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50¢



Summer arts, B1

## School board sets tentative millage

By Tim Croft  
Star News Editor

The Gulf County School Board last week established a tentative millage rate and approved a budget that will have the district spending more than \$700,000 fewer than last year.

The district ad valorem budget totals \$10.573 million, down from \$11.285 million last year.

The tentative millage rate will be 7.253, up .014 from last year, almost entirely because of increases in the required local effort, that which county taxpayers must pay for the district to receive any state funding under the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP), and an increase

in the one component over which the school board has control, capital outlay.

Having established a millage rate, the school board may not increase it as the budget process moves toward a final public hearing in September. Board members may, however, decrease the millage.

The first public hearing on the proposed 2011-12 budget will be held at 5:15 p.m. ET on Aug. 2 at the district offices behind Port St. Joe Middle School.

School budgets are different than other taxing authorities in that they are largely crafted by state lawmakers during the spring legislative session.

See MILLAGE A2



TIM CROFT | The Star

Sean Michael Morgan apologized for his role in a burglary at Port St. Joe High School last month. Morgan accepted responsibility and asked for the board's forgiveness for his actions.

## Mexico Beach students to choose Bay or Gulf

### Board hears apology for PSJHS burglary

By Tim Croft  
Star News Editor

Stay or go — that is the choice for Mexico Beach parents and students.

Bay County Superintendent of Schools Bill Husfelt has notified Gulf District School officials that Bay County will no longer pay a per-pupil supplement to Gulf County for transporting and educating students in Mexico Beach.

Traditionally, Mexico

Beach students, residing in Bay County, have traveled to Port St. Joe for their education, with Gulf District Schools collecting the full per-pupil funding, including transportation dollars, and Bay County providing an additional supplement per student.

However, given economic conditions, Husfelt has indicated to Gulf District officials that Bay County intends to transport and educate those Mexico Beach students — the caveat being that parents

See CHOOSE A2

## Gulf Pines brownfield designation in question; FDOT addresses cart crossings

By Tim Croft  
Star News Editor

The City of Port St. Joe's hope that the Gulf Pines Hospital property would qualify for brownfield designation was all but dashed last week by the city's attorney.

Tom Gibson told city commissioners last week that the first phase of an environmental assessment had been completed with mixed results for the city.

Gibson questioned how successful the city would be in pursuing brownfield designation and, in

turn, grant funding for cleanup.

"There is asbestos, but no other qualified conditions" that would allow the city to pursue a brownfield designation and, in turn, funding for cleanup of the site, Gibson said. "It will likely not qualify for a brownfield designation."

Commissioners will workshop the issue at 5 p.m. ET tonight at City Hall and have notified all residents adjacent to the property — which has steadily deteriorated since the hospital was shuttered by the state in 2005 — so they can attend and participate.

The city has 50 days to decide whether to take title to the property or back away from a federal lawsuit involving Medical Capital, the California-based lender, now in receivership, which owns all Gulf Pines stock after lending the former owner \$1.7 million.

The city was in the lawsuit to protect its interest in the Gulf Pines property, but commissioners also face the reality that funding cleanup is likely beyond the city's current means.

See BROWNFIELD A2



The former Gulf Pines Hospital has been in steady decline since being shut down by the state in 2005. The city will discuss its options on the property during a workshop tonight.

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## BROWNFIELD from page A1

Should the city abandon the lawsuit, who ends up with the land would be determined by a federal court of the Internal Revenue Service, with the city and receiver the final parties in the lawsuit to recover assets.

### Golf cart access

Florida Department of Trans-

portation representatives were in the city last week in response to the city's letter requesting broader access for golf carts wishing to cross U.S. Highway 98 and State Road 71 to enter the downtown business district and Port St. Joe Marina.

The city had hoped for crossings of State 71 at Reid Avenue and Woodward Avenue, and of

U.S. 98 at State 71.

However, the DOT reps dismissed the Woodward Avenue crossing of State 71 because of the speed of traffic at that intersection and will recommend that golf carts be allowed to cross State 71 at Reid Avenue only.

Commissioner Bo Patterson objected, saying congestion on

Reid Avenue, the main downtown business artery, was already bad enough.

"The goal is to allow the crossing of (State) 71," Mayor Mel Magidson reminded commissioners.

As for crossing U.S. 98, the DOT recommendation was that First Street be designated as the cross-

ing point for golf carts. Crossing at State 71 would require a golf cart driving on 71, which is prohibited by law.

The First Street crossing would also facilitate easier access to the Port St. Joe Marina, one of the stated goals for receiving DOT approval for the golf cart crossing locations.

## MILLAGE from page A1

This year, lawmakers made significant cuts to education funding, and districts across the state are dealing with cutbacks and budget shortfalls.

Gulf District Schools have made some \$1.4 million in cuts, including shedding nearly 20 positions.

The district budget comprises several components set by the state.

The required local effort and discretionary funding components, which make up the bulk of the district's operating expenses, were increased collectively by .033 mills.

A mill is equal to \$1 for every \$1,000 in taxable personal

property.

The required local effort, 5.105 mills, is the largest component of school funding.

"If we do not levy the required local effort, we get no money from the state," district financial officer Sissy Worley said. "It is a requirement."

Because of declining property values, local taxpayers' share of the school ad valorem budget has dropped from 90 percent to roughly 87-88 percent.

For purposes of the district budget, the mill is worth \$101,206 less than one year ago.

This year will be the final year in which the additional one mill operating levy passed by voters

more than three years ago will provide funding for the district. The mill sunsets next year, and its value has steadily declined — it was worth more than \$2 million when passed but will bring in \$1.4 million for the coming fiscal year.

The lone component of school funding over which the board has sway is capital outlay dollars, or funds used for bricks and mortar and building improvements.

"This is the only one we have discretion over," board Chairman John Wright said. "The rest comes from the state."

"It is tough making budgets in these times, especially when you have more than \$700,000 less than last year."

For several years, the district's capital outlay millage has been the lowest in the state. Last year, it was .350.

With aging buildings and many capital improvement needs throughout the district, the board approved an increase in the capital outlay to .400, well below the 1.50 maximum districts are permitted to levy.

"We are still the lowest in the state," Worley said. "Many districts are going to the maximum due to current conditions."

### Athletic cuts

The board also approved cutting only golf at both Wewahit-

tchka and Port St. Joe Junior/Senior High Schools for the coming year.

Principals and athletic directors had submitted a potential list of programs to be cut given economic realities, a list that originally included weightlifting and wrestling at Wewahitcka Junior/Senior and cross country at Port St. Joe.

However, acting Superintendent of Schools Sara Joe Wooten recommended and the board accepted cutting only boys and girls golf at both junior/senior high schools for the coming year, granting at least a one-year reprieve for other programs proposed for elimination.

## CHOOSE from page A1

and students have a choice of which county to attend school in.

Gulf District Schools has sent a letter to each parent of a Mexico Beach student — 71 at this time — to notify them of the change and allow them to choose.

Parents should notify the Gulf District office at 229-8256 by Aug. 5. After Aug. 5, requests to remain in Gulf County must be made individually by the parent to Bay County Schools.

Husfelt has indicated those who choose to stay in Gulf County will be allowed to do so.

However, those choosing to transfer to Bay District Schools will be enrolled in and transported to the nearest school, for example, Tyndall Elementary School.

Gulf School District will

work with parents to continue transportation from Mexico Beach as feasible and if the numbers warrant. There will not be regular bus stops, but there is the possibility of a parent drop-off and pickup location. As Gulf schools start Aug. 15, it is essential that all Mexico Beach parents make a decision quickly to ensure a smooth start in either county.

The dollars in question are substantial, particularly for Gulf District Schools.

The annual supplement paid by Bay County totaled \$96,000 last year.

If all 71 students leave Gulf District Schools, the funding hit would be more than \$340,000 and would further exacerbate a trend of declining enrollment that has constrained school

funding in Gulf County for several years.

The breakdown of those students is 33 in elementary school, 21 in middle school and 17 in high school, including six seniors at Port St. Joe High School.

### Convicted burglar apologizes

Sean Michael Morgan, 21, of Mexico Beach, who burglarized Port St. Joe High School last month, came before the board to offer an apology.

Morgan and two others entered the school, set off fire extinguishers and committed other vandalism. The three were identified by surveillance video.

Typically in such cases, Assistant State Attorney Timothy Register said, a

written letter of apology is submitted in criminal cases to the victim.

"I thought given the difficulties everybody has these days with money, I thought it would be appropriate that in addition to jail time and probation, they provide an apology in person to the school board," Register said.

Morgan, in jailhouse uniform and shackled at the wrists and ankles, told the school board he and his cohorts in crime were high on alcohol, marijuana and pills and "didn't think about the impacts" of their actions.

"As the oldest of us, I should have known better and put a stop to it," Morgan told the board. "I take full responsibility for my actions. I apologize and ask

for forgiveness."

Morgan was sentenced to three months in the county jail, three years' probation and 50 hours of community service and must make full restitution to the district for damage done to the high school.

### Sexting, dress code

Board members discussed new laws that prohibit sexting in schools and also put in state law dress codes for students.

"This is the first time the state has mandated dress," said Sara Joe Wooten, acting Superintendent of Gulf District Schools.

Under the sexting law, it is illegal for a minor to knowingly use a computer or any other electronic device to transmit or distrib-

ute to another minor any photograph or video depicting nudity and which is defined in statute as harmful to minors.

Students found in violation face potential suspension.

Board members emphasized that school principals must become more aggressive in adhering to the district's prohibition of the use of cellphones on school grounds.

The dress code law prohibits the wearing of clothing to school that exposes underwear or body parts indecently or in a vulgar manner or that is disruptive to learning.

Penalties progress from verbal warnings to prohibition from extracurricular activities to in-school suspension.

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# Ford dismissal roils county meeting

By Tim Croft  
Star News Editor

A crowd that spilled into the hallway outside the Gulf County Commission meeting room had plenty to say about this week's dismissal of Emergency Medical Services supervisor John Ford.

On the advice of the county attorney, commissioners, conducting their regular bimonthly meeting, said little and instead scheduled a special meeting at 5 p.m. ET tonight at the Robert Moore Annex meeting room to discuss the termination.

Ford was fired by a certified letter received Monday from county administrator Don Butler after what Butler called a thorough investigation into events of July 17, during which Ford authorized an EMT not officially employed by the county to assist during a busy Saturday/Sunday night.

Ford, according to his wife, Jeannie, received a call at 1 a.m. ET for transport of a cardiac patient from Sacred Heart on the Gulf in Port St. Joe to Bay Medical Center.

At the time, the county had two ambulances already in service, one on a transport to Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola and the other treating another cardiac patient.

Shorthanded, Ford authorized a non-county employee recently licensed by the state as an EMT to assist on the call, solely to drive the ambulance and assist with the stretcher but not treat the patient.

Three days later, Ford was suspended with pay by EMS director Houston Whitfield.

Butler said the decision to terminate came after consultation with Whitfield, County Attorney Jeremy Novak and Dr. Gary Pablo of Sacred Heart on the Gulf, who serves as the medical director for EMS.

Pablo wrote a letter saying he could not tolerate the use of a non-county employee under his license and asked that all those involved be disciplined.

Butler said he also consulted with the county's labor lawyer in Tallahassee, who said that despite Ford's spotless 16-year record with EMS, the alleged infraction in question was sufficient to terminate Ford.

"There was no other option on my side," Butler said.

The crowd of at least 100 on hand vehemently challenged the actions of Whitfield, Butler and Pablo.

Several EMTs who spoke during and after the meeting contended that policies for EMS should be clearly and fully explained to employees so that all will understand and argued that the county has often been forced to even use non-EMTs to at least drive ambulances when EMS was shorthanded.

Pastor Charles Gathers said there were many ways in which information could be disseminated and wondered whether all pertinent information was provided to the attorneys and Pablo in this case.

Part-time county EMT Carlos Camacho agreed, saying, "It seems there is a lack of communication here."

Gathers continued, "I don't know how a man can love volunteering the way John Ford does. John doesn't see color; he sees people. When you fire somebody who does what

## ONLINE



Comment on this story at [starfl.com](#).

## TONIGHT

A special meeting will be held at 5 p.m. ET at the Robert Moore Annex meeting room to discuss EMS supervisor John Ford's termination.

John does for the county, that is wrong."

Port St. Joe resident John Rich said he had observed the county try to craft an RV ordinance over the past several months and contended there were clearly areas where policies could be "tweaked"

and wondered if this wasn't such a case.

"I think dismissal in this case is too harsh," Rich said.

A critical sticking point in the discussion was the status of the EMT in question, Chaney McArdle.

McArdle had signed up last November when the county offered to fund the required education for licensing as an EMT to eight individuals.

The schooling was paid with the proviso that the individual be a county resident, meet all qualifications for employment, includ-

ing background check and drug screening, and, most important to several audience members, commit to a minimum of two years' service as an active part-time employee of county EMS.

McArdle's schooling was paid, through grant and county taxpayer funds, by the Board of County Commissioners.

He completed pre-employment screening before taking his first course and received his EMT license in June, at which time he applied for employment with the county.

As of this week, he had

yet to be formally hired by the county despite his two-year commitment to the county in exchange for his EMT education.

"If that man's schooling was paid for by the county, he is a county employee in my mind," said Port St. Joe resident Charles Stephens, who recounted how Ford had saved his life during a recent heart scare.

"John Ford saved my life. John Ford is an asset to this county. If we lose John Ford, the whole county loses."

Port St. Joe resident Deborah Barnes also noted

that the county paid for McArdle's schooling and that everybody, including those in the meeting room, makes mistakes from time to time.

"I think a lot of injustices have been done here," she added.

John Grantland of St. Joe Beach, who urged commissioners to ensure that policies are clearly stated and explained fully to all employees, including EMS, summed up the general sentiment in the room.

"John Ford is a great man," Grantland said.

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# Opinion

## Riding in cars with dogs

Recently my family went to the sandy beaches of Florida for a summer vacation. I stayed behind to take care of some things and was planning on going down a few days later. This was met with great delight; I later figured out why.

"If you are coming down later, you can bring the dogs."

In other words, I was the Dog Taxi. Doolittle, Maddie and Zack, my dog-in-law, would be riding with me. They are poodles, for the most part. Zack has some other lineage that has yet to be determined. It seems to be Dachshund or some other short-legged dog.

The day before the trip, the dogs managed to devise a scheme to get on the kitchen island, knock down the grocery bag of dog treats and have a party. The treats were for a two-week stay at the beach, thus they overdid it. They were a bit lethargic on the morning of our trip (They were passed out).

Dogs are good about rallying for the cause. When they saw me packing for the trip and heard the car doors open, they were ready to go. As a matter of fact, they got in the car while I loaded it. I was a bit worried they had all been sick after their dog treat binge the day before.

Before I backed out of the driveway, Maddie, the only female called "shotgun," leaving Doolittle and Zack to occupy the backseat. As we drove away, "Ebony and Ivory" played on the radio, Doolittle and Zack joined in. It was appropriate.

I've traveled with these dogs many times; they are usually very good. Doolittle usually gets carsick. I was prepared, covering all of the seats with towels. I had thrown my clothes in the backseat floorboard. I'm not much of a packer; I put them in a brown paper grocery bag.

Everyone seemed happy. I was documenting my trip on my cell phone. It has a "talk to text" feature that allows me to dictate and it writes down what I say (or that's the way it's supposed to work). I have a bit of



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Southern twang that sometimes confuses the software. Reading what the phone thinks I say can be entertaining. I have this picture of group of guys inside my phone asking "What did he say?"

As we rode through rural Alabama, we started looking for boiled peanuts. I noted this to my phone. As I said it, my phone typed "I need bold arena." I tried it again; it typed "I need bull arena." The third time I tried it, it said something about me needing to go to New York. I did not need to go to New York. I needed boiled peanuts.

There were no boiled peanuts to be found, but the low fuel light came on, and I was starting to worry. I wanted a gas station on the right side of the road, and they all seemed to be on the left side. Why? I just don't like gas stations on the left side of the road.

Other than being low on fuel, everything was going well. Doolittle hadn't thrown up, and the dogs seemed to be enjoying themselves (possibly bragging about their big heist, the day before). I looked in the backseat, and Zack had a pair of boxer shorts on his head. He just looked at me like, "What's the problem?" I just laughed and kept looking for a service station.

Finally, I found a gas station on the right side of the road. I stopped and went inside; I explained to the lady inside that I was traveling with a "carload of poodles." The lady looked out the window and saw Doolittle sticking his head out one of the back windows. Doolittle weighs 90 pounds. She said "That ain't no poodle." I said, "Yes ma'am, he is."

I walked back out to pump the gas. A man was standing by my car; he seemed to be waiting on me. He asked, "Why is there a dog with boxer shorts on his head in your backseat?" He didn't seem to be with PETA or with PAPBOP (People Against Putting Boxer shorts On Poodles), but I couldn't be sure. I told the man that I had picked the dog up a few miles back and I wasn't sure why he

**See BN HEARD A5**

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## Keyboard KLATTERINGS

## Rescue Mission: Not here, not now

The rescue mission discussion in Gulf County began innocently enough.

Local volunteers interested in establishing the "Gulf Coast Hope Center" asked the Rev. Billy Fox, executive director of the Panama City Rescue Mission, to share ideas with them on an informal basis.

A host of folks from around the county, including government officials and representatives of civic outreach organizations were invited to a gathering to discuss possibilities.

And at that first meeting the tenor of the conversation changed.

Fox suggested that instead of lending logistical and philosophical assistance, the Panama City Rescue Mission was positioned to assume responsibility for the center, to provide not just ideas but feet on the ground.

Before long there was an office in the heart of the Port St. Joe business district.

Without what could be called a public meeting, Fox and staff proceeded with establishing a toehold in the county and in doing so lost significant support from the organizing committee of the Gulf Coast Hope Center.

The office was established to the chagrin of many, including several Port St. Joe commissioners who argued the outreach office had no business downtown and who wondered whether Gulf County

actually had a homeless problem.

That, however, did not stop the Rescue Mission.

Yes, the city pushed Fox to commit to move the office from downtown, but the Rescue Mission still has a presence in Gulf County with the potential for expansion still in the air.

What has become increasingly clear over the recent weeks is that perceptions and reality collide in ways unfavorable to Fox and a desire to locate a shelter or outreach office in Gulf County.

One reality is that the county does not have a quantifiable homeless problem requiring a shelter or facility similar to the Panama City Rescue Mission.

Census data going back at least a decade shows the county had a "zero" homeless population.

This is not to say there are not homeless — the poor will always be with us and in increasingly greater numbers given the current economic climate.

To assert there is no need for outreach to many in the county who, as one county commissioner said recently, are one paycheck away from genuine trouble is to deny the economic environment.

That said, those in the community, primarily law enforcement, who deal with homelessness or vagrancy problems attest that months can fall away from the calendar without a call involving a homeless person.

A second reality is

that Gulf County has long helped its troubled own through a slew of organizations, most notably the ministerial association and the county's many churches that provide a host of services, from food to temporary shelter.

The Junior Service League, People Helping People of Gulf County, the Christian Community Development Fund ... These are just a brief sampling of other organizations offering services to the less fortunate of the county.

As was said at a recent Port St. Joe commission meeting, the county and community have a track record for reaching out to pull up their own, of providing the outreach to get those who stumble on their feet.

This brings about perceptions — if the county does not have a quantifiable issue with the homeless and takes care of the 14,000 or so who live here, why the need for any presence by the Panama City Rescue Mission?

Does the current system of law enforcement transporting any homeless folks in need of help over to Panama City and the mission not work? Is that not the most efficient method for Gulf County to deal with the few homeless people who arrive in the county each year, linking them to the closest portal for assistance?

And as Gulf County residents observe Panama City officials debate what to do with the Rescue Mission and wrestle with reviving downtown with a Rescue Mission that is increasingly an eyesore,

is it a surprise that local residents say, "Not here."

For the most significant perception problem facing Fox and the mission is what motorists see as they drive downtown Panama City on Business U.S. 98 — people milling the streets, laying in doorways, in front of businesses, doing much of nothing; people who by all appearances seem to have lost the desire to help themselves.

Fox can state, as he has at several meetings, that such folks are just a fraction of those who arrive at the Rescue Mission, but that hardly mitigates the jarring sight of people loitering downtown or a review of Bay County arrest records showing a number of individuals who list the Rescue Mission as a current address.

None of this is to diminish the difficult but essential work performed by Fox and his staff at the Panama City Rescue Mission. This is a calling steeped in faith and the teachings of Jesus Christ, to care for the less fortunate.

But perception holds that the Rescue Mission is a magnet for many who do not wish to help themselves, who have less ideal goals than pulling themselves up from difficult circumstances, who have mischief in mind.

This leaves the fundamental question at the heart of this debate — why would Gulf County sign up to shoulder the kind of problems that Panama City officials seem intent on shedding?

And from this corner the answer seems crystalline — it should not.

## Dad didn't put much faith in 'kinda close'

"What time does 'Old Faithful' spew forth?"

"3:06"

The Park Ranger was friendly but a little detached. I figured it wasn't the first time he had heard the question. I didn't really get a good look at his face. I was studying on the straightness of the brim of his official ranger hat and wondering if it was as hot under that thing as it looked. And, of course, I was anxious as all get out to see the most famous geyser in all the world unload toward the vast Wyoming sky ... "give or take 10 minutes" he added. "Say what?"

My eyes leaped from his flat hat to stare unbelieving directly into his! "My first girlfriend was more 'faithful' than that, and she ran off with Martin Paschall the first afternoon I had to work overtime at the sawmill. I've borrowed dogs to hunt with that were more dependable. Leon's second hand, worn out, hand-me-down bicycle had spokes missing, bent handlebars and no front fender, but you could count on it to get you to the ball field right on time, every time! I thought faithful meant faithful!"

"Well, the geological make up of the ground underneath Old Faithful is constantly changing. The length of time between eruptions has actually been growing longer for many years." I don't think they put the "bottom of



**HUNKER DOWN**

Kesley Colbert

the class" rangers in Yellowstone, "And this is not the highest geyser, it is just the most predictable one. It has been since this land became a National

Park in 1872. It will be very close to 3:06, I promise. And maybe that first girlfriend wasn't really your type anyway." He smiled like he thought Martin might have saved me from a terrible fate as I hurried out toward the launching pad to get a good seat.

While we were waiting for 3:06 (give or take 10 minutes) and the water works to shoot off my mind got to doing one of those long, slow loops ... Faithful ought not to mean "almost," "pretty close" or "just about."

Daddy told me if I hit David Mark he was going to whip me. I can't remember to save my life what the disagreement was over. I know I was chapped at Dave all mighty awful about something. This was way back before we had television so we dialed up our own murder, mystery and mayhem. I called him out into the next room and sucker punched him right in the stomach. I didn't get a chance to see him squirm. Daddy ripped that extra wide, thick heavy leather truck driver's belt off, grabbed me by the arm and commenced to lay one of the greatest whipping ever known to man on me right there on the spot!

Didn't neither one of us pass GO, nobody collected

\$200, there was no cooling off period, prolonged negotiations, mediation or last-minute appeals. He didn't bother to reiterate any specific crimes, he didn't belittle either of us by saying "this is going to hurt me more than it does you," he didn't even asked what the problem was between me and David, and he absolutely didn't give or take 10 minutes in any direction! Dad simply was faithful to a statement he had made only seconds before.

I, on the other hand, learned early in life that faithful is going to show up right on time and deliver as promised ... not to mention that the line between exacting revenge on your little brother and abject stupidity was razor thin!

I went out for the football team as a ninth grader. Coach Scott said, "Men (I'm not sure to this day if he was referring to me), it is going to be hot, and tough. We are going to run the dog stew out of you. We are going to work you until you drop. I want to see some bodies hurdling through the air with reckless abandon. We are going to beat those terrible Huntingdon High Mustangs." Whew!

He was about the most faithful man who ever talked to me! I found out quickly about dog stew and reckless abandon. I died once or twice a day in practice for a whole year.

He would have been 100 percent except we couldn't beat them dang Mustangs.

Wouldn't it be great if we could reinvent the word "faithful" in America? We could send a man to congress who would do exactly like he promised. Them weight reducing pills they sell on late night TV would actually work. A boxer would retire and that would mean he wasn't going to fight anymore.

I got to wondering about those San Juan Capistrano birds. You reckon they actually come back on March 19 as advertised. Or do they just fly back "sometime" in the spring, give or take a few weeks. Will that new hybrid car actually get 40 miles to the gallon? How do we know those sheets are extra absorbent?

I hate those slow loops ... your mind can really take off on you!

Old Faithful shot skyward at exactly 3:07 and a half. That seemed to be close enough for everybody — except my Dad and Coach Scott. It was so impressive that I hung around another 93 minutes to see it erupt again. I didn't worry about that 20-minute window. I was just appreciative that I got to see it. I ran into the Park Ranger on my way out, "Sir, if you will let me try that hat on, I will tell you how faithful Martin Paschall and Charlotte Melton turned out to be to each other."

Respectfully,  
Kes

## Financial costs of caring for your parents

Kudos to the millions of "sandwich-generation" Americans. These exhausted souls spend their time and money caring for and supporting not only their own children (and sometimes, grandchildren), but their parents, as well. It's no wonder that so many people caught in this situation have trouble paying their bills and saving for retirement.

If you are primary caregiver for one or both parents or support them financially, these ideas may help you keep your own finances on track:

You may be able to claim your parents as dependents for tax purposes if:

- You provide more than half their financial support. If they live in your home, you can count the fair-market rental value of their lodging, including utilities, in that calculation.

- Their gross income (excluding Social Security payments and other tax-exempt income), is less than \$3,700 a year.

- They did not file a joint tax return – unless it

was to claim a refund. The rules are complicated, so consult a tax professional or review IRS Publication 503 at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) to see if you qualify.

Even if you can't claim your parents as dependents because of the gross income limit, if you itemize deductions you still may be able

to deduct their medical expenses you paid for provided you supply over half their financial support. The deduction applies only to medical expenses that exceed 7.5 percent of your adjusted gross income, so paying for their expenses just may help put you over that threshold. For a complete list of qualifying expenses see IRS Publication 502 at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

Another way to lower your tax bite is to participate in employer-provided flexible spending accounts (FSAs), where you pay for eligible health and dependent care expenses (including those for dependent parents) on a pretax basis – that is, before federal, state and Social Security taxes

have been deducted. This lowers your taxable income and therefore, your taxes. To learn more about FSAs, visit Practical Money Skills for Life, a free personal financial management program sponsored by Visa Inc. ([www.practicalmoneyskills.com/benefits](http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/benefits)).

A broad range of federal, state and private assistance programs are available to help low-income seniors (and others) pay their bills, including:

- Medical coverage through Medicaid and Medicare. For a good overview of these programs, see "Get Financial Help" at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).

- Most pharmaceutical companies offer patient assistance programs that provide uninsured and low-income people access to prescription drugs they couldn't otherwise afford. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for details.

- The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program provides grants to help pay utility bills. To see if your parents qualify, go to [www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/liheap](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/liheap).

- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance

Program helps lower-income Americans buy nutritious food. Visit [www.fns.usda.gov/snap](http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap) for qualification requirements.

Rental assistance for low-income people is available from several Department of Housing and Urban Development programs as well as other state and local agencies (see "Find Rental Assistance" at [www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov) for details).

AARP has an excellent guide to finding public benefit programs in your area at [www.aarp.org/benefitscheckup.org](http://www.aarp.org/benefitscheckup.org). They also have a robust Caregiving Resource Center at [www.aarp.org/caregiving](http://www.aarp.org/caregiving).

And finally, if your parents live far away, consider hiring a local geriatric care manager to help develop a game plan. It's not cheap, but you'll appreciate the peace of mind. A good resource is the National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers ([www.caremanager.org](http://www.caremanager.org)).

*Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs. To Follow Jason Alderman on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/PracticalMoney](http://www.twitter.com/PracticalMoney).*

## Don't let Congress make it worse

By Jeff Johnson

In February 2011, an AARP survey showed that 44 percent of Floridians age 50 and older were so concerned about the state's struggling economy that they planned to delay retirement. Of those who said they planned to delay retirement, one in four said they planned never to retire.

That's a grim picture, showing an older Florida that's pessimistic about its retirement security. Yet if AARP took that same survey again today, it might show even more pessimism. And it could be justified, if Congress cuts a political deal to pay the nation's bills that could permanently sour your retirement dreams.

Right now, the President and Congress are considering a deal to pay the nation's bills that could cut billions from Social Security and Medicare benefits for today's seniors.

To help reduce the deficit, some in Washington want a deal that includes raising Medicare premiums, co-pays and deductibles for today's seniors, shifting costs to seniors rather than lowering costs throughout the health care system.

Another proposal would force better off seniors to pay more for Medicare as if it were a welfare program. These seniors already pay more for their Medicare, and AARP is deeply concerned that means-testing benefits could erode the popular support that has helped keep Medicare strong for more than 45 years.

Washington is also considering including a proposal that could cut Social Security by \$112 billion over 10 years by permanently reducing Social Security cost-of-living increases. This proposal is particularly galling to older Floridians, who have seen shortcomings in the current Social Security cost-of-living formula leave them struggling with

no cost-of-living increase despite two years of steadily rising costs for fuel, food, prescription drugs and medical care."

AARP is fighting hard to keep Congress from making cuts to your retirement benefits. In mid-July, AARP state-level leaders and top-ranking volunteers traveled to Washington to meet face-to-face with Florida members of Congress and senators. AARP volunteer Ken Reinhardt, and I urged Florida's elected officials to attack waste, fraud and abuse in the federal budget, rather than targeting your retirement benefits.

From all over America, AARP members have poured more than 600,000 calls, e-mails and petitions into the Capitol. AARP is running an aggressive series of national television advertisements to urge our 37 million members nationwide to raise their voices on this issue. AARP also is mailing information on this urgent issue to tens of millions of Americans 50 and older.

AARP's position is clear: Congress should attack waste, fraud and abuse in federal spending rather than targeting the Medicare and Social Security benefits you have earned. As the national discussion over reducing our budget deficit goes forward, it is important that you raise your voice in this debate.

Call 1-888-722-8514 to be connected to your member of Congress toll-free and urge them to attack waste and fraud in federal spending, rather than targeting your Medicare and Social Security benefits.

No one disputes that deficit reduction is important. But older Floridians worked a lifetime for the benefits they receive. They deserve to be able to count on them.

*Jeff Johnson is AARP Florida's interim state director.*

## Letter to THE EDITOR

### To the citizens of Port St. Joe

Dear Editor:  
The article by Nancy Argenzi (Things are worse than you think) prompted me to write this article about Port St. Joe and how I came to a conclusion about St. Joe.

While browsing through the channels, I started watching and listened to and continue to the city council. When you watch any elected group, their views and decisions are primarily the wants and

desires of the people who elected them.

One particular meeting I watched was the placement or direction of speakers for a Fourth of July dance that occurs every year on the north side of the city. The council spent approximately 30 minutes of its time on an issue that should have been resolved in 30 seconds.

They could have been saying "Let's take away the deep sea port from St. Joe Co., open it up and do business with the world, create jobs and move into the

21st Century."

And in conclusion, I believe when any elected group spends that much time on any non-issue, I say that the good citizens that elected them are living in the past and until they change (educate themselves and their children) no good things will ever happen to the city.

I know that the younger generation is being driven out of the city and county, and I encourage them to do so by having no future here except for a few that were born with a

silver spoon.

Of course others could say I flipped burgers for 50 years, what a career. I would encourage the good citizens of Port St. Joe to continue doing the same, listen to the same people, watch the same TV, read the same articles, maintain your same views on minorities, listen to your preacher, he will tell you to hate other religions, and above all make sure you cast that same intelligent vote.

Everette R. Maiden  
Mexico Beach

to put in these Coca Colas?" (I knew they did).

"Up at the front," one of the gentleman yelled back. I picked up two packages of Planters salted peanuts, paid the fellow that finally got out of his chair and went back outside.

The dogs were still crying, and Zack still had the boxer shorts on his head. Before I backed up, I drank one of the Coca Colas half way down

and poured one of the packages of peanuts into it. I tried it. It was good. I was happy.

As I drove away from Gaskin, Fla., I reached into the backseat and took the boxer shorts off of Zack's head. I put them on my head. I laughed, and I felt good. Zack is a smart dog. Having boxer shorts on your head lets you look at things a little differently.

Dogs do complain

when you stop and they can't get out, but they don't complain about your driving. I shared my Moon Pie with them, and we made it to the beach just fine. Maddie and Zack took naps on the sofa when we got there. Doolittle waited outside for the ice cream truck.

*BN Heard can be found on the Internet at [www.CranksMyTractor.com](http://www.CranksMyTractor.com).*

## BN HEARD from page A4

had boxer shorts on his head.

The man seemed satisfied.

After being in the car for a while, I was getting hungry. I was sure the dogs needed to get out also, but we didn't have too far to go. There were no fast food places on these rural roads (I was taking the shortcut). I came to a four way stop in Gaskin,

Fla. The four way stop was Gaskin, Fla.

At the stop sign, there was a country/convenience store that seemed to have my name on it. The dogs were crying, they thought they needed to get out. I cracked the windows and left them in the car. Inside the store, two men were sitting in wooden straight back chairs shooting the breeze.

They were nice and directed me to the cooler in the back of the store. They had Coca Colas in real glass bottles; I bought two. As I was walking back toward the front of the store, I noticed Moon Pies on a shelf for 35 cents. I bought one. As I was walking around the store, I was talking to the fellows in the chairs. They didn't get up.

"Y'all have any peanuts

to put in these Coca Colas?" (I knew they did).

"Up at the front," one of the gentleman yelled back. I picked up two packages of Planters salted peanuts, paid the fellow that finally got out of his chair and went back outside.

The dogs were still crying, and Zack still had the boxer shorts on his head. Before I backed up, I drank one of the Coca Colas half way down

and poured one of the packages of peanuts into it. I tried it. It was good. I was happy.

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Dogs do complain

## SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

Send your letters to :

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**  
P.O. Box 308  
Port St. Joe, FL 32457

Fax: 850-227-7212  
Email: [tcroft@starfl.com](mailto:tcroft@starfl.com)

Comments from our readers in the form of letters to the editor or a guest column are solicited and encouraged. A newspaper's editorial page should be a forum where differing ideas and opinions are exchanged. All letters and guest columns must be signed and should include the address and phone number of the author. The street address and phone number are for verification and will not be published. Letters must be in good taste and The Star reserves the right to edit letters for correctness and style.

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## Gulf County Sheriff ARREST LOG

The Gulf County Sheriff's Office will be conducting vehicle safety checkpoints and DUI checkpoints this month. The checkpoints will be held throughout the county, to include U.S. Highway 98 near St. Joe Beach, U.S. 98 and Garrison Ave., C-30 Simmons Bayou, State Road 71 north of White City, State Road 22 and Highway 22A, State 71 and Westarm Creek, State 71-Dalkieth Area and State 71 near the Calhoun line.

On 07/05/2011, **Jonathan Leonard Vaughan**, 22, was arrested on a warrant for assault on a law enforcement officer. On 05/14/2011, deputies responded to a

disturbance, and Vaughan came at them with a machete; he was tased and taken to Bay County for evaluation at the time, and upon his release, he turned himself in at the sheriff's office.

On 07/05/2011, a vehicle driven by **Aston Jerrod Larry**, 23, was stopped for a traffic violation; while the deputy was speaking to the driver, he noticed the odor of marijuana.

The deputy asked for and was given permission to search the vehicle. During the search, several baggies containing marijuana were found, along with a set of scales. Larry was charged with possession of marijuana.

On 07/06/2011, **Johnny P. Greer**, 46, was arrested

on a warrant for failure to pay child support.

On 07/07/2011, **Gregory Adkison**, 24, was operating a vehicle stopped for a traffic violation; during a search of his vehicle, a glass pipe used to smoke marijuana and a pill bottle contain marijuana were found. Adkison was charged with possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

On 07/07/2011, **Rebecca Leanne Causey**, 23, was arrested on a warrant for violation of probation; she had been placed on probation on 06/23/2011 on a charge of possession of methamphetamine.

On 07/07/2011, **Savannah Downum**, 18, was arrested on a

violation of probation warrant; the original charge was grand theft auto.

On 06/22/2011, **Deondray Fisher**, 33, was charged with uttering a forged instrument; it is alleged that he cashed a check that had been stolen in a burglary.

On 07/09/2011, a vehicle driven by **Christopher James Bailey**, 28, was found parked in the middle of the road on U.S. Highway 98 and Industrial Road. Bailey was charged with DUI; his breath test results were .192 and .194.

On 07/11/2011, **Calvin Leon Jackson**, 24, an inmate at Gulf Correctional, was charged with introduction of contraband into a state

correctional unit.

On 07/12/2011, **John Henry White**, 26, was arrested on a warrant for failure to appear.

On 07/12/2011, **Steve Dewayne Gibson**, 39, was arrested on a warrant for failure to pay child support.

On 07/12/2011, deputies responded to a traffic crash on State Road 71 north of Wewahitchka; **Jolene Marie Stark** was arrested by the highway patrol and charged with DUI with serious bodily injury.

On 07/14/2011, **Paula Suzann Aull**, 44, was arrested on a warrant for violation of probation; the original charge was principal to manufacture of methamphetamine.

On 07/14/2011, while doing security checks in the St. Joe Beach area, deputies located **Cody H. Bailey**, 31, walking the street; a warrants check showed he was wanted in Texas for theft.

On 07/16/2011, a vehicle driven by **Avias Kwarmaine Tyshee Bailey**, 21, was stopped for making an illegal left turn. During a search of the vehicle, marijuana and crack cocaine were found. Bailey was charged with possession of marijuana and possession of crack cocaine.

On 07/17/2011, **Christopher Lane Tucker**, 34, was arrested on a warrant for violation of probation; the original charge was DUI.

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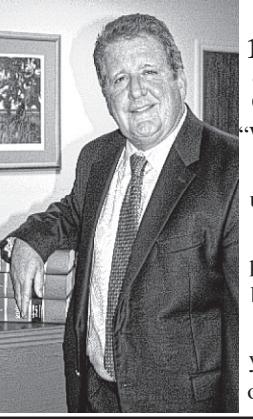
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## NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The Gulf County School District will soon consider a Budget for 2011-12. A public hearing to make a DECISION on the budget AND TAXES will be held on:

August 2nd, 2011,

5:15 PM

at

Gulf County School Board Meeting Room, 150 Middle School Rd, Port St. Joe, Florida

## NOTICE OF TAX FOR SCHOOL CAPITAL OUTLAY

The Gulf County School Board will soon consider a measure to impose a .400 mill property tax for capital outlay projects listed herein.

This tax is in addition to the school board's proposed tax of 6.853 mills for operating expenses and is proposed solely at the discretion of the school board.

The capital outlay tax will generate approximately \$583,114.00 to be used for the following projects:

### MAINTENANCE, RENOVATION, AND REPAIR

HVAC Systems  
Lighting  
Paving  
Port St. Joe Elementary  
Port St. Joe Jr. – Sr. High School  
Wewahitchka Elementary  
Wewahitchka Jr. – Sr. High School  
District Office

### MOTOR VEHICLE PURCHASES

Purchase of One (1) Vehicle

### NEW AND REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT AND ENTERPRISE SOFTWARE

School Furniture and Equipment  
Data Processing Equipment and Software  
Communications Equipment  
Maintenance Equipment  
Enterprise Software

### PAYMENT OF EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AND SITES DUE UNDER A LEASE-PURCHASE AGREEMENT

Wewahitchka Jr. – Sr. High School One (1) Portable Classroom

### PAYMENT OF PREMIUMS FOR PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE NECESSARY TO INSURE THE EDUCATIONAL AND ANCILLARY PLANTS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

All concerned citizens are invited to a public hearing to be held on August 2nd, 2011 at 5:15 p.m. at the Gulf County School Board meeting room, 150 Middle School Road, Port St. Joe, Florida.

A DECISION on the proposed CAPITAL OUTLAY TAXES will be made at this hearing.

## BUDGET SUMMARY

### THE PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET EXPENDITURES OF GULF COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ARE 4.00 PERCENT LESS THAN LAST YEAR'S TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES FISCAL YEAR 2011 - 2012

#### PROPOSED MILLAGE LEVIES SUBJECT TO 10-MILL CAP:

Required Local Effort (Including Prior Period Funding Adjustment Millage)	5.1050	
Additional Millage Not to Exceed 4 Years (Operating)	1.0000	
Local Capital Improvement(Capital Outlay )	0.4000	TOTAL MILLAGE: 7.2530
Basic Discretionary Operating	0.7480	

ESTIMATED REVENUES:	GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL REVENUE	DEBT SERVICE	CAPITAL PROJECTS	TOTAL ALL FUNDS
Federal Sources	55,000.00	1,889,369.41			1,944,369.41
State Sources	4,071,776.00	8,250.00	68,050.00	13,535.00	4,161,611.00
Local Sources	10,228,195.00	380,100.00		588,389.00	11,196,684.00
<b>TOTAL SOURCES</b>	<b>14,354,971.00</b>	<b>2,277,719.41</b>	<b>68,050.00</b>	<b>601,924.00</b>	<b>17,302,664.41</b>
Transfers In	353,597.88	50,000.00			403,597.88
Fund Balance (July 1, 2011)	1,374,145.34	26,046.29	14,918.98	2,811,857.62	4,226,968.23
<b>TOTAL REVENUES &amp; BALANCES</b>	<b>16,082,714.22</b>	<b>2,353,765.70</b>	<b>82,968.98</b>	<b>3,413,781.62</b>	<b>21,933,230.52</b>

#### EXPENDITURES

Instruction	8,602,123.60	754,209.28		9,356,332.88
Pupil Personnel Service	647,992.00	175,442.00		823,434.00
Instruction Media Service	226,641.78			226,641.78
Instructional & Curriculum	178,395.00	161,788.00		340,183.00
Instructional Staff Training	295,995.00	271,595.13		567,590.13
Instruction Related Technology	71,763.00	24,600.00		96,363.00
Board of Education	161,682.00			161,682.00
General Administration	600,756.00	37,184.00		637,940.00
School Administration	743,530.00			743,530.00
Facilities Acquisition & Construction	0.00		3,051,211.16	3,051,211.16
Fiscal Service	247,316.00			247,316.00
Food Service	0.00	852,400.00		852,400.00
Central Service	74,743.00	14,500.00		89,243.00
Pupil Transportation Service	839,310.00	21,351.00		860,661.00
Operation of Plant	1,555,455.00	1,200.00		1,556,655.00
Maintenance of Plant	716,407.00			716,407.00
Administrative Technology Services	84,843.00			84,843.00
Community Service	0.00			0.00
Debt Services	10,000.00		70,800.00	80,800.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>15,056,952.38</b>	<b>2,314,269.41</b>	<b>70,800.00</b>	<b>20,493,232.95</b>
Transfers Out	50,000.00			353,597.88
Fund Balance (June 30, 2012)	975,761.84	39,496.29	12,168.98	8,972.58
<b>Total Expenditures, Transfers &amp; Balances</b>	<b>16,082,714.22</b>	<b>2,353,765.70</b>	<b>82,968.98</b>	<b>21,933,230.52</b>

THE TENTATIVE, ADOPTED, AND/OR FINAL BUDGETS ARE ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED TAXING AUTHORITY AS A PUBLIC RECORD.

# Proposed legislation would funnel BP fines to Gulf Coast states

By Ali Helgoth  
Florida Freedom Newspapers

Senators from the five oil spill-affected states have proposed legislation to direct 80 percent of the fines levied against BP for the Deepwater Horizon disaster to economic and ecological recovery in Gulf Coast states.

Sens. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., and Marco Rubio, R-Fla., joined with seven of the eight senators from Alabama, Louisiana, Texas and Mississippi to sponsor the RESTORE the Gulf Coast Act of 2011.

"Last year's Gulf oil spill devastated Florida's tourism, fisheries and other related industries, and this legislation represents an important step to restore the economies and ecosystems in the Gulf," Rubio said in a statement. "Redirecting the fine money paid by BP under the Clean Water Act is a logical policy that will help

*"Redirecting the fine money paid by BP under the Clean Water Act is a logical policy that will help the states affected by this disaster continue rebuilding their businesses and lives."*

— Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.)

the states affected by this disaster continue rebuilding their businesses and lives."

The legislation calls for establishing the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund to administer the funds paid by BP or any other responsible party. The Clean Water Act allows the Environmental Protection Agency to administer fines of \$1,100

per barrel of oil spilled or \$4,300 per barrel if there is a finding of gross negligence. With an estimated 4.9 million barrels spilled, fines could range between \$5.4 billion and \$21.1 billion.

If the legislation passes, it would mean between \$4.32 billion and \$16.88 billion available to the states. If no legislation is passed, the fine money will go to

## JUSTICE DEPARTMENT TO AUDIT GULF COAST CLAIMS FACILITY

By Ali Helgoth  
Florida Freedom Newspapers

After complaints about a lack of transparency and accountability, the Department of Justice has ordered an independent audit of the Gulf Coast Claims Facility (GCCF).

The GCCF is responsible for disbursing the \$20 billion trust fund BP set aside to compensate victims of last year's Deepwater Horizon oil spill. It was supposed to be independent of the oil company, but there have been complaints the two entities had a relationship.

"We will work with you to identify an appropriate time to commence such an audit before the end of the year," Attorney General Eric Holder wrote in a letter to fund administrator Kenneth Feinberg dated Tuesday.

Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., was among those who complained about the lack of oversight. He sent a letter to President Barack Obama earlier this year after it was reported the GCCF paid a \$10 million claim to an unnamed company at the request of BP.

Nelson said he's glad about the audit. "There's clearly a need to assure more accountability and transparency," he said.

the U.S. Treasury and not be allocated to the Gulf Coast states.

"The Gulf region took some big hits even before the oil spill," Nelson said in an email. "Hurricanes, flooding, the dead zone in the northern Gulf. I want the BP fine used to help folks involved with fisheries, oyster beds, beaches and wetlands restoration — things like that. For instance, we need to restore flows to the Apalachicola River to ensure a healthy Apalachicola Bay.

And we need to test and market Gulf seafood so consumers know it's truly safe."

He also suggested

funds could be used for oyster reef restoration in Pensacola Bay and for the gulf sturgeon habitat in Okaloosa County.

The legislation also establishes the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund to administer the fine money, establishes a Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council and a Comprehensive Plan for the Gulf Coast and establishes a Long Term Science and Fisheries Endowment and Gulf Coast Centers of Excellence.

The legislation calls for 35 percent of the money to be distributed equally to the five states, 30 percent for the ecosystem restora-

tion plan, 30 percent based on a formula that measures how each state was impacted by the oil and 5 percent for the science and fisheries program.

Other legislation sponsors are Sens. Mary L. Landrieu, D-La.; David Vitter, R-La.; Richard Shelby, R-Ala.; Jeff Sessions, R-Ala.; Thad Cochran, R-Miss.; Roger Wicker, R-Miss.; and Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas.

Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., chairwoman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, helped forge an agreement on the bill and committed to taking it up in the committee.

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# Law reforms unemployment compensation program

Star Staff Report

Gov. Rick Scott recently signed House Bill 7005 into law, implementing several reforms to the Unemployment Compensation (UC) program that will save the state money, reduce taxes on employers and help get Floridians back to work.

"This new law will enhance the Unemployment Compensation program's efficiency for claimants, businesses and the state," said Agency for Workforce Innovation Director Cynthia R. Lorenzen. "Reform measures included in this legislation are projected to save our state more than \$100 million annually, easing the tax burden on employers to help them expand and create jobs."

"Although Regional Workforce Boards focus more on the employment side instead of unemployment, we support the state's effort to make the unemployment component of the workforce system more affordable for employers," said Gary Ross, chairman of the Gulf Coast Workforce Board.

Reforms include:

## Effective July 1

**Benefit payments:** Claimants receiving benefits by paper check as of July 1, 2011, may continue to do so until the end of their claims. Claimants whose claims were filed after July 1, 2011, must select payments via Florida Unemployment Compensation Debit Card or direct deposit to their bank account.

## Effective Aug. 1

**Online filing and certification of weeks:** Initial and continued claims must be filed electronically. This change will improve government efficiency and provide a projected \$4.7 million savings annually in administrative costs.

**Work search:** Claimants are required on a weekly basis to contact five potential

employers and provide this information via the Internet during their bi-weekly certification for benefits. A quick, efficient way to contact employers is by using the Employ Florida Marketplace at employflorida.com, the state's online job matching system where you can search thousands of job postings and apply for jobs.

If a claimant is not able to make at least five employer contacts in a week, meeting with a representative at a local One-Stop Career Center for reemployment services may satisfy this requirement for that week.

**Skills review:** In order to receive benefits, claimants filing new claims must complete an initial online skills review. The results of the review will be used by your local One-Stop Career Center to assist in your job search efforts.

**Severance pay:** If a claimant's severance pay per week is equal to or greater than the claimant's weekly benefit amount, the claimant is not entitled to benefits for that week. Severance pay does not affect the total amount of benefits that can be paid on the claim.

## Effective Jan. 1, 2012

**Tax relief:** A reduction in employer taxes is projected to save Florida employers approximately \$33 per employee.

**Duration of benefits:** The maximum duration of benefits adjusts from the current 26 weeks to a range of 12 to 23 weeks. The bill indexes maximum weeks of benefits to the state's unemployment rate, which will be determined once a year.

This change is projected to save the state's Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund an estimated \$103 million annually.

For more information on the upcoming reforms, please visit the Agency for Workforce Innovation's website at www.floridajobs.org or its UC Hot Topics page at www.floridajobs.org/unemployment/hottopics.html.

# Rosemary Beach writers' conference Sept. 21-24

Star Staff Report

"Magpies," co-edited "Birth: A Literary Companion."

- **John Cottle:** "The Blessings of Hard-Used Angels"

- **Miles Demott:** "Family Meeting"

- **John Dufresne:** "Louisiana Power & Light," "The Way That Water Enters Stone," "The Lie That Tells a Truth"

- **Michael Lister:** "Thunder Beach," "Double Exposure," "The Big Goodbye"

- **Michael Hettich:** "LIKE HAPPINESS," THE ANIMALS BEYOND US"

- **Leonard Nash:** "You Can't

Get There from Here and Other Stories"

- **Anne Petty:** "Tolkien in the Land of Heroes" "Dragons of Fantasy," "Thin Line Between"

- **Nina Romano:** "Cooking Lessons," "Coffeehouse Meditations," "Writing in a Changing World"

- **Laura Lee Smith:** Smith's short fiction was selected by guest editor Amy Hempel for inclusion in "New Stories from the South: The Year's Best, 2010."

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**The City of Port St. Joe**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

THE CODE ENFORCEMENT SPECIAL MASTER FOR THE CITY OF PORT ST. JOE WILL HOLD CODE ENFORCEMENT HEARINGS:

WHEN:	Tuesday August 9, 2011
TIME:	6:00 P.M.
WHERE:	City Hall Commission Chambers
SUBJECT:	Code Enforcement Violations at the following locations:

514 4th St. Owner Wendell & Helen Goodman  
1303 McClelland Ave. Owner Marie Naegle

All persons are invited to attend these meetings. Any person who decides to appeal any decision made by the Special Master with respect to any matter considered at said meeting will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. The Code Enforcement Special Master of the City of Port St. Joe, Florida will not provide a verbatim record of this meeting.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, person needing special accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact Jim Anderson, City Clerk, City of Port St. Joe, at City Hall, Telephone No. 850/229-8261

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# Outdoors

E-mail outdoors news  
to tcroft@starfl.com

## Hooked on Outdoors

Unless you were out of town last weekend, you know how much rain we had. I heard a man who works at Eglin Air Force Base say they had 15 inches of rain in two days. I have a 12-inch rain gauge at my house, and it was overflowing after two days. It started on Friday night and rained until mid-day Sunday.

This foot or foot-and-a-half of rain is what pushed Philips Inlet over the brink, and it finally made its way to the Gulf. When we have large amounts of rain coming in such a short period of time, it also does something to saltwater bays and freshwater ponds — it turns them red.

If you notice the Gulf after a heavy rain and rough seas, it also causes more foam than usual. In the bays, it causes extra amounts of foam. The real problem with extensive rain in the bay is it turns the water so red it is very hard to sight fish for redfish.

I have heard several guides complaining about seeing fish the week before the rain, and now they can't be sure if the fish are still where they were. The red water might or might not affect the biting habits of redfish, but it doesn't seem to bother speckled trout. All of a sudden, it seems the bay has come alive with speckled trout, and I attribute it to all the schools of menhaden. If you stand on a dock and peer into the water, you will see thousands of menhaden as they come swimming by.

If fished correctly, menhaden will catch more trout than all the shrimp you can keep alive on your boat. The first thing you have to do is know how to throw a cast net. The next thing you will need is a good livewell. Not one of the kinds that recirculate the water; they will not keep a bag of menhaden alive for long. What you need is a livewell pumping freshwater from the bay to the livewell and returning it back to the bay at the same rate.

Take a handful of menhaden and squeeze them, almost killing them, and throw them back into the water. This can be done in the area you caught the menhaden in the first place. The specks will start popping them like bream will pop crickets thrown into a lake.

Without using a cork or lead, hook on a live menhaden and cast it into the fray and hold on. About 80 percent of the trout you will catch will be undersized, but every now and then a big one will come along.

Give it a try while the bay still is full of bait.

**SUBMIT YOUR HUNTING AND FISHING PHOTOS TO TCROFT@STARFL.COM**



SPECIAL TO FLORIDA FREEDOM

**From left,** Doug Shanstrom of Panama City Beach hauled in this king mackerel earlier this month; Jon Cook caught a 16-pound red snapper out of Port St. Joe; Amanda Rose caught her first king mackerel July 16.

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The Star  
Thursday, July 28

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Emmett Yancey shows off a red snapper he pulled in while spearfishing. **Below**, Brock Wells shows off his catch.

## RISKY BUSINESS

### Spearfishermen must be aware of surroundings

By Jason Shoot  
Florida Freedom Newspapers

As if bull sharks didn't evoke enough fear, now there's one swimming in the Gulf of Mexico armed with a spear gun.

Emmett Yancey, who owns and operates Aqua Adventures, a dive shop in Mexico Beach, had taken out a group of anglers for some offshore fishing. Sneaking in a little dive time for himself near the end of their trip, Yancey was asked by a boy on the boat to spear a barracuda.

"The young boy said he'd never seen a barracuda," Yancey said, "and I said, 'All right, I'll shoot one.' They're good to eat, and we eat them all the time. ... I swam over and shot one, and when I shot one, the visibility (underwater) was probably 60, 70 feet. I hadn't seen a shark all day. I shot that barracuda, and it took off. Out of nowhere, four sharks appear. A 10-foot bull shark came in and took the back half of the barracuda in one bite, turned around and came back for a second. It had my spear shaft in its mouth. I held on for 10 seconds going straight to the bottom. It didn't take long to realize I was going 80 feet deep. I watched him swim away with my spear gun."

"I've been spearfishing about 10 years now. That's the first time ever I've had that happen to me. It's a very



rare thing. Of course, when you're spearfishing, sharks kind of get curious, but I'd never had one bother me. That one there was never any danger. He was at the end of the line 20 feet out. I was never in any danger. I just lost my spear gun I'd had forever."

Unlike fishing from a cozy deck chair on a boat or from the shore of a lazy river, there is the element of hunting in spear fishing that is difficult to duplicate above the water's surface. SCUBA tanks strapped to their backs 120 feet underwater, spear fishermen stalk their prey and have to wait for the ideal moment to fire the spear at their target. A shot slightly

off target could leave the fish injured but lively enough to put up a fight. And when that fish is a 100-pound amberjack with nothing but survival on its primitive mind, that fight can be a titanic struggle.

"The key to this is the placement of the shot," said Ron Childs, a founding member of the Mexico Beach Artificial Reef Association. "You're not just shooting them. You want to shoot them right behind the eye (where the spine is located). You want to stonk that fish. If you get a big fish and don't kill him, it could be hell."

The waters off the coast of Bay County are home to hundreds of artificial reefs, as well as sunken boats of

different sizes resting on the seafloor at various depths. Each of those sites serve as sanctuaries for fish such as grouper, red snapper, flounder and all kinds of reef fish. Of course, lobster, rays, moray eels and the occasional octopus are down there, too. The variety of life makes almost any dive a rewarding one, whether a fish is reeled in or not.

Unfortunately, a considerable investment of time and money is required before a diver can start spearfishing at those depths. A diver has to be SCUBA certified, but also must learn the intricacies of moving underwater with air tanks, spearing a moving target and then getting the fish up to the boat.

"Most of the spearfishermen I dive with are super-advanced divers," Childs said. "These guys and ladies I dive with are like the best divers you'd want to dive with your entire life. There's so much to learn. I don't think you can go take a class, be certified and go spearfishing."

"In spearfishing, you need some time under your belt. I'd say two years of diving to get familiar with the equipment. Your mask gets knocked off constantly when you're wrestling a big fish. You've got to be able to handle that situation. You're dealing with crazy situations you can't predict sometimes."

Such as running into a bull shark carrying a weapon.

**FISH REPORT** SPONSORED BY  
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### Freshwater

Many locals have found fair success fishing in the creeks and streams in and around Port St. Joe. Most talk is still about all the grass in Lake Wimico. Up stream and into the river system, some small bass have been reported, and the bream bite has been very good around Howard Creek and into the Brothers.

### Inshore

Trolling the bay along the Eagle Harbor side has produced good Spanish mackerel and even small king fish. Try trolling a mackerel tree or straw rig to find fish fast, and keep a silver spoon or a Got-Cha lure ready to throw if you find a school on top. Red fish action has improved in the bay on the flats early morning and moving into deeper water late in the afternoon. Hot spots are Pompano Point, Pig Island and the ICW canal at the "T."

### Offshore

With all the rain the last few weeks, muddy water and changing water temps, fishing offshore has been unpredictable. Some charter boat captains are fishing on the hard bottom toward Apalachicola to find red grouper, scamp and b-liners.

# PORT ST. JOE WEWAHITCHKA SPORTS

A  
Section

Thursday, July 28, 2011

[www.starfl.com](http://www.starfl.com)

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## Beach Ball Classic this weekend

By Tim Croft  
Star News Editor

Port St. Joe High School boys' basketball Coach Derek Kurnitsky decided on the perfect venue for his future players to finish a busy summer: "The Dome."

Kurnitsky's Future Ballers program will complete the summer this weekend when the team hosts the "Beach Ball Classic" at the high school's R. Marion Craig Coliseum.

The 13-under tournament will begin at 5 p.m. ET Friday and pick back up at 10 a.m. ET Saturday, with the championship game tentatively scheduled for 6 p.m. Saturday.

Cost of admission is \$2 per day, and boosters will be operating a concession stand.

"We are trying to raise money for the program and give the kids some fun by playing in The Dome," Kurnitsky said. "This is wrapping up our summer. The kids like it, and it is neat for them to play in The Dome."

Seven teams will compete: Blountstown, Graceville, Lynn Haven, Tyndall AFB, the Boys and Girls Club of Panama City and two

Port St. Joe squads, Kurnitsky's 11-under and 13-under teams.

The summer has been hectic for Kurnitsky and his players.

"The summer has been great, but between the varsity and the Future Ballers, we have probably played more than 50 games," Kurnitsky said.

June was the month for the varsity, and after a slow start — the team is young and replacing four starters from last season — the team found its stride.

"The varsity struggled early, but we won five of our last seven games in (the Marianna summer league)," Kurnitsky said. "We started to look like a team."

"We are young and replacing some of our floor leaders, but no one else is going to feel sorry for Port St. Joe because we are young. This is the time, the summer, to get better. This is where you work on your game."

The Future Ballers have played in the Lynn Haven summer league during July.

"We haven't lost yet," Kurnitsky said. "This age group is

fun. They just love basketball."

The only hiccup has been securing transportation for all the kids coming out to play. Kurnitsky said the turnout has been up this summer, but getting everybody to games has proved difficult.

"We have had so much participation we've had to turn kids away because we could not provide them transportation," Kurnitsky said. "At this age, give them a ball and they will play all day. They just love to play basketball."

"The tournament is an extra treat because we play in The Dome. Let them play in The Dome, have some fun and wrap up the summer. One player already told me he was ready for Lakeland (home of the state basketball tournament). That's what you like to hear."



## Gene Raffield coaches clinic to be Saturday

Star Staff Report

Port St. Joe sports fans have had a lot to be proud of over the years. Our high school teams have continually been the best in their division. Many have gone on to compete successfully at the state level. Middle School teams have done well also. But, the most successful teams we've had over the past 12 years have been those fielded by the Gene Raffield Football League.

Football is a tough sport. The youngsters who compete for the Dolphins, Jaguars and Buccaneers are special kids. They practice hard in the heat of August, rain or shine. They learn complicated offenses and defenses. Late in the season the heat turns to cold, and they are still out on the field doing what is necessary to become better. When they put on that purple and gold on Saturdays and hear their cheering fans, it all becomes worthwhile.

The League believes we owe these kids the kind of coaching that will result in their being the best they can be. All GRFL coaches are volunteers. They love the game of football. Most, if not all, played at the high school and/or college level. But playing the game and teaching the game, especially to youngsters, is not the same.

Because of this, the league has decided to have an annual Coach's Clinic that will instruct all coaches in what to teach and how to teach it.

Head Coach Vern Barth and the rest of the high school coaches are strong supporters of Gene Raffield football. They have volunteered to make themselves available to teach. The clinic will cover such things as preventing injury, how to treat injuries, stance and start, offensive practice plans, offensive and defensive line play, defensive practice plans and defensive and offensive schemes.

The clinic will be at 9:30 a.m. ET Saturday, July 30, at Port St. Joe High School and will last until mid-afternoon. Attending the clinic will be a requirement for coaching Gene Raffield football. For more information on the clinic or coaching Gene Raffield football, call Mal Parrish at 227-9540.

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## DAWGS from page A1

There will be additional training for Lucy now that she has graduated from DAWGS in Prison — as Top Dog of her class, no less, an award that tickled Cosson — before she can become a service dog to Emily.

"And if she doesn't work out as a service dog, she will be a good companion dog," Cosson said. "I'm excited, and boy, when we get home, Emily will be very excited."

Judy Miick, co-director of the DAWGS in Prison program on the Humane Society end, said Cosson found the right match for her needs.

"Lucy is right on point for her," Miick said. "She is going to love this dog."

Bob Pellito also made the trip last week for the 14th commencement of the DAWGS in Prison program in search of a particular breed of dog.

Pellito, of Spring Hill, near Tampa, was one of two diabetics — the other from Sarasota — who

sought out DAWGS in Prison for a diabetic alert dog, or DAD.

Pellito happened upon the DAWGS in Prison program after making what he estimated to be at least 40 inquiries about potential service dogs, his contacts coming up empty again and again for varying reasons.

Cost was one factor, but there was another side of the leash for Pellito.

"We were looking to hopefully find a shelter dog," he said.

So his search continued, and ultimately he stumbled across the DAWGS in Prison program during another of a string of days on the Internet.

"I found this program after an intensive online search," Pellito said. "I was looking for a dog that had some training. I thought if the dog was somewhat trained, it would be easier to train to be a DAD."

"I've been unstable lately. I have been having



TIM CROFT | The Star

More than 180 inmates have participated in the DAWGS program. Inmates must apply and are screened for the willingness to commit 24/7 to their dogs.

problems with my blood sugar dropping."

Pellito identified a lab/hound mix by the name of Dante as his choice, though he soon was making an uncommon request: Could he change the dog's name to Sean?

That request granted

Dante/Sean graduated with his class last week

Pellito believed he had found the perfect choice, as Labradors and hound dogs make the best DADS because of their acute sense of smell.

"All alert dogs will smell, sense that the body chemistry has changed and alert me to test my blood sugar or eat something," Pellito said. "I was looking for a lab for both their excellent sense of smell but also for their loyalty."

As with Cosson's Lucy, Sean will undergo additional training to become a service dog and constant companion to the man he will be charged with helping remain healthy.

"It will really be a constant retraining process, every day with the dog to make sure he does what he will be trained to do," Pellito said.

That three out of the 14 dogs in the graduating class — 14 had a familiar ring throughout last week's commencement

— would be moving on to become service dogs

represents just another chapter of success for a program that has authored a book.

"A lot about this program has to do with a higher cause," said Officer Donna Haddock, the Forestry Camp's coordinator of the program. "Every time we send a dog to a family, I feel we've found a higher calling. I hope the inmates see it as a higher calling."

"There are three in this class who are truly going off to a higher calling. That is icing on the cake for us if the dog is going to do something beyond the training we provide."

The icing is thickly covering this program as it inches toward its two-year anniversary.

The program has saved 139 shelter dogs from possible euthanasia by placing them in homes in 13 states, including Florida, Connecticut, New Jersey and Massachusetts, the destination points for last week's graduates.

As an aside, last week's ceremony also featured the most adopters on

hand, with folks traveling from Tallahassee, Zephyrhills, Sarasota, Spring Hill and Vernon to take home their new dogs.

The program has allowed 182 inmates, who apply and are interviewed and screened for their discipline and commitment to the program, to participate over the past 20 months, including several who have left prison to work with dogs or at shelters.

One, Frank Gonzales, left the Forestry Camp seven weeks ago to return home to Sarasota to a house in foreclosure with the utilities off.

Today, he is working full-time at a Sarasota-area animal shelter.

Another inmate is working with dogs in Rhode Island; another, "Popeye" Lyons, who had spent much of his adult life behind bars, is employed by a shelter in Oregon.

"We are so thankful for the opportunity for good this program provides," assistant warden Doug Sloan said. "So much of what you think about with prison is negative."

"These 139 dogs have become pets. These men have had the opportunity to become productive citizens. Words can't say enough about the good this program does."

Two of the 14 dogs from last week's class had not yet been adopted, but there was plenty of optimism they would soon have homes, courtesy of Sandi Christy, director of the DAWGS in Prison program.

"She is amazing at finding an adopter, and she met her challenge with this class," Haddock said, explaining that with summer in full swing and tight economic times, adopters were a challenge for class 14.

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# COMMUNITY

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Section

Thursday, July 28, 2011

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Page 1



SPECIAL TO THE STAR

From left, the Sheepdogs, the Bo Sprint Band and the Honey Island Swamp Band will perform during the PoJo Live Music Fest.

## PoJo Music Fest coming in September

By Tim Croft  
Star News Editor

With more stage, more acts and a new location, this year's PoJo Live Music Fest in September will have something for just about everyone.

The event is being sponsored by the Gulf County Tourist Development Council, using BP funds distributed to TDCs in seven Florida counties to assist in bringing back tourists after last year's oil spill.

And applying lessons learned from last summer's series of concerts under the PoJo Live banner, the TDC and executive director Tim Kerigan made some significant changes for this year's event.

First, the event occurs on one weekend, Sept. 16-17, and will be held at Veterans Memorial Park in Beacon Hill. Music will take place from 4-10 p.m. ET Friday, Sept. 16, and from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. ET Sept. 17.

Kerigan had long sought a way to use Veterans Memorial Park, said the TDC's Kellee

Novak, and the PoJo event offered the perfect fit.

"We saw some things we wanted to change from last year," Novak said, noting that one stage and the limitations on parking and band set-up at George Core Park had the TDC looking for other venues. "We just could not accommodate it at George Core Park."

"This year there will be two stages, there is plenty of parking and most of all, it is overlooking the beach, and that is part of the point: promoting the beach. Tim thought it was the perfect spot. You will have a great vista of the beautiful beach. We think it will be a great event."

The two days will be packed with music, from local favorites such as the Bo Spring Band and Buddy Hamm to Saturday headliner ALO, The Sheepdogs, Mishka and the Honey Island Swamp Band.

Novak said it will be a musical lineup with a sound for everybody, from rock to blues to Cajun.

"It will be an eclectic



ALO will be the headliner on Saturday during the music fest.

group of musicians," Novak said. "There is a little bit of everything. The cool thing is we will have two stages, so there will be constant music throughout the two days."

With two stages, while one act breaks down and another sets up on one stage, music will be coming from the second stage, including a number of local musicians getting exposure during the festival.

Another new feature will be free shuttles so tourists and locals can leave the car behind

and be transported to Veterans Memorial Park.

There will be three shuttles on Friday and five on Saturday traveling continuous loops that will include stops at Salinas Park, Simmons Bayou, the Gulf/Franklin Center, Shark Stadium and WindMark Beach.

Promotion of all things Gulf County will extend to food and beverage vendors.

There will be adult beverages provided by local bars, including the Thirsty Goat, and food will come from Gulf County

restaurants.

"It is just another great reason to promote the great restaurants in Gulf County," Novak said.

The musical acts will also provide promotion. With a number of the acts having local, regional and national fan bases, the musicians will be followed on Twitter and Facebook as they travel to and experience Gulf County and its beaches and vistas.

"A lot of them talk about coming here, and for some of them this is going to serve as a kind of vacation. They will be staying here and enjoying the fishing and beach and good food," Novak said. "We are bringing in musicians that will advertise the area as much as we do."

For more information on this year's music festival, visit PoJoLive.com or call 229-7800.

"We don't think the county or TDC has ever done something like this before," Novak said. "This will be a great music event."

## Atlanta Rhythm Section to headline scallop fest

Star Staff Report

The 15th Annual Florida Scallop & Music Festival will be Aug. 5-7 in Port St. Joe.

With headlining act Atlanta Rhythm Section, the festival along the shores of St. Joseph Bay is a northwest Florida favorite. The three-day event features five bands, food of all flavors — especially succulent scallop dishes — and a little something for everyone.

Frozen scallops are also sold for take home.

Friday's festivities begin with an all-day merchant sidewalk sale along Reid Avenue in downtown Port St. Joe and concludes with the festival Kick-Off party at the Thirsty Goat Bar and Grill at the Port Inn.

Saturday morning activities include a 5K Run at 8 a.m. ET and a Classic Car & Boat Show with line up at 8 a.m. ET with judging at 1 p.m. Dash plaques will be presented to the first 50 entries, and there will be drawings for prizes. The winners of Best of Show in both categories will receive a cash award.

Arts and crafts vendors, educational exhibits, the Kid'z Zone with inflatables, pony rides, a petting zoo and food vendors galore will all be scattered throughout the festival grounds of shady George Core Park next to the St. Joseph Bay.

Live music begins at 1 p.m. Saturday and continues throughout the day with

headliner, the Atlanta Rhythm Section, taking the stage from 9:10:30 p.m. and performing hits including "So Into You," "Spooky," "Champagne Jam" and more.

Additional Saturday acts include the Bo Spring Band at 4 p.m. and Kevin Jacobs Band at 6 p.m.

On Sunday, food vendors return along with arts and crafts and the Kid'z Zone. Live music kicks off at 1 p.m. Sunday with Brian Bowen followed by the Curry Brothers at 2:30 p.m.

There is a \$5 admission on Saturday and plenty of free parking.

Admission is free for active military with ID.

Because the park sits right along the edge of St. Joseph Bay, next to Port St. Joe Marina, the event has become popular with boaters anchoring along the calm shoreline.

Admission is free on Sunday.

Vendors are still being accepted and are encouraged to register. Vendor registration, registration for the 5K Run, Classic Car & Boat Show, lodging specials, driving directions and contact information can be found at www.scallopfest.net.

Additional information is available by calling the Gulf County Chamber of Commerce at 227-1223 or emailing info@gulfchamber.org.

The event is presented by the Gulf County Chamber of Commerce and Gulf County Tourist Development Council.

## PSJ to dedicate city hall

Star Staff Report

The public is invited to Port St. Joe City Hall at 5 p.m. ET Tuesday, Aug. 2 for the formal dedication of the City Hall facility in the name of pioneer T.H. Stone.

Stone was the first settler of modern day Port St. Joe and served in a number of official

capacities as the city grew. The St. Joseph Peninsula State Park is named in his honor, and the City Commission decided more than a year ago to dedicate City Hall in his name.

There will be a plaque unveiling and a reception before the commission's regular bi-monthly meeting Aug. 2.

## Summer arts program in full swing

Star Staff Report

The Artery Studio and Emerald Dance Academy are buzzing with the excitement of kids having fun this summer.

Both studios are involved in the Port St. Joe Summer Arts Program offered by the Gulf Alliance for Local Arts (GALA) to local children, ages 4 and up.

The program, offered free to the children, is funded by a grant received from the Jessie Ball DuPont Port St. Joe Capacity Building Fund and includes both visual and performing arts.

Approximately 100

children are being served by this program, said Amber Davis, summer arts program coordinator for GALA.

Painting and drawing classes taught by artist Heather Parker and pottery and sculpture classes taught by Port St. Joe artist Leslie Wentzell are held at The Artery Studio, 214 Williams Ave.

Musical theater and dance classes taught by Barbie Sabins and theater arts taught by Emily Fid are held at the Emerald Dance Academy, 317 Williams Ave.

Children had the option to enroll in one or more of the four disciplines,

giving them a wide range of art exposure. Classes are being held over a span of eight weeks, beginning June 6 and ending Aug. 5.

The program will culminate with a reception including performances and an art exhibit to be held from 5:30-7:30 p.m. ET Aug. 5 at 309 Reid Ave. (the location of the most recent Plein Air Wet Room).

This event is open to the public, and all supporters of the arts are encouraged to attend.

First Fridays festivities will follow the reception at the Port Inn, with festivities beginning at 7 p.m.

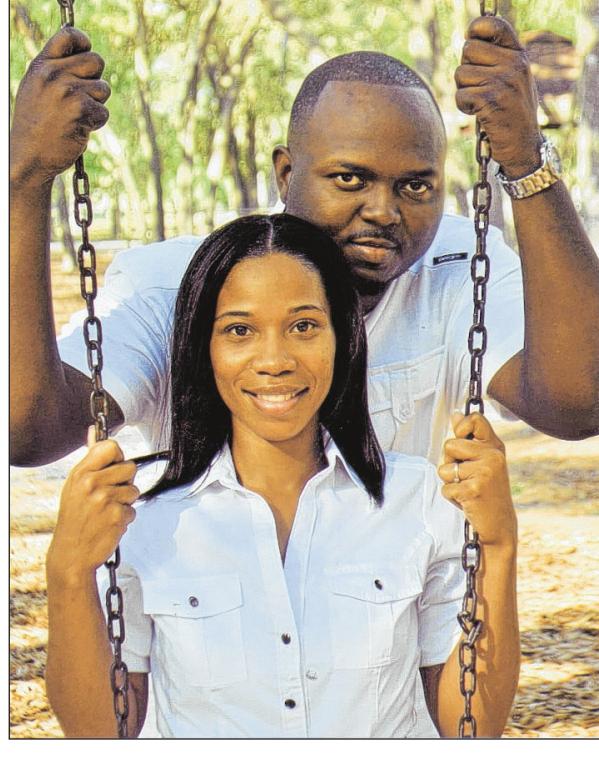
## Employee of the Month

Duren's  
Piggly  
Wiggly  
congratulates  
Jackelyne  
Martinez as  
our Associate  
of the Month  
for July.

SPECIAL TO THE  
STAR



## Wedding



### Fennell-Williams wedding

Mr. Michael Fennell of Panama City and Mr. and Mrs. Archie Williams of Ocala are proud to announce final wedding plans for their children, Quatina Marie Fennell and Titus Tyrone Williams. The couple will reside in Johnson, Fla.

The wedding will be held at 2 p.m. ET Saturday, July 30, at Body of Christ Church in Port St. Joe. A reception will follow at Stile Brown Senior Center, located on Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Boulevard.

Family and friends are invited to attend.

### Garden Club raffle

#### Star Staff Report

The Port St Joe Garden Club is raffling a full year's membership in the club. Membership includes luncheon meetings at noon ET on second Thursdays, educational and interesting programs, a garden club yearbook, subscription to the quarterly magazine, "The Florida Gardener," community service projects, plant swaps with other members, a Christmas party, affiliation with the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, affiliation with the National Federation of Garden Clubs, invitations to district, state and national meetings, opportunities for educational courses sponsored in our district and state and fun!

Tickets are \$1 and can be purchased from any garden club member. The raffle will be held during the regular club meeting Aug. 11. Look for Port St. Joe Garden Club on Facebook.

## Birth

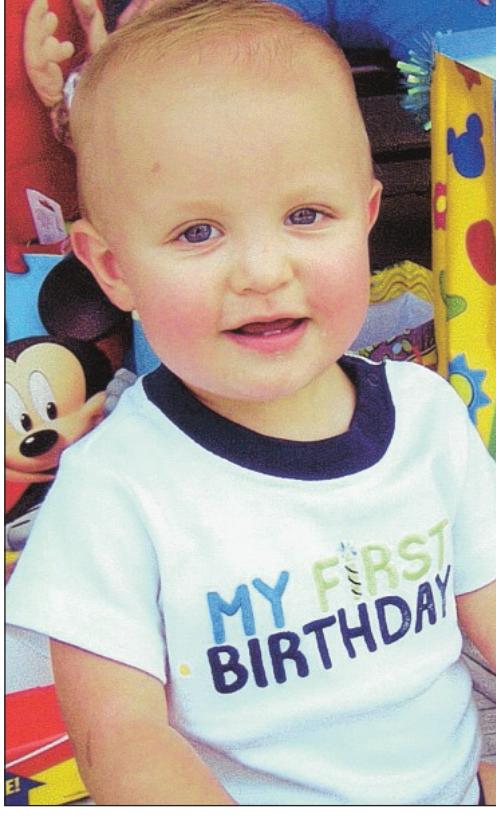


**McKenna Jade Graves born**

Courtney and Andrea want to announce the birth of McKenna Jade Graves, who was born at Gulf Coast Medical Center on Sunday, July 10, at 2:29 p.m. CT. McKenna weighed 6 pounds, 14 ounces and

was 19.5 inches long. McKenna's grandparents are Capt. Bill and Cindy Little of Port St. Joe, Chuck Morris and Caroline Graves of Virginia and Trent and Judy Adams of Alabama.

## Birthday



### Look who's 1

On June 2, Peyton Allyn turned 1.

Peyton is the son of Preston and Kristen Allyn of Panama City. He is the grandson of Bill and Mary Ellen Allyn of Port St. Joe and Mike Solock and Donna Mathis of Panama City. He is the great-grandson of the late Bill Mathis of Howard Creek, the late Stephen and Shirley Solock of Panama City, the late RD "Smokey" Davis and Ameila Davis of Port St. Joe, the late William B. Allyn of Pomona Park and the late Mary Allyn of Palatka.

He celebrated his birthday with friends and family.

We love you so much big boy!!

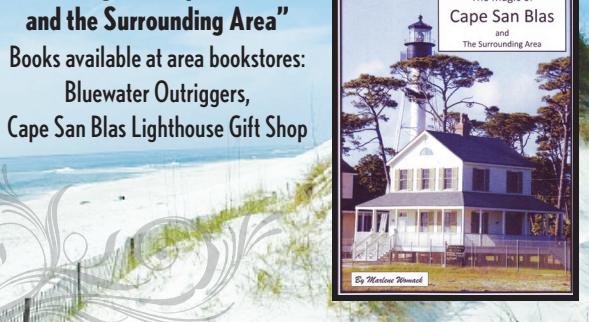
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## PET OF THE WEEK

St. Joseph Bay Humane Society



### MEET BANZAI AND ED

Hi, our names are Banzai and Ed. We were exploring the jungle and Ed got us lost. He says it was my fault. A nice man rescued us and brought us to the shelter. Believe me the jungle is not all that it's cracked up to be when you are stuck there with your annoying brother. We have the good life now!

We love playing at the shelter with our friends but we would really like a home to call my own. A home where we would be loved. We promise to return your love forever. Ed says he will behave. 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.SJBHHSociety.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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## WEEKLY ALMANAC

Date	High	Low	% Precip
Thu, July 28	93°	76°	40 %
Fri, July 29	91°	77°	20 %
Sat, July 30	92°	78°	30 %
Sun, July 31	91°	78°	40 %
Mon, Aug 1	90°	77°	40 %
Tues, Aug 2	90°	77°	40 %
Wed, Aug 3	89°	78°	40 %

## TIDE TABLES MONTHLY AVERAGES

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

HIGH Minus 0:40 LOW Minus 1:17

Cat Point Minus 0:27 East Pass Minus 0:27

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

HIGH Minus 9:16 LOW Minus 0:03

## St.Joseph Bay

7/28	Thu	08:33AM	2.0	H	07:04PM	-0.3	L
7/29	Fri	09:21AM	2.1	H	07:37PM	-0.3	L
7/30	Sat	10:08AM	2.0	H	08:06PM	-0.2	L
7/31	Sun	10:58AM	1.9	H	08:28PM	0.0	L
8/1	Mon	11:53AM	1.6	H	08:37PM	0.3	L
8/2	Tue	01:00PM	1.3	H	08:19PM	0.7	L
8/3	Wed	02:59AM	0.9	H	07:41AM	0.7	L
		02:41PM	1.0	H	07:06PM	0.8	L

## Apalachicola Bay, West Pass

7/28	Thu	04:57AM	1.3	H	08:08AM	1.4	L
		01:00PM	1.6	H	09:50PM	-0.2	L
7/29	Fri	05:19AM	1.4	H	09:00AM	1.4	L
		02:00PM	1.7	H	10:27PM	-0.2	L
7/30	Sat	05:39AM	1.4	H	09:45AM	1.3	L
		02:57PM	1.7	H	11:01PM	-0.1	L
7/31	Sun	05:56AM	1.3	H	10:29AM	1.1	L
		03:53PM	1.7	H	11:33PM	0.0	L
8/1	Mon	06:11AM	1.3	H	11:15AM	1.0	L
		04:50PM	1.6	H			
8/2	Tue	12:03AM	0.2	L	06:27AM	1.4	H
		12:05PM	0.8	L	05:50PM	1.5	H
8/3	Wed	12:32AM	0.4	L	06:45AM	1.4	H
		01:00PM	0.6	L	06:56PM	1.3	H

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## Graduations

### Tyler Atkinson graduates from Randolph-Macon Academy

Special to The Star

Tyler Atkinson, the son of Tuck Atkinson and Dr. Sandra Todd-Atkinson of Port St. Joe, graduated from Randolph-Macon Academy in Front Royal, Va., on May 28, 2011.

While a student at Randolph-Macon Academy, Tyler served the Corps of Cadets as the Charlie Flight Commander.

He plans to attend Norwich University in the fall.

Randolph-Macon Academy, founded in 1892, is a college-preparatory, coeducational boarding school for students in grades 6 through 12.

Students in grades 9-12 participate in the Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps and have the opportunity to participate in a unique flight program. R-MA is affiliated with the United Methodist Church and is located in Front Royal, Va.

### Curry graduates from the College of William & Mary

Special to The Star

James Curry from Port St. Joe recently graduated from the College of William & Mary with a bachelor of arts degree.

Founded by royal charter in 1693, the College of William & Mary is the second oldest educational institution in the nation. During the past 300 years, the college has educated three U.S. presidents — Thomas Jefferson, James Monroe and John Tyler — numerous senators and members of congress and other national and international leaders. William & Mary is ranked among the nation's top 10 public universities and has been designated a "Public Ivy."

## A message from the coordinator

The staff at Faith Christian School is anticipating God's blessings in the 2011-2012 school year.

The kindergarten class is already large enough to have a full-time teacher, and the 3- and 4-year-old classes are growing every day. Combining first-, second- and third-grade students was so successful that we are continuing the practice with team teaching again this year.

With a full schedule in all subjects, we are praying for increases in our fourth- through eighth-grade classes. The music program has been a great addition and a favorite among students and parents, along with



### The Lion's Tale

computer skills.

Playtime and physical education are beneficial and fun for all ages, and we would like to add more art and crafts when the Lord provides an artist to our staff.

We are looking forward to seeing our students and parents at Open House from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Aug. 12.

Jackie Quarles

## Free school supplies available at Wewa Medical Center

### Star Staff Report

Wewahitchka Medical Center joins the nation in celebrating National Community Health Center Week Aug. 7-13. The second week of August each year is dedicated to recognizing the service and contributions of community health centers.

"Celebrating America's Health Centers: Serving Locally, Leading Nationally" is the theme for National Health Center Week 2011. This theme highlights the more than 45-year record of health centers in providing affordable, high quality, cost-effective health care to all people, regardless of ability to pay.

"National Health Center Week 2011 provides us here at Wewa Medical the opportunity to let the community know what we do

and what we are all about," said Tina Pate, center manager. "In appreciation to the community and in celebration of National Community Health Center Week, we will be distributing 100 school bags to the local children. During the week, the first 100 children to visit the center will be given these bags filled with school supplies for the upcoming year."

Gov. Rick Scott issued a proclamation declaring August 7-13 as National Health Center Week in Florida and urges citizens to recognize the important contributions of community health centers in safeguarding health and improving the quality of life for all people in Florida.

For questions regarding the free school supplies, contact Wewa Medical Center at 639-5828.



## Society BRIEFS

From Staff Reports

### Senior citizens asking public for help

Gulf County Senior Citizens' Port St. Joe site is asking for donations of non-perishable food items such as juice, canned tuna and chicken, soup or vegetables for low-income seniors. The center prepares a home-cooked meal one day a week and could use any of the items listed.

Small inexpensive bingo prizes are always needed for clients that love to play bingo.

The center provides a hot nutritious noon meal Monday through Friday to seniors 60 and over. Anyone interested in coming to sites in Port St. Joe or Wewahitchka for meals and activities or who would like to donate any of the items listed may call Debbie at 229-8466.

### Senior citizens accepting new meal clients

Gulf County Senior Citizens is

accepting new clients at its meal sites in Port St. Joe and Wewahitchka.

Some of the 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 might be available.

Anyone interested in coming to our sites for meals and activities is asked to call Debbie in Port St. Joe at 229-8466 or Maureen in Wewahitchka at 639-9910.

Gulf County Senior Citizens is a nonprofit organization.

### All request oldies but goodies

Gulf County Senior Citizens, 120 Library Drive in Port St. Joe, would like to invite the public to come out from 10 a.m. to noon ET Tuesday, Aug. 2, to enjoy the "Oldies but Goodies Show" by deejay Steve McIntire. He will be playing all types of music by request from the '50s, '60s and '70s. This is free to the public. Please call Debbie at 229-8466 for more information.

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## Oak Grove Church Daycare



Opening Soon!



Projected opening date:  
August 15...enrollment list is already filling up

### Orientation session:

August 1st at 10:00AM at Oak Grove Church

Enrollment forms may be picked up from the church office, the director, or at orientation and returned during the orientation on August 1st

For more information, please contact Stephanie Levins (Director), at  
(850) 527-3032.

# FAITH

Thursday, July 28, 2011

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Page B4

## Faith BRIEFS

### Fifth Sunday fellowship at Philadelphia

Philadelphia Primitive Baptist Church will serve as host to the Mt. Zion Primitive Baptist Church of Panama City this fifth Sunday during quarterly fellowship services.

Church school will be held at 10 a.m. ET and morning worship services will start at 11 a.m. with the Elder Huet Sampson bringing the message for the day.

Pastor Elder Jessie Hawkins invites everyone to come and be a part of these blessings from God. The church is located at 259 Avenue D here in Port St. Joe.

### Outreach ministry

Meet us at the park for food, fun, music and ministry. Pastor Johnny Jenkins, Jr. and New Life

Christian Center will hold an outreach ministry from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. ET on July 30 in Frank Pate Park in Port St. Joe.

For more information visit [www.NewLifePSJ.com](http://www.NewLifePSJ.com).

### Terry Vik as the Apostle Paul

First Pentecostal Church of Wewahitchka and Fitly Spoken Ministry present Terry Vik as the Apostle Paul at 7 p.m. CT on Saturday, July 30 and at 10 a.m. Sunday, July 31.

The church, under the leadership of Pastor V. Joey Ethridge, is located at 619 S. State 71 in Wewahitchka.

### 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.

### God's plan for your life

Many talk about God's plan of salvation. One or two scriptures taken out of context can be easily produce a doctrine that is not biblical. When a number of verses tell the same story, it is wise to pay attention. Consider Jeremiah 31:31-34, Ezekiel 36:26, John 1:12, 13, John 3:3-7, 2 Corinthians 5:17, & Galatians 6:15.

These verses tell us that we were born, we were born with a heart of stone, and a self serving human spirit, which need to be surrendered to the Lord. When that happens, a person is truly born again, or born of God. You are not born again, and headed down the path that leads to eternal life, until this happens. That's why many use the term "Give your heart to Jesus."

If someone tells you that you are already saved, run as fast as you can, in

the other direction. If you are a Bible reader, you know that Jesus never used the term "saved", in the same way, that it is being used today in those churches, where people are told that they are already saved.

No wonder this world is so messed up, with everyone doing what is right in their own eyes — thinking they can live any way they want, and still end up in heaven. They continue seeking their own welfare — at the expense of others. See Judges 17:6 and many other places.

God's plan is for you to be born of Him, serve Him, and worship Him. He will take care of the saved part, when you need to be saved — at the end. See Matthew 24:13. Jesus didn't say you must be saved. He said, "You must be born again."

Jesus finished His work on the cross. Your work is not finished, until you stand before Him. This is not a matter of works. It

is a matter of obedience to the one who has every right to be your Lord and Master. How about confessing Jesus as your Lord and Master? Ask Him today to make you into the kind of person He wants you to be.

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, pressure you to give 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.

Our 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,**  
Pastor Tim Morrill  
Mexico Beach Christian Worship  
Center, Box 13337  
Mexico Beach, 32410  
tim1@jesusanswers.com  
On Facebook: Tim Morrill  
[www.mexicobeachcwc.com](http://www.mexicobeachcwc.com)

## Obituary

### Inez McMillian Chambers

Inez M. Chambers was born Oct. 5, 1915 in Mount Pleasant, Fla., and departed this life on July 20, 2011 in Kansas City, Mo. She was the second of nine children born to the union of Jasper and Melissa McMillan.

She was preceded in death by her devoted husband, J.D. Chambers, her oldest son, Johnny L. Chambers and her youngest son, Charles E. Chambers, Sr.; father Jasper, mother Melissa, six brothers, Edgar, M.C., Willie, Douglas, J.C. and Walter McMillan and one sister, Flora Bell McMillan Taylor.

She and J.D. moved

to Port St. Joe, Fla., in approximately 1950 and joined New Bethel AME Church where she remained a faithful member until her passing. While in Kansas City from 2005 until her passing, she attended services at New Solid Rock Missionary Baptist Church, under the leadership of Rev. Harvey L. White, Sr.

She leaves to cherish her memories, one sister, Ruby Gilyard (widowed) of Quincy, Fla.; one son, Willie J. Chambers and wife, Jenny, of Kansas City, Mo.; daughter, Betty R. Fennell (widowed) of Largo, Fla., daughter, Vonsecel Parrott and husband,

Dwight, of Bellwood, Ill.; 10 grandchildren, Abraham Bailey, Natalie Freeman Ward, Elexia Chambers Bostic (Adrian), Willie J. Chambers II, Andre Freeman (Missy), Monte Parrott, Charles E. Chambers Jr., Marco Parrott, Tia Chambers and Tamara Chambers; 10 great-grandchildren, Brittany Colvin, Courtney Freeman, Thomas Bailey, Andre Freeman Jr., Missy Freeman, Jayon Chambers, Destiny Ward, Lamar Bailey, Miles Bostic and Jenger Chambers; three great-great-grandchildren, Milia Lartigue, Nyda Avery and Noah Avery;

a special first cousin, Louise McWhite Coleman of Chattahoochee, Fla.; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and the New Solid Rock Missionary Church family in Kansas City, Mo.

Home going services were held on Saturday, July 20, 2011, at 11 a.m. EST at New Bethel AME Church, 146 Ave C, Port St. Joe, Fla. Visitation was from 9-11 a.m. prior to the service.

Interment Service was in Forest Hill Cemetery.

Arrangements entrusted to Comforter Funeral Home, 601 Long Ave, Port St. Joe, FL 32456 (850) 227-1818.

### 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

#### Open Hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of Mexico Beach United Methodist Church

#### Nursery Provided

Rev. Jerry Arhelger, Pastor • Church/Office: 648-8820

### First Baptist Church

102 THIRD STREET • PORT ST. JOE

Jeff Pinder Pastor

Buddy Caswell, Minister of Music & Education

Bobby Alexander, Minister to Students

#### New Service Schedule for First Baptist Church

##### Sunday

Sunday School ..... 9:00 am  
Worship Service ..... 10:30 am  
Sunday Night Awana ..... 5 pm - 7 pm  
Youth Groups ..... 5:30 pm

##### Wednesday

Children's Choir ..... 5:30 pm  
Prayer Meeting ..... 6:30 pm  
Children's Ministry Activities ..... 6:30 pm  
Youth Ministry Activities ... 6:30 pm

[www.fbcpkj.org](http://www.fbcpkj.org)

### "Our Church can be your home"

### First Church of the Nazarene

2420 Long Avenue • Port St. Joe, Florida 32456

(850) 229-9596

Give unto the Lord the glory due His name, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

Psalm 29:2

Sunday School ..... 10 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship ..... 11 a.m.

Sunday Evening Worship ..... 6 p.m.  
Wednesday Evening Service ..... 7 p.m.

### Family Life Church

#### A Spirit Filled Outreach Oriented Word of Faith Church

Pastors Andrew & Cathy Rutherford

Welcome to you to worship with us:

Sunday 10:30am

Sunday Night Prayer 6pm

Wednesday 7pm

[www.familylifechurch.net](http://www.familylifechurch.net)

323 Reid Ave ~ Downtown Port St. Joe, FL ~ 850-229-5433

### FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Constitution and Monument Port St. Joe

(850) 227-1724

Rev. Mac Fulcher

Pastor

Ann Comforter Jeremy Dixon

Music Director Youth Minister

Deborah Loyless

Director of Children Ministries

Jesus is Lord and He is waiting

FOR YOU AT:

### Highland View Baptist Church

382 Ling Street - Highland View

Port St. Joe, Florida 32456

(850)227-1306

 Pastor Josh Fidler

Sunday School ..... 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship ..... 11:00 a.m.  
Evening Service ..... 5:00 & 6:00 p.m.  
Discipleship Training ..... 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Prayer ..... 7:00 p.m.

### First Presbyterian Church

508 Sixteenth Street

Port St. Joe, Florida 32456

**850-227-1756**

Rev. Drucilla Tyler

Worship Service 10:00 AM

Sunday School 11:00 AM



TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN

Come worship with us!

Rector Father Tommy Dwyer

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**EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

800 22ND STREET, PORT ST. JOE

8:00 and 11:00 a.m. (EST) • Sunday School 9:45

[www.stjamesepiscopalchurch.org](http://www.stjamesepiscopalchurch.org)



### Faith Bible Church

[www.faithbiblepsj.net](http://www.faithbiblepsj.net)

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

9:45 AM ..... Sunday School

Fellowship Breakfast

10:30 AM ..... Worship

11:00 AM ..... Worship

6:00 PM ..... Worship

Home of Faith Christian School

[www.faithchristianpsj.net](http://www.faithchristianpsj.net)

**St. Peter's Church, ACC**  
(Traditional Services 1928 BCP)  
Morning Prayer & Holy Communion  
Sunday.....10:00 A.M.  
Community Healing Service 6:00 P.M.  
4th Thursday of Every Month  
The Rev. Dr. D. Pete Windham, Priest  
The Rev Lou Little, Deacon  
Services Temporarily at Senior Citizens Center,  
120 Library Drive  
"An Unchanging Faith In A Changing World"

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**(850) 229-8111**

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](http://www.mexicobeachcwc.com) or 850-348-0711

# U.S. ranks Florida's workforce, job training top in nation

## Star Staff Report

**PANAMA CITY** — Continuing a pattern of national recognition for its workforce training, Florida earned the top spot in the second annual Enterprising States report just released by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Chamber Foundation.

"This latest top ranking is a testament to the value and success of our ongoing efforts to solidify Florida's vision for a winning, globally competitive workforce with education and training programs that sustain and strengthen the talent supply for our state's businesses," said Workforce Florida President and CEO Chris Hart IV.

Florida's top ranking was based on its efficient job placement system, high share of high school students in advanced placement courses, and affordable and efficient higher education system.

The state placed in the top three in all four measures and was also touted for their Quick Response Training (QRT) Program, an employer-driven training program designed to assist new value-added businesses and provide existing Florida businesses the necessary training for expansion.

"Florida's workforce partners made up of businesses, education, economic development and affiliated public agencies, remain focused on getting unemployed Floridians back to work and fostering economic growth through talent development," said Gary Ross, Chairman for the Gulf Coast Workforce Board.

Kim Bodine, Executive Director for the Gulf Coast Workforce Board for the past 15 years added, "The strength of Florida's workforce system is the ability of the local boards to create and sustain meaningful and creative partnerships to address the needs spe-

cific to the part of Florida that we serve. Florida is a very diverse state. Our governors, including Governor Scott and our legislature have always understood that a cookie cutter approach, which is used in most states, would not work here."

More than 80 percent of adults receiving training and intensive workforce services through the state workforce system found a job, with a nearly 90-percent retention rate, during the past year. Locally, 99 percent of the adults who have been sponsored into training and intensive services by the Gulf Coast Workforce Board have gone to work in jobs that have an average wage of \$16.79 per hour.

Over the past 12 months, the Gulf Coast Workforce Board has served 22,365 job seekers and 752 employers in the region.

"The Gulf Coast Workforce Board has always been very helpful in assisting local businesses

recruit and hire qualified candidates. In fact, they are currently leading a national search to help the Gulf County Chamber of Commerce hire a new executive director to address the additional responsibilities of the economic development committee," said Robert Pickels, President of the Board for Gulf County Chamber of Commerce and Community Relations Manager at Progress Energy.

The 2011 U.S. Chamber report, released on June 20, states that education and training of workers is at the center of a new paradigm for economic growth.

The report estimates that by 2018, 63 percent of jobs will require some type of post-high school training credential.

Florida is moving in the right direction, as the Enterprising States report ranked it first in high school advanced placement intensity and job placement efficiency, second in higher edu-

cation efficiency and third in college affordability among the 50 states.

The full report is available at [www.uschamber.com/reports/enterprising-states-2011](http://www.uschamber.com/reports/enterprising-states-2011).

## About Gulf Coast Workforce Board

The Gulf Coast Workforce Board is one of 24 regional workforce boards around the state of Florida. It is chartered to serve the workforce and training needs of Bay, Gulf, and Franklin counties and is led by Board members from business and industry, education, economic development and government.

The mission of the Gulf Coast Workforce Board is to provide leadership, oversight, guidance and assistance to institutions and agencies delivering training and workforce services in order to meet the economic development and employment needs of Bay, Gulf and Franklin counties.

# June unemployment numbers climb for Gulf County

**PANAMA CITY** — The unemployment rate in the Gulf Coast Workforce region (Bay, Franklin, and Gulf counties) was 9.4 percent in June 2011, 0.3 percentage point higher than the region's year ago rate of 9.1 percent, but 1.7 percentage points below the state rate of 11.1 percent. Out of a la-

bbor force of 106,037, there were 9,986 unemployed Gulf Coast residents.

"Our local unemployment rate has held steady and we're pleased to see that our area continues to gain jobs over the year although we question the increase of government jobs for our area," said Kim

Bodine, executive director of the Gulf Coast Workforce Board. "We will be following up on that rate with our state partners".

In June 2011, there were 74,800 nonagricultural jobs in the Panama City-Lynn Haven-Panama City Beach metro area (Bay County), up 700 jobs over the year. The Panama City-Lynn

Haven-Panama City Beach metro area experienced an annual rate of job gain of 0.9 percent, while the state gained jobs at a rate of 0.5 percent.

The industries gaining the most jobs over the year in the Panama City-Lynn Haven-Panama City Beach metro area were government (+400 jobs); leisure

and hospitality (+300 jobs); education and health services (+200 jobs); trade, transportation, and utilities, and professional and business services (+100 jobs each).

The gains were offset by losses in financial activities (-200 jobs); and information and other services (-100 jobs each). Mining, logging, and construction, and manufac-

turing remained unchanged over the year.

Nonagricultural employment growth in government (+2.8 percent); education and health services (+2.4 percent); professional and business services (+1.3 percent); and trade, transportation, and utilities (+0.7 percent) exceeded the state rate of growth.

## BY THE NUMBERS

The June 2011 unemployment rates in the counties that comprise the Gulf Coast Workforce region were:

	June 11	May 11
Bay County	9.5	9.4
Franklin County	7.9	7.7
Gulf County	10.2	9.8

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Over 4,500 children die everyday from lack of clean drinking water. For every paid wash @Speedy Callaway, Speedy Beach, and Speedy Downtown someone will have clean water for a day.

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RANDY STARK  
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RANDY STARK WITH ART LONG  
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Denise Butler  
Agent

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## Trades & Services

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LAWN CARE, TREE TRIMMING AND  
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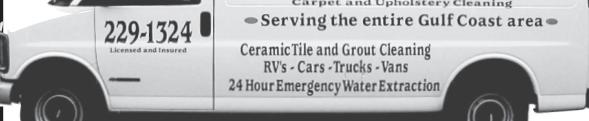
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1110 - Classified Notices  
1120 - Public Notices/  
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1125 - Carpool &  
Rideshare  
1130 - Adoptions  
1140 - Happy Ads  
1150 - Personals  
1160 - Lost  
1170 - Found

**LEGAL ADVERTISING****1100**

WITHIN 60 DAYS AF-  
TER THE SALE.  
  
Dated this 23rd day of  
June, 2011

**LEGAL ADVERTISING****1100**

ING AN INTEREST IN  
THE FUNDS REMAIN-  
ING AFTER THE SALE,  
IF ANY, MUST FILE A  
CLAIM WITH THE  
CLERK NO LATER  
THAN 60 DAYS AFTER  
THIS SALE. IF YOU  
FAIL TO FILE A CLAIM,  
YOU WILL NOT BE EN-  
TITLED TO ANY RE-  
MAINING FUNDS.

REBECCA NORRIS  
Clerk Of  
The Circuit Court  
By: BA Baxter  
Deputy Clerk  
  
Submitted by:  
Law Offices of Marshall  
C Watson: PA.  
1800 NW 49th Street.  
Suite 120  
Fort Lauderdale Florida  
33309  
Telephone:  
(954) 453-0365  
Facsimile:  
(954) 771-6052  
Toll Free:  
1-800-441-2438  
July 21, 28, 2011

WITNESS MY HAND  
and the seal of this  
Court on June 23rd,  
2011

REBECCA L. NORRIS  
As Clerk of the Court  
By: BA Baxter  
As Deputy Clerk  
  
Frank P. Cuneo, Esq.  
Andy R. Hernandez,  
Esq.  
Liebler, Gonzalez &  
Portuondo, PA.  
Courthouse Tower  
25' Floor  
44 West Flagler Street  
Miami, FL 33130  
July 21, 28, 2011

3058S  
IN THE CIRCUIT  
COURT OF THE FOUR-  
TEENTH JUDICIAL  
CIRCUIT IN AND FOR  
GULF COUNTY, FLOR-  
IDA  
CIVIL DIVISION  
CASE NO. 09-307 CA

SUNTRUST  
MORTGAGE, INC.,  
Plaintiff,  
  
vs.

JONATHAN S. DOUG-  
LAS: UNKNOWN  
SPOUSE OF JONA-  
THON S. DOUGLAS:  
UNKNOWN TENANT  
(S): IN POSSESSION  
OF THE SUBJECT  
PROPERTY,  
Defendants.

**NOTICE OF  
FORECLOSURE SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY  
GIVEN pursuant to a  
Summary Final Judg-  
ment of Foreclosure  
dated June 17, 2011,

setting the sale date as  
noticed herein, entered  
in Case No. 09-307 the  
Captioned Matter of the  
Circuit Court of the  
Fourteenth Judicial Cir-  
cuit in and for Gulf  
County, Florida,

wherein SUNTRUST,  
is the Plaintiff and  
JONATHAN S. DOUG-  
LAS, UNKNOWN  
SPOUSE OF JONA-  
THON S. DOUGLAS  
and UNKNOWN TENANT  
(S) IN POSSES-  
SION OF THE SUB-  
JECT PROPERTY  
are defendants. The Clerk  
of this Court shall sell  
to the highest and best  
bidder for cash at the  
FRONT LOBBY OF  
THE GULF COUNTY  
COURTHOUSE, 1000  
5TH STREET, PORT  
ST. JOE, FL 32456,  
11:00 AM on the 11th  
day of August, 2011,  
the following described  
property as set forth in  
said Final Judgment, to  
wit:

EXHIBIT A

Lot Eleven (11), Block  
Eighty-Three (83), Unit  
Number One (1), of the  
St. Joseph's Addition to  
the City of Port St. Joe,  
Florida according to  
the official map on file  
in the office of the Clerk  
of Circuit Court, Gulf  
County, Florida in Plat  
Book 1, Page 28, less  
and excepted the East-  
erly Twelve and  
One-Half (12 1/2) feet  
of Lot Eleven (11) in  
Block Eighty-Three (83)  
more particularly de-  
scribed as follows:

EXHIBIT "A"

A portion of Lot 15 ly-  
ing South of County  
Road No. 30-B, Camp  
Palms Subdivision, ac-  
cording to the Plat  
thereof recorded in Plat  
Book 1, Page 53-A,  
Public Records of Gulf  
County, Florida and be-  
ing more particularly  
described as follows:

Commence at the  
Southwest Corner of  
the Southeast Quarter of  
Section 31, Township 6  
South, Range 8 West,  
Gulf County, Florida. Thence  
South 89 degrees 38 min-  
utes 25 seconds East along  
the South line of said  
Southeast Quarter of  
Section 31 for 213.28  
feet; thence North 25 de-  
grees 15 minutes 19  
seconds West for 232.89  
feet to the Point of  
Beginning. Thence con-  
tinue North 25 degrees  
15 minutes 19 seconds  
West for 319.90 feet to  
the P.C. of a curve concave  
to the Southwest and hav-  
ing a radius of 2234.30  
feet; thence North 25  
degrees 15 minutes 19  
seconds West for 56 sec-  
onds East for 92.09  
feet to the Point of Be-  
ginning.

has been filed against  
you and referenced in  
the Complaint to Fore-  
close Mortgage, and  
you are required to  
serve a copy of your  
written defenses to it, if  
any, on J. Patrick  
Floyd, Esquire, Law Of-  
fices J. Patrick Floyd,  
Chtd., 408 Long Avenue,  
Port St. Joe, FL 32456.  
All proposals, with original  
signature and twelve  
(12) additional copies,  
must be received at the  
Office of the Clerk by  
Monday, August 1, 2011  
at 4:00 p.m. ET. Proposals  
received after the closing  
time will be returned unopened.  
Proposals will be  
opened on Monday, Aug-  
ust 1, 2011 at 4:30 p.m.  
in the Office of the  
Clerk at the above ad-  
dress.

GROUP VOLUNTARY  
VISION PROGRAM

All interested insurance  
companies, or trusts,  
are invited to respond  
with proposals. Each  
proposal document  
must be clearly marked  
"Proposal for Group Vi-  
sion Benefits"

Any questions concern-  
ing the proposal should  
be addressed and sub-  
mitted to the County's  
Agent-of-Record and  
Employee Benefits  
Consultant, Todd Torg-  
ersen, Combined  
Insurance Services, at  
850-433-9996. Inquiries  
may also be submitted  
via FAX (850-432-5726),  
or E-mail (todd@ciscom-  
panies.com). Combined  
Insurance Services mailing  
address is: 2704 North  
12th Avenue, Pensacola,  
FL 32503. Proposals  
are not to be mailed to  
Combined Insurance  
Services. It is requested,  
however, that electronic  
copies be sent to his e-mail  
address (todd@cis-  
companies.com) on  
Tuesday, August 2, 2011.

CLERK OF THE  
COURT

By: Tonya Troy  
Deputy Clerk  
July 28, 2011

3067S  
IN THE CIRCUIT  
COURT OF THE FOUR-  
TEENTH JUDICIAL  
CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR  
GULF COUNTY, FLOR-  
IDA  
PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: WILLIAM RO-  
BERT DELOZIER,  
Deceased.

CASE NO.: 11-49-PR

NOTICE  
TO CREDITORS

The administration of  
the estate of WILLIAM  
ROBERT DELOZIER,  
deceased, File No.

10-49-PR, is pending in  
the Circuit Court for  
Gulf County, Florida,

Probate Division,  
the address of which is

1000 Cecil G. Costin,  
Sr. Blvd., Port St. Joe,  
FL 32456

ANY PERSON CLAIM-  
ING 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

**LEGAL ADVERTISING****1100**

for 41.76 feet to  
the Point of Beginning.

LESS AND EXCEPT  
Lot 3. Block M

Description: Commence  
at the Southwest Corner  
of the Southeast Quarter  
of Section 31, Township 6  
South, Range 8 West.  
Gulf County, Florida:  
thence South 89 degrees  
38 minutes 25 seconds  
East along the South line  
of said Section 31 for  
213.28 feet; thence North  
25 degrees 15 minutes 19  
seconds West for 232.89  
feet to the Point of  
Beginning. Thence con-  
tinue North 25 degrees  
15 minutes 19 seconds  
West for 319.90 feet to  
the P.C. of a curve concave  
to the Southwest and hav-  
ing a radius of 2234.30  
feet; thence North 25  
degrees 15 minutes 19  
seconds West for 56 sec-  
onds East for 92.09  
feet to the Point of Be-  
ginning.

has been filed against  
you and referenced in  
the Complaint to Fore-  
close Mortgage, and  
you are required to  
serve a copy of your  
written defenses to it, if  
any, on J. Patrick  
Floyd, Esquire, Law Of-  
fices J. Patrick Floyd,  
Chtd., 408 Long Avenue,  
Port St. Joe, FL 32456.  
All proposals, with original  
signature and twelve  
(12) additional copies,  
must be received at the  
Office of the Clerk by  
Monday, August 1, 2011  
at 4:00 p.m. ET. Proposals  
received after the closing  
time will be returned unopened.  
Proposals will be  
opened on Monday, Aug-  
ust 1, 2011 at 4:30 p.m.  
in the Office of the  
Clerk at the above ad-  
dress.

CLERK OF THE  
COURT

By: Tonya Troy  
Deputy Clerk  
July 28, 2011

3068S  
IN THE CIRCUIT  
COURT OF THE FOUR-  
TEENTH JUDICIAL  
CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR  
GULF COUNTY, FLOR-  
IDA  
PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: WILLIAM RO-  
BERT DELOZIER,  
Deceased.

CASE NO.: 11-49-PR

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the address of which is

1000 Cecil G. Costin,  
Sr. Blvd., Port St. Joe,  
FL 32456

ANY PERSON CLAIM-  
ING 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 60 DAYS AF-  
TER THE SALE.

Dated this 23rd day of  
June, 2011

REBECCA NORRIS  
Clerk Of  
The Circuit Court  
By: BA Baxter  
Deputy Clerk

Submitted by:  
Law Offices of Marshall  
C Watson: PA.  
1800 NW 49th Street.  
Suite 120  
Fort Lauderdale Florida  
33309  
Telephone:  
(954) 453-0365  
Facsimile:  
(954) 771-6052  
Toll Free:  
1-800-441-2438  
July 21, 28, 2011

WITNESS MY HAND  
and the seal of this  
Court on June 23rd,  
2011

REBECCA L. NORRIS  
As Clerk of the Court  
By: BA Baxter  
As Deputy Clerk  
  
Frank P. Cuneo, Esq.  
Andy R. Hernandez,  
Esq.  
Liebler, Gonzalez &  
Portuondo, PA.  
Courthouse Tower  
25' Floor  
44 West Flagler Street  
Miami, FL 33130  
July 21, 28, 2011

3069S  
IN THE CIRCUIT  
COURT OF THE FOUR-  
TEENTH JUDICIAL  
CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR  
GULF COUNTY, FLOR-  
IDA  
PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: WILLIAM RO-  
BERT DELOZIER,  
Deceased.

CASE NO.: 11-49-PR

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The administration of  
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ROBERT DELOZIER,  
deceased, File No.

10-49-PR, is pending in  
the Circuit Court for  
Gulf County, Florida,

Probate Division,  
the address of which is

1000 Cecil G. Costin,  
Sr. Blvd., Port St. Joe,  
FL 32456

ANY PERSON CLAIM-  
ING 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 60 DAYS AF-  
TER THE SALE.

Dated this 23rd day of  
June, 2011

REBECCA NORRIS  
Clerk Of  
The Circuit Court  
By: BA Baxter  
Deputy Clerk

Submitted by:  
Law Offices of Marshall  
C Watson: PA.  
1800 NW 49th Street.  
Suite 120  
Fort Lauderdale Florida  
33309  
Telephone:  
(954) 453-0365  
Facsimile:  
(954) 771-6052  
Toll Free:  
1-800-441-2438  
July 21, 28, 2011

WITNESS MY HAND  
and the seal of this  
Court on June 23rd,  
2011

REBECCA L. NORRIS  
As Clerk of the Court  
By: BA Baxter  
As Deputy Clerk  
  
Frank P. Cuneo, Esq.  
Andy R. Hernandez,  
Esq.  
Liebler, Gonzalez &  
Portuondo, PA.  
Courthouse Tower  
25' Floor  
44 West Flagler Street  
Miami, FL 33130  
July 21, 28, 2011

3070S  
IN THE CIRCUIT  
COURT OF THE FOUR-  
TEENTH JUDICIAL  
CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR  
GULF COUNTY, FLOR-  
IDA  
PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: WILLIAM RO-  
BERT DELOZIER,  
Deceased.

CASE NO.: 11-49-PR

NOTICE  
TO CREDITORS

The administration of  
the estate of WILLIAM  
ROBERT DELOZIER,  
deceased, File No.

10-49-PR, is pending in  
the Circuit Court for  
Gulf County, Florida,

Probate Division,  
the address of which is

1000 Cecil G. Costin,  
Sr. Blvd., Port St. Joe,  
FL 32456

ANY PERSON CLAIM-  
ING 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 60 DAYS AF-<br

**HELP WANTED****4100**

Food Sv/Hospitality

The Port Inn is now accepting applications for a 7am-3pm

**Front Desk Sales Agent**

Weekends and holidays are required. This is a Full Time position. The ideal candidate will have previous computer and guest service skills, but we're willing to train the right person. Health insurance is available after 90 days to all full time employees. If you are great with guests, an exceptional problem solver and a desire to be the best- we want you. Come join our Family! EOE/DFWP. Apply in person at The Port Inn 501 Monument Ave, PSJ

**HELP WANTED****4100****Now Hiring!**

Are You Making Less Than \$40,000 Per Year?

Covenant Transport

Needs Driver Trainees

Now! No experience re-

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CALL NOW FOR MORE INFORMATION

1-866-280-5309

**HELP WANTED****4100**

Job Fair

**MEDIACOM Career Day!**

Thurs July 28th 10-2pm  
708 Hwy. 98. Current openings require a valid Driver's license and good driving record. Mediocom offers competitive pay and great benefits along with advancement opportunities. Currently accepting applications online at <http://careers.mediacomcc.com> job 4316, 4594,4564. Please apply prior to event.

EOE M/F/V/D  
Web ID#: 34170084  
Text FL70084 to 56654

**BUSINESS/ COMMERCIAL RENTALS****6100****BUSINESS/ COMMERCIAL RENTALS**

# The start of summer garden roundup

By Roy Lee Carter  
County Extension Director

During the summer in our area, most of us are between gardens. That is, we have just about finished harvesting all the vegetable from our spring gardening efforts, and preparations for the fall vegetable garden haven't begun yet.

So, summer is a good time to inventory your gardening project. Take a careful look at the

problems you had, and the rewards you enjoyed from your spring garden. Keeping track of the things that went wrong as well as things that went right, will help you have a more successful garden this fall.

My information on gardening was provided by Extension Small Farm/Vegetable Gardening Specialist Dr. Steve Olson of the University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

First of all, if you still have vegetables in your garden, you should begin a weekly spray program. We're into the rainy season now, which means hot, wet days and warm, humid nights; the right conditions for insects and disease pest to flourish. Tomato or corn fruit worms and pickle worms can be extremely destructive.

And even those pests which haven't been overwhelming thus far, such as Aphids, Cabbage Worms, Squash Borers, and Corn Bud Worms, are expected to become severe during the rainy season. So protect your garden vegetables with a good spray program.

In addition, be on the lookout for the spread of plant diseases. Diseased plants should be pulled out and disposed of as soon

as possible. Plants remaining in the garden should be sprayed weekly with a good fungicide.

If you've noticed the mosaic virus in your vegetable garden and wondered if could spread to your fruit trees, our specialist say there's little chance of that happening. Mosaic Virus is quite specific to its host plant, and will usually attack just those plants in close proximity in the garden. However, you should keep your garden as free of weeds as possible. Weeds can host the mosaic virus.

Summer is a good time to evaluate the seed varieties you have selected for the spring garden. Ask yourself questions such as: did the variety produce a



**ROY LEE CARTER**  
County extension director

strong, vigorous plant? What about the quality of the vegetable itself? How about disease resistance? Try to make not of the varieties which did well and those that did not, so you'll have

some idea of the ones you'll want to include in the fall vegetable garden, or plant next spring.

This is also a good time to observe the beneficial effects of mulching. If you mulched your spring garden, you'll notice that you have very few weeds, whereas your neighbors un-mulched garden might be overrun with a different weed problem.

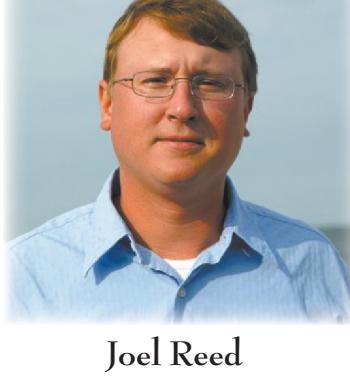
Nematode injury is also much milder on mulched vegetables. While nematodes will attack

mulch vegetables, their effects are not as severe because of the healthier root zone of the mulched plant.

The most striking observation you'll make about mulching is the way it controls soil moisture. Vegetables grown on un-mulched, hot, sandy Florida soils will droop and wilt.

While those grown in mulched gardens will stand tall. We've seen all kinds of things used for mulching, including the traditional oak leaves, pine straw, hay and wood shavings, and even such things as newspapers, peanut hulls, gravel, plastic and old carpet.

For more information contact the Gulf County Cooperative Extension Service @ 639-3200 - 229-2909 or visit our website at <http://gulf.ifas.ufl.edu>.



**Joel Reed**  
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850-653-8868  
129 Commerce St.  
Apalachicola, FL 32329  
Fax: 850-653-8036

## Funding available to assist elders

Star Staff Report

The Area Agency on Aging for North Florida, Inc. announced this week the availability of funds to assist eligible households with their home energy crisis in the counties of Gulf, Franklin, Calhoun, Holmes, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, Wakulla and Washington.

To be considered for this program, the applicant household must

have at least one individual who is 60 years of age or older, the household incomes must be within \$16,335 maximum per year for an individual; \$5,730 for each additional household member) and the utility bill for the applicant must indicate a past due or immediate threat of disconnection.

Other assistance may be provided, according to program guidelines, such as heating unit repair and connection fees/deposits.

For more information or to determine eligibility for assistance, contact the Aging Resource Center/Elder Helpline at 1-800-963-5337.

The Area Agency on Aging for North Florida, Inc. is a private non-profit organization charged with the responsibility of administering aging programs in 14 North Florida counties through contracts with the Florida Department of Elder Affairs.

## LIVE MUSIC



**FRIDAY**  
**BUDDY HAMM**  
8:00 - Midnight



**HAUGHTY HERON**

FINE WINES SPIRITS CIGARS SUNDRIES

**THURSDAY**  
**KARAOKE WITH BEACH BEATZ**  
8:00 - Midnight  
**DRINK SPECIALS**

**SATURDAY**  
**DRINK SPECIALS**



**FREE**  
**BAG OF ICE**  
**WITH ANY**  
**18 PACK PURCHASE**



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