



Paws in the Park, B1

Commissioners mull Gulf Pines decision

By Tim Croft
Star News Editor

With the deadline for a decision a week away, Port St. Joe city commissioners entered a budget workshop Tuesday hoping for a clear picture on how to secure the old Gulf Pines Hospital site.

By the time commissioners convened the image had been further blurred.

Commissioners have until Sept. 2 to notify a California receiver and the Internal Revenue Service whether the city will take deed to the Gulf Pines building and the just over

two acres of land the former hospital sits on.

The focus of the workshop was a presentation of potential costs linked to asbestos abatement in the building and demolition in order for the city to plat the land and sell as many as five lots of .44 acres each.

However, questions arose regarding sewer hookup to the land and, more importantly, an apparent property tax certificate holder who has applied for a tax deed to the property.

City staff was to explore the sewer issue, the thought being that

the city has some \$200,000 grant funds remaining from a sewer installation project on Sunset Circle — both entrances to Sunset Circle border the hospital property boundaries.

“The money available there might allow us to accomplish (bringing sewer to the hospital land),” said Mayor Mel Magidson.

In addition, given a five-lot configuration, the city would realize some \$25,000 in tap fees which would offset any cost for linking city sewer to the hospital property.

As for the property tax

See **GULF PINES A8**



TIM CROFT | The Star

Gulf Pines Hospital was shuttered by the state more than five years ago. It has been steadily decaying since.

DOUBLE EXPOSURE TO THE SUN



On a recent afternoon, showers gave way to sunshine and this gorgeous double rainbow, which reader Bill Fauth captured with his camera on Mexico Beach.

Chamber hires new director Name withheld as individual finishes prior job

By Valerie Garman
Star Staff Writer

The Gulf County Chamber of Commerce has been busy cleaning house this summer.

As a result of a request by the Board of County Commissioners to consolidate chamber and economic development activities under a common roof, the chamber has been undergoing renovations all summer.

“We basically fired our entire staff in June,” said Chamber President Bobby Pickels. “And we went through a very difficult financial audit.”

The chamber has been involved in a sometimes controversial political process since spring, when county commissioners voted to disband the existing Economic Development Council in favor of a unified model.

The commissioners approved it as a way to save taxpayer dollars through a consolidation that will have the executive director of the chamber oversee chamber and economic development efforts.

Commissioners faulted the EDC for not filing required spending reports. More specifically, commissioners said the money di-

rected to the EDC had not paid the dividends commissioners desired in the form of new jobs and businesses.

“There wasn’t enough substance (with the EDC) that people could see on the ground,” Pickels said. “It started to create a rift.”

After presenting a proposed organizational structure to commissioners in March, Pickels and the chamber were charged with consolidating the duties of the EDC into its own, with an eye toward naming a new director in July.

See **CHAMBER A2**

PSJ urges participation in new recycling program

By Valerie Garman
Star Staff Writer

Keep it clean, Port St. Joe.

The dumpsters at the Public Works yard on 10th Street and at the transfer station off Industrial Road are hungry for aluminum, plastic and paper.

They’ll take your soda cans, green bean cans, milk jugs, water bottles, old phone books, flattened cardboard boxes, magazines, and even this newspaper you’re holding.

“We have not had a recycling program ever up

until a few months ago,” said City Manager Charlie Weston. “We’re trying to get people to put their best foot forward and keep the city looking clean.”

Weston encourages all residents to take advantage of the city’s two recycling centers.

There is a receptacle for paper products including cardboard, magazines, brown paper grocery bags, phone books, catalogs, newspapers and inserts, and separate receptacles for aluminum and plastic.

Glass will not be ac-

cepted because there is no market for the resale of recycled glass, Weston said.

Cans and bottles must be emptied and rinsed before being placed in the bins with any caps or straws removed. Plastic bags, Styrofoam, bulbs and ceramics are not recyclable and should not be deposited in the bins.

“We don’t have curbside (pickup) yet, but that would be the ultimate goal,” Weston said. “There’s a huge cost associated with going

See **RECYCLING A5**

Tax Collector's office driving ahead with DMV services

By Valerie Garman
Star Staff Writer

There is only one thing more frustrating than standing in line for an hour at the Division of Motor Vehicles: having to drive an hour to stand in line for an hour at the DMV.

And coming soon: Gulf County residents will no longer need to trek to Panama City or Blountstown for a new driver's license or to renew their existing license.

The Tax Collector's of-

office at the Gulf County Courthouse in Port St. Joe will provide minimum driver's license services by the end of September, said Tax Collector Shirley Jenkins.

The state's Driver's License Office in Port St. Joe closed July 30 due to budget cuts in Tallahassee.

"It's just a convenience to have it here," Jenkins said. "Who wants to take a whole day off work to stand in line?"

Currently, Gulf County residents must drive to Bay, Calhoun or Liberty County

for DMV services.

Representatives from the state DMV will be in the Tax Collector's office Sept. 9 and 10 installing the necessary licensing software and photo equipment.

The DMV is providing the equipment at a \$1,200 one-time cost to Gulf County, effectively transferring the equipment from the old DMV office to Jenkins'.

In essence, Jenkins is working ahead of the curve.

Under a law passed by Florida lawmakers in the

spring, every county Tax Collector in Florida is required to provide a driver's license service by 2015, Jenkins said.

Initially, the office will only provide minimum license services including renewals, replacements, re-instatements, identification cards, driving record searches, child support clearances and minimum written examinations.

The office will not administer driving tests for first-time license applicants. The DMV has suggested an

interlocal agreement with Bay County for administering driving exams.

"We're not doing any driving on the road yet," Jenkins said. "We're going to move into that eventually."

The initial cost to the county for the first two years will be about \$5,000 collectively, Jenkins said.

Once the department is established, the services will basically be underwritten by the fee structure.

There will be a \$6.25 fee for most services.

"As we get to (performing) the different transactions, it should pay for itself," Jenkins said.

More fees will be collected once the office begins administering more extensive services like road driver's tests.

Jenkins said it will be a great convenience to Gulf County residents because they will be able to walk in the office and get their tags, title and driver's license all in one trip.

"It will be a win-win situation," she said.

CHAMBER from page A1

"That's kind of the way it was done 15 years ago," Pickels said of the consolidated model. "We've come full circle."

With clean books and the consolidation behind them, the chamber is ready to move forward by filling their offices with people to help guide the county and city out of the recession fog.

After an exhausting candidate search and interview process, coordinated by the Gulf Coast Workforce Board to, as Pickels stated, "take some of the politics out of the process," the chamber has hired a new executive director who will begin Sept. 26.

Because the new director remains in their current job, attempting to close at least one major deal, they asked that their name not be made public until next month.

The Chamber and Workforce Board conducted a national search, resulting in three finalists, all of whom visited Gulf County in recent weeks.

Pickels said they managed to not "good-ole-boy" it, with the aim of the chamber board of directors to be transparent and professional in the selection process.

The chamber also enlisted help from a professional facilitator, an accountant, and a human relations firm

to aid the search and identify quality applicants.

"What we did here is something that has never been done in Gulf County before. We got the professional help we needed," Pickels said. "Does that mean we're guaranteed success? Absolutely not."

Pickels hopes the new hire will help the chamber tackle one of its biggest challenges: creating new jobs.

"At the end of the day, we know the way we're going to be judged is jobs," Pickels said. "I hope in the future we can change the nature of the conversation from we're desperate for any jobs to how do we manage the growth of

our community."

Pickels said with bed tax collections arcing up, and a more attractive downtown business sector courtesy of the Port St. Joe Redevelopment Agency, there are plenty of reasons for optimism.

"There were some people who told me flat out that (this year's) scallop festival would fail," Pickels said. "And it turned out to be the biggest one we've ever seen."

The Florida Music and Scallop Festival earlier this month drew record crowds despite being held after the chamber had shed its workforce. Pickels credits the many volunteers who helped make the event a success.

Pickels said the chamber has a variety of events planned for this fall including "Ghosts on the Coast" and "Networking at Noon."

"It has been an exciting time and it's going to continue to be an exciting time," Pickels said. "We've got a long year ahead of us."

The chamber received \$21,000 from the county commission earlier this year to get everything started. Pickels said they hope to receive more next year - the budget request before commissioners is for more than \$80,000 - and the plan is to form a public/private partnership for economic development

efforts by approaching private businesses for donations and input.

Pickels hopes the chamber's new director can help the economic future of Port St. Joe by expanding existing businesses, growing entrepreneurs and attracting businesses from other areas.

"We are very proud of the process of attracting and hiring our new director," Pickels said. "We're very optimistic about the chamber and the community's future."

Star News Editor Tim Croft contributed to the story.

Webster and Johnson headline September's First Fridays

Star Staff Report

The Gulf Alliance for Local Arts (GALA) presents Randall "Big Daddy" Webster and Professor Joël C. Johnson, currently on a "world concert tour," on Sept. 2 as part of the First Fridays Art and Music Series.

Together, Randall "Big

Daddy" Webster, of Tallahassee, and Professor Joël C. Johnson, from Orlando, are a formidable duo with a combined 58 years performing blues and jazz music and over four years performing in concert and in the recording studio with "Big Daddy & Red Hot Java."

They have also part-

nered on national and international tours and both are sponsored by Godin Guitars. Both have serious music academic accreditations.

Big Daddy is certified by the Blues Foundation and the Florida Humanities Council, and Joël is a professor and scholar teaching at Florida State University and other universities on the music industry,

music technology, and music education. They bring their world view of Blues built on its indigenous African-American heritage. It's blues peppered with soul, jazz and life that ignites your primal core, and makes you think. Webster and Johnson just completed their new duo CD "The

Wounded Healer," and they are touring Europe during the spring and summer of 2011 in support of the recording. You cannot miss this show!

First Fridays is held at the Port Inn, on the corner of U.S. Highway 98 and Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Blvd in Port St. Joe, and is free and

open to the public.

The opening reception runs from 6-7 p.m. ET.

It will be followed by music on the porch from 7-11:30 p.m.

This series is presented by Gulf Alliance for Local Arts and is sponsored by the Gulf County Tourist Development Council.

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8:30 a.m. - 1 Mile Run/Walk (\$12 advance, \$15 race day)

9:00 a.m. - Vendors with Food & Shopping Open

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Throughout the day there will be a Doggie Art Booth, dog dunking for hot dogs and lots of vendors selling items of interest to both animals and their owners. There will also be a jumping castle for the kids as well as live music, skits, and other interesting demonstrations by our local talent. Visit www.bowwowbash.org or e-mail info@bowwowbash.org for information.

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THIS IS A DESIGN BUILD PROJECT TO BE DONE BY A LICENSED ENGINEER BY THE STATE OF FLORIDA AND A GENERAL CONTRACTOR ALSO LICENSED BY THE STATE OF FLORIDA. THE BIDS ARE TO INCLUDE DESIGNS, PERMITS, AND ALL MATERIAL AND LABOR TO CONSTRUCT A 26 GAUGE METAL ROOF WITH 16 GAUGE RETROFIT STEEL FRAME ON THE CITY HALL AND FIRE STATION.

ALL PROPOSALS MUST MEET THE GULF COUNTY BUILDING REQUIREMENTS AND WIND LOADS.

BIDS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE CITY CLERK BEFORE 12 NOON CENTRAL TIME SEPTEMBER 26, 2011 AT THE CITY ANNEX SITED AT 318 S. 7TH ST. AND WILL BE OPENED THE SAME DAY AT THE REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING AT 6:30 PM CENTRAL AT 109 S. 2ND ST.

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City, county wrestle with employee benefits

With budget hearings approaching, commissioners face tough decisions

By Tim Croft
Star News Editor

Port St. Joe and county commissioners grappled with employee benefits last week as they attempted to finalize budget numbers prior to public hearings next month.

For the county, the decision for employees will be whether to stay with the same insurance plan or switch after the most recent decisions of the insurance committee.

And in Port St. Joe, commissioners are returning to a previous provider while contemplating a counterbalance to another year that promises no salary increases.

County administrator Don Butler informed commissioners that at the most recent meeting of the insurance committee — comprised of constitutional officers, Commissioner Ward McDaniel and key staff members — the parameters for employees and their choice of insurance plan was established.

At least until last week's special meeting.

Butler said the county was still looking at the 5 percent increase in premiums from Blue Cross/Blue Shield which was on the table more than a month ago after commissioners rejected a proposal that called for a 9 percent increase.

However, by the end of last week's special meeting, Sheriff Joe Nugent said his department would leave the county group and seek a "small group" policy that is cheaper and would provide suitable coverage.

The insurance committee's decision, with Nugent the lone dissenter, was to take the 5 percent increase from BC/BS and use it as a carrot to bring more county employees into a Health Services Account or HSA.

The HSA, which requires more out of pocket from employees, is used by the majority of county employees. The alternative plan, a PPO, or preferred provider organization, is the so-called "Cadillac" plan with lower premiums and deductibles.

The aim, Butler said, was to incentivize the plans offered to county employees to speed up migration to the HSA, which is more cost-effective for the county.

Last year, employees in the PPO were, given claims history, in large measure subsidized by the employees in the HSA, Butler said.

The insurance committee proposal, adopted by commissioners, would counterbalance the 5 percent increase by providing an extra \$50 per month to employees in an HSA and deducting \$100 per month from the county's contribution to insurance — \$750 per employee for each county employee — for those on the PPO.

The 5 percent increase would not be borne by the board, Butler said, but primarily by those employees still enrolled in the PPO.

"We have to start somewhere to cut costs," Butler said. "We have a 5 percent increase this year and we had a very good year (in terms of claims). Next year could be worse."

Those incentives to increase the migration to the less expensive plan for the county would continue under an insurance committee recommendation to provide by additional incentives by Jan. 1, 2012 to those employees who do not smoke, have a gym

"Let's not do something in August that takes effect in September that we've been fooling around with for months."

Sheriff Joe Nugent

membership, etc.

Nugent objected, saying that he could not ask his employees, the vast majority of whom are on the PPO, to pay an additional \$100 a month for insurance. He added that placing the additional penalty on employees this late in the process was unfair.

Nugent said all employees should be given until next year to make any appropriate change based on new incentives.

"Let's not do something in August that takes effect

in September that we've been fooling around with for months," Nugent said.

Deductions must be taken from payroll checks next month so that employees have coverage beginning with the new fiscal year in October.

Nugent said his employees meet the requirements for a small group plan which will mean lower premiums and deductibles. He said commissioners had given him no choice but to seek insurance separate from the board.

However, Todd Torgorsen, the agent for the Board of County Commissioners, said the sheriff's decision would leave the 5 percent increase in question.

"Blue Cross Blue Shield will reevaluate the case should the sheriff leave but premiums are likely to go up," Torgorsen said.

For the city of Port St. Joe, one year's experiment with United Health Care — which bid on the county's business — was sufficient to warrant a switch back to BC/BS, though it will mean an increase in costs to the city.

Commissioners noted that United's provider network forced most employees to travel to Panama City for basic medical services.

Further, Dr. Tom Curry of Port St. Joe, for many

employees their family doctor, is not in United's provider network.

The most significant impact, in terms of cost, will be borne by those who have their spouse on their policy, nine total employees, but those on an individual policy would see virtually no increase in premiums and lower deductibles.

Commissioners are also considering methods to offset the fact that employees have not received an increase in salary for three years.

Commissioners already approved using the 3 percent in savings the city would realize in contributions to the state retirement fund resulting from a state law that employees pay 3 percent per year toward retirement to "make employees whole,"

as Weston described it, by adding 3 percent in pretax dollars to employee pay.

While not a complete wash, it would largely make up for the 3 percent employees will have diverted from their paychecks toward retirement.

The city is considering two options for bumping pay: a 2 percent Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) increase or a lump sum bonus of \$500-\$1,000.

Commissioners were divided about the appropriate approach, with approval for one, the other or both expressed during last week's budget workshop.

A concern is that a COLA increase would be a permanent salary increase, which would be linked with increases in retirement contributions, etc.

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Growing up in Alabama, we got to go on vacations to exotic places. They were exotic to us anyway. Little boys have different opinions of what is exotic. We went to Panama City Beach, Fla., and Cherokee, N.C.

Every summer, we would head off to one or the other, sometimes both. The "launch" was always the same. We would head out with no place to stay; I think it was a game my Daddy liked to play. It was fun, sometimes it

meant sleeping on the side of the road in the station wagon, but again to a little boy, that's pretty fun. I'm the middle brother of three; there is almost 20 years difference between my oldest and youngest brothers. That meant we really didn't get to go on but one or two vacations all together. However, being the middle one, I went with both individually many times.

My Mama tells of the time that we got to Cherokee, N.C. with no place to stay and sweet Mrs. Ruth Littlejohn let us stay in her house. Mrs. Littlejohn worked at one of the places we were trying to find a room. We would know this sweet Cherokee lady for years to come. Mama and Daddy slept on a pull out sofa, my brother slept with Mrs. Littlejohn's grandsons and I slept with Mrs. Littlejohn (I was a baby). The next day, Mrs. Littlejohn found us a place to stay.

Mrs. Littlejohn became a close friend that we always stopped to see when we would go to Cherokee in the summers. We played in the creek with her grandchildren and she always knew the best fishing bait to use. Sometimes I would go with my grandparents to Cherokee alone, these were also fun times. Papa knew Chief Daniel "Boone" Hornbuckle and I would have my picture taken with him. On one occasion, I got to have my picture taken with Darby Hinton, who played "Israel Boone" on the Daniel Boone series with Fess Parker. That was a big deal, he wasn't Fess Parker, but he was his "T.V. son."

I got a coonskin cap on more than one occasion and Cherokee spears, tomahawks and drums every time I was there. One of my most vivid

memories is riding in the back of my Daddy's El Camino with my baby brother all the way to Cherokee. It was fun, we were safe and we were going to see friends. We would get to see "Unto These Hills" for the umpteenth time, but it didn't matter. Mrs. Littlejohn would have free tickets waiting for us.

Things changed over the years. The gambling folks came to town with a fancy casino and changed Cherokee's image. But the memories I have of Cherokee, N.C. and the good folks there cannot be taken away.

A friend recently made me aware of a story from the Cherokee Indians. The tale goes that an old Cherokee Indian was speaking with his grandson. It went something like this:

The grandfather said, "My son, the battle is between two 'wolves' inside us all.

"One is Evil. It is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority and ego.

"The other is Good. It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith."

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather: "Which wolf wins?"

The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed."

My good experiences with Cherokee, North Carolina and the Cherokee Indians made this really hit home with me.

Which wolf do we feed? Where does the wolf come to feed?

Does the "evil wolf" always come to the back door? Or is he brave enough to come to the front door?

What does he look like? Does the evil wolf show his teeth or is he disguised?

The wicked can only feed their evil wolf; they cannot kill the good wolf that resides within each of us.

Feed the good wolf, the wicked have made their choice on which wolf to feed.

You can find more stories at www.CranksMyTractor.com.



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Keyboard KLATTERINGS

A lesson forged of tragedy

In a little more than two weeks, the 10th anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001 will arrive.

That date which lives in infamy and has become part of the common lexicon will surely bring with it a host of remembrances and reflections on what the horror all meant, what it cost, what it has wrought in the country's psyche and pocketbook since.

There will be much talk about ensuing wars, the hunt for Osama bin Laden and the cost in blood and coin over the decade since that cataclysmic

day, when a bright, sunny morning turned to red and dust and rubble in New York and Washington D.C.

There will be special magazine editions, television specials and newspapers across the globe will set aside considerable paper and ink to provide distillations from 10 years of distance.

And surely among those many opinions from the talking heads that will permeate the public arena in the days leading up to Sept. 11, 2011 will be memories of what was and might have been.

Because in some ways, Sept. 11 brought with it a high-water mark in political discourse.

Suddenly, at least for a few days, weeks, maybe even a few months, we were as one as a country, the decibel-enhanced rhetoric that dominates the politics of Washington and trickles to Tallahassee and Gulf County placed on mute.

On Sept. 11, 2001 the country was trying to move forward from a paralyzing presidential election the year before. The 2000 election, which extended beyond election day for an agonizing month, spotlighted for all to see the deep divisions of the country.

The fight waged in the courts and the seats of power over who would reside in the White House for the ensuing four years provided sharp contrast to competing visions of governance and exposed chasms spanning between the two parties

and the constituencies they serve.

The tussle seemed to be far more than an electoral battle between two men. It was a caged steel match for contrary ideas about what government is and is not and, one could argue, a reflection of the staleness of many of those very ideas and the two parties that espouse them.

But those planes used as missiles on that fateful fall day 10 years ago changed that, at least temporarily.

Beyond the death toll in the thousands and the jarring sight of seeing two majestic towers brought crumbling to the ground, was a galvanizing call for all those who love this country and what it should stand for.

The carnage would bring ordinary Americans from around the country to Ground Zero in New York to work through the rubble, cleaning up a hallowed site while clinging to the hope that maybe, maybe, there was still life amid the ruins.

The tragedy would send many to local military recruitment offices to join the hunt for those who had killed so many.

For a brief period of time — an all too brief period of time — the halls of government were devoid of Democrats and Republicans as all became Americans united in providing the leadership the country so desperately needed.

In hindsight, some question the results, but in those dark days there was nothing but honor in the president standing in the rubble of the World Trade Center and rallying a rescue operation, a clean-up effort, an entire country to the cause of democracy and our standing as a beacon shining brightly against the backdrop of religious fanaticism.

A national telethon to benefit the victims of this act of war brought artists and politicians from across the political spectrum to a common cause.

The president and Congress found in each other not partisan bickering and infighting, but a shared commitment to pull the country forward, to set aside political differences and views to

forge a bond to act in the good of a wounded and frightened country.

And the world was with us — one of the most moving television honorifics of the time was a video of crowds around the globe demonstrating in the streets their kinship with America during that dark episode, all set against the backdrop of U2's song "One."

We were all one, at least for a brief moment in time.

And, like that, it all disappeared.

A decade later we are at war with each other and in many ways with the rest of the world. People across the globe are frightened by an economy that has imploded due to the weight and degree to which greed has returned as an operative word.

The country, and the world, is fraying as economic inequality becomes the norm. America ranks below even Iran in terms of economic equity, reaching, it would seem, to become a Third World country in terms of fiscal vision.

The political partisanship in Washington is such that just 14 percent of Americans have a favorable view of Congress.

A billionaire such as Warren Buffett can be labeled a socialist for suggesting that the super rich are being coddled by a tax code written in their favor, suggesting — gasp — that the marginal tax codes of the 1990s be restored.

A different kind of religious fervor has taken hold and intransigence is the working model in Congress, compromise a four-letter word.

The idea that we are as one as a country has been rendered hallow hyperbole by governance based less on ideas and vision than decibel level and verbal hand grenades. Washington seems as foreign to most Americans as Yemen.

The tragedy that it took an event of the proportions of 9/11 to teach us, at least for a brief period of time, that the bickering and divisiveness of the 2000 election undermined us all, made us less of a United States, is nearly equaled by the tragedy that the lesson was so quickly forgotten.

ESPN doesn't call all the shots!

The University of Miami's football program is on death alert. Coach Les Miles at Louisiana State University woke up this

week with a size ten migraine over a late night fracas involving some of his players. An assortment of off the field problems have cost Jim Tressel and Butch Davis prestigious head coaching jobs at Ohio State

and the University of North Carolina. Auburn's national championship was won amid claims their quarterback's father had demanded \$200,000 from the school for his son's talents. Reggie Bush had to return the Heisman Trophy for receiving money while at USC.

The NCAA investigation department has been busier than a BP oil spill check writing specialist.

I reckon the University of Tennessee is the only school out there that doesn't cheat. That is, of course, if you don't count hold-ups at gun point and lifting a car stereo from time to time as cheating. I was going to mention Florida State University but a couple of their players offered me a "free" pair of shoes to look the other way.

You'd think it would mar the game. All the unwelcomed and negative publicity would sicken the public's interest in football altogether. You wonder if anyone out there is playing by the rules when it comes to recruiting, academic

standards, cash limitations, housing allowances, etc. Is the game being played on the field or behind the mahogany desks in some

sports agent's office? Is the score kept on the big screen monitor high above the stadium or by how many sponsors ESPN can reel in on a Thursday night? None of that really matters to me. It hasn't for a

long time. Oh, I still love football as much as ever. I get a thrill when the Sooner Schooner comes roaring onto the field. Nothing beats letting that eagle go! The 12th man at Texas A&M is awesome. I rise to my feet when Chief Osceola sticks that spear in the ground. And I love it when the long time announcer for the University of Tennessee fairly shouts into the microphone as the kicker approaches the game opener, "IT'S FOOTBALL TIME IN TENNESSEE!"

But the game serves a much bigger purpose. And I don't care about the money, the publicity, T.V. time or what sports star can be seen dating what swimsuit model.

The ninth grader looks up at me between an array of safety bars now attached to all helmets, the sweat pouring down his little cheeks, "Coach, I don't think I can." You'd suspect it would be time for a little sympathy. He'd been running and huffing and puffing for two hours. He'd charged into dummies, hit

the sled a dozen times and tackled whatever object we could find to throw in front of him. This varsity stuff was all new to him. Most all the kids were bigger, stronger, faster. Maybe, you'd think, I could see myself in those young eyes. I was once a ragged freshman, green as they come, wondering what in the world I was doing out here amidst all this running and shouting and chaos ... You'd better believe I could relate to him. So could every youth that had ever passed this way.

"Son, suck it up! We've only just begun! You haven't seen me on a bad day yet! Who taught you how to walk? And you call yourself a football player! I've been slapped away from the supper table harder than you've hit anything today! Get the lead out! We are just getting warmed up."

The young man gets up, turns back to the task at hand and tries again, this time pouring his heart into it! People, you just think that Seminole spear sticking is exciting! You just think the Iron Bowl is a big football game! You just think playing for the national championship is a big deal! I've seen more victories in front of an old worn out blocking sled than all the wins of Nebraska, Texas and Notre Dame combined!

Don't be fooled by big advertising and BCS standings. This is still a game about kids. Every child on that field has his own story, his own feelings, his own individuality to add to the mix. He gradually comes to understand this

game is about working hard. Being dedicated to a cause. Trying. It's about overcoming some doubts. It's about being accepted by a group going through the exact same things that he is. It's about growing. It's about self discovery. It's about life. And all you've ever heard about teamwork is absolutely true!

Football is not for everyone and everyone doesn't make it. I have gone home after practice and cried because one of "the guys" decided to hang it up. It hurts when you want so badly to help and you can't. And let me tell you, I'm a very average coach. There are many in this game much more dedicated and wiser than me. As a matter of fact, I've never worked with a coach on any level that didn't love the young men first. Winning is a by product of what those coaches do.

The young 9th grader catches up with me as we walk off the field. He looks bone tired, but the smile is wide and genuine. "Coach, didn't you coach my grandfather? He said he played for you in 1972."

Ouch! "Yeah, and he didn't look no better than you did the first time I saw him in front of that sled." We walked a moment in silence, I'm sure looking at the world from very different viewpoints. "But you know what; he turned out to be a heck of a football player ... and an even better person!"

Respectfully,
Coach Kes

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

New Dollar General will offer the twice the size, nearly twice the jobs

By Valerie Garman
Star Staff Writer

Of the 9,500 Dollar General stores nationwide, less than 1 percent are known as market stores.

Port St. Joe will soon be home to a 20,000 square foot Dollar General Market Store, which will provide fresh produce, dairy products and meats in addition to the normal Dollar General merchandise.

Construction of the store is well underway at the corner of U.S. Highway 98 and Avenue D, with the walls shooting up seemingly overnight.

The market store will be more than twice the size of a regular Dollar General in terms of square footage, and will employ

about twice the staff.

The corporation hopes to have the store stocked and ready for service by November.

"We developed the market store to provide more value and a more convenient one-stop shopping experience for our customers," said Dollar General spokeswoman Emily Weiss. "So far the market stores have been very well-received by the communities."

When opening a new store, Weiss said the corporation analyzes an area's demographic trends, traffic patterns and customer needs.

"This community was a great fit for a Dollar General Market," said Weiss, who added that a typical Dollar General Market

employs about 40 people.

Those interested in employment with Dollar General are encouraged to check out the career center at www.dollargeneral.com.

"The main thing is that this is going to create jobs," said David Lee, superintendent for Concept Construction of North Florida, the Gainesville-based company overseeing the project.

Because the construction has progressed quickly, Dollar General has moved up its original completion date.

Lee said Dollar General expects the store ready for the installation of fixtures by Oct. 15.

"We've met all the schedules and demands they've laid out for us so

far," Lee said. "As long as the weather cooperates and all of our subcontractors cooperate, we will probably meet that date."

Concept Construction has overseen roughly 25 similar Dollar General Construction projects in the last year and a half, but this is the largest they have done, Lee said.

Another thing that will set this store apart will be its aesthetics, Lee said.

"Everything is going to be appealing to the eye," Lee said. "They're going to think they're at Macy's or something."

City building inspector Bo Creel said the Port St. Joe Redevelopment Agency, which worked with Dollar General and the contractor on exterior details to fit the newly-spruced



PHOTOS BY VALERIE GARMAN | The Star

The new Dollar General Market Store will be 20,000 square feet, about twice the size of a regular Dollar General Store. **BELOW:** Construction of a new Dollar General Market Store is well underway at the corner of Highway 98 and Avenue D in Port St. Joe.

downtown area, really went above and beyond to dress up the store.

"It's not going to be just a box look," Creel said. "It's going to have profile to it."



RECYCLING from page A1



VALERIE GARMAN | The Star

The recycling center at the Public Works Department at the end of 10th Street in Port St. Joe offers separate bins for plastic, aluminum and paper products.

green." Depending on participation, city officials have also expressed the desire to establish additional, more centralized drop-off points.

The bins have already been emptied three times since they have been there, a span of under three months.

"We're happy about the reaction so far," he said. "What we're doing now is we're trying to raise awareness about the new program."

But there is always room for improvement.

Weston said the city's cleanliness (or lack thereof) is a significant first impression for any visitor.

"It's a crawl, walk, run phase. We're still in the crawl phase right now."

Charlie Weston
City Manager

"It's a huge deal," Weston said. "We have so much to offer here."

In addition to the recycling program, Weston urged residents to pull in their bulky trash cans from the curb after pickup to eliminate any roadside eyesores.

"We want to attract

people to our city," he said. "(Cleanliness) helps first impressions of people riding through the city wanting to come live here or work here."

The city's new waste management contract with Waste Pro has helped fuel the new recycling initiative for the city. Waste Pro officials volunteered to take the first steps in a recycling program by establishing the two drop-off locations.

"We know there's a need for it," Weston said. "Waste Pro has really stepped up."

Weston said the city will also provide cost-effective commercial accounts for interested businesses.

"It's incumbent upon all citizens to be sensitive to the resources involved here," Weston said. "We're hoping it will take off."

Weston said adjustments can be made to make recycling easier, and he welcomes community input.

The cardboard/paper receptacles were recently lowered to help an elderly woman deposit her recyclables.

Weston also hopes to move the drop off point on Industrial Road to a more convenient, centralized location.

"It's a crawl, walk, run phase," Weston said. "We're still in the crawl phase right now."

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SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Last year the boat Gag Reflex brought in the first place kingfish, which weighed 40.35 pounds. Pictured is Chris Diehl, Russell Stewart, boat captain, Miss Kingfish Katie Prince and Larry Lemieux, who snagged the winning fish.

MBARA tourney set to go

By Tim Croft
Star News Editor

The Mexico Beach Artificial Reef Association has completed plans for the 15th Annual MBARA Kingfish Tournament which will be held Saturday, Aug. 27.

The tournament remains scheduled as organizers watch the path of Hurricane Irene.

As of Tuesday morning, the National Hurricane Center in Miami has forecast the path of Irene to impact the eastern seaboard of Florida and the Carolinas. Gulf County emergency manager Marshall Nelson said there should be no impacts from the storm in our area.

On Tuesday evening, tournament director Ron Childs said the Kingfish Tournament was a go, given forecasts that

have the storm remaining well away from the area.

"We are ready to go," Childs said. "Irene won't be a factor, and we have a great weekend ahead for fishing."

The Kingfish Tournament kicks off with the Captain's Party, and registration will be held on the Friday night prior to the tournament, though people may pre-register online or at Half Hitch Tackle or Bluewater Outrigger in Port St. Joe.

They may also register early at the Mexico Beach Marina.

"We are ready to go with great weather in the forecast and lots of people ready to catch the biggest fish," Childs said.

The kingfish tournament is the biggest fundraiser for the MBARA and is open to the public.

"Since 1997 we have built over 200 new artificial reefs with over a million dollars raised by an

all volunteer group of men and women, which is truly amazing," Childs said.

The tournament is a one-day event with the weigh-in going on from 1-5 p.m. CT at the Mexico Beach Marina in Mexico Beach.

The cost is \$150 per boat. Prizes will be awarded for the biggest King Mackerel, biggest Spanish Mackerel, and Wahoo. Fishing begins at 5 a.m. CT on Saturday morning.

Childs said, "We are expecting around 200 boats this year, so look for a 40 or 50 pounder to win it all."

The event will also complete the third leg of the Panhandle Kingfish Slam which combines weights of kingfish from three tournaments to crown a champion.

Full details can be found at the MBARA's website at www.mbara.org under Tournaments.

Island news

It has been a hot, but busy summer on St. Vincent Island.

BIRD'S-EYE VIEW



FROM ST. VINCENT ISLAND

The staff and volunteers have been busy monitoring wildlife — particularly sea turtles, birds and red wolves — and performing on-going maintenance on the island. The turtle patrol has marked 61 turtle nests, including one green turtle nest, which is a first on the island.

This season has more nests on the island than any other year in this decade. This increase in the number of turtle nests has also been noted in most other turtle egg laying areas in the state. So far, more than 1,000 hatchlings have been recorded on the island with a large number of nests still to hatch.

In early June, a lightning strike ignited a wildfire west of the cabin toward the center of the island. This fire, known as the C-4 Fire, burned 1,297 acres and was the largest documented wildfire on the island in the last 20 years. The refuge was assisted by two three-man crews and Type 6 Engines from Bog Oaks National Wildlife Refuge in Indiana and from the Bureau of Land Management.

While many high school students have been relaxing on the beach or socializing with their friends, Sylvia Sheline, a senior at Port St. Joe High School, spent eight weeks of her summer on the island working with the refuge staff. Sylvia proved to be an excellent choice for this YCC (Youth Conservation Corp) position. She assisted with turtle surveys, helped remove exotic vegetation, tracked red wolves, posted signs in closed eagle nesting areas, built protective turtle cages to protect eggs from predators and was involved in all sorts of island maintenance. Sylvia said she has lived close to the island all her life but didn't realize what was there. She didn't know you could volunteer to work on the island and had no idea how large the island was.

"I had no idea there was such depth to the island," Sylvia said. "You can't see anything but the edge of the island from C-30. There

are dunes, oak trees and so much variety on the island."

Her favorite area is the far east end of the island, so different from the pine forest area on the west end across from the Indian Pass boat ramp. Sylvia said she enjoyed every aspect of the island, including working with the refuge staff and volunteers hauling posts, tracking wolves, setting coon traps, catching mullet for bait for the traps, building hog pens and whatever else needed doing. After spending a summer on the island, Sylvia is considering being a wildlife biologist, a career those who knew her this summer hope she will pursue.

The count from the 2011 bird survey is in. It was a very active nesting season with nests and baby birds populating the nesting areas on the island. The following species were recorded on the island: anhinga, snowy egret, great egret, little blue heron, tricolored heron, cattle egret, green heron, glossy ibis, great blue, black-crowned high heron, purple gallinule and seaside sparrows.

With all the national budget cuts, the National Wildlife Refuge Association is facing the possibility of some very severe funding cuts that could even result in the closing of St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge. Though we realize that budget cuts will be necessary to help reduce the national

debt, we do hope Congress will recognize what a public treasure national wildlife refuges are. When Congress reconvenes, please let your congressmen know how much we care about these refuges, and ask them to vote "no"

on the proposed legislation, which is titled "HR 2584". You can read more about the proposed cuts and even generate a letter to your congressman at <http://refugenet.e-actionmax.com>. Click on "Protect Funding for Refuges."

The monthly island tours will resume this fall. The first will be Oct. 12. Our enhanced website will give you a lot of details about the tours plus a convenient place to sign up. Just click on "Island Tour Sign Up." The tour is free, but participants must make a reservation at www.stvincentfriends.com, and seats are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. There is a small charge for boat transportation to and from the island. Bring everything you need, including drinking water — and leave only your footprints behind.



SYLVIA SHELINE

Catfish Tournament to be held in Wewa

Star Staff Report

The Gator Classic Catfish Tournament will be held Friday, Aug. 26 and Saturday, Aug. 27 at Gaskin Park along the Apalachicola River in Wewahitchka. Registration is from 9-10 a.m. CT on Friday and the tournament begins at 4 p.m. CT the same day. The tournament ends at noon CT on Saturday, with an awards presentation upon the tournament's wrap-up.

Prizes will be awarded as fol-

lowed. For flatheads: Largest fish- \$1,400; second largest- \$900; third largest- \$850; fourth largest- \$400; and fifth largest- \$250. A \$500 prize will be given for the largest channel cat, and the individual with the most poundage of flatheads will also receive \$200.

There will be a division of the tournament for kids 14 and under with a \$300 prize for largest catfish. Prizes will be awarded for the largest five catfish.

Registration fees are \$50 per

person. All advanced entries must be postmarked by Aug. 22. Checks should be made payable to Gator Catfish Classic. Entry forms and checks can be mailed to Gator Catfish Classic, 211 North Highway 71, Wewahitchka, FL 32456. Participants may also register at Gaskin Park on the day of the tournament for \$55. The tournament benefits Wewahitchka High School Project Graduation.

For more information, call tournament chairman Dennis Peak at 850-340-1029.

FISH REPORT SPONSORED BY



As this month comes to an end, the fishing on the Forgotten Coast should improve. Water and air temps should start to decline and increase fish feeding and movement. St Joe Bay will be at a peak for scallop harvesting the next few weeks. This year's crop has been great, and many reported easy pickings and bigger meat. Redfish schools have been spotted on Town's Beach in St. Joe and at Eagle Harbor on the Cape side of the bay. These fish are on the spooky side, so light tackle and small baits should get their attention without scaring them away. Flounder gigging has been on the rise with good reports from Indian Pass and also in the bay.

Freshwater

Howard Creek and well into the river system have had success with bream, bass and even sheepshead. Catfish are abundant in the rivers and lakes, with large numbers of channel cats. Fly fishing under limbs on downed trees in Depot Creek with Bea-Bea bugs will produce a limit of red breast bream with some patience and some bug spray.

Offshore

All eyes are on the Mexico Beach kingfish tournament this weekend. Gag grouper comes back into season in just a few weeks, but after much debate, the power was decided not to open fall snapper fishing this year. Trigger fish and black sea bass are thick over the hard bottom out of Indian Pass, and this past weekend a few good kingfish were, too!



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SPECIAL TO THE STAR

PORT ST. JOE'S AAA TEAM

Port St. Joe's AAA boys do well at state

Special to The Star

After winning the district tournament against Franklin County last month, Port St. Joe's AAA team played in the state tournament in Avon Park. The first team the boys played in the tournament was maybe the only team that traveled further: Port St. Joe was the visiting team against Walton County and took advantage of that fact. The boys took a 3-0 lead in the first inning and eventually won the first game 14-3.

The second game was against the eventual state champion, West Seminole County.

"That team was clearly the best team in the tournament," manager Chris Butts said. "We could have played with anyone else down there, but they were in a class by themselves."

West Seminole beat the AAA boys by a score of 12-1. Up next for the St. Joe team was West Volusia County, another very good team.

"The game against West Volusia was as good as any Little League game I have ever seen," coach Bill Kennedy said. "It was extremely exciting, and fortunately, we won 3-1."

Coach Bryce Thomas added, "It was truly a pitch-

ing duel. They were both good, and we just made a couple of more plays."

Port St. Joe felt confident going into the fourth game against Lake Placid. It showed when they jumped out to a 6-0 lead in the first inning. That is when things turned as often happens in little league baseball and Lake Placid scored 11 unanswered runs in the next two innings to take a lead it would not relinquish.

All three AAA coaches expressed how proud they were of this group of kids.

"It will be fun watching this group get older and better over the next few years," Butts said.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SEASON KICKS OFF TONIGHT



The 2011 football season ramps up tonight, with both county public junior/senior high schools in action the next two days. Wewahitchka, shown working on linemen drills, will travel to Blountstown to take on the Tigers in a Kickoff Classic at 7 p.m. CT tonight. At 7:30 p.m. ET on Friday, Port St. Joe will play host to Cottondale in a Kickoff Classic. The regular season gets under way next Friday, when the Gators host Port St. Joe at 7 p.m. CT.

TIM CROFT | The Star

VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULES

Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High

Aug. 29 at Bay High
Sept. 6 Rutherford
Sept. 13 at West Gadsden
Sept. 15 at Liberty County
Sept. 19 at Wewahitchka
Sept. 20 at Blountstown
Sept. 21 East Gadsden
Sept. 26 at Rutherford
Sept. 27 Franklin County
Sept. 29 Liberty County
Oct. 4 Blountstown
Oct. 5 West Gadsden
Oct. 10 at Tallahassee Rickards
Oct. 11 at Franklin County
Oct. 13 at East Gadsden
Oct. 19 Bay High
Oct. 20 Wewahitchka (Dig Pink event)
Oct. 25-27 District playoffs

Wewahitchka Jr./Sr. High

Aug. 30 at Bethlehem
Sept. 1 Altha
Sept. 6 Sneads
Sept. 8 Cottondale
Sept. 12 at Liberty County
Sept. 15 at Vernon
Sept. 19 Port St. Joe
Sept. 20 at Graceville
Sept. 22 Bethlehem
Sept. 23 Tallahassee John Paul
Sept. 26 at Port St. Joe
Sept. 27 at Altha
Sept. 29 at Sneads
Oct. 4 at Cottondale
Oct. 11 Vernon
Oct. 13 Graceville
Oct. 14 at Tallahassee John Paul
Oct. 24-27 District playoffs

Shark 100 Club donates \$2,500

By Tim Croft
Star News Editor

Old money and a new year.

The Shark 100 Club provided \$2,500 last week to Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High football coach and Athletic Director Vern Barth, as the school year means a new year of fundraising for the organization that has raised an estimated \$100,000 for Tiger Shark athletics since 1986.

The \$2,500 was left over from last school year and provides a kick-start for the 2011-12 fundraising campaign.

The money will be used to defray costs for all athletic programs at Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High. Those programs receive no funding from the Gulf County School Board and must rely on boosters to bolster the bottom line.

"The Shark 100 Club has been a huge help since I've been here," Barth said. "Whatever we need, they do it, not only for football, but for all sports. All we have to do is ask, and they take care of it."

As it prepares for its 25th year of assisting Port St. Joe High athletics, the Shark 100 Club is eyeing a host of fundraising efforts in the coming year.

Other than minor expenses such as hats and programs, 100 percent of donations to the Shark 100 Club go to Port St. Joe High athletic programs. Last year, the club raised more than \$6,000.

And the club leverages some of those funds to



TIM CROFT | The Star

Shark 100 Club members Willie Ramsey and Ralph Roberson present a check for \$2,500 to Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High Athletic Director Vern Barth. The money, left over from fundraising during the 2010-11 school year, will go to benefit Tiger Shark athletic programs and signals the kickoff to another year of support for Port St. Joe High athletics.

lure in more dollars, particularly during the annual chicken dinner fundraiser, the largest fundraiser each year for the club.

Athletes in all programs at Port St. Joe High sell tickets, and the programs keep all money from ticket sales. The Shark 100 Club underwrites all the food and fixings through donations, and club members do the barbecuing.

Last year, 606 chicken dinners were sold to the public, generating \$3,600 for Port St. Joe High athletics while costing the club roughly half that amount, said Willie Ramsey, club president.

The Shark 100 Club offers several levels of participation:

Sand Shark: For a \$50 donation, any parent of a Tiger Shark athlete earns a Shark 100 hat and recognition in the football program.

Tiger Shark: For \$100, individuals, businesses and organizations receive one Shark 100 hat, two reserved home football tickets, program recognition and reserved parking at football games.

Mako Shark: For \$250, individuals, businesses and organizations receive two Shark 100 hats, two reserved seats at home football games, special program recognition and reserved parking at football games.

Bull Shark: For \$500, businesses, individuals and organizations receive two Shark 100 hats, two reserved seats at home basketball games, special program recognition and reserved parking at football games.

Checks should be sent to Shark 100 Club, P.O. Box 524, Port St. Joe, FL 32457.

Gulf/Franklin youth soccer fall registration

Star Staff Report

Final Port St. Joe Youth Soccer registration for the fall season will be held today and Friday, Aug. 25-26, from 5-7 p.m., and Saturday, Aug. 27, from 9 a.m. to noon at the STAC House.

The STAC House is on Eighth Street in Port St. Joe. Boys and girls ages 4-14 (or eighth grade) are invited to play soccer. Players must have

turned at least 4 before Aug. 1 in order to play. Bring a copy of your child's birth certificate to the registration. No experience is necessary. Registration fee is \$60 per player; sponsor fee is \$300 per team.



Coaches, referees and sponsors are needed. Please sign up at the time of registration.

For more information, contact Mike Lacour at 774-6446 or lacour6@gtcom.net.



THE PORT ST. JOE BOYS AAA BASEBALL TEAM

would like to extend a special appreciation to some very special people who stepped up and helped the team travel to the State Tournament. You all are the best! Thank you very much! Thanks also to bagging for bucks donations & those who purchased baked goods, fish and/or chicken dinners!

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Terri at Subway

William (Cy) Williams

Vision Bank

GULF PINES from page A1

question – and there were several from commissioners and city attorney Tom Gibson in reviewing the property tax records – Gibson was to research and come back with a definitive answer sometime on Wednesday, after press time for this print edition.

The question over a property tax certificate is primarily two-fold: whether a certificate holder would still have standing given the lawsuit that has spanned over more than a year to settle all claims against the hospital and lender Medical Capital, which became the owner when former owner Hu Steeley defaulted on a \$1.7 million loan; and what priority that lien might have given the city's interest.

The city has remained in the lawsuit to protect

its interest conveyed in a deed reverter clause. That clause would require the land to revert to the city if and when it was no longer used as a hospital.

After the receiver for California-based Medical Capital, which was forced into receivership over financial issues and Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) allegations, agreed to fund a phase one environmental assessment of the property nearly two months ago, the city had 60 days to take deed to the land or give up its claim.

The IRS has agreed to a payment of \$75,000 from the city to satisfy a tax bill which tallies well into six figures.

Another question about anybody asserting standing due to a property tax

“There are so many options out there, I’d like to pay off the IRS and then that will give us a chance to look at everything rationally.”

Rex Buzzett
PSJ Commissioner

certificate is whether that certificate holder would have to pay the full IRS tab for back taxes to exercise a claim.

Before questions over property taxes arose, commissioners – who were in a workshop and therefore could not take a formal vote – seemed leaning toward paying the IRS the \$75,000 to satisfy its interests and taking possession of the property with an eye toward formulating formal plans for the land in the future.

“We can squeeze out \$75,000. I don’t think it will be a problem,” said Commissioner Rex Buzzett,

alluding to money the city will see from the sale of two large generators and its claim against BP, which is close to being settled. “There are so many options out there, I’d like to pay off the IRS and then that will give us a chance to look at everything rationally.”

“I’m open to all options. Whatever is best for the city to bring (the hospital) down and get it on the tax rolls.”

Estimates for an asbestos removal survey, asbestos removal from piping, flooring and ceilings and demolition are \$202,700, with a \$17,000 credit for

materials that could be salvaged.

Adding in the IRS tax lien and the costs of surveying and platting the property, the total cost of purchase would be \$264,700, said city manager Charlie Weston.

“The caveat is that the survey would refine (the asbestos removal) figure,” Weston added. “The best estimate is that is on the high side.”

Demolition of the asphalt parking lot would likely add \$2,000-\$3,000.

In return, the proposal before commissioners Tuesday was to plat the property into five parcels, two of which would be water view lots, and sell them to realize \$240,000-\$315,000, according to estimates provided to the city by local realtors.

That number, Weston said, could increase if a third lot was also deemed water view, as Magidson and Buzzett suggested.

The overriding priori-

ty, several commissioners expressed, was to bring the hospital – closed for more than five years and showing exterior signs of decay, which were also evident on the interior during an auction last year – down and put the property back on the tax rolls during tight economic times.

“If we don’t do anything (by Sept. 2) the IRS at some point will auction the hospital off,” Magidson said. “That’s the choice, to not do anything or pay off the tax lien and have some time to maximize what we can get out of the lot.”

“Putting that property back on the tax rolls, getting rid of the hospital, which is an eyesore, we will come out to the good even if it costs us in the long run when we are able to sell it, and I think we’ll be able to make at least a small profit.”

Check back to www.starfl.com for updates.

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The 2011 Florida Scallop and Music Festival was the best yet! The Chamber Board of Directors would like to thank the entire community for its support. There were more than six thousand people in attendance on Saturday! We would also like to extend a special “Thank You” to our dedicated sponsors and volunteers. This successful event would not have been possible without your time and backing. We are already planning next year’s event and hope to outdo ourselves in 2012!

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- | | | | |
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The mission of the Gulf County Chamber of Commerce is to be an *advocate* for existing businesses and the community, a *conduit* for pursuing positive developments, and a *catalyst* for cooperation.

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Wanted: a few good young men and women

By Tim Croft
Star News Editor

County Judge Tim McFarland will be in the county high schools this week seeking a prosecutor, a defense attorney, jurors, a clerk and a bailiff.

McFarland is ramping Gulf County Teen Court back up for another year, hoping to populate the juvenile diversion program with high school juniors and seniors seeking an out-of-the-

box extracurricular activity this school year.

"I'm trying to get it cranked up again," McFarland said. "We have some Kiwanis Club volunteers who are helping out, and I appreciate that help."

Gulf County Teen Court is a diversion program for first-time misdemeanor juvenile offenders. Referrals to the program come from the Gulf County Sheriff's Office and the Port St. Joe Police Department.

"This is for first-time misdemeanor offenders so they can divert away from the judicial system and they won't have a record that will follow them around the rest of their lives," McFarland said. "Most people assume that a juvenile record does not follow you into adult life, but it does and can affect what kind of job you can get, your education."

The court is entirely operated by high school students, with

McFarland presiding over proceedings.

The prosecutor and defense attorney are teens, as are the bailiff and the clerk of the court. The jurors are also teens, some of whom have been through the Teen Court experience as a defendant.

Offenders must admit guilt to enter the program, and offenses include tobacco infractions, simple possession of marijuana, a golf cart driving infraction or

similar nonviolent and nonfelony offenses.

They are "tried" in a trial in which students do all the heavy lifting, from recording the court's proceedings to serving as a juror to prosecuting the case.

Jurors are deciding solely on sanctions. Community service and future jury duty are required sanctions for every defendant.

"They have done something

See WANTED B8

Kicking a disability

Teacher: 'We will eventually get him breaking bricks'

By Valerie Garman
Star Staff Writer

When her grandson came home from kindergarten one day with a coupon for one free karate class, Kari Summers didn't know how to tell him no.

"He said, 'Mama, I got something in my backpack, and I want to do it,'" Summers said. "And I'm thinking, how am I ever going to tell him he can't do this?"

Her 6-year-old grandson, Kaydan Haisten, has cerebral palsy, a disorder causing muscular impairment and poor coordination, confining him to a wheelchair.

"He kept saying, 'I can do it, Mama, just call the man,'" Summers said.

The man was Ralph Barwick, senior instructor of The Karate School in Port St. Joe, where he teaches Tang Soo Do, an ancient martial arts form.

Barwick caught Kaydan's attention during a karate demonstration at Port St. Joe Elementary School.

After completing a one-on-one evaluation with Kaydan, Barwick told Kaydan's grandmother he thought karate could help greatly improve Kaydan's motor skills.

A few months later, Kaydan had a breakthrough. Literally.

All students moving from a yellow belt to orange belt are required to break through



Photos by VALERIE GARMAN | The Star

Karate student Kaydan Haisten doesn't let disability keep him from attending class twice a week.

a wooden block that requires 35 pounds per square inch to dismantle. Kaydan was provided no exception to the requirement.

Barwick sensed Kaydan's nervousness as he approached the block of wood and whispered to him, "Kaydan, I believe you can do anything."

Moments later, the board was snapped down the middle.

Two years ago, Summers never imagined her grandson would be participating in karate.

Kaydan underwent major back surgery in Miami two years ago to release tightness in his muscles.

"Before the surgery, he couldn't do anything," Summers said. "All he could do was lie there."

Now Kaydan hopes to work toward breaking through bricks like his instructor can, and his grandmother hopes he will be able to walk someday.

"Kaydan has changed my life," said Barwick, who has been working with Kaydan at The Karate School for six months. "He doesn't want anything to limit him, and he wants to be treated like everyone else."

Kaydan attends The Karate School twice a week, where he

has class with other kids at the same orange belt level. Kaydan is one of the youngest and smallest students in the class, but a hard one to miss.

During his karate lessons, Kaydan uses a wheeled walker that suspends his body using a harness, so he can put some weight on his legs and perform kicks.

The students are taught to perform "spirit yells," a type of "Haiya!" that comes with the kicks and punches.

In class, Kaydan yells the loudest.

After a kick-punch sequence, he often yells "woo-hoo" while moving back to his spot.

When he lets his feet drag, Barwick reminds him to use them.

"Kick 'em high; don't you get lazy on me," Barwick said during a recent practice. Kaydan responded with a loud "Yes, sir!"

Kaydan's favorite moves to practice are kicks, even though they are often the most challenging.

"We do have to do things a bit differently because he is disabled. His kicks are limited, but he has a lot of strength in his upper body," Barwick said. "We will eventually get him breaking bricks."

Barwick also plans to teach Kaydan to take someone down if he is ever attacked, a defense mechanism that requires the victim to upset the attacker's center of gravity.

"We're not real worried about him now because he's only 6 years old and he's everybody's hero," Barwick said. "But when he goes to college, he could be considered an easy target — or so they

See KICKING B8

Paws in the Park set for Saturday

Event to benefit humane society

Star Staff Report

The St. Joseph Bay Humane Society presents the sixth annual Paws in the Park event Saturday, Aug. 27, at Centennial Park, featuring a 5K run, pet contests and plenty of food and fun.

Registration for the 5K run (with or without your dog) will begin at 6:30 a.m. ET, with the race beginning at 7:30 a.m. ET, followed by a one-mile fun run/walk.

Breakfast will be served immediately after the run until 11 a.m., and homemade desserts will be available for purchase throughout the event.

The day continues with many contests for pooches and owners, including best-dressed dog, best tricks and a pet/owner look-alike contest.

There will be vendors and demonstrations throughout the day. Cost is \$2 for adults, and children under 15 and dogs attend free. There is a \$15 fee to participate in the race (\$20 the day of). All proceeds will help needy animals in Gulf County. Entry forms for the race are available online or at the St. Joseph Bay Humane Society, 1007 10th St. in Port St. Joe.

For more information about the event or to download a run entry form, visit BowWowBash.org.



FILE PHOTO

More than 50 owners and their dogs participated in last year's 5K run.

Downtown Art Stomp planned

Night of art, music, shopping, dining in downtown Port St. Joe on Sept. 2

Star Staff Report

Gulf Alliance for Local Art's First Fridays, with its home at the historic Port Inn's Thirsty Goat, will be busting at the seams and overflowing onto Reid Avenue and throughout downtown Labor Day weekend.

Locals and visitors are encouraged to travel throughout downtown from 5-8 p.m. ET Friday to find numerous shops and restaurants presenting a multidiscipline showing of artwork and live music, with great sales, culinary delights and plenty of drink specials to quench the thirst.

As folks make their way throughout downtown, they'll be greeted with a free appetizer and beverage at each participating business and find the sounds of live music

carrying them down the street. Music will be in the courtyard between No Name Cafe and Bow Wow Beach Shop, as well as at the corner of Second Street at Steamers Hot Dogs.

First Fridays headquarters, the Thirsty Goat, will be jammin' from 7-11:30 p.m. with world-class music act Randall "Big Daddy" Webster and the Professor Joel Johnson. Keep your eyes open for more details in the coming days, including art showcase highlights, live music details, restaurant specials, and the happenings and drink specials offered by our downtown bars.

Shop, dine and unwind in Historic Downtown Port St. Joe this Labor Day weekend.

For more information or to participate, contact Amber Davis at 541-3981 or ADavis@StateCraft.us.



Kaydan, a first-grader at Port St. Joe Elementary, recently received his orange belt by "flat-palming" through a wooden beam.

KENT-LOCHER TO WED



As unique as a seashell, as deep as the sea, as eternal as the waves, our love is meant to be. It is with joy that the parents of Amanda Kent and Weston Locher announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Terese Kent of Port St. Joe and Doug Kent of Wewahitchka. Miss Kent is a graduate of

Port St. Joe High School and Full Sail University. She is a freelance graphic designer.

The groom is the son of Paul and Anne Locher of Wooster, Ohio. He is a graduate of Waynedale High School and Full Sail University, where he is employed.

A Sept. 17, 2011, wedding is planned to take place in Port St. Joe. The couple will make their home in Orlando.

COLLINS-ANDERSON TO WED



Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Collins, Sr. of Port St. Joe, formerly of Cairo, Ga., are pleased to announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Tessa Alicia Collins, to James (Jim) Andrew Anderson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Anderson, also of Port St. Joe.

Tessa is the granddaughter of the late Lamar Clark of Cairo and Delores Faye Clark, formerly of Cairo and who now resides in Port St. Joe, and the late Malvin Collins, Sr., and Gertrude Collins of Whigham, Ga.

Jim the grandson of Tommy and Evelyn Stansel of Port St. Joe and the late Hershel and Nadine Anderson, also of Port St. Joe.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Rutherford

High School in Panama City. She is a graduate of Gulf Coast State College and the University of North Florida in Jacksonville with a bachelor's degree in business administration in marketing. Tessa has recently completed the Educator Preparation Institute at Gulf Coast State College and is pursuing a career in education.

Her fiancé is a graduate of Port St. Joe High School. He is a graduate of Florida State University with a bachelor's degree in political science. Jim is currently employed with the City of Port St. Joe as City Clerk.

An October 1, 2011, beachside wedding is planned at the El Governor Motel at 5:30 p.m. EST. All friends and family are invited.

Society BRIEFS

Star Staff Reports

Book signing '40s night launch party

Author Michael Lister will be reading from and signing his latest novel, "The Big Goodbye," a romantic thriller set in Panama City in 1943 at a '40s Night Party at City Arts Cooperative on Friday, Sept. 2, from 6-10 p.m. CT. This exciting event will include live '40s music, '40s-era art by local artists, film noir, costume contests, games, prizes and food.

Step back into the Panama City of the past.

2011 annual Noma community reunion

The annual Noma Community Reunion will be held in the Noma Town Hall building on Saturday, Sept. 3. The town hall will open at 10 a.m. CT, and lunch will be served at noon.

All past and present residents and their friends are cordially invited to attend. People planning to attend are asked to bring a well-filled basket of their favorite dishes. Also, please bring tea, if that is the beverage you prefer. Soft drinks, ice, cups, plates and eating utensils will be furnished.

Anyone desiring additional information is urged to contact Ludine Riddle at 850-974-8438.

Special to The Star

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Nearly 1.5 million families have been able to positively change their financial situation through Financial Peace University (FPU), the 13-week course taught by Dave Ramsey on DVD.

FPU teaches families and individuals common-sense principles like how to make a plan with their money so they are able to free themselves of debt and build lasting wealth.

FPU is available for churches, military, non-profit agencies, and businesses.

FPU will be held in Port St. Joe at First United Methodist Church, 1009 Constitution Drive in Port St. Joe. A free preview session will be held Monday, Aug. 29, at 6:15 p.m. ET. The classes will begin Wednesday, Sept. 7, at 6:30 p.m. Please call 850-227-1724 for more information or to register.

Dave Ramsey knows firsthand what it is like to be broke and hopeless. Because of his experiences, he decided to help other people change the way they handle their money and began teaching FPU in 1994.

After each lesson there is a small group discussion that provides accountability and

encouragement.

Topics include saving for emergencies, budgeting, relationships and money, and getting out debt.

"FPU is a fun and easy-to-understand program. Whether you are deeply in debt or financially secure, FPU will help you gain a new perspective on how to handle your money," comments Ramsey. "These lessons are especially essential right now as people are trying to regain control of their finances."

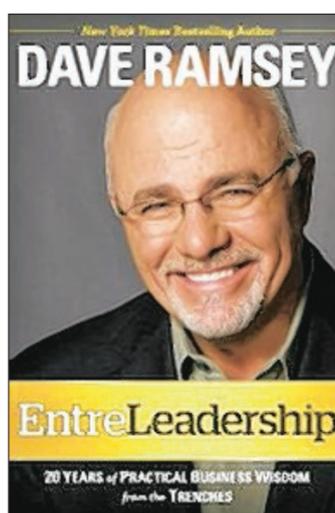
The current economy has people feeling more hopeless than ever when it comes to their money. In an effort to recover the economy from the ground up, Ramsey has begun The Great Recovery that challenges individuals to take personal responsibility for their finances and leaders to educate others about finances through programs such as FPU.

Each class participant needs a kit that includes a lifetime family membership to FPU, an FPU workbook, an FPU envelope system, 13 audio lessons, bonus CD, budgeting forms, debit card holders and Ramsey's best-selling book – Financial Peace.

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business. He's written three New York Times best-selling books: "Financial Peace," "More Than Enough" and "The Total Money Makeover."

His latest book, "EntreLeadership," will be released in September 2011. The Dave Ramsey Show is heard by more than 4.5 million listeners each week on more than 450 radio stations. Follow Dave on Twitter at @DaveRamsey and on the web at daveramsey.com.

PET OF THE WEEK

St. Joseph Bay Humane Society



MEET PERSIA!

Meet the lovely Persia. She is a very sweet girl. Persia is around a year old. She walks very well on her leash and listens to basic commands intently. Persia loves to be petted and craves affection. She loves teenagers and loves to play with them. Give this girl a chance to show her love. If you are interested in Persia or any of our other

wonderful pets, please do not hesitate to contact us. PLEASE HELP US! If you are not able to adopt a pet then please help us save a life by sponsoring one today just Contact Melody at 227-1103 or Shelter Mom Melissa at 625-5676 for more information on how to help! You may also find more information about our other dogs and cats we have here on our website at www.SJBHumaneSociety.org. Our hours for the shelter are Tuesday-Saturday from 10 am-4 pm! Also Faith's Thrift Hut is in great need of donations also and all the proceeds go directly to support the animals in our care! Faith's Thrift Hut Has Expanded! We now have more furniture & appliances. Plus lots of other great thrift store treasures. The hours for the store are Thursday-Saturday from 10 am-3 pm. Volunteers are always welcome at both our store and our shelter! Our store and shelter location is 1007 Tenth Street in Port St. Joe! Hope to see you all there soon!

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Tools for Schools

Special to The Star

Because it cares about the future of students and the community, Superior Bank is partnering with Port St. Joe Elementary School to provide supplies for students in need. Please join us by bringing school supplies to Superior Bank, 418 Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Blvd. in Port St. Joe. The branch phone number is 227-1416.

Look for the colorful collection boxes in the bank lobby. The boxes will be in place through Aug. 31.

Please bring any of the following supplies: backpacks (no rolling backpacks), Crayola crayons (8-count large or 24-count), Crayola markers, colored pencils, composition books (wide-ruled, not spiral), divider tabs, Germ-X, glue (Elmer's School), glue sticks, highlighters, Kleenex, notebook paper (regular-ruled loose leaf; wide-ruled loose leaf; or wide-ruled single-subject spiral), pencils (jumbo and No. 2 with erasers), pens (blue, black or red), pocket folders, scissors (Fiskars blunt tip or regular tip), Ziploc bags (quart or gallon), three-ring binders (2-inch rings) and three-ring notebooks with subject dividers.

Kids' College expands beyond summer camp

Special to The Star

Kids' College is not just a summer camp anymore! The Continuing Education Department at Gulf Coast State College has added fun new courses just for kids.

Musical Theatre is an after-school workshop where students will delve into the art of dancing, singing and acting. During this 10-week workshop, students will learn proper vocal and acting techniques and prepare for a grand finale showcase performance at GCSC. A few of the course highlights include focusing on improvisation, pantomime, monologue, scene work, stage movement, singing and speaking voice development. Plus, students will gain important tips on auditioning techniques to prepare them for future plays and musicals. Classes start in September, meet once a week for one hour and are limited to 16 students.

Halloween Horror Treats is a delicious new class where kids take "sweet" revenge on all the ghosts and goblins that can make Halloween so horrifying. Students will learn how to create edible eyes, monster toes, sweet skulls and more. This no-bake cooking class is open to students between 6 and 11 years old who want to have some Halloween fun and make yummy treats. Class is limited to 20 students.

For more information or to register, visit www.gulfcoast.edu/kidscollege, contact the Continuing Education Department at 872-3823 or email continuinged@gulfcoast.edu.



FCS goes back to school

By Kathleen Sarmiento
Special to The Star



The Lion's Tale

WOO HOO! Our first week of school was most EXCELLENT! School was kicked off bright and early Monday morning with a welcome back assembly and the dedication and presentation of yearbooks. Thanks again to Mr. Mike Chisholm, this year's honoree, for the sacrificial service given to Faith Christian School.

On Monday, we began passing out brochures for the magazine sales fundraiser. In a few weeks, look for the envelopes in the mail to order your favorite magazines for yourself or as gifts.

On Friday and Saturday, Sept. 2-3,

FCS will be having our second annual Labor Day Weekend Yard Sale. This was a fundraising favorite for everyone. Free coffee and a bake sale will be offered while you shop. We are now accepting donations of all kinds, and tax receipts are available. Please call 229-6707 if you would like to schedule a pick-up or would like more information.



SPECIAL TO THE STAR

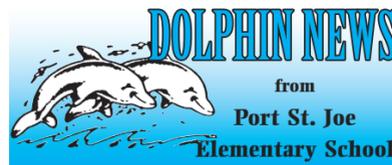
Bobby Pickels, community relations representative for Progress Energy, presents a check for \$1,000 to Port St. Joe Elementary School Principal Sue Gannon.

Progress Energy donates to PSJES

Star Staff Report

Port St. Joe Elementary School would like to thank Progress Energy for their \$1,000 donation to our school. School staff members understand how tough times are now for businesses, and the interest in the school and students is appreciated.

School administrators and faculty believe the students are very important to the school and community. Some other supporters are Current Solutions of the Gulf Coast, Vision Bank, Clayton Concrete Inc., Bo Know Pest Control Inc.,



Persnickety LLC, Metcalf Electric & A/C, Farnsley & Johnson Wealth Management Consultants, Centennial Bank, Scott's Quality Electric and Wood Fisheries.

Thanks again for building a business partnership with PSJES.

2011 ACT SCORES		
Category	District	State
English	19.8	18.8
Mathematics	19.4	19.9
Reading	20.8	20.2
Science	20.1	19.1
Composite	20.2	19.6

Gulf students shine on ACT

Special to The Star

The American College Testing Program (ACT) has released its College Readiness Letter for Gulf School District. This letter reflects the achievement of our 2011 graduates on the ACT and the extent to which they are prepared for college-level work. The ACT consists of curriculum-based tests of educational development in English, mathematics, reading and science designed to measure the skills needed for success in first-year college coursework.

The 2011 graduates outscored the state in three of the four areas and in the composite.

The report also supports the value added by taking algebra 1 and 2, geometry, trigonometry and three sciences including biology and chemistry.

The 2010 scores indicate the district was slightly behind the state composite score by .1, but this year our students surpassed the state average by .6, which is a significant gain. This gain validates the curriculum and commitment of teachers and students to excellence.



PSJHS SGA says thanks

Star Staff Report

The Student Government at Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High School would like to thank the following businesses and community members for their contribution to their First Day of School Celebration:

Gulf County Tourist Development Council, John C. Gainous VFW Post #10069, Highland View Church of God, Peak's Unlimited, G3 Real Estate, The Port Fine Wine & Spirits, Persnickety, Driftwood Inn, Daly's Water Sports, Beach Properties, Sea/Tow, Mexico Beach Marina, Centennial Bank, Piggly Wiggly, Long Avenue Baptist Church, Mexico Beach Sundance Realty, Steamers, BJ's Auto Repair, Vision Bank, No Name Café, Capital City Bank, Raffield Fisheries, Deeson A/C & Heating, Mize Plumbing, Sister's Restaurant & Catering, BloomingTails, Carpet Country, Pristine Pools & Spa, CVS Pharmacy, 5 Star Paint & Collision Centre, Gulf Foods, Ace Hardware, Sharon's Café, Lisa at the Chair on Reid, Aqua Adventure, Bay Breeze Antiques, The Fish House, Bayside Florist & Gifts, Shell Shack, Parker Realty of Mexico Beach, Lee's Auto Repair, Port St. Joe Marina, Cathey's Ace Hardware, Ganny and Wewa Mom.

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THE LORD IS OVER ALL

The Lord is sovereign over all.
Every one has to answer to His final call.
He's coming back and there will be judgment day.
But many things can happen before He comes back this way.
The bars want to make more money,
The booze hounds want more booze.
Remember the story about old St. Joseph,
it's a good way for us to lose.
Some of the booze hounds will call themselves a Christian is what gets my goat.
When the Lord gets through with them,
they'll be like the prodigal son eating with the rest of the shoats.
God will let us go just so far.
I hope when He returns that you're not in a bar.
Folks, I've been there and done that, I know of what I speak.
He'll save your soul and turn your life around,
if you just ask and seek.
He's coming soon, please don't wait.
Even a day might be too late.

—Billy Johnson

The Christian CONSCIENCE

Is anyone reading their Bible?

Is anyone in this area reading their Bible — perhaps a good Bible like the KJV and the NKJV? My style, calling a spade a spade, here on the Christian Conscience, and on Facebook, and on the internet, frequently generates responses. Some of those responses are sensible, and are based upon the weight of Scripture. Others are based on nothing more than emotion, and opinion that has no basis in Scripture. This latter type is frequently very hostile, and disrespectful.

I get lots of positive responses "likes" from those who have some sense about what is taught in the Bible. Usually their responses contain one or more Scripture references, to support their opinions. I can see why some religious leaders don't want their followers to get on the internet, and it has nothing to do with pornography. They know that they will lose followers, once they have been confronted with the truth from the Bible, as presented by many real Christian ministries.

Maybe, I was naive, but I used to believe that priests, pastors and other religious leaders, were among those who would take a strong public stand, against the evil around them. Now, I am beginning to wonder, if the public positions, which some in the clergy take on various issues, depends more on the size of the offerings, from certain individuals. Don't think for a

moment, that I take any pleasure in saying these things. God knows that I wish, oh how I wish, I could place my stamp of approval on the many clergy in this area who promote righteousness and holiness. But I can't.

Not too long ago, a pastor in this area was heard telling a youth group of about 20 that, "Don't worry, you're all saved." (He knew full well that nearly all of these youths were involved in sexual relationships with their boyfriends/girlfriends.) The last I knew, the Bible called this fornication, and indicated that those who did these things cannot inherit the kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 6:9-10). Not too long after that, He was heard telling the adults in his church that they needed to pray for the youths in the church, because they were "all messed up." I guess truth depends upon to whom one is talking! No wonder this pastor, and a number of others, don't want their members reading the Christian Conscience!

Is there anyone out there that isn't aware that God's judgment is coming soon? How many out there can say what Paul spoke to the Corinthians, "And, such were some of you." If that's what you were, and you have been changed, that's good. But, if that's what you still are, I wouldn't want to be in your shoes!

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 T.J. 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, look for Tim Morrill
www.mexicobeachcwc.com

Faith BRIEFS

Men's Day at Zion Fair Missionary Baptist Church

The Zion Fair Missionary Baptist Church will celebrate their annual Men's Day on Sunday, Aug. 28 at 11 a.m. ET, with guest speaker the Rev. Jerome Williams of Mount Calvary Baptist Church in Panama City. The theme for Men's Day, "Trusting in God," invites men and all who profess to be Christians to acknowledge God in

all ways and he shall direct our path.
On behalf of the men of Zion Fair, you are invited to come and be blessed and help us celebrate our annual Men's Day. The event will be held at the church, located at 280 Avenue C in Port St. Joe.

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

Obituary

James Thomas 'Bo' Moon

James Thomas "Bo" Moon, 45, of McDonough, Georgia passed away Aug. 13, 2011.

Bo was born in Grayson, Ga. and served six years in the United States Army as a combat engineer.

During this period he was awarded the Army Service ribbon, National Defense Service medal, Army Achievement Medal, 3rd award, Drivers badge with "T" device, Overseas Service ribbon, 2nd award, Army Good

Conduct, 2nd award, Non-commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, French Armed Forces Commando badge and Army Commendation medal.

Bo touched the lives of everyone around him and with his special brand of humor he could always put a smile on anyone's face.

He is survived by his wife, Joni C. Moon; daughter, Brittany L. Moon; a son and daughter-in-law, James Travis

Moon and Ashley Moon; a granddaughter Elaina C. Moon; his mother Nellie and step-father Jack Williams; father in-law and mother in-law, Willard J. and Carolyn Watson of Wewahatchka, Fla.; brothers Charles Moon (Laurie), Sean Gowan, and Zack Bissonette; sister Carol Garvey (Joe); sister in-law Rhonda Alderman (Adam); and numerous friends.

Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, Aug. 17, at 3 p.m. ET from

the Chapel of Haisten Funeral Home. Mr. Charles Roberts officiated. Friends visited the family one hour prior to the service.

Graveside services were conducted Friday, Aug. 19, at 11 a.m. from the Holly Hill Cemetery in Port St. Joe.

Haisten Funeral Home of McDonough, Georgia and Comforter Funeral Home of Port St. Joe are in charge of arrangements, www.haistenfunerals.com.

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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 Evening Worship6 p.m.
Sunday Morning Worship11 a.m.	Wednesday Evening Service 7 p.m.

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Sunday Night Prayer 6pm
Wednesday 7pm

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Constitution and Monument Port St. Joe
(850) 227-1724

Sunday:
Contemporary Service 9:00 a.m. ET
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m. ET
Traditional Worship: 11:00 a.m. ET

Wednesday:
Youth: 5:30 p.m. ET
Choir: 7:00 p.m. ET

Rev. Mac Fulcher
Pastor

Ann Comforter
Music Director

Jeremy Dixon
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

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.

Pastor Josh Fidler

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

Faith Bible Church
www.faithbiblepsi.net
801 20th Street, Port St. Joe, Fl. (850) 229-6707

9:45 AM.....	Sunday School
10:30 AM.....	Fellowship Breakfast
11:00 AM.....	Worship
6:00 PM.....	Worship

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613 Madison Street PSJ, FL 32456 (850) 227-1837

Schedule of Worship Services

Sunday	
Sunday School	9:00 AM
Morning worship all ages	10:00 AM
Wednesday	
Mid Week Bible Study	6:00 PM
Elective Adult Classes	6:00 PM
Children & Youth Ministry	6:00 PM

Nursery provided for all services

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	Wednesday
Sunday School..... 9:00 am	Wednesday Night Supper..... 5:00 - 6:15 pm
Worship Service..... 10:30 am	Children's Choir..... 5:45 - 6:10 pm
Sunday Night Awana..... 5 pm - 7 pm	Nursery..... 6:00 - 7:30 pm
Youth Groups..... 5:30 pm	AWANA's..... 6:15 - 7:30 pm
www.fbcpsj.org	Surrender Student Ministry..... 6:15 - 7:30 pm
	The Unshakable Truth Journey..... 6:15 - 7:30 pm
	Celebration Choir Rehearsal..... 6:30 - 7:30 pm
	Prayer Meeting..... 6:30 - 7:30 pm
	"Praise Band"..... 7:30 - 9:00 pm
	(Rehearsal in Sanctuary)

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

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

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Some tips for summer gardening

By Roy Lee Carter
County Extension Director

Late summer is a hard time to get inspired about working in the garden. It's really an in-between season, too late for summer flowers, and too early for winter varieties.

But most of all, it's just too hot to spend much time working outdoors. However, there are plenty of easy jobs in the garden that really need to be done at this time.

My information was provided by Retired by Emeritus Professor Dr. Robert Black, of the University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, IFAS.

If you're growing roses, it's a good idea to prune them late in

August. Remove the healthy top growth, as well as the dead twigs and branches, and any diseased, injured, thin or spindly growth. Shorten the main canes and lateral branches.

Leave at least half the length of each main cane that's one to three years old.

If you follow these pruning recommendations, the first flowers can be expected in eight or nine weeks.

And the flowers will be larger than they would have grown without the pruning.

If you're growing mums or poinsettias, this is the last month that you should pinch these plants



ROY LEE CARTER
County extension director

to increase blooms.

We've talked about this in previous articles, so you may remember that pinching back the stem tips will increase blooms.

We've talked about this in previous articles, so you may remember that pinching back the stems tips will increase branching, and promote heavier flowering in the late fall.

But don't wait too long before you do this. Otherwise you'll be pinching off the flower buds instead of the stem tips and this will reduce the number of flowers that bloom in the fall.

August is also the time to pinch off some of the buds on your camellias.

As soon as you can distinguish the rounded flower buds from the pointed vegetative bud, twist off all but one of the flower buds at each tip.

The remaining bud should develop into a large flower, so be very careful not to injure it.

Some flowers, such as Sasanquas and Japonicas, are valued for their large number of blooms, and don't need to be pinched.

Many common ornamentals, such as Oleander, Hydrangeas and Azaleas can be propagated by cuttings this time of year.

For Azaleas, take tip cuttings, three to five inches long, with several leaves still attached.

Place the cuttings in a rooting medium and keep them moist by covering them with a plastic bag,

or using a mist system.

Many rooting mediums can be used. The most common are sand, and mixtures of peat and perlite.

You might want to use a rooting hormone to hasten root growth.

If you have any cold sensitive ornamentals in your landscape, you might think about rooting a few cuttings before winter, and keeping the young plants in a protected place.

That way if your ornamental plants freeze you'll have replacements for the spring.

If you want to plant things during August, you might try bulbs of Louisiana Iris, Ginger, Crinum, Daylilies, Amaryllis and Zephyr Lilies.

You can still plant

woody ornamentals as well, but hurry up so that they'll have a chance to become well established before the winter comes.

Now is also the time to plan for your winter annuals, such as Baby's Breath, Calendulas, and Pansies.

Start ordering your seeds and preparing the flower beds now.

Keep a careful watch for insects on your lawn and shrubbery.

Late summer is when chinch bugs and male crickets are very active on lawns, and white flees, scales, aphids and caterpillars are damaging ornamentals.

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

Arrest REPORT

The Gulf County Sheriff's Office will be conducting vehicle safety checkpoints and DUI check points during the months of August and September 2011. The check points will be held throughout the county to include Highway 98 near St. Joe Beach, Highway 98 and Garrison Ave, C-30 Simmons Bayou, Highway 71 North of White City, Highway 22 and Highway 22A, Highway 71 and Westarm Creek, Highway 71 Dalkieth Area and Highway 71 near the Calhoun line.

Aug. 2

Clyde Randall McDaniel, 47, was arrested for the second time in two days for driving on a suspended or revoked driver's license.

Samuel Allen Melvin, 21, was arrested on a warrant from Washington County for violation of community control.

James Anthony Reagan, 40, was

arrested on a violation of probation and a failure to pay child support warrant.

Aug. 3

Michael Sterling Teston, 34, was arrested on three warrants for failure to appear; all warrants were for retail theft.

Timothy Carson O'Bryan Sr. and Timothy Carson O'Bryan, Jr., were arrested on charges of domestic battery.

Aug. 4

Casey J. Trickey, 30, was arrested on a warrant for failure to pay child support.

Aug. 6

Matthew Robert Milton, 31, was arrested for Driving under the Influence; he refused a breath test.

Aug. 8

Kevin Edward Lamb, 32, was

arrested for violation of probation; he was on probation for lewd and lascivious battery.

Richard Ralph Holley, 41, was arrested for failure to pay child support.

John Dalton Richter, 20, was arrested on warrants for burglary, dealing in stolen property and grant theft in relation to a burglary that occurred in November of last year in the Overstreet area.

Ramon Aguilar Alvarez, 40, was arrested on charges of DWLSR and DUI. Alvarez crashed his vehicle on Hwy 71 near Ourtown Road. He is currently being held for Immigration and will be deported.

Aug. 9

Zachery Zacchaeus Lee, 22, was arrested on a warrant for petit theft. Paula Suzanne Aull was arrested on a violation of probation warrant.

WEEKLY ALMANAC

Date	High	Low	% Precip
Thu, Aug 25	90°	74°	20 %
Fri, Aug 26	92°	78°	0 %
Sat, Aug 27	91°	78°	0 %
Sun, Aug 28	90°	77°	0 %
Mon, Aug 29	90°	76°	10 %
Tues, Aug 30	89°	76°	0 %
Wed, Aug 31	88°	75°	0 %

TIDE TABLES MONTHLY AVERAGES

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

Cat Point	High	Low
East Pass	Minus 0:40	Minus 1:17
	Minus 0:27	Minus 0:27

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

Bald Point	High	Low
	Minus 9:16	Minus 0:03

St. Joseph Bay

Date	Time	Height	Type	Time	Height	Type
8/25	Thu	07:20AM	2.0	H	05:43PM	0.0 L
8/26	Fri	08:18AM	2.0	H	06:16PM	0.0 L
8/27	Sat	09:17AM	2.0	H	06:44PM	0.2 L
8/28	Sun	10:22AM	1.8	H	07:04PM	0.4 L
8/29	Mon	11:37AM	1.6	H	07:04PM	0.8 L
8/30	Tue	12:26AM	0.9	H	04:58AM	0.8 L
		01:15PM	1.3	H	06:19PM	1.0 L
8/31	Wed	11:53PM	1.2	H	07:03AM	0.6 L

Apalachicola Bay, West Pass

Date	Time	Height	Type	Time	Height	Type
8/25	Thu	03:31AM	1.4	H	06:56AM	1.5 L
		11:48AM	1.6	H	08:38PM	0.1 L
8/26	Fri	03:54AM	1.4	H	07:58AM	1.4 L
		01:01PM	1.7	H	09:20PM	0.1 L
8/27	Sat	04:13AM	1.4	H	08:47AM	1.2 L
		02:07PM	1.7	H	09:57PM	0.1 L
8/28	Sun	04:30AM	1.4	H	09:32AM	1.1 L
		03:09PM	1.7	H	10:31PM	0.3 L
8/29	Mon	04:44AM	1.4	H	10:15AM	0.9 L
		04:09PM	1.7	H	11:03PM	0.4 L
8/30	Tue	04:59AM	1.5	H	11:00AM	0.7 L
		05:09PM	1.7	H	11:32PM	0.7 L
8/31	Wed	05:17AM	1.5	H	11:49AM	0.5 L
		06:11PM	1.6	H	11:59PM	0.9 L

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Sacred Heart to host a diabetes class Aug. 30

Star Staff Report

Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf and Jenny Stuckey, registered nurse and certified diabetes educator, will host a diabetes self-management class on Tuesday, Aug. 30, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. EDT in the conference room at the hospital. A physician's referral is required to attend.

For more information call Ruthie Rhodes at 229-5620 or Jenny Stuckey at 278-3683. For more information about Sacred Heart, please visit www.sacredheartonthegulf.org.

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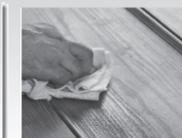
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LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

3387S NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Plymouth Park Tax Services LLC the holder of the following Tax Certificate, has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No. 516

Application No. 2011-07

Year of Issuance: 2009

R.E. No. 02729-000R

Description of Property: South 1/2 of the West 1/2 of the East 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 13, Township 5 South, Range 10 West, Gulf County, Florida.

Name in which assessed: Willie Nobles & Dorothy Ruth Nobles

All of said property being in Gulf County, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate will be sold to the highest bidder in the front Lobby of the Gulf County Courthouse, 1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Blvd., Port St. Joe, Florida at 11:00 AM, E.T., Wednesday, the 7th day of September, 2011.

Dated this 25th day of July, 2011.

REBECCA L. NORRIS CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT, GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA BY: Donna L. Ray, Deputy Clerk August 4, 11, 18, 25, 2011

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

3388S NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Plymouth Park Tax Services LLC the holder of the following Tax Certificate, has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No. 589

Application No. 2011-08

Year of Issuance: 2009

R.E. No. 03083-780R

Description of Property: Unit 16, EAGLE LANDING SUBDIVISION, according to the map or plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 6, Page 51, of the Public Records of Gulf County, Florida.

Name in which assessed: Sand Castle Developers LLC/Swiftwater LLC

All of said property being in Gulf County, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate will be sold to the highest bidder in the front Lobby of the Gulf County Courthouse, 1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Blvd., Port St. Joe, Florida at 11:00 AM, E.T., Wednesday, the 7th day of September, 2011.

Dated this 25th day of July, 2011.

REBECCA L. NORRIS CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT, GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA BY: Donna L. Ray, Deputy Clerk August 4, 11, 18, 25, 2011

3460S NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Plymouth Park Tax Services LLC the holder of the following Tax Certificate, has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

lows:

Certificate No. 1326

Application No. 2011-17

Year of Issuance: 2009

R.E. No. 06268-044R

Description of Property: COMMENCE at the Northwest Corner of Section 7, Township 9 South, Range 11 West, Gulf County, Florida, and thence North 00 Degrees 04 Minutes 21 Seconds East along the West boundary line of Section 6, Township 9 South, Range 11 West, for 1341.09 feet to the Southwesterly right of way line of County Road No. 30-E, thence run along said right of way boundary as follows: South 23 Degrees 25 Minutes 11 Seconds East 1642.44 feet to a point of curve to the left, thence Southeast 11426.79 feet thru a central angle of 00 Degrees 29 Minutes 20 Seconds for an arc distance of 97.50 feet, thence continue along said curve with a radius of 11426.79 feet thru a central angle of 00 Degrees 29 Minutes 54 Seconds for an arc distance of 99.39 feet, thence leaving said right of way boundary, run South 66 Degrees 05 Minutes 29 Seconds West 520.00 feet; thence run South 23 Degrees 54 Minutes 31 Seconds East 53.35 feet to a rod and cap for the POINT OF BEGINNING. From said POINT OF BEGINNING continue South 23 Degrees 54 Minutes 31 Seconds East 46.01 feet to a rod and cap, thence run South 66 Degrees 09 Minutes 06 Seconds West 267.93 feet to the approximate mean high waterline of the Gulf of Mexico, thence run North 19 Degrees 21 Minutes 28 Seconds West along said approximate mean high waterline 35.62 feet, thence run North 14 Degrees 39 Minutes 38 Seconds West along said approximate mean high waterline 10.81 feet, thence run North 66 Degrees 10 Minutes 13 Seconds East 263.37 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING. Containing 0.28 of an acre more or less. ALSO: DESCRIPTION: 12 FOOT INGRESS/EGRESS EASEMENT A parcel of land lying and being in Section 7, Township 9 South, Range 11 West, and Section 12, Township 9

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South, Range 12 West, Gulf County, Florida, and being more particularly described as follows: COMMENCE at the Northwest Corner of said Section 7, Township 9 South, Range 11 West, and thence North 00 Degrees 04 Minutes 21 Seconds East along the West boundary line of Section 6, Township 9 South, Range 11 West, for 1341.09 feet to the Southwesterly right of way line of County Road No. 30-E, thence South 23 Degrees 25 Minutes 11 Seconds East along said right of way line for 1642.44 feet to a point of curve; thence continue along said right of way line along the arc of a curve to the left which has a radius of 11,426.79 feet and a central angle of 00 Degrees 29 Minutes 20 Seconds for an arc length of 97.50 feet; thence continue along said curve to the left which has a radius of 11,426.79 feet and a central angle of 00 Degrees 29 Minutes 54 Seconds for an arc length of 99.39 feet, thence leaving said right of way line, South 66 Degrees 05 Minutes 29 Seconds West for 520.00 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING, thence South 23 Degrees 54 Minutes 31 Seconds East for 53.35 feet, thence South 66 Degrees 05 Minutes 29 Seconds West for 12.00 feet; thence North 23 Degrees 54 Minutes 31 Seconds West for 53.35 feet; thence North 68 Degrees 05 Minutes 29 Seconds East for 12.00 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

ALSO:

A 12' Easement for the Ingress and Egress as described in the Public Records of Gulf County, Florida, at O. R. Book 176, Page 310-321, located between County Road C-30 and the property described above.

Name in which assessed: Richard J. Nelson III & Theresa R. Nelson

All of said property being in Gulf County, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate will be sold to the highest bidder in the front Lobby of the Gulf County Courthouse,

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1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Blvd., Port St. Joe, Florida at 11:00 AM, E.T., Wednesday, the 14th day of September, 2011.

Dated this 1st day of August, 2011.

REBECCA L. NORRIS CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT, GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY: Donna L. Ray, Deputy Clerk August 11, 18, 25, 2011 Sept 1, 2011

3399S NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Plymouth Park Tax Services LLC the holder of the following Tax Certificate, has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No. 411

Application No. 2011-12

Year of Issuance: 2009

R.E. No. 02387-000R

Description of Property: Lots 7 and 8, of Block 1 of Harden's Addition to the City of Wewahitchka, according to the official map or plat thereof on file in the Office of the Clerk of Circuit Court, Gulf County, Florida.

Name in which assessed: Clifford R. Millergrgen and M. Janice Millergrgen

All of said property being in Gulf County, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate will be sold to the highest bidder in the front Lobby of the Gulf County Courthouse, 1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Blvd., Port St. Joe, Florida at 11:00 AM, E.T., Wednesday, the 7th day of September, 2011.

Dated this 25th day of July, 2011.

REBECCA L. NORRIS CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT, GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA BY: Donna L. Ray, Deputy Clerk August 4, 11, 18, 25, 2011

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3491S NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Plymouth Park Tax Services LLC the holder of the following Tax Certificate, has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No. 340

Application No. 2011-13

Year of Issuance: 2009

R.E. No. 01884-010R

Description of Property: COMMENCING at an iron rod marking the Southeast Corner of Southeast Quarter of Northwest Quarter of Section 24, Township 4 South, Range 10 West, Gulf County, Florida; thence South 89 Degrees 05 Minutes 50 Seconds West (assumed) 647.27 feet to a point on the East right of way line of State Road No. 71, said point being 33.0 feet from and at right angle to the centerline of said State Road; thence North 04 Degrees 46 Minutes 43 Seconds East along the Easterly line of an existing ditch 168.00 feet to an iron pipe for the POINTING OF BEGINNING, thence North 05 Degrees 11 Minutes 45 Seconds West 48.96 feet; thence North 08 Degrees 04 Minutes 27 Seconds West along the Easterly line of an existing ditch 46.68 feet to a point on the Easterly right of way line curve of said State Road No. 71, said point being 33.00 feet from and radial to the centerline of said State Road, said curve having a radius of 1651.42 feet and being concave westerly, thence North 07 Degrees 07 Minutes 04 Seconds West 124.53 feet, to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

DESCRIPTION BY RECENT SURVEY: COMMENCE at a 4 inch by 4 inch concrete monument (no identification) marking the Southeast Corner of the Northwest Quarter of Section 24, Township 4 South, Range 10 West, Gulf County, Florida, as shown on the Florida Department of Transportation right of way map as prepared by David H. Melvin, Inc., with a final date of January 13, 1999, (map No. 2190041, Sheet 1 of 9); thence run South

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Seconds West, 343.36 feet, thence South 40 Degrees 43 Minutes 09 Seconds West 471.08 feet, thence South 46 Degrees 07 Minutes 04 Seconds West 124.53 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING. Containing 5.536 acres, more or less, and being subject to a drainage easement across the following portion thereof: COMMENCE at an iron rod marking the Southeast Corner of the Northwest Quarter of Section 24, Township 4 South, Range 10 West, Gulf County, Florida, thence South 89 Degrees 05 Minutes 50 Seconds West (assumed) 647.27 feet to a point on the East right of way line of State Road No. 71, said point being 33.0 feet from and at right angle to the centerline of said State Road; thence North 04 Degrees 46 Minutes 43 Seconds East along the Easterly line of an existing ditch 168.00 feet to an iron pipe for the POINT OF BEGINNING; thence North 05 Degrees 11 Minutes 45 Seconds West 48.96 feet; thence North 07 Degrees 07 Minutes 04 Seconds East 31.22 feet, thence North 46 Degrees 07 Minutes 04 Seconds East 65.00 feet; thence North 40 Degrees 43 Minutes 09 Seconds East 470.75 feet; thence North 44 Degrees 34 Minutes 09 Seconds East 319.77 feet; thence North 89 Degrees 05 Minutes 50 Seconds East 34.22 feet, to an iron pipe; thence South 44 Degrees 34 Minutes 00 Seconds West, 343.36 feet; thence South 40 Degrees 09 Minutes 09 Seconds West 471.08 feet; thence South 46 Degrees 07 Minutes 04 Seconds West 124.53 feet, to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

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88 Degrees 53 Minutes 21 Seconds West along the South boundary of the said Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 24, for 622.82 feet to the Easterly right of way of State Road No. 71; thence North 00 Degrees 47 Minutes 33 Seconds East for 75.63 feet, thence South 89 Degrees 12 Minutes 28 Seconds East for 3.28 feet; thence North 06 Degrees 49 Minutes 25 Seconds East for 62.45 feet; thence North 00 Degrees 47 Minutes 33 Seconds East for 29.89 feet to a Set one half inch iron rod and cap LB0732 for the POINT OF BEGINNING; from said POINT OF BEGINNING, continue North 00 Degrees 47 Minutes 33 Seconds East along the Easterly right of way of State Road No. 71; thence North 00 Degrees 47 Minutes 33 Seconds East for 75.63 feet; thence South 89 Degrees 12 Minutes 28 Seconds East for 3.28 feet; thence North 06 Degrees 49 Minutes 25 Seconds East for 62.45 feet, thence North 00 Degrees 47 Minutes 33 Seconds East for 29.89 feet to a Set one half inch iron rod and cap LB0732 for the POINT OF BEGINNING; from said POINT OF BEGINNING continue North 00 Degrees 47 Minutes 33 Seconds East along said Easterly right of way for 50.08 feet; thence North 73 Degrees 07 Minutes 39 Seconds East for 25.35 feet; thence North 46 Degrees 01 Minute 59 Seconds East for 65.00 feet; thence North 40 Degrees 38 Minutes 04 Seconds East for 470.75 feet, thence North 44 Degrees 29 Minutes 04 Seconds East for 319.77 feet; thence North 89 Degrees 00 Minutes 45 Seconds East for 751.97 feet to a found 1 and 1/4 inch iron pipe; thence South 44 Degrees 28 Minutes 55 Seconds West for 343.36 feet to a Set one half inch iron rod and cap LB0732; thence South 40 Degrees 38 Minutes 04 Seconds West for 471.08 feet to a Set one half inch iron rod and cap LB0732; thence South 46 Degrees 02 Minutes 21 Seconds East for 123.95 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING, containing 5.502 acres, more or less. SUBJECT TO A DRAINAGE EASEMENT ACROSS THE FOLLOWING PORTION THEREOF: COMMENCE at a 4 inch by 4 inch concrete monument (no identification)

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marking the Southeast Corner of the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 24, Township 4 South, Range 10 West, Gulf County, Florida, as shown on the Florida Department of Transportation right of way map as prepared by David H. Melvin, Inc., with a final date of January 13, 1999, (map No. 2190041, Sheet 1 of 9); thence run South 88 Degrees 53 Minutes 21 Seconds West along the South boundary of the said Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 24, for 622.82 feet to the Easterly right of way of State Road No. 71; thence North 00 Degrees 47 Minutes 33 Seconds East for 75.63 feet; thence South 89 Degrees 12 Minutes 28 Seconds East for 3.28 feet; thence North 06 Degrees 49 Minutes 25 Seconds East for 62.45 feet, thence North 00 Degrees 47 Minutes 33 Seconds East for 29.89 feet to a Set one half inch iron rod and cap LB0732 for the POINT OF BEGINNING; from said POINT OF BEGINNING continue North 00 Degrees 47 Minutes 33 Seconds East along said Easterly right of way for 50.08 feet; thence North 73 Degrees 07 Minutes 39 Seconds East for 25.35 feet; thence North 46 Degrees 01 Minute 59 Seconds East for 65.00 feet; thence North 40 Degrees 38 Minutes 04 Seconds East for 470.75 feet, thence North 44 Degrees 29 Minutes 04 Seconds East for 319.77 feet; thence North 89 Degrees 00 Minutes 45 Seconds East for 751.97 feet to a found 1 and 1/4 inch iron pipe; thence South 44 Degrees 28 Minutes 55 Seconds West for 343.36 feet to a Set one half inch iron rod and cap LB0732; thence South 40 Degrees 38 Minutes 04 Seconds West for 471.08 feet to a Set one half inch iron rod and cap LB0732; thence South 46 Degrees 02 Minutes 21 Seconds East for 123.95 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

Name in which assessed: Taunton Truss, Inc. All of said property being in Gulf County,

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Labor Day Holiday
(Monday, September 5)
Classified Line Ad Deadlines

The Port St. Joe Star & The Apalachicola/Carabelle Times

To Run: Thursday, September 8 Due By: Friday, September 2, 5 p.m. (CST)

The classified department and the business offices of The Star and The Times will be closed Monday, September 5.

We will reopen Tuesday, September 6, at 8:00 a.m..

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

INSTRUCTION	INSTRUCTION	INSTRUCTION
Airlines Are Hiring Train for high paying Aviation Career. FAA approved program. Financial aid if qualified - Job placement assistance. CALL Aviation Institute of Maintenance 877-206-9405	Attend College Online from Home. *Medical, *Business, *Paralegal, *Criminal Justice. Job placement assistance. Computer available. Financial Aid if qualified. SCHEV certified. Call 8 6 6 - 4 6 7 - 0 0 5 4 www.Centura.us.com	High School Diploma from Home 6-8 weeks. Nationally accredited. Get a diploma! Get job! Call for a free brochure. 1-800-264-8330. Benjamin Franklin High School www.diplomafromhome.com info: TX61657 to 56654

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State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate will be sold to the highest bidder in the front lobby of the Gulf County Courthouse, 1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Blvd., Port St. Joe, Florida at 11:00 AM, E.T. Wednesday, the 21st day of September, 2011. Dated this 8th day of August, 2011.

REBECCA L. NORRIS
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY: Donna L. Ray,
Deputy Clerk
Aug 18, 25, 2011
Sept 1, 8, 2011

3458S NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Plymouth Park Tax Services LLC the holder of the following Tax Certificate, has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No. 588
Application No. 2011-16
Year of Issuance: 2009
R.E. No. 03083-775R

Description of Property: Unit 15, EAGLE LANDING SUBDIVISION, according to the map or plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 6, Page 51, of the Public Records of Gulf County, Florida

Name in which assessed: Swift Water, LLC

All of said property being in Gulf County, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate will be sold to the highest bidder in the front lobby of the Gulf County Courthouse, 1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Blvd., Port St. Joe, Florida at 11:00 AM, E.T., Wednesday, the 14th day of September, 2011.

Dated this 1st day of August, 2011.

REBECCA L. NORRIS
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT, GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY: Donna L. Ray,
Deputy Clerk
Aug 11, 18, 25, 2011
Sept 1, 2011

3495S NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Plymouth Park Tax Services LLC the holder of the following Tax Certificate, has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No. 366
Application No. 2011-19
Year of Issuance: 2009
R.E. No. 01960-000R

Description of Property: Lots 1, 2 and the North 2/3 of Lot 3, in Section 24, Township 4 South, Range 10 East, according to the Higgins and Hollinger Plat of the Town of Wewahatchka, Florida, and on file in the Office of the Clerk of Circuit Court of Gulf County, Florida.

Name in which assessed: David L. & Abigail Tauton

All of said property being in Gulf County, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate will be sold to the highest bidder in the front lobby of the Gulf County Courthouse, 1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Blvd., Port St. Joe, Florida at 11:00 AM, E.T., Wednesday, the 21st day of September, 2011.

Dated this 8th day of August, 2011.

REBECCA L. NORRIS
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT, GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY: Donna L. Ray,
Deputy Clerk
August 18, 25, 2011
Sept 1, 8, 2011

35112S IN THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO. 10-488-CA

CENTENNIAL BANK, as successor in interest to COASTAL COMMUNITY BANK, Plaintiff,

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vs.
LANNY BLAIR and RACHEL BLAIR, Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated August 9, 2011, and entered in Civil Action No. 10-488 CA of the Circuit Court of the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit in and for Gulf County, Florida, wherein the parties were the plaintiff, CENTENNIAL BANK, as successor in interest to COASTAL COMMUNITY BANK, and the defendants, LANNY BLAIR and RACHEL BLAIR, I will sell to the highest and best bidder, for cash, at 11:00 a.m. (Eastern Time) on the 8th day of September, 2011, at the front door of the Gulf County Courthouse, Port St. Joe, Florida, the following-described real property as set forth in said Final Judgment of Foreclosure:

Tract D-1: A portion of the West 100 feet of the East 350.00 feet of the West One Half of Government Lot 2, Fractional Section 22, Township 9 South, Range 11 West, Gulf County, Florida, lying North of the North right of way line of State Road No. 30-E, being more particularly described as follows: Begin at the Point of Intersection of the North right of way line of State Road No. 30-E with the West line of the East 350.00 feet of the West One Half of said Government Lot 2; thence along said West line, N 00E48'37" E 238.28 feet; thence leaving said line, S 89E11'07" E 100.00 feet to a point on the East line of the West 100 feet of the East 350.00 feet of the West One Half of said Government Lot 2; thence along said East line, S 00E48'37" W, 215.02 feet to a point on the North right of way line of said State Road 30-E; thence along said North right of way line, S 77E43'06" W, 102.67 feet to the Point of Beginning; said lands containing 0.520 acres, more or less;

[WITH A] 5 foot wide pedestrian access easement: A strip of land 5.00 feet wide, lying 2.50 feet from each side of the following described centerline: Commence at the point of intersection of the North right of way line of State Road 30-E with the West line of the East 450.00 feet of the West One Half of Government Lot 2, Fractional Section 22, Township 9 South, Range 11 West, Gulf County, Florida; thence along the North right of way line of said State Road 30-E, N 77E43'06" E, 102.84 feet to a point on the East line of the West 100.00 feet of the East 450.00 feet of the West One Half of said Government Lot 2; thence along said East line, N 00E48'37" E, 936.94 feet to the Point of Beginning of said centerline; thence N 00E48'37" E, 342.81 feet to the mean high water line of St. Joseph Bay, said point being the point of termination of said centerline;

[AND A] 15 foot wide ingress/egress/utility easement: Commence at the point of intersection of the North right of way line of State Road 30-E with the West line of the East 450.00 feet of the West One Half of Government Lot 2, Fractional Section 22, Township 9 South, Range 11 West, Gulf County, Florida; thence along the North right of way line of said State Road 30-E, N 77E43'06" E, 108.46 feet to the Point of Beginning; thence N 00E48'37" E, 282.35 feet; thence N 25E12'13" W, 29.58 feet; thence N 00E48'37" E, 626.73 feet; thence S 89E11'04" E, 15.00 feet; thence S 00E48'37" W, 823.27 feet; thence S 25E12'13" E, 29.58 feet; thence S 00E48'37" W, 282.32 feet to a point on the North right of way line of said State Road 30-E; thence along said right of way line, S 77E43'06" W, 15.40 feet to the Point of Beginning.

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

DATED this 9th day of August, 2011.

HON. REBECCA L. NORRIS
CLERK OF COURT GULF County, Florida

By: BA Baxter
Clerk/Deputy Clerk
Aug 18, 25, 2011

35132S IN THE CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 23-2011-CA-000181 DIVISION

21st MORTGAGE AND FINANCE, INC., etc., Plaintiff,

vs.
EDDIE HUNTER, JR., et al., Defendants.

NOTICE OF JUDICIAL SALE PURSUANT TO SECTION 45.031(1), FLORIDA STATUTES

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to the Final Judgment entered on August 4, 2011, in Case No.: 23-2011-CA-000181 of the Circuit Court, Gulf County, Florida, in which 21st Mortgage Corporation, is Plaintiff and Eddie Hunter Jr., et al, are the defendants, the Clerk of this Court will sell at public sale the following described real property:

Lot 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, and 54, Block D of COLLEGE PARK SUBDIVISION, according to the Plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 1, Page(s) 13, of the Public Records of Gulf County, Florida.

Together with 2006 Nobility, Kingswood 60x28 manufactured home, Serial No: N8-12598AB, located on the property

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

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact ADA Coordinator, 1000 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd., Port St. Joe, FL 32456 (850) 747-5338 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

REBECCA L. NORRIS
Clerk of said Court

By: BA Baxter
As Deputy Clerk
Aug 18, 25, 2011

35187S IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOUR-

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TEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION File No.: 2011-61

IN RE: The Estate of HELEN EDNA DELOZIER, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of HELEN EDNA DELOZIER, deceased, File Number 2011-61, 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. The names and addresses of the Personal Representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate, including unmaturing, contingent or unliquidated claims, on whom a copy of this notice is served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate, including unmaturing, contingent or unliquidated claims, must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

The date of first publication of this Notice is August 25, 2011.

Barbara Schadt
DeLozier
484 Sealy Drive
White City, FL 32465

Law Offices J. Patrick Floyd, Chtd,
408 Long Avenue
Port St. Joe, FL 32546
Aug 25, Sept 1, 2011

35132S IN THE CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 23-2011-CA-000181 DIVISION

21st MORTGAGE AND FINANCE, INC., etc., Plaintiff,

vs.
EDDIE HUNTER, JR., et al., Defendants.

NOTICE OF JUDICIAL SALE PURSUANT TO SECTION 45.031(1), FLORIDA STATUTES

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to the Final Judgment entered on August 4, 2011, in Case No.: 23-2011-CA-000181 of the Circuit Court, Gulf County, Florida, in which 21st Mortgage Corporation, is Plaintiff and Eddie Hunter Jr., et al, are the defendants, the Clerk of this Court will sell at public sale the following described real property:

Lot 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, and 54, Block D of COLLEGE PARK SUBDIVISION, according to the Plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 1, Page(s) 13, of the Public Records of Gulf County, Florida.

Together with 2006 Nobility, Kingswood 60x28 manufactured home, Serial No: N8-12598AB, located on the property

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

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact ADA Coordinator, 1000 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd., Port St. Joe, FL 32456 (850) 747-5338 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

REBECCA L. NORRIS
Clerk of said Court

By: BA Baxter
As Deputy Clerk
Aug 18, 25, 2011

35187S IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOUR-

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1100

TEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION File No.: 2011-61

IN RE: The Estate of HELEN EDNA DELOZIER, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of HELEN EDNA DELOZIER, deceased, File Number 2011-61, 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. The names and addresses of the Personal Representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate, including unmaturing, contingent or unliquidated claims, on whom a copy of this notice is served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate, including unmaturing, contingent or unliquidated claims, must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

The date of first publication of this Notice is August 25, 2011.

Barbara Schadt
DeLozier
484 Sealy Drive
White City, FL 32465

Law Offices J. Patrick Floyd, Chtd,
408 Long Avenue
Port St. Joe, FL 32546
Aug 25, Sept 1, 2011

35132S IN THE CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 23-2011-CA-000181 DIVISION

21st MORTGAGE AND FINANCE, INC., etc., Plaintiff,

vs.
EDDIE HUNTER, JR., et al., Defendants.

NOTICE OF JUDICIAL SALE PURSUANT TO SECTION 45.031(1), FLORIDA STATUTES

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to the Final Judgment entered on August 4, 2011, in Case No.: 23-2011-CA-000181 of the Circuit Court, Gulf County, Florida, in which 21st Mortgage Corporation, is Plaintiff and Eddie Hunter Jr., et al, are the defendants, the Clerk of this Court will sell at public sale the following described real property:

Lot 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, and 54, Block D of COLLEGE PARK SUBDIVISION, according to the Plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 1, Page(s) 13, of the Public Records of Gulf County, Florida.

Together with 2006 Nobility, Kingswood 60x28 manufactured home, Serial No: N8-12598AB, located on the property

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

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact ADA Coordinator, 1000 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd., Port St. Joe, FL 32456 (850) 747-5338 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

REBECCA L. NORRIS
Clerk of said Court

By: BA Baxter
As Deputy Clerk
Aug 18, 25, 2011

35187S IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOUR-

LOST
1160

Missing from Cape Sand Blast, Bayside, Oceans brand Kayak, light blue, Venus, pink cancer decal on side. Reward! 850-229-1388



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3220

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Maytag Heavy Duty Washer (Like New), \$200 Electric Hospital bed, excellent condition. \$450 OBO. Call 899-0905

GARAGE/YARD SALES
3230

NEW TODAY
Port St Joe 619 Marvin Ave, Friday and Saturday 9:00 a.m.-? Emptying out the Storage Unit!!!

PSJ: 505 Avenue A. Sat., Aug 20th, 8AM
Yard/Bake Sale
Something for everyone

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Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative is accepting applications for the position of First Class Line Technician at Workforce Center of Florida, 625 Highway 231, Panama City, Florida through September 2, 2011. For more information, visit our website at www.gcec.com. Equal Opportunity Employer. Web ID#: 34173955 Text FL73955 to 56654

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Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative is accepting applications for the position of Water Service Technician II at Workforce Center of Florida, 625 Highway 231, Panama City, Florida through September 2, 2011. For more information, visit our website at www.gcec.com. Equal Opportunity Employer. Web ID#: 34173874 Text FL73874 to 56654

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KICKING from page B1

think — for people to pick on him or take his money.”

Although Kaydan's disability often singles him out, Barwick treats him the same as he would any other student.

“He's one of my best students, I tell you,” Barwick said. “There's a lot of spirit. He's a good inspiration for a lot of folks.”

From the sidelines, his grandfather Ricky Summers offers sharp-witted comments: “Calm down, boy! Don't hurt him! You didn't hurt him too bad, did ya?”

Kaydan's comments channel his grandfather's, and he often has everyone in the studio laughing. His grandmother said he meets no strangers.

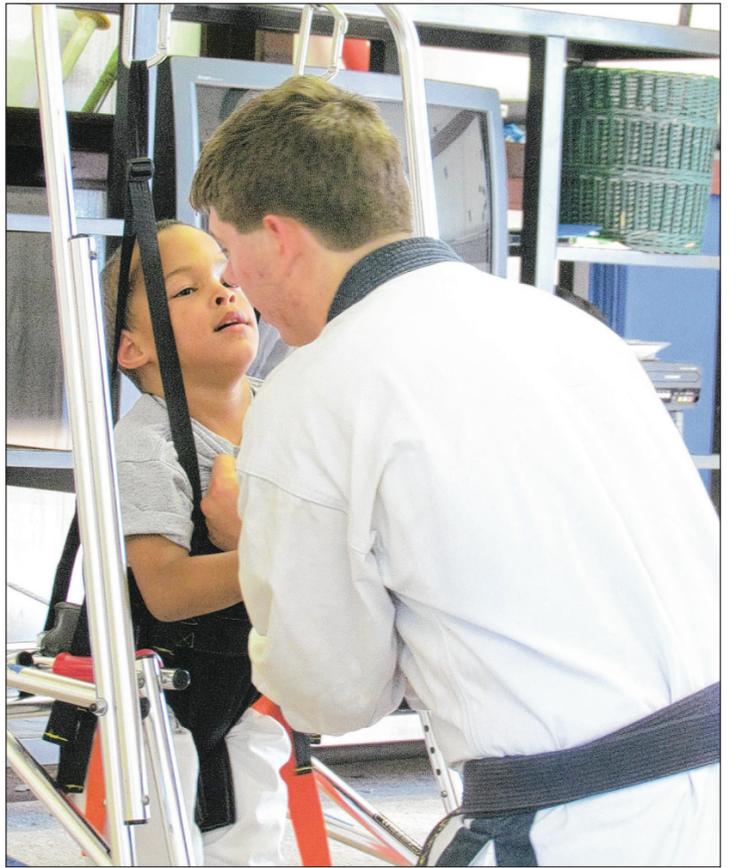
“He's a tough little nut, I tell you,” Kaydan's grandfather said. “He just loves karate.”

Kaydan often practices his new karate moves on his grandfather, a recreation that once resulted in a black eye for Summers.

“He just loves (Barwick) to death,” Kari Summers said. “If he asks (Kaydan) to do something, he's going to try his hardest to do it.”

Kaydan also receives plenty of support from his peers.

“If you ever see him at school, every time Kaydan does something, the whole school cheers him on,” Barwick said. “If you want to see something to make you cry — it's just unbelievable.”



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 Assistant instructor Travis Gould works on partner hits with Kaydan.

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WANTED from page B1

wrong, but not enough to put them into the judicial system,” McFarland said. “They have to admit guilt, so the trial is not a whodunit. It comes down to what happens to them, what sanctions are assessed.”

Such sanctions, or penalties, could be a letter of apology, a house curfew, community service hours, restitution or a public apology.

For example, a teen caught shoplifting a small item might end up spending time in a Dollar General for community service and apology.

The defendant will then have 30-60 days to complete the sanctions. Criminal charges are dismissed for successful completion of the program.

Failure to adhere to the sanctions of Teen Court will result in the case being referred back to the Juvenile Court for prosecution.

“I believe Teen Court is a very good deterrent,” McFarland said. “The sanctions they have been given will make them think about what they've done. There are things you can do with Teen Court that you can't do in the regular criminal justice system.”

All students who sign up for Teen Court will be trained by adult counterparts. Students who sign up to become the prosecuting or defense attorneys will be trained by attorneys. Court bailiffs will train student bailiffs.

Jurors are trained by court officers.

Teen Court is funded through an add-on charge levied for each court case. Teen Court receives 25 percent of that add-on charge, McFarland said.

Teen Court, McFarland added, aims to promote accountability, responsibility and self-worth. The program also exposes teens to career options in the law and law enforcement.

“And it promotes discipline, which I think is missing for a lot of today's young people,” McFarland said. “This is the only diversion program we have in Gulf County. I think it is one that works.”

McFarland is also considering the future in ramping up Teen Court. Gov. Rick Scott has made known his desire to have such misdemeanor criminal offenses of the kind entertained in Teen Court considered more as “infractions” and worthy of a diversion program that reduces costs in the criminal justice system.

“There is that movement out there, though it has not become law,” McFarland said. “I'm trying to get ahead of that a little bit. My goal is to get Teen Court up and running and functional.”

Referrals have already come in, and McFarland said the first Teen Court cases of the new school year should begin in Port St. Joe the second week of September.

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