the day, it can get pretty rough between the cape and Mexico Beach.

The best boat ramp moneywise is in downtown Port St. Joe because it is free. Down the road is Presnells landing, which will entice every hard-core scalloper from Georgia to Tennessee.

The best bet might be Eagle Harbor landing on the west shore of the bay. The state park there has a good landing and plenty of parking, and you can start speckled trout fishing immediately after you launch.

St. Joe Bay has the most diverse sea life in this part of Florida. It is possible to catch everything from tarpon, speckled trout and redfish to a variety of sharks.

If you want to slip away from everyone fishing freshwater, I would head to the Apalachicola River. It should be clear enough to fish because with its size, local rains don't easily stain it. The head waters of Brothers River always is a favorite with bream fishermen.

Lake Wimico should offer good stringers of bream and bass, but you have to be a tough customer to stay on this lake after 10 a.m. There is no shade unless you go up into one of the creeks that feed the lake.

Expect a lot of company if you head for your favorite snapper hole. The Gulf is swarming with people who don't have a clue where to fish, and when they see another boat in one place for more than 10 minutes automatically think you are catching some fish.



SID RICE | Contributed photos

White marlin are one of the billfish present in offshore waters of the Panhandle. Blue water fishing is prime from May through October. Tuna up to 150 pounds show up in big schools offshore in the Gulf of Mexico throughout the summer.

Blue water dreams

Offshore big game action marks Panhandle summers

By Frank Sargeant
franksargeant@bellsouth.net

In the dreams of every angler, there leaps a 1,000-pound blue marlin.

For most of us, that will remain a dream. But for those fortunate enough to finance an offshore trip in Florida's Panhandle waters anytime between May and October, it's always a possibility.

We know because Capt. Tom Browning and crew, fishing out of Destin, proved it few years back with a monster billfish that scaled 1,046 pounds. While that blue remains the biggest ever for Florida, several fish in the 700-pound range have been caught since.

The offshore fish are what biologists call "pelagics" or ocean roamers. They ride the Gulf Loop Current out of the Caribbean in May, stay in the DeSoto Canyon and off the Mississippi Delta through the summer, and complete the loop in fall as water temperatures start to fall back into the 70s offshore.

In addition to the blue marlin, there are white marlin, sailfish, wahoo, yellowfin tuna and dolphin in the mix, as well as swordfish — mostly caught at night by specialists — all marking Panhandle waters as some of the best big game fishing territory in the nation.

The fishing begins about 50 miles offshore most of the time, around the 100-fathom (600-foot) curve. Basically, skippers run south until they hit the clear

blue of offshore water. The edge where it meets the green inshore water often is a great spot to start trolling for weedline species such as dolphin.

The fishing areas are well-known despite being so far from land; the Elbow, the Spur, the Nipple, the Steps and the Squiggles all are part of the lexicon of offshore skippers, each named for unique bottom characteristics.

Needless to say, this is not small boat country. Most experienced offshore anglers consider a 35-footer the minimum for safety. Twin engines are a must, as are satellite communications gear and a life raft.

Since very few of us can afford boats of that size and equipment, charters are the way to go for most. Fortunately, Panhandle ports have plenty of options, with Destin one of the most active bluewater towns in the nation.

It is not cheap to go blue water fishing. Because of the staggering costs of fuel, charter fees typically are \$1,200 to \$1,500 per day. On top of which you generally are expected to tip the crew 10 to 15 percent.

The cost of a day's charter can be split by up to six anglers on most boats. That cuts the tally back to a reasonable level for those who can stand to share "chair time," or hours spent actually sitting in the fighting chair and waiting for the strike.

Billfishing is a game of patience, and more often than not, those who can spend

only a single day chasing marlin or sails will be disappointed. However, if you can be satisfied with 100-pound yellowfin tuna, 50-pound wahoo and 40-pound dolphin — all highly edible creatures — you're likely to feel richly rewarded for the offshore adventure.

Getting far offshore is a treat in itself. You may see a school of hundreds of oceanic dolphin driving tuna, or sit on the bowsprit and watch these black-and-white mammals play in the bow wake just a few feet below.

You might see a whale shark lazing along at the surface, sucking in hundreds of gallons of plankton at each gulp. Flying fish sail away like transparent butterflies. And just looking into water so clear that you can see a 100 feet straight down is a treat for landlubbers.

If you do luck into a marlin, don't expect to tie it to the roof of the station wagon for the trip home. Billfish usually are released after a few photographs. They are scarce, mostly due to incidental commercial long-line kills and highly valued by the charter skippers who depend on them as the poster children of their advertising.

One of the best online sources for info on blue water fishing in the Panhandle is Capt. John Holley's site, www.catchbigmarlin.com. There are numerous other skippers at Panhandle fishing centers who offer blue water trips, as well.



HOOK & HARVEST

David Deaton brought in an 18-pound red snapper on a June 25 trip on brother Mark's boat.



SPECIAL TO FLORIDA FREEDOM



Matt Andrews of Lynn Haven caught a red grouper on a fishing trip for his 22nd birthday.

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA FREEDOM

FISH REPORT SPONSORED BY



Freshwater

Top water baits fished early in the morning or late in the evening are producing good trout. Redfish have starting to show up in the bay along town's beach. Scallop season is in full swing in St. Joe Bay. Early reports are that the shells are small, but the meat is good-sized and everywhere in the bay.

Inshore

Red snapper and king fish are still red hot. Live bait is catching bigger fish. Red snapper have moved offshore because of the rising water temps. Try fishing the 80- to 200-foot range to maximize your limit. Good numbers of Spanish and king mackerel can be found along the buoy line out of Mexico Beach.

Offshore

Large shellcracker and bream are still being caught in the river systems and in Howard Creek. The new moon from last Friday has the bite heating up. Surface poppers and crickets are local baits of choice. Bass fishing is hit or miss right now, but we have had good reports from lake Wimico bass fishing at first light.



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Reveling in the negative

Emerson Heating and Cooling designs, builds unique negative air pressure machine

By Tim Croft
Star News Editor

Jim Emerson hopes to become a pioneer of the negative.

Emerson and his Port St. Joe-based company, Emerson Heating and Cooling, have designed and built a negative air pressure device he hopes will help put Gulf County on the map as a champion of clean indoor air.

"Indoor air quality is one of the big things in our company," Emerson said. "We are building houses, buildings too tight, and we are building sick buildings. We have seen (houses and buildings) from concept to construction, and there is not enough thought that goes into indoor air quality.

"We want to be a pioneer in indoor air quality."

There are other negative air pressure machines on the market, but Emerson's is unique in several aspects.

First, it is important to understand the concept behind negative air pressure in a room or home.

Air naturally moves from areas of higher pressure to areas of lower pressure. When negative pressure exists, a continuous air current enters the room under the door, which prevents airborne particles generated in the room from escaping.

A common example of negative air pressure is a bathroom with an exhaust fan. When operating correctly, and with the door closed, the fan prevents unwanted odors and moisture from escaping.

Negative pressure is created by balancing the room's ventilation system so that more air is mechanically exhausted from a room than is mechanically supplied to the room.

The machine created by the folks at Emerson Heating and Cooling consists of a large unit in which a motor/blower and filter are installed. That sucks the air from the room into the machine.

From the main unit, the air travels through ductwork to a second unit in which a HEPA filter is installed, which further cleans the air before it is discharged through additional ductwork to the outside.

"It cleans the area," Emerson said. "It will change the air in a 3,300-square-foot area 10 times in an hour. It also works as an air scrubber."

What separates Emerson's machine from others are several features that he says make it safer and more efficient.

On the side of the main unit are red and green lights. When the green light is on, the machine is safe to operate. However, should, for example, the motor malfunction, the red light will illuminate as a signal to stop the machine.

Also, there is an hour counter that can be set for the time of construction on a given day or week or period of time — negative air pressure machines are typically used in construction applications — that allows for monitoring of how the machine is functioning over the scheduled construction period.

Further, the HEPA filter is detached from the main unit, and the static air pressure is constant.

Emerson and his crew crafted the entire machine in their shop and built it, Emerson said, "to take a beating."

And other than the 2.5-



Photos by TIM CROFT | The Star

Emerson Heating and Cooling in Port St. Joe has built a prototype of a negative air pressure machine it hopes to begin building in its expansive company shop. Air is sucked into the large unit on the right and blown through the ductwork and a HEPA filter in the smaller unit and on outside.

horsepower motor and wiring, everything is made in the U.S.

Emerson said future machines will be made entirely with American-made parts and equipment.

"This piece of equipment is going to be made in Gulf County, and every piece inside will be made in the U.S.A.," Emerson said, adding that once the business has traction, it will create additional jobs. "We are not going to be dictated to by another company. We are going to build every unit in Gulf County, and that is how it is going to stay."

Emerson is specifically targeting hospitals and health care facilities for his machine.

He said the company worked closely with the state Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) during the design-and-build stage and provided a demonstration for AHCA officials last week that resulted in AHCA giving the machine its "blessing," with the agency suggesting several hospitals and facilities to contact about providing a machine.

The prototype built by Emerson and sitting in the office at company headquarters is destined for Weems Hospital in Apalachicola, where a new CT scan room will soon be built.

"Indoor air quality is not what is should be at

health care facilities," Emerson said. "And not enough attention has been paid to it.

"Anytime you have a renovation or construction at a hospital or health care facility, these should be in there keeping the air at negative pressure."

In addition, Emerson

said, running his machine for several hours in a home or building with mold or mildew problems will scrub the air of substances that make people ill.

Emerson said his company will lease the machines since they carry the Emerson name and said

considerable research and development went into creating the prototype.

"We ran it for 290 straight hours," Emerson said. "We did everything to kill it. We have some really talented people working here, and I think we produced a good machine."

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Among the features unique to the Emerson machine are a green light/red light system to ensure the machine is operating safely; a filter detached from the main unit; and an hour counter that can be set to ensure operation throughout construction time.



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ORDINANCE from page A1

Otherwise, RVs would be banned from along or on lots contiguous with the rights-of-way of the tourist corridor.

Outside of those "coastal" corridor areas, RVs are limited to one per parcel; lot coverage must be no more than 30 percent of impervious area; the placement of the RV must allow for two parking spaces per lot; and all RVs must meet standard building setbacks and county building and comprehensive plan guidelines.

All RVs must be registered with the county.

"We've been working on this for a couple of months," said Commissioner Warren Yeager. "Previous to that we had no RV ordinance; there was no protection."

In enacting the ordinance, Yeager said, the commission was attempting to address issues such as aesthetics, property values, sprawl/blight and public safety, while "striking a balance" between property rights and the public interest.

Yeager, responding to a question from the public, noted that County 30-B and the Indian Pass had been excluded from the tourist/coastal corridor due to input from residents who said the area was "different" and they did not wish to be included in the ordinance.

St. Joe Beach resident Rich Brenner favored the ordinance and provided a list of suggestions for commissioners to tighten language to eliminate ambiguity that would open the county for any court challenge on the ordinance.

Natalie Shoaf of St. Joe Beach urged commissioners to adopt the guidelines of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) which would require all RVs to be at least 1,500 feet from the a major body of water such as St. Joseph's Bay or the Gulf of Mexico.

She also asked commissioners to declare a moratorium on selling lots within the coastal corridor to be used for RV's to allow the county to more closely ex-

amine the issue.

Commissioner Bill Williams, responding to a questioner, noted that Highland View had also been excluded from the ordinance because of the number of residents living in campers, mobile homes or recreational vehicles.

There were also questions from the public about the registration process and how the county would regulate the ordinance, particularly since the county struggles, one resident noted, with regulating even dog leash and trash laws on the beach and tourists are allowed to erect tents and beach equipment overnight.

"If we are going to worry about the beaches let's worry about the beaches as a whole," said part-time resident Cheryl Baco.

Members of the public also wondered about grandfathering in existing RVs in the county and Yeager said he was not opposed to the idea.

One resident said the reality is that some people, in these bad economic times,

would lose their homes under the ordinance unless grandfathered in.

Others wondered about the fundamental fairness to people using RVs in the county, noting that many RVs cost as much as some homes, many visitors travel to Gulf County, stay in RVs and pour thousands of dollars into local restaurants and stores. They questioned to what extent the presence of RVs really impact property values given the current market.

Pat Hardman of Port St. Joe said commissioners should pass the ordinance and tweak it as needed in the future.

"We are not one-size fits all," Hardman said. "If you try for one size you will end up doing nothing."

Tax collector to assume driver's license duties

As of September, the Gulf County Tax Collector's Office will take over the duties

of the Division of Motor Vehicles in Gulf County.

As of last Thursday, the DMV office in Port St. Joe, the only office in the county where individuals could obtain a Florida driver's license closed due to state budget cuts.

"That will be a great loss to the citizens of Gulf County," said Tax Collector Shirley Jenkins.

Jenkins explained to commissioners, her office could assume the duties of the DMV office on a fee basis, with the bottom line between expenses and revenues being a wash - fees were estimated at \$29,000 per year with costs of roughly \$32,000.

The Tax Collector's Office would be open five days a week for those seeking driver's licenses.

Jenkins said state law mandated that county Tax Collectors assume the duties of the DMV by 2015, so the county would save money by acquiring the equipment from the Port St. Joe office immediately.

"If we take it now they

can give us the equipment," Jenkins said, adding that would end up being a savings of roughly \$40,000 to the county should the county wait until 2015 to assume driver's license duties. "It should take care of itself (financially). After 2015 all tax collector's will have to take this on and (the state) will up the fees."

She added that she is in discussions with the DMV employee in Port St. Joe about coming to work at the Tax Collector's Office.

Jenkins said her office would perform all tasks required to provide drivers with licenses save the driving test. The written test could be provided through her office, but her staff would not perform driving tests.

"We would be doing it all from our current office (in the courthouse)," Jenkins said.

Jenkins said her office would not be able to take over the duties until September as her employees would have to undergo required background checks and training in the functions of the driver's license office.

Commissioners unanimously approved the plan of action.

Health insurance

Given recent reports concerning the county's ongoing tussles over employee health insurance, Yeager said he had been approached by an official from Marianna and other entities interested in assisting the county.

Commissioners voted to provide "temporary" agent of record letters to three or four entities identified by county administrator Don Butler as interested in soliciting quotes for the county to see if any savings could be realized.

Butler noted that those "temporary" authorization letters do not diminish the agent of record authorization provided Brown and Brown Insurance during the June 28 meeting.

"This is the perfect opportunity for us and we have to time to do it," Yeager said.

Williams added, "This is what we needed, the competitive nature of it ... My intentions all along were to get under the hood and see what we can do."

The county solicited RFP's last year and ended back with long-time carrier Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

Ditch Landing Road

Commissioner Carmen McLemore asked for commissioners to approve going to court to sue to have the road opened.

McLemore cited an agreement with The St. Joe Company that the road would remain a public road. The road ends up at a public boat landing, but there are at least two private hunting leases adjacent to the road.

The county has taken down gates blocking the road only to have them erected again. McLemore said the response from The St. Joe Company is inadequate and the issue unresolved.

He urged commissioners to vote to go to court over the issue, noting that St. Joe benefits from selling the hunting leases while paying property taxes on agricultural land, or about 11 cents an acre.

"We need to get this in front of a judge," McLemore said. "If we sit back and let them close this one they will close any road they want."

Williams said he had issues that some of the provisions of the Development of Regional Impact (DRI) agreement have not been met. Williams urged and commissioners agreed to have McLemore work with the county attorney and come back with options at a future meeting.

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Get the **SKINNY** on your **BABY**

Healthy Start Coalition baby shower educates moms and dads

By David Adlerstein
Florida Freedom Newspapers

More than 100 women and their families, volunteers and sponsors from two counties took part in the Healthy Start Coalition's annual Baby Shower June 21 in Port St. Joe.

Jason Flowers of the Franklin County Health Department, served as master of ceremonies for a host of games and giveaways. Moms-to-be and new parents who have had a baby within the last six months gathered at the Centennial Building, courtesy of the city of Port St. Joe, for a chance to learn about everything from car seat safety to safe sleep.

"I'm seven weeks pregnant with my first baby," said Jennifer O'Barr, from Wewahitchka. "My mom heard about the shower and invited me to come with her. I have gotten a lot of good information tonight to help me through my pregnancy and after from all the different organizations that are here at the shower. I am so glad that I came."

Highlighting the program was an address by Dr. Toni Pennington, a board-certified obstetrician and gynecologist from Emerald Coast OB/GYN of Panama City, who helped dispel misconceptions surrounding a baby's birth.

"I got some good information on the pregnancy myths from Dr. Pennington and at the childbirth and breastfeeding tables," said Candy Simmons of Port St. Joe.

The benefits of breastfeeding, provided by Ellie Tullis, Healthy Families program manager for



Photos by SUZY NADLER | Special to the Star

These three Wewahitchka dads, from left, Tim Buell, Shane Whiffield and winner Jonathan Harper, competed to see who was the fastest at changing diapers.

Wakulla and Franklin counties, was one of several topics covered at the information stations.

Kelly Byrns-Davis, coordinator of the Healthy Start Coalition's Fetal and Infant Mortality Review program, shared information about the dangers of sleeping with a newborn as part of the presentation "Safe Sleep."

Car seat safety was the topic of Terri Pridgen, Healthy Start care coordinator from Franklin County, who stressed the importance of ensuring each car seat is installed properly. Pridgen also distributed Life-Meters, visual reminders placed on car windows to help caregivers remember not to leave a child in the back seat. The Life-Meters were purchased from a grant received from the United Way of Northwest Florida.

Diana Taunton, Healthy Start care coordinator from Gulf County, spoke on how to avoid three potential threats to infant safety. She demonstrated the effects alcohol and substance abuse have on a baby and shared information with

participants to never shake a baby. Taunton used a doll to demonstrate how being shaken affects a baby. Different parts of the doll's brain lit up when shaken, representing damage to the baby's brain. Another doll showed the facial characteristics of an infant with fetal alcohol syndrome.

Nurse practitioner Helen Cook, a care provider at the Women's Center at the Gulf County Health Department, provided information on inter-conceptual care, educating women on how to take care of their bodies before pregnancy and discussing baby spacing.

Patricia Rickards, Gulf County Healthy Start care coordinator, focused on childbirth education, talking to participants about positions of labor, comfort measures during labor and delivery, and how education helps decrease fear and anxiety.

The winner of the grand prize, a \$200 gift card to Walmart, was Glenda Martina of Apalachicola, who is three months pregnant. She said she was very interested in the topics presented, especially the

lessons on smoking prevention.

Even dads enjoyed the shower, with a talk on fatherhood tailored to their needs by Russ Petrucka, a family support worker with the Franklin County Health Department.

"I came to the shower with my wife, since we do everything as a family," said Jonathan Harper, from Wewahitchka. "I have a 2-year-old and a 2-month-old. It's interesting to see how information and research evolves and changes over the years."

Helping to make the event a success was the Gulf County Health Department's Tobacco Prevention Program, which donated \$1,000 as a Newborn Sponsor.

Cut-N-Up Family Hair Care, from Port St. Joe, provided 40 free haircuts while Vision Bank donated \$500 as a Third Trimester Sponsor.

Serving as Second Trimester Sponsors, with a donation of \$250, were the Healthy Kids Corporation, of Tallahassee; George E. Weems Memorial Hospital, of Apalachicola; the Kiwanis Club of Port St. Joe; and the Workforce Center.

First Trimester Sponsors, each with a donation of \$100, included Magellan Health Services, of Tallahassee; Gulf Coast Electric Co-Op, of Wewahitchka; Shoreline Medical Group, of Port St. Joe; United Way of Northwest Florida; of Panama City; Usborne Books & More, of Lynn Haven; Walmart, of Panama City; and Reds Family Store, of Apalachicola.

Prenatal Sponsors included the Anchorage Children's Home, of Panama City; Franklin County Literacy; Franklin County Public Library; Healthy Families, of Apalachicola; North Florida Child Development, of Wewahitchka; the Bay-Gulf-Walton WIC Program; and Bay Medical Center, of Panama City.



The Harper Family of Wewahitchka: dad Jonathan and mom Nicole, with 2-week-old Landon, right, and big sister, 2-year old Aliyah.



You can always judge a book by its taste was the feeling of Lennox Groh, daughter of Michael and Guthrie Groh of Port St. Joe.



Dr. Toni Pennington, guest speaker from Emerald Coast OB/GYN, speaks on pregnancy myths.



SPECIAL TO THE STAR

From left, Gregory Julius of Port St. Joe and Maximus Cargill of White City make mosaic tile art in craft class. Victoria Lanter, Matthew Jackson, Nicholas Lewis, Mike Burke and Tia Roney eat dinner together. C.J. Johnson and Matthew Randig of Wewahitchka enjoy the Roaring River water slide. Below, the entire camp group spends time at Henderson Beach in Destin.

Happy campers

91 area youth attend Camp Timpooshee 2011

Special to The Star

4-H summer fun has begun! From June 27 to July 1, 91 Gulf County youngsters attended a five-day residential camp at 4-H Camp Timpooshee in Niceville.

The camp week was a great success. The campers had a

fun-filled week of kayaking, crafts, dancing, archery, snorkeling, swimming, marine science, forestry, singing and campfires.

On Tuesday, they celebrated with a carnival full of cotton candy, snow cones, popcorn, swimming, dancing, basketball, face painting and a water slide.

On Wednesday, they participated in a variety of classes, swimming and field games.

On Thursday, the group took a field trip to Henderson Beach

State Park in Destin. They spent the afternoon enjoying the sun and Gulf of Mexico waves, along with a picnic. The day ended with an evening dance and a candlelight ceremony at the campfire to bring closure to the fun week.

While at camp, the youth had many opportunities to expand their leadership skills, make new friends and learn community living skills and other basic life skills while away from the comforts of home. After a very busy and fun-filled

week of 4-H summer camp, the youth arrived back to Gulf County last Friday with lots of fun experiences to share with their friends and family.

4-H is a youth development program for youth ages 5-18 that is assisted greatly by adult volunteers. If you are interested

in participating as an adult volunteer or involving your child in this program, contact Melanie Taylor at the Gulf County Extension Office at 639-3200, 229-2909 or metaylor@ufl.edu.

4-H is more than you ever imagined. Come join the fun.



PIGGY WIGGLY ASSOCIATE OF THE MONTH



Please congratulate Vera Zick as Duren's Piggly Wiggly Associate of the Month for June.

Birth



Parker Dwight Butler is born

Parker Dwight Butler was born at 3:38 p.m. CT on June 2 at Bay Medical Center. He weighed eight pounds, 10.2 ounces and was 21.25 inches long.

Rhett and Brittnee Butler are the proud parents of Parker, and Miles and Rilan are the

proud big brothers.

Parker is the grandson of Dit and Debbie Butler of St. Joe Beach and Sandy Watson of Howard Creek and Allen Parker of Jonesboro, Ga.

We are all so blessed to have another beautiful healthy baby boy.

Engagement

Jimison-Hamilton engagement

Chuck and Holly Jimison of Greensboro are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Leslie Hendrix Jimison to Matthew Williams Hamilton, son of Harvie Hamilton of Knoxville, Tenn., and Anne Eliza and Dr. Kevin Klein of King's Mountain, N.C. Leslie is the granddaughter of the late Dr. and Mrs. J. Wayne Hendrix of Port St. Joe, Fla., and Mrs. Patricia Goodwin Jimison, Asheville N.C. and the late Mr. Jack Harder Jimison. Matthew is the grandson of Mrs. Margaret Forbes Hall and the late Mr. James Dulany Hall of Alexandria, Va. and Mr. and Mrs. Richmond Harrison Hamilton of Richmond, Va.

Leslie is a graduate of Page High School, NC State University, and received her MS and Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering from Stanford University, Palo Alto, Calif. She is currently a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Bioelectronics at the Centre Microélectronique de



Provence of the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Mines de Saint Etienne, living in Aix-en-Provence, France.

Matthew graduated from NC State University where he received an MS degree in Biomathematics. He earned his MPH in

Global Health from the University of California, Berkeley. He currently works as a consultant, designing and implementing impact evaluations of health programs in Africa.

The wedding is planned for October in southern West Virginia.

Society BRIEFS

Red Hat chit chat

On Tuesday, June 28, The Beach Belles Red Hat Group was entertained at a Tea in the home of Eileen Schreiner with Mary Nolan and Colleen Burlingame also acting as Hostesses. Fourteen members attended.

Senior Citizens accept new meal clients

Gulf County Senior Citizens is accepting new clients at its meal sites in Port St. Joe and Wewahitchka.

Senior Citizens provides a hot nutritious meal Monday through Friday to seniors 60 and older along with activities. Daily activities include bingo, arts and crafts, gospel singing, shopping trips, blood pressure checks, exercise classes and educational programs. There is no charge for the meal or activities, but donations are accepted. Transportation may be available.

Call Debbie in Port St. Joe at 229-8466 and Maureen in Wewahitchka at 639-9910.

Gulf County Senior Citizens is a non-profit organization.

Kiwanis KORNER

By Johanna White

This past month the Kiwanis Club had the following programs:

May 10: Students from the Port St. Joe Odyssey of the Mind came and performed the act they plan to do at the OM World Competition. The Kiwanis Club wished them good luck and presented a \$300 check to cover some of their expenses.

May 31: Melissa Ramsey and Carmel Dodson presented a program on the PSJES Butterfly and Vegetable Garden. Mrs. Dodson explained the cycle of the Butterfly Garden and how the students learn and interacted with the program, such as how the Butterfly Garden plants milkweed to attract monarchs and swallowtails. She said there was a decline in the butterfly population that is usually seen in other areas.

Mrs. Dodson said the vegetable garden was a great project for the students, too. It teaches them about the hard work it takes, from planting to harvesting the crops. This year the students harvested enough

vegetables to be taken to market. They took their product to sell, to our local SaltAir Farmer's Market that takes place every other Saturday. Mrs. Dodson said this was another lesson; the students had to price at fair market value (while staying competitive), weigh the produce and prep it for sell.

Mrs. Ramsey discussed the need for volunteers as mentors and for other activities at the elementary school. She said the mentoring program only requires one hour a week, mostly during the lunch hour. Another program available for volunteers is the "Rock & Readers" for the Kindergarten classes. This is the one that I participate in, and I love it. During the school year, Vision Bank allows me time off in the morning to go and read to the students. I am usually there for about 30 minutes, and it's the best 30 minutes of the entire week. This past school year I read to Mrs. Kerigan's kindergarten class. I became so close to the children; when my time was up, we would do a big group hug. What better way to spend 30 minutes in



SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Melissa Ramsey and Carmel Dodson spoke to the Kiwanis Club in May.

the morning "Rocking and Reading" to the little ones. Sometimes, the children would see me outside the classroom, and I would hear, "Hey Miss Jojo." Life doesn't get any better than that. If you have any time at all to spare, be a volunteer; it's a true blessing.

Port St. Joe High School Graduation: Mark Haddock, a Kiwanian Member presented Kiwanis Scholarships this year to the Graduating Class of 2011. The Kiwanis Club presented four academic Scholarships for Gulf Coast State College and two scholarships for vocational schools. The Kiwanis Club

would like to congratulate all of the graduating class and wish them all good luck in this next venture of life.

Kiwanis Club Event: Mark your calendar for July 22. From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. ET, in the Vision Bank parking lot at 529 Cecil G. Costin Blvd., there will be an American Red Cross Blood Drive. To give blood, call Karen Fountaine at 850-647-3337. What a great gift to give.

The Kiwanis Club meets every Tuesday at noon ET at the Gulf County ARC/Transportation on Industrial Road. For more information, call Johanna White at 850-227-6268 or 850-229-6226.

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PET OF THE WEEK

St. Joseph Bay Humane Society



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prison program and is ready for his new home! The DAWGS in prison program is an 8-week intensive training program in a work camp setting. Each dog has a handler, caretaker and trainer. All are inmates who are well trained themselves and dedicated to their dogs' success. Graduates of the program are crate trained, house trained, walk well on a leash, and know many commands like sit, stay, come, and down. Dogs are temperament tested prior to admission and must get along well with other dogs and humans. Please give Kyle a forever home he is waiting for you to come get him with lots of love to give you. PLEASE HELP US! If you are not able to adopt a pet then please help us save a life by sponsoring one today just Contact Melody at 227-1103 or Shelter Mom Melissa at 625-5676 for more information on how to help! You may also find more information about our other dogs and cats we have here on our website at www.SJBHumaneSociety.org. Our hours for the shelter are Tuesday-Saturday from 10 am-4 pm! Also Faith's Thrift Hut is in great need of donations also and all the proceeds go directly to support the animals in our care! Faith's Thrift Hut Has Expanded! We now have more furniture & appliances. Plus lots of other great thrift store treasures. 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!

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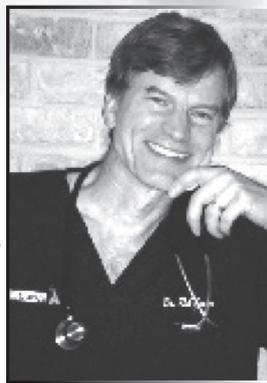
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Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative sponsors D. C. trip

Special to The Star

Savannah Harper and Seth Scheuermann recently traveled to Washington, D. C. as the winners of Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative's Youth Tour competition. GCEC's local competition is part of the national Rural Electric Youth Tour program that rural electric cooperatives across the nation participate in.

Each year, the Cooperative sponsors the Youth Tour contest for eleventh-graders whose parents are members of GCEC. Contestants are interviewed by a panel of three judges from the electric cooperative industry, and two winners

are chosen to travel on an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D. C. in June.

While in Washington, the students toured the Holocaust, Newseum and Smithsonian Museums; Arlington National Cemetery; the Iwo Jima Monument; the U. S. Capitol area; the mall area; the Korean, Lincoln, Vietnam, FDR, Jefferson and World War II Memorials; Mt. Vernon; and the National Cathedral. They also enjoyed the U. S. Marine Corps Sunset Parade; a boat cruise and dance on the Potomac River; and ended their trip by seeing the musical Wicked at the Kennedy Center.

A highlight of the trip

was the National Youth Day rally, where they joined other eleventh graders from across the nation.

"We were proud to have Savannah and Seth represent Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative in Washington," GCEC Manager of Marketing and Member Services Kristin Evans said.

The Washington, D.C., Youth Tour Program has been in existence since 1958, when 34 students from Iowa and a handful of chaperones visited Washington for a weeklong study tour. By 1964, the program was catching on, and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

began to coordinate the efforts of the co-ops. Since then, thousands of young people have experienced this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to visit our nation's capitol and learn about our government.

Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative is part of the Touchstone Energy® national alliance of local, consumer-owned electric cooperatives providing high standards of service to customers large and small. GCEC serves approximately 20,200 meters in Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Jackson, Walton and Washington counties and in the municipalities of Wewahitchka, Ebro, White City, Lynn Haven, Fountain and Southport.



SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Seth Scheuermann and Savannah Harper at the White House.

Norris elected to association leadership

Gulf County Clerk named First Vice President for upcoming program year

Special to The Star

The Honorable Rebecca L. (Becky) Norris, Gulf County Clerk of the Circuit Court, was recently elected as First Vice President of the Florida Association of Court Clerks and Comptrollers, a professional association, for the upcoming year at the annual conference in Tampa.

"I consider it an honor to serve as the Association's First Vice President," Norris said. "In this rapidly changing world, Court Clerks around the nation are faced with more challenges than ever before. We must be ready to accept these challenges so that we may serve our

constituents in the best possible manner. It is important for all citizens to have the access they need to the court system."

"We are proud to have Becky serve in this post for the next year," stated outgoing President Tim Smith, Putnam County Clerk of the Circuit Court. "She has been supportive of our Association and provides the experience and the know-how needed to fulfill the goals that are set before the Clerks."

Norris has served as Gulf County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller since 2005 and serves on numerous FACC committees. Norris has served in many financial positions at the local government level in Gulf County. She began

her career in the Clerk's office in April, 1984, and is a lifelong resident of Gulf County. She received her Associates Degree from Gulf Coast Community College. Norris also serves on the Board of Directors of Chemical Addictions Recovery Effort, Inc. (C.A.R.E.) and attends First Baptist Church of Port St. Joe.

FACC, established in 1969, is a statewide, non-profit member association. The Association is comprised of the Clerks of the Circuit Court and Comptrollers. The Association provides education and accreditation for Clerks of the Court and Comptrollers, information and technical assistance to local governments.

GCSC/Franklin Center wants public input for a new nursing transition program

Special to The Star

Gulf Coast State College's Gulf/Franklin Center is hosting a Community Forum to introduce the new LPN to RN Transition Class. College staff and faculty have been requesting input from current students, potential students and area health care providers. A current nursing shortage combined with that initial input prompted the creation of this new program which will begin this fall 2011.

On Tuesday, July 19, the general public is invited to attend an open discussion of class requirements, expectations and opportunities, in addition to future education and training needs for Gulf and Franklin county residents. Your recommendations are vital to ensure that the Gulf/Franklin Center's educational offerings truly meet community needs in the local

economy.

Speakers include Christine Bottkol, GCSC Nursing Coordinator, and Brenda Galloway, Gulf/Franklin Center Director.

During the forum, they will address details about the transition course and then give everyone a chance to speak during a Q&A session.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to fill out a needs assessment survey. Everyone who completes the survey that night will be entered in a drawing for a \$100 GCSC book voucher. The book voucher is sponsored by the Gulf Coast Community College Foundation, Inc.

The forum will be held from 6:30-7:30 p.m. ET on July 19 at the Gulf/Franklin Center, located at 3800 Garrison Avenue in Port St. Joe.

Call for 227-9670 for more information.

We want your input on the new LPN/RN Program to be offered at the Gulf/Franklin Center.

JULY
19

LPN
to
RN

6:30
p.m. /E.T.
Gulf/Franklin
Center

Transition Program
Community Forum



Gulf/Franklin Center
3800 Garrison Ave.
Port St. Joe, Florida 32456

T 850.227.9670
F 850.873.3256
www.gulfcoast.edu

Paul, a Christian Example

To live a consistently Christian life in this world today, Seems hard for some, because many keep falling away. Peer pressure is in the world to stay. This has caused many people to stray. Some think people look down on them for being a Christian today. We need to get across to them, there will be a judgment day. Being content with what we have is a problem with many today. Many want things they can't afford, but charge them anyway. Yes, there are those that don't make a decent living. That's why we as Christians should share our love by giving. God said He would supply our need, if we but live His way. Why can't we be content as Paul was with what we have today? Paul had something I wish we all had, to be content, even when we're sad.

—Billy Johnson

The Christian CONSCIENCE

God's covenants: Part three

God's covenant with Abraham was extended to Isaac. See Genesis 26:2-5. Once again, there is a promise which is conditional and depends upon the recipient, Isaac, continuing to dwell in the land. In verse 12, we see that God kept His part of the bargain. The blessing is continued in verses 23 to 25.

Isaac married Rebekah and eventually they had twins. Normally, the covenant blessing would have fallen upon Isaac's older son, Esau, but God foresaw that Esau's heart would not be right before God.

By deceit, Jacob receives God's promise and the promise given to Abraham falls into Jacob's hands. The blessing comes from his father Isaac, who in this case is acting in the place of God.

Many things transpired, but eventually the covenant was transferred to Jacob, who God later re-named Israel (Prince with God). In Genesis 35:10-12, we find that the covenant that was given to Abraham and Isaac was then transferred to Jacob. All this happened nearly 2000 years before Christ.

This should tell you something about the accuracy of those who claim the covenant was transferred from Abraham to Ishmael. There is no reliable source of information that indicates that the Abrahamic covenant was transferred to anyone except Isaac, and his descendants.

Jacob and his family of about 75 people moved to Egypt, where in about 430 years, they become a great nation of about 2-3 million.

In Egypt, they eventually adopted many of the Egyptian gods. When they had come out of Egypt, crossed the Sinai Peninsula, and then the Gulf of Aqaba (part of the Red Sea) they travelled to Midian, the home of Moses's father in law, Jethro, (See Exodus 18) where Moses would meet the Lord, again, on Mt. Sinai (correctly called Mt. Sinai in Arabia) in Galatians 4:25. There, through Moses, the children received what is usually called the Old Covenant.

Mt. Sinai is located in, what is today, western Saudi Arabia. That's where the real Mt. Sinai was, and is, today. It was never on the Sinai Peninsula.

On Mt. Sinai, Moses received the most

important part of the Old Covenant, the Ten Commandments. These, along with many other commandments, in Exodus 20-24, comprise what we usually call the Old Covenant.

After many attempts to get the children of Israel to be obedient to Him, and their continuing rebellion, and captivity, God announced through the prophets Jeremiah and Ezekiel, His intention to make a New Covenant, with the house of Israel, and the house of Judah.

That took place in about 600 BC, when Jeremiah was in, what is today Israel, and Ezekiel was in Babylon.

We will examine the New Covenant, how it works, and how it pertains to Jesus Christ, our Messiah and Savior, in our next article.

Questions or comments are invited. Send to us at one of the addresses below.

Are you concerned about your eternal destiny? At the Mexico Beach Christian Worship Center, you get vital teachings from a trustworthy Bible, every Sunday morning. We don't pass an offering plate, or plead for money, or pressure you to join.

We believe in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and we believe that

Jesus was God in human flesh.

Check us out this Sunday! For the spring and summer seasons, our services begin, with a time of greeting and fellowship, at 9:45 a.m. CT on Sunday.

Worship begins at 10 a.m. For those interested, we have midweek ministry, helping people on an individual basis. Inquire for more information.

Come early on Sunday morning so that you can meet us informally, and join in the praise and worship music led by TJ. On Sunday morning we worship, at the Mexico Beach Civic Center on 105 N. 31st Street.

The Civic Center is located behind the Beach Walk Gift Shop, behind Parker Realty, just off U.S. Highway 98, in the western end of Mexico Beach. Look for the white building with the dark green roof.

God Bless,
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Wednesday Evening Worship6:00 pm (EST)

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Traditional Worship: 11:00 a.m. ET

Rev. Mac Fulcher
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Ann Comforter
Music Director

Jeremy Dixon
Youth Minister

Wednesday:
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Choir: 7:00 p.m. ET

Deborah Loyless
Director of Children Ministries

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Sunday School 11:00 AM



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801 20th Street, Port St. Joe, FL (850) 229-6707

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10:30 AM Fellowship Breakfast
11:00 AM Worship
6:00 PM Worship

Home of Faith Christian School
www.faithchristianpsj.net



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Buddy Caswell, Minister of Music & Education
Bobby Alexander, Minister to Students

New Service Schedule for First Baptist Church

Sunday	Wednesday
Sunday School9:00 am	Children's Choir5:30 pm
Worship Service10:30 am	Prayer Meeting6:30 pm
Sunday Night Awana.....5 pm - 7 pm	Children's Ministry
Youth Groups5:30 pm	Activities6:30 pm
	Youth Ministry Activities...6:30 pm

www.fbcpsj.org



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Schedule of Worship Services

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Wednesday
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Elective Adult Classes 6:00 PM
Children & Youth Ministry 6:00 PM

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Psalm 29:2

Sunday School.....10 a.m.	Sunday Evening Worship6 p.m.
Sunday Morning Worship11 a.m.	Wednesday Evening Service7 p.m.



First United Methodist Church of Mexico Beach
111 North 22nd Street • Mexico Beach, FL 32410

Sunday Worship Services:
8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
9:45 a.m. CST Bible Study
11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship

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Evening Service	5:00 & 6:00 p.m.
Discipleship Training	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer	7:00 p.m.

Pastor Josh Fidler



If you're life isn't going well, It's not God's fault.

If you're life isn't going well, It's not God's fault. If you ask Him sincerely from your heart, He will give you a new life. It's called being born again (John 3:3-7) or born of God (John 1:12, 13). Ask God to make you what He wants you to be. Keep on asking until you find you are changed. Come, worship with us, enjoy real worship music, and meet others, who have been changed, at the Mexico Beach Civic Center, each Sunday, at 10:00 AM central. We follow Jesus, and His teachings, and are not affiliated with any other church. For Info: www.mexicobeachcwc.com or 850-348-0711

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Obituaries

Thomas Eugene Lewis

1960-2011

Thom Lewis died on June 23, 2011 in a plane crash on Eglin Air Force Base in the panhandle of Florida. He was 50. Thom was the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist for St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge from 1992 to 2008. He was a constant advocate for conservation of the herpetofauna on the island refuge, particularly the Gopher Tortoises and Eastern Diamond-back Rattlesnakes that lived there in such abundance. In addition, he promoted many research projects that were eventually funded and accomplished. More recently, he was a wildlife pilot for the USFWS, primarily involved with migratory bird programs. When he died in the crash, he was doing what he loved.

Thom was born on October 15, 1960 in Pasadena, Maryland. He received his Bachelor's Degree in 1985 from the University of Maryland and was pursuing a Master's Degree from Texas A&M University at the time of his death. Thom oversaw the endangered Red Wolf Program for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on St. Vincent NWR from 1992 to 2008, and one of his many legacies is the more than twenty Red Wolf pups that were born, survived to adulthood, and were transferred to repatriation programs at other areas



THOMAS LEWIS

across the nation.

Earlier this year, Joe Collins, Suzanne Collins, and Travis Taggart published a 48-page booklet entitled "A Pocket Guide to the Snakes of St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge- Florida."

In it, the dedication reads: "Dedicated to Thomas E. Lewis, who watched over the island and kept it wild."

The magnificent beauty and primal majesty of St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge remains today as a testament to his wise and vigilant stewardship.

Thom is survived by JoAnne, his wife of over 20 years. A fund to help her with funeral expenses has been set up at Superior Bank, P.O. Box 699, Apalachicola, Florida 32329.

Condolences may be sent to JoAnne Lewis, P.O. Box 712, Apalachicola, Florida 32329.

In memory of Thom, please send donations to the Florida Wild Mammal Association, 198 Edgar Poole Road, Crawfordville, Florida 32327

The CNAH Board of Directors extends its sympathies to the family and friends of Thom Lewis, particularly to JoAnne. Thom was a champion of all wildlife, and a fun person to be with in the field; his passing is a great loss to us all.

Debbie Ryan

Debbie Ryan 50, of Apalachicola and originally from Norwalk, Ohio passed away June 20, 2011 at her home.

She is survived by her longtime companion

and friend, Jim Grimm; her son, Jerry Ryan; her daughter, Elisha Ryan; her brothers, Tim, Rusty, Jeff and Steve Ryan.

Debbie loved the gulf

In chronological order, a brief bibliography of the published herpetological papers by Thomas E. Lewis includes:

Means, D. Bruce and Thomas E. Lewis. 1997. Geographic distribution: Amphiuma means. Herpetological Review 28(1): 47.

Peacock, Terry and Thomas E. Lewis. 2000. Geographic distribution: Deirochelys reticularia. Herpetological Review 31(2): 110-111.

Thomas E. Lewis and Joseph T. Collins. 2000. Geographic Distribution: Regina rigida. Herpetological Review 31(3): 187.

Lewis, Thomas E., Lisa K. Irwin, and Kelly J. Irwin. 2001. Geographic distribution: Pseudemys nelsoni. Herpetological Review 32(2): 117.

Lewis, Thomas E. and Kelly J. Irwin. 2001. Geographic distribution: Macrochelys temminckii. Herpetological Review 32(4): 274.

Irwin, Kelly J., Thomas E. Lewis, Jay D. Kirk, Suzanne L. Collins, and Joseph T. Collins. 2003. Status of the Eastern Indigo Snake (Drymarchon couperi) on St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge, Franklin County, Florida. Journal of Kansas Herpetology 7: 13-20.

Lewis, Thomas E. 2006. St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge Fish. Amphibian, Reptile and Mammal List. Publication of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Apalachicola, Florida. 8 pp.

and the solitude. She enjoyed fishing, boating, and motorcycling.

Debbie will truly be missed by all of us she touched.

We Love You.

Faith BRIEFS



SPECIAL TO THE STAR

The United Methodist Women of Port St. Joe will be hosting a tea party July 16.

From staff reports

United Methodist Women of Port St. Joe to host tea

If you miss tea parties or would like to enjoy one with your daughter or friends, the United Methodist Women of Port St. Joe will be hosting a tea on July 16 at 2 p.m. EST in the Fellowship Hall.

Debbie Norred will be the featured speaker on "Tea & Teaching With Jesus."

Debbie founded Heart Keepers Ministries in 1997. She uses teacups and other visuals to teach women about the Fruit of the Spirit and how Christ is willing to be our heart keeper. The proceeds from this mission project will benefit tornado relief. Tickets can be purchased for \$10 from any UMW member or you can call the church office at 227-1724 leave your name and contact information a com-

mittee member will return your call as soon as possible.

Revival at Philadelphia Primitive Baptist

Philadelphia Primitive Baptist Church will be holding a revival beginning July 11. The Elder Bobby Duval of Tallahassee will be the evangelist for the week. Services will begin at 7:30 p.m. ET nightly with local choirs providing the song services. It is the desire of Pastor Jessie Hawkins and the congregation of Philadelphia Primitive Baptist Church that everyone feel welcomed to come out for this time of spiritual revitalization. The church is located at 261 Avenue D in Port St. Joe.

New Horizon AA

The New Horizon AA Group's new schedule is Sunday mornings at 11 a.m. EST or 10 a.m. CST; call 850-639-3600.

In Memoriam: Bryce Nelson

Memories that will last a lifetime. Happy Birthday, Bryce. From your family & friends



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PUBLIC NOTICE

A Public Hearing will be held at the Planning and Development Review Board (PDRB) meeting on Monday, July 18, 2011 at 8:45 a.m. ET, and at the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) meeting on Tuesday, July 26, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. ET. Both public hearings will be held in the BOCC Meeting Room at the Robert M. Moore Administration Building, 1000 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd., Port St. Joe, Florida. The public hearings will be to discuss and act on the following:

1. Subdivision Application - Hibiscus Horizons - by Jay Rish for Parcel ID #'s 06268-503R, 06268-509R, 06268-513R, 06268-514R and 06268-516R - Located in Section 6, Township 9 South, Range 11 West, Gulf County, Florida - Continuance of the tabled June 20, 2011 meeting for determination of Development Order for platting a subdivision for said parcels.
2. Open Discussion
3. Staff

The public is encouraged to attend and be heard on these matters. Information prior to the meeting can be viewed at the Planning and Building Department at 1000 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd., Room 312.

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LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE BARRED NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE. ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 2900 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA IN RE: ESTATE OF PROBATE DIVISION JULIAN HOLLIS HUNTER File Number 10-46-PR Deceased

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION The administration of the estate of JULIAN HOLLIS HUNTER, deceased, whose date of death was August 29, 2010 and whose social security number is ****-**-****, is pending in the Circuit Court for Gulf County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Gulf County Courthouse, 1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Blvd., Port St. Joe, Florida 32456. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 CENTENNIAL BANK, as successor in interest to BAYSIDE SAVINGS BANK, and the defendants, HAROLD E. KEELS, JR., a/k/a HAL KEELS, and SUSANA MEDINA, Defendants.

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 NOTICE OF SALE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Summary Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated March 22, 2011, and Order to Reset Sale dated June 2nd, 2011, entered in Civil Action No. 10-304 CA of the Circuit Court of the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit in and for Gulf County, Florida, wherein the parties were the plaintiff, CENTENNIAL BANK, as successor in interest to BAYSIDE SAVINGS BANK, and the defendants, HAROLD E. KEELS, JR., a/k/a HAL KEELS, DELISA ANN KEELS, and SUSANA MEDINA, I will sell to the highest and best bidder, for cash, at 11:00 a.m. (Eastern

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 Time) on the 21st day of July, 2011, at the front door of the Gulf County Courthouse, Port St. Joe, Florida, the following-described real property as set forth in said Final Judgment of Foreclosure:

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 Lot 26, Garrison Plantation, as per plat recorded in the public records of Gulf County, Florida, in Plat Book 4, page 9.

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 PARCEL NO. 1: Begin at a St. Joe Paper Company concrete monument marking the Southwest Corner of the Southeast Quarter of Section 29, Township 5 South, Range 9 West, Gulf County, Florida; thence from said Point of Beginning run North 00 degrees 50 minutes 43 seconds West 663.79 feet to a rod and cap; thence North 89 degrees 45 minutes 38 seconds East 969.31 feet to a rod and cap; thence North 03 degrees 08 minutes 35 seconds East 104.71 feet to a rod and cap; thence North 75 degrees 42 minutes 05 seconds East 59.22 feet; thence North 58 degrees 16 minutes 42 seconds East 118.52 feet to a rod and cap lying on the Westerly right of way of State Road Number 381, said point lying on a curve to the right having a radius of 1382.69 feet; thence Southeast along said curve and said right of way for an arc distance of 433.20 feet, thru a central angle of 17 degrees 57 minutes 03 seconds, chord of said arc being South 22 degrees 34 minutes 34 seconds East 431.43 feet to a State Road concrete monument; thence continue along said right of way run, South 16 degrees 26 minutes 15 seconds East 19.04 feet to a rod and cap; thence leaving said right of way run South 89 degrees 06 minutes 33 seconds West 379.88 feet to a rod and cap; thence South 00 degrees 38 minutes 49 seconds East 421.08 feet to a concrete monument; thence South 31 degrees 31 minutes 17 seconds West 90.38 feet to a rod and cap; thence South 00 de-

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 The successful bidder at the sale will be required to place the requisite state documentary stamps on the Certificate of Title.

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 DATED this 6th day of June, 2011.

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 HON. REBECCA L. NORRIS CLERK OF COURT Gulf County, Florida By: BA Baxter Clerk/Deputy Clerk

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 FRANK A. BAKER, ESQ. 4431 Lafayette Street, Marianna, FL 32446 July 7, 14, 2011

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 DATED this 7th day of June, 2011.

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 HON. REBECCA L. NORRIS CLERK OF COURT Gulf County, Florida By: BA Baxter Clerk/Deputy Clerk

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 greens 02 minutes 15 seconds West 581.29 feet to a rod and cap; thence South 89 degrees 39 minutes 04 seconds West 383.05 feet to a rod and cap; thence South 89 degrees 54 minutes 27 seconds West 478.97 feet to a rod and cap; thence North 00 degrees 51 minutes 03 seconds West 655.84 feet to the Point of Beginning; AND

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 PARCEL NO. 2: Beginning at the Northeast corner of Section 32, Township 5 South, Range 9 West, and running South along said Section line for 210 feet to a concrete marker; thence run West along the South boundary line of a country road known as Birge's Drive for 210 feet to the Point of Beginning; thence continue along a straight line for 196 feet; thence turn South (which is also running parallel with Section 32 boundary line) for 450 feet; thence turn West for 67.8 feet; thence turn North (along survey line) for 581.15 feet; thence turn Northeast 91.79 feet; thence turn South for 150.5 feet; thence turn East for 210 feet; thence turn South for 60 feet to the Point of Beginning; lying and being in the N 1/2 of NE 1/4 of NE 1/4 of Section 32, Township 5 South, Range 9 West, Gulf County, Florida.

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 The successful bidder at the sale will be required to place the requisite state documentary stamps on the Certificate of Title.

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 DATED this 6th day of June, 2011.

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 HON. REBECCA L. NORRIS CLERK OF COURT Gulf County, Florida By: BA Baxter Clerk/Deputy Clerk

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 FRANK A. BAKER, ESQ. 4431 Lafayette Street, Marianna, FL 32446 July 7, 14, 2011

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 DATED this 7th day of June, 2011.

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 HON. REBECCA L. NORRIS CLERK OF COURT Gulf County, Florida By: BA Baxter Clerk/Deputy Clerk

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 CENTENNIAL BANK, as successor in interest to COASTAL COMMUNITY BANK,

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 Plaintiff,

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 SUNSET BAY INVESTMENTS, INC., JEFFREY W. CROOMS, GREGG W. HAYES, E. RALPH MILLS, JR., DAVID M. HUTTO, PATRICIA FOURNIER, and STANLEY CROOMS, Defendants.

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 NOTICE OF SALE GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated June 7th, 2011, and entered in Civil Action No. 10-454-CA of the Circuit Court of the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit in and for Gulf County, Florida, wherein the parties were the plaintiff, CENTENNIAL BANK, as successor in interest to COSTAL COMMUNITY BANK, and the defendants, SUNSET BAY INVESTMENTS, INC., GREGG W. HAYES, E. RALPH MILLS, JR., DAVID M. HUTTO, PATRICIA FOURNIER, and STANLEY CROOMS, I will sell to the highest and best bidder, for cash, at 11:00 a.m. (Eastern Time) on the 28th day of July, 2011, as the front door of the Gulf County Courthouse, Port St. Joe, Florida, the following-described real property as set forth in said Final Judgment of Foreclosure:

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 Lot 15, according to the plat of The Village at Marina Cove, as recorded in Plat Book 4, Page 48, in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Gulf County, Florida.

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 The successful bidder at the sale will be required to place the requisite state documentary stamps on the Certificate of Title.

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 DATED this 7th day of June, 2011.

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 HON. REBECCA L. NORRIS CLERK OF COURT Gulf County, Florida By: BA Baxter Clerk/Deputy Clerk

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 FRANK A. BAKER, ESQ. 4431 Lafayette Street, Marianna, FL 32446 July 7, 14, 2011

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 Lot 44, Windmark Beach, a subdivision as per map or plat thereof as recorded in Plat

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 2956S PUBLIC NOTICE The Port St Joe Redevelopment Agency's regular Board of Directors meeting will be held on Thursday July 14, 2011 at 8:00 am at 150 Captain Fred's Place in Port St Joe, FL. All persons are invited to attend and participate. Anyone wanting to appeal an official decision made on any subject at the meeting must have a verbatim record of the meeting that includes the testimony and evidence on which the appeal is based.

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 REBECCA L. NORRIS CLERK OF COURT GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA By: BA Baxter Deputy Clerk June 30, July 7, 2011

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 DATED this 20th day of June, 2011.

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. AS SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO WACHOVIA BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION Plaintiff,

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 vs. W. MICHAEL MASCHMEYER A/K/A MASCHMEYER A/K/A MICHAEL MASCHMEYER, ET AL Defendants.

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the Summary Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated June 16th, 2011, and entered in Civil Action No. 11-13 CA of the Circuit Court of the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit in and for Gulf County, Florida, wherein the parties were the Plaintiff, CENTENNIAL BANK, and the Defendants, MILES C. BRY and SUSAN T. BRY, HUSBAND AND WIFE, and WINDMARK BEACH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC., I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, at 11:00 o'clock a.m. (Eastern Time) on the 04th day of August, 2011, at the front door of the Gulf County Courthouse, Port St. Joe, Florida, the following-described real property as set forth in said Final Judgment of Foreclosure:

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 WITNESS my hand and the seal of the Court this 03rd day of June, 2011.

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 Rebecca L. Norris, Clerk By: BA Baxter As Deputy Clerk

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 This notice is provided pursuant to Administrative Order No.2.065. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to provisions of certain assistance. Please contact the Court Administrator at 1000 Cecil Costin Boulevard, Rm.148, Port St. Joe, FL 32456, Phone No. (850) 229-6112 within 2 working days of your receipt of this notice or

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 JOHN DOE OR ANY OTHER PERSON IN POSSESSION; all unknown parties claiming by, through, under or against the named Defendant(s), whether living or not, and whether said unknown parties claims as heirs, devisees, grantees, assignees, lienors, creditors, trustees, or in any other capacity, claiming by, through under or against the named Defendant(s) are the Defendant(s). I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the FRONT LOBBY OF THE COURTHOUSE of the GULF County Courthouse, in GULF County, Florida, at 11 a.m., on the 14th day of July, 2011, the following described property as set forth in said Order or Final Judgment, to wit:

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 LOT 90, WINDMARK BEACH, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGE 1, IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA.

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 Street Address: 217 SIGNAL LANE, WINDMARK LOT 90, PORT SAINT JOE, FLORIDA 32456

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens, must file a claim within sixty (60) days after the sale.

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 Clerk's Trust Fund: Robert Scarabin-\$205.00; Marshall Watson-\$6.00; Emily Mackey-\$18.00;

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 Registry of the Court Charles Isler III-\$100.00; Charlie Brock-\$237.78.

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 Rebecca L. Norris, Clerk of the Circuit Court Gulf County, Florida

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 By Carla O'Dell Deputy Clerk, July 1, 2011 June 30, July 7, 2011

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 3004S CITY OF PORT ST. JOE GARRISON - MADISON SIDEWALK PROJECT #019.183

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 Notice of Unclaimed Moneys held by the Gulf County Clerk of Circuit Court

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 The following is a list of unclaimed moneys held by the Clerk of the Circuit Court. Unless such moneys are claimed on or before September 1, 2011, they shall be declared forfeited to Gulf County Courts.

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 Persons having or claiming any interest in such funds or any portion of them shall file their written claims with the Clerk of Circuit Court of Gulf County by September 1, 2011 and shall make sufficient proof to the Clerk of their ownership and upon so doing shall be entitled to receive any part of the moneys so claimed.

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 Unless claim is filed within such time as aforesaid, all claims in reference thereto are forever barred. Florida Statute 116.21.

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 Clerk's Trust Fund: Robert Scarabin-\$205.00; Marshall Watson-\$6.00; Emily Mackey-\$18.00;

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 Registry of the Court Charles Isler III-\$100.00; Charlie Brock-\$237.78.

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 Rebecca L. Norris, Clerk of the Circuit Court Gulf County, Florida

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 By Carla O'Dell Deputy Clerk, July 1, 2011 June 30, July 7, 2011

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 3004S CITY OF PORT ST. JOE GARRISON - MADISON SIDEWALK PROJECT #019.183

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100 Notice to Receive

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

LEGAL ADVERTISING
1100

SEALED BIDS
RFP 2011-07
The City of Port St. Joe will receive sealed bids from any qualified person, company or corporation interested in constructing:

CITY OF
PORT ST. JOE
GARRISON - MADISON
SIDEWALK

This project consists of constructing approximately 700 LF of concrete sidewalk and 5,700 LF of multi-use asphalt path within the City of Port St. Joe from the High School to Gulf Coast Community College.

Plans and specifications can be obtained at Preble-Rish, Inc., 324 Marina Drive, Port St. Joe, Florida 32456, (850) 227-7200. The bid must conform to Section 287.133(3) Florida Statutes, on public entity crimes.

All bidders shall be FDOT Qualified per Section 2-1 of the FDOT Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction, latest edition in the following work classes: Drainage, Grading, Flexible Paving, and Hot Plant Mix-Bituminous Course.

Completion date for this project will be 120 days from the date of the Notice to Proceed presented to the successful bidder.

Liquidated damages for failure to complete the project on the specified date will be set at \$200.00 per day.

Please indicate on the envelope that this is a sealed bid, for the "Garrison - Madison Sidewalk".

Bids will be received until 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time, on July 21st, 2011 at the City of Port St. Joe City Hall, 305 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd, Port St. Joe, Florida 32456, and will be opened and read aloud at 3:15 P.M. Eastern Time. The City of Port St. Joe is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Handicapped Accessible/ Fair Housing Jurisdiction.

Cost for Plans and Specifications will be \$50.00 per set and is non-refundable. Checks should be made payable to PREBLE-RISH, INC.

The City of Port St. Joe reserves the right to waive informalities in any bid, to accept and/or reject any or all bids, and to accept the bid that in their judgment will be in their best interest. If the contract is to be awarded, it will be awarded to the lowest responsive bidder. All bids shall remain firm for a period of sixty days after the opening.

All bidders shall comply with all applicable State and local laws concerning licensing registration and regulation of contractors doing business to the State of Florida.

This project is federally funded with assistance from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). By submitting a bid, the bidder certifies that no principal (which includes officers, directors, or executives) is presently suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible or voluntarily excluded from participation on this transaction by any Federal Department or Agency.

If you have any questions, please call Clay Smallwood at (850) 227-7200. June 30, July 7, 14, 2011

3029S
NOTICE TO RECEIVE SEALED BIDS
BID #1011-24

The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners will receive sealed bids from any qualified person, company, or corporation interested in purchasing the following:

1-1985 Plymouth/
Vin No.:
1P3B94607JF246273.
Minimum bid of \$200 required.

Please place YOUR COMPANY NAME, SEALED BID, and the BID NUMBER on the outside of your envelope, and provide three copies of your proposal.

Bids must be submitted to the Gulf County Clerk's Office at 1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr., Blvd., Room 148, Port St. Joe, Florida, 32456 by 4:30 p.m., E.T. on Friday, July 15, 2011. Bids will be opened at this same location on Monday, July 18, 2011 at 10:00 a.m., E.T.

Any questions concerning this bid should be directed to Houston Whitfield, at (850) 227-5839.

LEGAL ADVERTISING
1100

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
GULF COUNTY,
FLORIDA
Warren J. Yeager, Jr.,
Chairman

Attest:
Rebecca L. Norris,
Clerk
July 7, 2011

3065S
NOTICE TO RECEIVE SEALED BIDS
BID NO. 1011-25

The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners will receive sealed bids from any qualified person, company or corporation interested in constructing:

2011 BEACHES RESURFACING PROJECT (PRI) PROJECT #003.236

This project includes approximately 5 miles of roadway resurfacing, milling, and reclaimed asphalt located at St. Joe Beach in Gulf County, FL.

Plans and specifications can be obtained at Preble-Rish, Inc., 324 Marina Drive, Port St. Joe, Florida 32456, (850) 227-7200. The bid must conform to Section 287.133(3) Florida Statutes, on public entity crimes. Cost for Plans and Specifications will be \$75.00 per set and is non-refundable. Checks should be made payable to PREBLE-RISH, INC.

All bidders shall be FDOT Qualified per Section 2-1 of the FDOT Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction, latest edition in the following work classes: Grading, Drainage, Flexible Paving, and Hot Plant Mix-Bituminous Course. If you have any questions, please call Clay Smallwood at (850) 227-7200.

Completion date for this project will be 120 days from the date of the Notice to Proceed presented to the successful bidder. Liquidated damages for failure to complete the project on the specified date will be set at \$200.00 per day.

Please indicate on the envelope that this is a sealed bid, for the "2011 Beaches Resurfacing Project - Bid #1011-25".

Bids will be received until 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time, on July 22, 2011 at the Gulf County Clerk's Office, 1000 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd, Port St. Joe, Florida 32456, and will be opened and read aloud at this same location on July 25, 2011 at 10:00 a.m., Eastern Time.

All bids shall remain firm for a period of sixty days after the opening. All bidders shall comply with all applicable State and local laws concerning licensing registration and regulation of contractors doing business to the State of Florida.

The Board of County Commissioners reserves the right to waive informalities in any bid, to accept and/or reject any or all bids, and to accept the bid that in their judgment will be in the best interest of Gulf County.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
GULF COUNTY,
FLORIDA
/s/ Warren Yeager,
Chairman
July 7, 14, 2011

3126S
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
Case No.: 10-418-CA

OPTIMUMBANK,
Plaintiff,
vs.

TODD OLIVE; SHEILA MEAD aka SHEILA MEAD; ESTATE OF FRED E. MEAD, deceased; STANLEY M. KATZ, and GULF PINES PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION OF GULF COUNTY, INC., Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, Clerk of Circuit Court of Gulf County, Florida, pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered in this cause, will sell on-line at 11:00 a.m. EST in the lobby at the Gulf County Courthouse located at 100 Cecil G. Costin, Sr., Blvd., Port St. Joe, Florida 32456 on the day of 2011, the following described parcel of real property, to-wit:

Lot 23, Block A, Gulf Pines Subdivision, according to the Official Plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 3, Page 25, in the Public Records of Gulf County, Florida. ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN

LEGAL ADVERTISING
1100

THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THE SALE.

In accordance with F.S. 45.031(3), the successful high bidder, if other than the Plaintiff, shall post with the Clerk a deposit equal to five (5) percent of the final bid or \$1,000.00, whichever is less. The balance shall be paid to the Clerk within twenty-four hours of the sale; otherwise the Clerk shall re-advertise the sale and pay all costs of the sale from the deposit. Any remaining funds shall be applied toward the judgment.

THIS NOTICE dated this 29th day of June, 2011.

Rebecca L. Norris,
Clerk of Court

By BA Baxter
Deputy Clerk
July 7, 14, 2011

CLASSIFIED NOTICES
1110

Incorrect Insertion Policy

For Classified In-column Advertisers

All ads placed by phone are read back to the advertiser to insure correctness. The newspaper will assume correctness at the time of the read-back procedure unless otherwise informed.

Please your ad.

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1160

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BUSINESS DIRECTORY

INSTRUCTION

Attend College Online from Home. *Medical *Business *Paralegal *Criminal Justice. Job Placement assistance. Computer available. Financial Aid if qualified. SCHEV certified. Call 866-4-67-0-054. www.Centura.us.com

SELL ALL YOUR ITEMS

through classified. **CALL 747-5020**

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, Clerk of Circuit Court of Gulf County, Florida, pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered in this cause, will sell on-line at 11:00 a.m. EST in the lobby at the Gulf County Courthouse located at 100 Cecil G. Costin, Sr., Blvd., Port St. Joe, Florida 32456 on the day of 2011, the following described parcel of real property, to-wit:

PETS & ANIMALS
2100-2150
2100 - Pets
2110 - Pets: Free to Good Home
2120 - Pet Supplies
2130 - Farm Animals/Supplies
2140 - Pets/Livestock Wanted
2150 - Pet Memorials

PETS
2100

Extra Mile Pet Sitting
Home visits/overnight in the comfort of your pets home. Exc. local Ref. since 1993. Gulf Co. Mexico Bch & Apalach Exotics welcome! Diana 227-5770 Dan 227-8225 extramilepetsitting.com

HELP WANTED
4100

GUNS
3240

GUN SHOW
Santa Rosa County Auditorium, Milton, FL July 9th/10th 9am - 5pm call (850) 957-4952 or (850) 261-8407
General Admission \$6.

EMPLOYMENT
4100-4130

HELP WANTED
4100

Logistics/Transport
Truck Driver
Must have Class B CDL. Boomtruck or Piggyback truck experience a plus. Apply to 3333 Highway 77, Lynn Haven, FL Web ID#: 34166489 Text FL66489 to 56654

HELP WANTED
4100

HOUSE RENTALS
6140

3 Br 1 ba, house in Oak Grove; very large yard; 432 Iola St., Port St. Joe; (850)227-7800

HOUSE RENTALS
6140

Bayfront stilted 3 br, 2 ba, 5353 Sanbar Dr. annual rental near Cape San Blas. Port St. Joe. 12 months of Sunset. \$995 month. Available June 01, 2011 850-399-0123

HOUSE RENTALS
6140

Port St. Joe 2 br 1 ba Clean, furnished, non smoking house, Call for details 850-722-5364

HOUSE RENTALS
6140

RV Lots at Kristiana RV Park at Beacon Hill, 2 blocks from the Gulf, \$250 month, W/S included. Call John 850-647-5000/340-0675

HOUSE RENTALS
6140

1 bedroom unfurnished apt; Dogwood Terrace Apartments; 808 Woodward Ave, PSJ; (850) 227-7800.

HOUSE RENTALS
6140

2 & 3 br, on St. Joe beach and Mexico Beach. 1 br, Eff. on Mexico Beach. Nice Areas Please call 850-348-7774 Text FL64758 to 56654

HOUSE RENTALS
6140

MINI STORAGE
In Port St. Joe
229-6200
814-7400

HOUSE RENTALS
6140

Chief Development Officer
We are a Public Charter School looking for a highly motivated creative individual with excellent communication skills. A self starter who has a BA in Business, Marketing or Public Relations and is interested in developing and implementing fundraising programs.

• Full Time Position
• Salary/Benefits negotiated
• Develop fundraising goals for the next five years
Equal opportunity employer
Send resumes to:
Apalachicola Bay Charter School
98 12th Street Apalachicola, Florida 32320

Warehouse / Flex Space
110 Trade Circle West +/- 2500-7500 sf suites; 14ft roll-up doors, dock high loading; inquire for terms
2790 Hwy 98 +/- 5,640 sf : Office / Warehouse; \$8 psf mod gross; Property also available for sale; Inquire for terms; 17 separate storage units available

For Sale
UNDER CONTRACT
306 Williams Avenue +/- 2400 sf office/retail
Loggerhead Restaurant Cape San Blas, +/-3000sf, FFE incl., .47 ac, on site-parking, sewer, asking \$350,000. Short Sale
256 Hatfield Street, Eastport, FL +/- 7,500 sf : 16' inside clearance; Dual 12' roll-up doors; \$150,000
60 Island Drive, Eastport, FL +/-19,620sf: Fully climate controlled office & retail show space; located on primary SGI access corridor; \$675,000
516 1st Street +/-11,400 sf office/warehouse : .09 acres; Four roll up and/or high clearance entryways; \$515,000
320 Marina Drive Corner lot entry to Marina Cove : .14 acres; High visibility site; Call for details
407 Reid Ave +/- 4,988 sf : 100% leased multi tenant bldg; On-site parking; \$450,000
317 Monument Ave +/- 4,431 sf : Hwy 98 frontage w/ On-site parking; \$499,000
401 Reid Avenue +/- 5,400 sf : Retail space; \$225,000; Avail for lease; Inquire for terms
260 Marina Drive +/- 3,200 sf : Multi tenant building in Marina Cove; New Construction w/ ample parking; Also avail for lease; Inquire for details; \$345,000
PSJ Commerce Park +/- 6.5 acre site : \$119,900; owner financing available
Hwy 98 Retail / Office Vacant Lots Two lots avail w/ frontage on Hwy 98; 30' x 80' each; \$69,900 per lot

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3 BR 2 BA DOUBLEWIDE Back Deck, Nice Location.....\$700
3 BR 1 BA APARTMENT Front & Back Porch.....\$600
3 BR 2 BA FURNISHED CONDO Boat & Car Parking.....\$850 WKLY
1 BR 1 BA FURNISHED CONDO Long Term, Includes Utilities.....\$910
3 BR 3 BA FURNISHED CONDO Pool, Downtown.....\$700 WKLY
3 BR 2 BA UNFURNISHED HOUSE Long Term.....\$850
2 BR UNFURNISHED APARTMENT Lanark.....\$375
2 BR UNFURNISHED APARTMENT W/D Pet Friendly.....\$500
3 BR 3 B FURNISHED CONDO Long Term, Pool.....\$850

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Sacred Heart Hospital offers inpatient physical rehab

Special to The Star

When an inpatient stay for physical or occupational therapy is needed, patients can now consider staying closer to home. Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf now offers a program to provide inpatient rehabilitation services to the community.

Certain rural hospitals qualify to establish an agreement whereby they can assign a patient room to provide either inpatient medical care or inpatient physical rehabilitation. The program agreement is commonly titled "swing beds" because the beds can swing from one status to the other.

"We are excited that this program will allow patients the opportunity to stay in Gulf County and be closer to their loved ones while undergoing rehabilitation," said Gail Blackmon, registered nurse and case manager for Sacred Heart.



SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Alfred Harper is seen with daughter and son-in-law, Desda and Walt Fields while spending time in inpatient rehabilitation at Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf.

Patients that are currently in the care of SHH can receive their rehabilitation without being transferred to a different facility, allowing them to keep the same treatment team. Patients also can request admission after a patient stay in Panama City or Tallahassee so they can be closer to home.

The program has already been a success in the eyes of at least one local family. Ask the Harper

family, longtime residents of Port St. Joe.

"Mr. Harper is an example of how being closer to home can improve the quality of someone's experience," Blackmon said. "His wife came to see him nearly every day. It really gives the family a chance to be involved without the extra burden of an hour or longer drive. We were sad to see them go but glad to see him improve so much."

GCEC promotes smart water usage with H2O Plus

Special to The Star

Homeowners interested in ways to make a difference in energy costs have a tool at their disposal. Known as H2O Plus, the program is an innovative service from Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative.

When a member enrolls in the program, GCEC sends a certified electrician to the home (at no cost to the member) to install a cycling device on their water heater. The cooperative's power supplier can then send a signal that instructs the device to cycle the water heater during times of peak energy demand, usually between 5 a.m. and 8 a.m.

When the water heater cycles, the elements will power down for a short period of time — usu-

ally between two and four hours — and restart in time to maintain plenty of hot water in the tank. The cycling process reduces the amount of power needed for the overall system's peak demand.

The program is designed to encourage wiser energy use during peak demand times, increasing the efficiency and reliability of GCEC's power system.

"There are two things our members need to understand about the H2O Plus program," GCEC CEO/General Manager Michael White said. "First, members should not notice a difference in the amount of hot water available to do normal household tasks. And second, participation in this program can help us all become wiser energy users and reduce the amount of demand on our system."

"In appreciation to those members who choose to enroll in the program, we will issue a one-time bill credit of \$25."

The cycling process will go virtually unnoticed by participants. There will be plenty of hot water in their tank for showers, chores and other household tasks.

Members who enroll in the H2O Plus program should not expect to see a reduction in their monthly power bills. The true benefit comes when you consider the effect of thousands of homeowners joining forces to better manage the region's energy demands by reducing the amount of power needed during the hours of peak use.

To learn more or to enroll in H2O Plus, visit www.gcec.com or call 265-3631, 639-2216 or 481-1188.

Arrest REPORT

The following is the Gulf County Sheriff arrest log from June 20 to July 4.

The Gulf County Sheriff's Office will be conducting vehicle safety checkpoints and DUI checkpoints during the month of July. The checkpoints will be throughout the county, including Highway 98 near St. Joe Beach, Highway 98 and Garrison Ave, C-30 Simmons Bayou, Highway 71 North of White City, Highway 22 and Highway 22A, Highway 71 and Westarm Creek, Highway 71 Dalkieth Area and Highway 71 near the Calhoun line.

On June 20, Juan Boday Shackleford, 20, was arrested on a warrant for domestic battery.

On June 20, Stephen Alan Brinkmeier, 46, was arrested on a warrant for violation of an injunction against repeat violence.

On June 22, Ronald Samuel Smiley, 55, was arrested on a warrant for failure to appear; the original charge was battery on a law enforcement officer.

On June 22, Arsenio Santiez Sims, 22, was arrested on numerous charges after a search warrant was served on his home. Sims was charged with cultivation of marijuana, aggravated fleeing and attempting to elude, resisting without violence, driving with a suspended license and he was also arrested on charges from Franklin and Escambia counties.

On June 23, Johnathan Earl Cooper, 29, was arrested on a warrant for violation of probation.

On June 23, Cleatha Ann Nickell, 39, was arrested on a warrant for failure to pay child support.

On June 24, Clay Von Turner, 49, was arrested on a warrant for failure to pay child support.

On June 24, Jimmy Hammond, 22, was arrested on three warrants for failure to appear; the original charges were burglary and grand theft.

On June 24, Nellie Elaine

Causey, 37, was arrested on a warrant for unlawful possession of listed chemical to manufacture methamphetamines

On June 25, Jason Allen Fortson, 30, and Melanie Marie Forston, 35, were arrested on charges of domestic battery.

On June 26, Brent Lamar Davis, 40, was arrested on charges of driving under the influence.

On June 26, Melissa Diane Mims, 32, was arrested on charges of driving under the influence, and on July 1, she was arrested for violation of probation.

On June 26, Rebecca Leanne Causey, 23, was driving a vehicle that was stopped for a traffic violation. She was arrested for driving with a suspended license. During an inventory of the vehicle the remnants of a meth lab along with chemicals to manufacture meth were located in the car. Causey was additionally charged with possession of methamphetamines and possession of listed chemical to manufacture methamphetamines. Three days earlier, Causey had been convicted of being a principal to manufacturer of methamphetamines.

On June 27, James Richard Haney was arrested for failure to pay child support.

On June 28, Edward Allen Glasgow was arrested for fleeing and attempting to elude.

On June 30, Gary Lee Hudson, 42, was arrested for disorderly conduct.

On June 30, Ryan Michael Carver, 20, was arrested for violation of probation.

On June 30, Joe Daniel Griffin, 50, turned himself in a sheriff's office; he had a warrant for aggravated battery.

On July 3, Charles Justin Russ was arrested for DUI he refused a breath test.

On July 3, Amanda Elmore, 31, was arrested for two counts of battery and one count of disorderly conduct.

On July 4, Adam Lee Foreman, 38, was arrested for DWLSR.

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For more information, contact the Gulf County Health Department, 850-227-1276, ext 205.

