

PSJ questions rescue mission objectives

City to grant business license to Gulf Coast Hope Center

By Valerie Garman
Star Staff Writer

The Rev. Billy Fox asked Port St. Joe Commissioners to leave

perception out of the discussion Tuesday night.

Fox, executive director of the Panama City Rescue Mission, addressed the commission about plans for a county presence by the mission, which Fox ensured would not provide food or shelter, but only counseling and referral services.

Fox asked commissioners if it was standard for a business license applicant to be required to address the commission.

"I'd like to ask the commission why we are being singled out," Fox said. "What are we doing that's not in accordance?"

Matt Scoggins, owner of the 5

Star Paint and Collision Center in Port St. Joe and the proposed space of what would be called the Gulf Coast Hope Center, said the organization only wants to help people.

"Eighteen years ago, I was homeless and I had a 3-year-old son," Scoggins said.

Now the owner of a successful business, Scoggins said the only reason he was given that opportunity is because somebody was willing to help him when he was in need.

"It's all because someone was

See **MISSION A6**

Advocating local, local, local

By Valerie Garman
Star Staff Writer

Barry Sellers has never bought anything online.

"The day one of those companies (Amazon, Overstock.com, eBay) join my chamber, I will consider it," Sellers said. "Our local businesses are the ones that give back to the community."

You won't see any of those big corporations' names on the back of a Little League jersey, he said.

Since he moved to Gulf County a month ago, Sellers, the new executive director of the Gulf County Chamber of Commerce, has been busy trying to introduce himself to everyone in the county.

Chances are you've seen him before.

He attends a different church every Sunday to meet the congregation. He's been to the Port St. Joe, Wewahitchka and Gulf County Commission meetings. He's talked to area business owners, and to those looking for work. He's been to the non-profit organizations, and he is in constant contact with the Tourism Development Council, the Community Redevelopment Council and the Port Authority, to name a few.

"My goal and plan is to go to every business, every city, every church and ask their opinion because everybody counts," Sellers said. "The reason I've been going to the bars, to the businesses, to churches, is because that's where the people are."

Sellers moved to Gulf County from his position as the executive director at the Corning, Ark., Economic Development Commission. With a goal to create 700 jobs in seven years, Sellers has his work cut out for him.

It's a feat that Sellers believes is attainable, but won't be easy, and definitely won't happen overnight.

But Sellers sees plenty of potential in Gulf County.

See **LOCAL A7**



BARRY SELLERS

Christmas spirit hits the Coast

Special to the Star

Millions of lights twinkled across the Forgotten Coast last weekend as Port St. Joe and Mexico Beach held their annual Christmas Tree lighting ceremonies and Christmas Parades.

Port St. Joe's Christmas on the Coast event, sponsored by

the Gulf County Chamber of Commerce, was held Saturday and featured a holiday farmer's market, Christmas Parade, tree lighting and a visit from Santa.

Mexico Beach's Sunset Park sparked at the tree lighting ceremony on Sunday, complete with a lighted golf cart parade, candlelit caroling, hot chocolate and of course, a visit from Santa.



Santa greets children at the Port St. Joe Christmas on the Coast event Dec. 3. **Above left**, A decorated golf cart from Mexico Beach's Golf Cart Parade on Dec. 4. **Left**, The Mexico Beach Christmas Tree was lit at Sunset Park Sunday night. **Right**, The Friends of St. Joseph Bay float featured a beach scene and live props. **Below**, Children sing Christmas Carols at the tree lighting ceremony at the City Commons Gazebo in Port St. Joe. More photos on **A6**.

Photos by **VALERIE GARMAN** | The Star



As proposals threaten rural hospitals, Sacred Heart continues growth

By Valerie Garman
Star Staff Writer

The number of Medicaid patients is rising, while the reimbursement rates for hospitals are falling, creating an unsavory financial deficit for hospitals across the state.

With 10 percent of their patients covered by Medicaid, a state program that provides health coverage to

low-income residents, Sacred Heart Health System's newest branch in Port St. Joe is no different.

"All hospitals across the state of Florida are being affected," said Roger Hall, president of Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf.

Previously, Sacred Heart was reimbursed 84 to 85 cents for each dollar covered by Medicaid. But the reimbursement has recently

dropped to 73 to 74 cents for each dollar, Hall said.

And with the economy still wavering, Hall said the number of patients covered by Medicaid is going up.

"We're losing about 15 cents on the dollar to Medicaid costs now," Hall said. "Those (Medicaid) patients are going up, and the reimbursement is going down."

Unlike many rural hospitals, Sacred Heart on the

Gulf is not a designated Critical Access Hospital (CAH), one that receives cost-based reimbursements. CAH designation is meant to prevent hospital closures and boost the financial performance of small, rural hospitals.

Although Sacred Heart qualifies on many levels because of its size, since there is another hospital in a

See **HOSPITALS A6**



While new reimbursement rates for certain patients are dropping, Sacred Heart on the Gulf continues on a growth curve.

FILE PHOTO



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BP fine-funded project list expected to be released soon

By Tom McLaughlin
Florida Freedom Newspapers

Northwest Florida cities, counties and organizations should learn by the end of the year whether environmental improvement projects they want to fund with \$100 million from BP are worthy.

Officials from the state's eight coastal counties directly affected by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill were notified late last week of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's plan to

release a list of approved Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) projects.

"Our trustees are trying to get the first set of approved projects out by the end of the year," said Mimi Drew, who represents Florida on the NRDA board of trustees.

The announcement in no way means funds will be released soon for projects the board of trustees, and ultimately BP, have decided meet their criteria.

"This is not to be formally ap-

proved or implemented. This is to be approved for public comment," said Kristin Lock, spokeswoman for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. "It's a very long process."

Plans for NRDA projects were submitted throughout the year by cities, counties and groups seeking to use BP fines assessed under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990.

A seven-person board of trustees representing Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas and two national agencies

have been analyzing the proposals.

BP is releasing \$500 million in this first phase. Florida will receive \$100 million of those funds.

Projects in the eight counties most significantly impacted by the oil spill — including Bay, Walton, Okaloosa and Santa Rosa — will get priority, according to Okaloosa County Commissioner Dave Parisot.

Parisot serves on a task force formed to track the BP money flowing to Northwest Florida.

Drew provided the update on the funds at a task force meeting last week.

Funding will be based, at least in this first round, on "a known injury tied directly to the oil spill," Lock said.

She said after the projects are approved, public hearings will be held to gauge their acceptance.

More than \$1 billion in potential projects in Florida were recommended for the trustees' consideration, according to Parisot.

Mexico Beach Council to choose sides on law enforcement

By Chris Olwell
Florida Freedom Newspapers

When the Mexico Beach City Council meets next week to decide whether to disband the city's police de-

partment and contract with the sheriff's office for law enforcement services, they will be able to base their decision on more than the bottom line.

The Bay County Sheriff's

Office has submitted a 76-page report detailing the strengths and weakness of the department. Capt. Steve Harbuck spent several days in Mexico Beach over the summer studying the de-

partment, and filed the report in September.

The report takes the Department of Public Safety to task in most areas of the police department's operations. The department could use improvement in its physical building, dealings with citizens, policies and procedures, utilization of personnel, professionalism, leadership and common practices.

The report goes so far as to say, "...many crimes go unpunished for a variety of reasons, such as lack of manpower, lack of specialized training and experience, other work related functions taking priority, and scheduling issues."

The evaluation was provided at the request of Mayor Al Cathey and the Mexico Beach City Council, and with the cooperation of

Chief Guy "Brad" Hall. Bay County Sheriff Frank McKeithen said he wouldn't have done it otherwise, and Hall got the first copy.

It's a misconception, McKeithen said, that his office is trying to swallow up Mexico Beach.

"I'm not trying to sell us. This was not my idea. My paycheck doesn't change if I have Mexico Beach or if I don't have Mexico Beach."

He said his office could provide better service to Mexico Beach because of its built-in capacity, but he's not invested in the outcome of the council's vote.

But if the tone of Harbuck's report was decidedly critical, McKeithen's notes were generally supportive of the department. Many of the issues with the department were not unusual for a department of its size, and

deficiencies are not uncommon, "even in my own department."

"The captain found problems," McKeithen said, "I tried to say that there are solutions here."

The report, he wrote, should be seen as the first step in the process of improving the department.

"This could be a great agency, and with the support and assistance of the city government, as well as a collaborated effort by the Police Department and City Hall, a number of these issues could possibly be resolved," McKeithen wrote.

Chief Hall had little to say on the matter. He and his officers will do their jobs as best they can as long as they have them, he said.

The city council is expected to vote on the issue at its Dec. 13 meeting.

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Non-Members: \$55, or \$40 plus a toy

 Registration and any questions by calling the Pro Shop at 850-227-1751, visit the club in person or online at www.stjosephbaygolf.com

Letters to Santa

Every year The Star publishes local letters to Santa. The Deadline will be **Friday, December 16th at 3:30 pm (EST).**

The letters will be published in our December 22nd issue.



★ We have a special mailbox set up in our offices for these letters or e-mail them to: **Tim Croft at tcroft@starfl.com**
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We will be selling Holiday Greeting ads in this section. For more information please contact:

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THE STAR



New Dollar General Market opens

DEBBIE HOOPER | Joebay.com

By Valerie Garman
Star Staff Writer

The ribbon was officially cut Dec. 3 at the new 20,000-square-foot Dollar General Market Store in Port St. Joe.

The new store, at the corner of U.S. Highway 98

and Avenue D, provides fresh produce, dairy products and meats in addition to the normal Dollar General merchandise.

General Manager Jon Dillenbeck said he has hired another 45 employees to add to the staff of the former Port St. Joe Dollar

General, and still needs to hire more.

He said the store will probably wind up with about 60 employees.

"We've needed this for a long time," Dillenbeck said. "We've been very well received so far."

Of the 9,500 Dollar

General stores nationwide, less than 1 percent of them are market stores. The Port St. Joe store is the first market store in the Panhandle, said District Manager Gary Doss, who attended Saturday's ribbon-cutting ceremony along with a group of city and county officials.



VALERIE GARMAN | The Star

Left, An aerial view of the new Dollar General Market in Port St. Joe. Above, Store Manager Jon Dillenbeck cuts the ribbon at the grand opening of Port St. Joe's new Dollar General Market on Saturday, Dec. 3.

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It's a great day to be a Republican!



IT IS IMPORTANT for all Gulf County voters, new and old, to remember that Florida is a closed primary State. You must be a registered member of the party in whose primary you wish to vote.

If history is any lesson this coming year is a crossroads for our County, State, and Country. In 1979 our Nation was faced with a failed democrat administration. The Republican Party primary process selected Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush as our National Candidates. The result was 12 years of unprecedented economic growth and prosperity. Along with world changing foreign policy victories, the end of the USSR, free and Democratic Eastern Europe, and many more too numerous to mention here.

Once again you have the opportunity to make that same choice. The Florida Republican Presidential Preference Primary is January 31, 2012. If you wish to have a voice in choosing the 2012 Republican ticket, make Barack Obama a one term president, reverse the failed policies of the last three years, and put us back on the path to prosperity and world leadership you must be registered as a Republican no later than January 3, 2012.

ONLY 26 DAYS REMAIN TO INSURE YOUR PARTICIPATION. Contact the Gulf County Supervisor of Elections office, 401 Long Ave. Port St. Joe. Remember, if we make the right choice we hope to affect the next 12 years. Do not miss this opportunity to be heard as our Nation's future is determined.

Next Meeting Monday 12 December 7:00 p.m. EST upstairs at the Capital City Bank Building Port St. Joe.

See you there!
Tom Graney

Membership Communication Committee
Joanna Bryan Chairman
JOANNA812000@yahoo.com
Watch for our new website coming soon at
www.gulfgop.com

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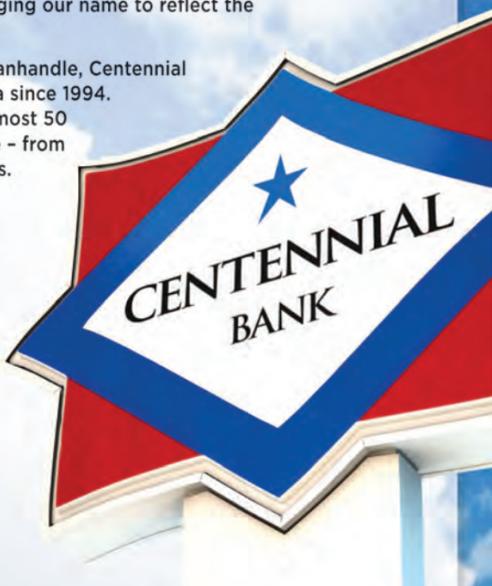
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Finding the end zone

It was halftime, we were down 35-0 and we couldn't move the ball an inch. We were in Walnut Grove, Ala., playing the West End High Patriots. Just a year earlier, my little private school had beaten the mighty public school Patriots 14-13 on our way to the first perfect 10-0 season our school had ever had.

That was a year previous, in 1978. In 1979, the big Walnut Grove boys hadn't forgotten and they didn't care if the previous year was a lifetime accomplishment for most of us. They wanted revenge and they got it.

The boys from Walnut Grove dressed close to 50 players; they were big country boys and looked like the New England Patriots. We dressed about 17 players. Of those 17, probably 12 didn't have any business being on the field of an Alabama High School football game.

Before the kickoff for the second half, I walked over to Coach Cliff Grubbs and said, "Coach, I just can't carry the ball anymore. They're killing me."

I will never forget what he said.

He grabbed me by the facemask with two hands and said, "You don't quit, I don't care what the score is. You don't quit. By staying out there and not quitting, you are winning. This is the toughest kind of win you'll ever get."

I didn't quit.

We never found the end zone on that night. The West End Patriots beat us 48-0. They may have played the band and the cheerleaders in the fourth quarter, but I didn't quit.

It was one of those games that you wanted to forget, but I didn't forget my coach's words.

Going into the last game of the season, we were 0-8-1, it was ugly. However, we played Spring Garden High School in that tenth game in 1979 and they hadn't won a game either.

The weather was terrible, the field was a mess and the referees wanted to cancel

the game. At 0-8-1 and with one shot left for a win, Coach Grubbs wouldn't let them cancel the game. He made excuse after excuse, noting, "It was football and both teams deserved to play."

We played.
In front about 50 fans, Coach Grubbs led the Donoho Falcons to a 40-6 victory against the Spring Garden Panthers on that muddy

miserable night. He fought because he believed in us. He fought because he believed we deserved a chance.

Originally, I wrote "The Mattress Kid" as a tribute to my coach who was battling cancer. In our conversations, I had found out that in

addition to playing football for Auburn University, he had a secret that he had never told me. Cliff Grubbs was homeless and sleeping on a mattress in Chewacla State Park close to Auburn, Ala., when the folks at Auburn University came and asked him to play football for them.

It wasn't a charity case; he was one of the best football players in the southeast who was simply on his own. Auburn gave him his chance and he took advantage of it. He played running back for Auburn, joined the U.S. Army as a paratrooper, then came back and played more college football for Auburn.

After I wrote the story, folks at Auburn University and the University of Alabama pushed it to the point where thousands knew about "The Mattress Kid."

Coach Grubbs called me back and said, "You made me sound like a hero." When he said it, even though he was on the phone, I felt him holding my face mask and saw him looking into my eyes.

I started crying and I couldn't stop. I was balling like a baby. He never flinched, he never said a word. He just waited, just like he would do when I was sitting in his little

office back in high school.

Finally with tears soaking my shirt and snot coming out of my nose, I managed to say, "Coach, you are my hero." Again, for the last time in this life that I will ever hear him say it, he said, "You know, I love you."

I said, "Yes sir, you just don't know what that means to me."

He said, "Yes, I do."
On Nov. 25, 2011, I got word from Coach Grubbs' son that Coach had passed away.

My coach had found the end zone.

The day after Coach died, his Auburn Tigers lost to Alabama. Before the Alabama-Auburn game, the folks from ESPN were having their College GameDay Program live from Auburn. As ESPN's Lee Corso put on the "elephant head" to note he was picking Alabama to win the game, I saw a sign in the crowd.

It said, "The Mattress Kid." Sitting in Virginia, I was happy. I was happy because a lot more folks now know the story of The Mattress Kid, my coach and my hero.

I've cried all my tears out; the scoreboard says the game is over.

This is what I have to say.

Give me the ball, give it to me now. Give it to me every play. I won't let you down. I will hold my head up and be proud. It is not the score that matters. It's knowing we did our best that is our reward. I want to walk off the field knowing I gave you my best.

Just like you gave to me.

Farewell Coach, I'll see you in the locker room.

Charles Clifford "Coach" Grubbs passed away peacefully at his home in Mary Esther, Florida on Nov. 25, 2011. Please never forget "The Mattress Kid," who played running back for Auburn in the 1940's, served his country as U.S. Army paratrooper and coached high school football in Florida and Alabama.

Read more stories at www.CranksMyTractor.com.

The terrorism of the Patriot Act

ROSEMARY BEACH — Another Thanksgiving came and went as millions of Americans were forced to remove their clothing and dignity in order to fly through the TSA-controlled airports. Americans should not be made to feel stress, shame and awkwardness while flying. That is what spending time with your relatives at Thanksgiving is for. Even with bin Laden dead, the TSA has become more intrusive than ever. Now I have to take off my belt to go through security. TSA screeners' pre-search routine has gone from putting on latex gloves to now applying lubricant to them. Should it not be going the other way by now — less invasive instead of more?

Even as the TSA is accused of touching more women inappropriately than Herman Cain, politicians feign outrage but do nothing. When asked about the full body hand check now given by the TSA, even Hillary Clinton said she would not like to go through a TSA pat-down. As a strong women's advocate, she is against inappropriate touching. Bill Clinton was heard to say, "Hillary is usually against any appropriate touching, too."

The federal government has institutionalized the groping of women who have no recourse. Once established, the arrogant and self-justifying nature of a government bureaucracy makes getting rid of it almost impossible.

When you name a bill something as American as "The Patriot Act" or make a committee so important that it calls itself the "Super Committee," how could they possibly fail? Queen Latifah can make a better case for being a real queen than the committee for being "super," or the Patriot Act "patriotic."

When I see the GOP candidates in the primaries feeding the red meat of fear to the neo-cons, jockeying for who would bomb Iran first, I remember why I left that party during Bush's second term to become a libertarian. It was the same zealous hawks who overreacted to the 9/11 attacks and saddled us with the Patriot Act and the TSA. Neither has done us any discernible good; instead, both have demonstrably diminished our freedoms.

The corruptible power of one group's control over another with the false promise of safety seldom works. And even if it did, at what cost?

We pay 21 times more in taxes than our Founding Fathers did, but are we safer? Do we have more liberty? Government says, "If you will just let us regulate more and give us more money and more power, then we will promise you safety." Yet many do not want real liberty; that involves taking individual responsibility and owning the outcome of one's actions. Any endeavor, even one as simple as walking across the street, has risks that cannot be regulated away.

The SEC's budget has tripled since the Enron collapse, but it missed the scam by Bernie Madoff. Then Obama says he wants more. Now MF Global, run by former Democratic Senator and New Jersey Gov. Jon Corzine, reportedly cannot account for \$1.2 billion of customer money.

Has more regulation ever really made us safer than our own informed decisions and actions?

Has government's insatiable appetite for more money and more power to regulate not been preceded by events like 9/11 and the financial meltdown, which it was supposed to be regulating to begin with? Have not people been more hurt when they thought government was regulating something than when they knew government was not?

The presumption of safety when you get a Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac mortgage, or invest in a financial institution, has done more to snooker people out of their money than non-regulated free markets.

Historically, any time a politician can persuade people, usually under the duress of an unusual event like 9/11, to forfeit even the smallest of their freedoms to the statist in government, those liberties are seldom restored. Such acts create more intrusion by government into even more corners of our lives, which serves to entrench government's power — not ours.

Ron Hart can be reached at Ron@RonaldHart.com, or visit www.RonaldHart.com.



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RON HART
The Hart Beat

'Tis the season of fruits and nuts

A lady was trampled almost beyond recognition entering a shopping mall in Topeka. A pushing and shoving melee in a Walmart parking lot left two with head wounds and one bleeding profusely from the mouth and nose. A man in Del Rio, Texas, threw a cast net over a group of would-be shoppers in line ahead of him, injuring one and knocking a book of coupons out of the grasp of another. Two men got in a shoot-out

in front of a Best Buy in Portland, Maine. A mother of three ran her Lexus through the front door of a Birmingham Toys R Us store.

You'd think it was scenes from "Apocalypse Now," "Nightmare on Elm Street" or "How I Met Your Mother." The truth is.....it's just America preparing for another Christmas season. I'm not sure exactly when, or why, midnight-bargain hunting and unbeatable "4 a.m. deals" took the place

of eggnog and kissing under the mistletoe.

It ought to be called "Black and Blue Friday."

I don't know about you, but I've never seen a gift, bargain, door buster or slick deal that I'd roll out of a comfortable bed at 3 in the morning and rush downtown for; then elbow hundreds of people out of the way, hurry to the nearest check out station and stand in line for an hour and a half just for the privilege of paying for the blessed item! The facts, as reported by ABC, Anderson Cooper and the Food Network, clearly show I am in the minority. You'd think some opportunistic retailers were using the Christmas season as a clever guise to make more money.

Sure, they lure you in with the 1 cent cell phone and the \$199, eighty-inch, magatron TV. They have five of the cheap cell phones and two under-priced televisions. Seven hundred people show up. They can't go home and tell their spouse they got up at midnight and rushed out to the mall for nothing. So they pick up a laptop, a couple of iPods, a Leap Frog, the latest Harry Potter Nintendo Wii and a twelve-pack of Duracell AA batteries. The shopper enjoys the "thrill of the hunt" and the store makes

out like a Chinese bandit. Everyone goes home a winner...except maybe for the people left lying crumpled in the parking lot.

And we criticize those FSU-UF football fanatics for taking the game a little too seriously at times!

I'm somewhat embarrassed to report

to you that we've made it into the second week of December and I haven't bought anything yet. I hate I missed the penny cell phones and the almost-free Cannon Sure Shot camera. I'm waiting for the Scotty Cameron am in the minority. You'd think some opportunistic retailers were using the Christmas season as a clever guise to make more money.

Circle T putters to go on sale. I'm holding out for the hundred-inch TV! If I can fight down the urge to join the buying crowd, maybe Sears will mark down every item to nothing right before Christmas. Walmart might "catch the spirit" and give away Panda bears and wrinkle free linen bed sheets. Of course, who needs another Panda bear or more bed sheets?

Obviously, all the Christmas buying is not presents for other people! I wonder why they don't have these sales in August. I reckon "Dog Day bargains" doesn't resonate. "Indian Summer specials" don't ring any bells. Maybe folks just back from their vacations are cash

strapped. Or they have school clothes and college tuition on their minds. Can you imagine the mayhem if we coupled Black Friday shopping with the hundred degree temperatures of August. CBS could turn that into a real survival show!

And don't think this Christmas "packaging" phenomenon just started. I remember that Norelco electric razor commercial where the little Santa is sledding across the snow on the circular head of the shaver. Winston cigarettes had special Christmas decorated cartons. The Oldsmobile folks encouraged the up and coming businessman to "step up this Christmas to a Ninety Eight." Children were enticed over the various years to ask for a Barbie, Slinky, G. I. Joe, Chatty Cathy, Mr. Potato Head, Matchbox cars, a genuine Roy Rogers gun and holster set, Hula Hoop, Tickle Me Elmo, Rubik's Cube or Star Trek Action Figures. My wife, back in the 70's, bought Cabbage Patch Kids for my sons! It likened to have caused a divorce!

It's amazing how the marketing and buying frenzy seems to ratchet higher and higher each year. I don't remember any stampedes to get the Red Ryder BB gun. You could buy a case knife to give to your Dad with little fan fare. Nobody knocked me down at J. C. Penny the

Christmas I went to get a sweater for Billie Jean. We thought Black Friday referred to that terrible night the Huntington High Mustangs' football team beat the ever-living stuffings out of us! Maybe we were a little sheltered out at the end of Stonewall Street. Of course, this was also back in the day when you did a lot more looking than buying! We even considered walnuts and oranges as gifts.

We enjoyed the red and green Christmas M&M's without realizing people would ever think of rising five hours before daylight and fighting to get into a store to buy any gadget, no matter how rare or useful. We applauded those Budweiser Clydesdales with never a thought of pulling a gun on someone to commemorate the coming of the Yuletide season. We mailed in the \$19.95 and waited breathlessly for the Ronco Veg-i-matic. We believed life was just like those Hallmark commercials. For us, buying and gift giving seemed to be a by product of the Christmas season.

Boy howdy, how the seasons change!

You don't reckon Cathy elbowed and pushed and then waited in line to pay for those darn Cabbage Patch Kids. You talk about adding insult to injury!

Respectfully,
Kes

THE STAR

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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.

Budget now for holiday spending

It's tough sticking to your budget any time of year, but the holiday season presents special challenges with so many unexpected expenses and temptations. If you occasionally fall prey to holiday overspending, you might want to look for year-round small spending cuts in other areas of your life that, when added together, can result in big savings.



JASON ALDERMAN

Here are a few suggestions:

Personal finances:

- If you have low-deductible homeowners, renters or auto insurance, ask how much your premiums would drop by raising the deductible to \$500 or \$1,000 – it could be 15 to 30 percent or more.
- Cancel underutilized phone and cable services, magazine subscriptions,

gym memberships and other “extras” you’re not using.

- * Before shopping at chain stores, check with online gift card resellers like Plastic Jungle and CardWoo where you can buy gift cards at a discount. Combine the gift card with a coupon or discount code to save even more.
- Kick bad habits. Smoking one \$6 pack of cigarettes a day costs about \$2,200 a year.

In the home:

- By lowering your thermostat 10 - 15 degrees for eight hours, you can reduce your home heating bill by 10 percent or more.
- Insulate your water heater and outgoing pipes to reduce heat loss and save 4 - 9 percent in water-heating costs. Also, try lowering the temperature to 120

degrees for additional savings.

- Beginning Jan. 1, 2012, traditional incandescent light bulbs will begin phasing out (starting with 100-watt bulbs) in favor of more efficient models that use 25 - 80 percent less energy. By upgrading 15 bulbs, you could save about \$50 a year on utilities.

In the car:

- Aggressive driving (speeding, rapid acceleration and braking) wastes gas and can lower gas mileage by 33 percent on the highway. By driving sensibly, you could save about \$1.20 for each gallon of gas.
- Fuel economy drops rapidly at higher speeds. For every 5 mph you exceed 60 mph, a driver pays an additional 29 cents per gallon of gas.
- Avoid keeping unnecessarily heavy items in your car. Every extra 100

pounds reduces your mpg by as much as 2 percent.

- Use websites like GasBuddy.com (which has free smartphone apps) and GasPriceWatch.com, where motorists share up-to-the-minute tips on where to find low-priced fuel.

Health care tips:

- Consider generic vs. brand-name drugs; copayments are usually much lower. Medtipster.com lets you search for generics by cost, by local zip code.
- Ask whether your insurance offers quantity discounts for mail-order prescriptions. Often, the copayment for a 60- or 90-day supply is the same as a 30-day supply at a regular pharmacy.
- Ask your doctor about pill-splitting. Many drugs come in double-dose tablets that cost the same as a lower dosage.

(Caution: Some pills should never be split, so always ask your doctor or pharmacist first.)

For more cost-saving ideas, check out AARP’s “Save Money on Everything” site (www.aarp.org/money/budgeting-saving), www.americasaves.org and Practical Money Skills for Life (www.practicalmoneyskills.com), a free personal financial management program run by Visa Inc. offering savings and budgeting tools, including a Holiday Budgeting Center.

By trimming a few dollars here and there, you’re suddenly saving hundreds or thousands of dollars a year – enough to tide you through the holidays and start a vacation fund for next summer.

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

Gulf Fishermen’s Association addresses new legislation

Special to The Star

The Gulf Fishermen’s Association released the following statement in response to a recent House of Representatives Natural Resource Committee hearing on multiple fishery-related bills, including legislation to change how catch shares are implemented:

The Gulf Fishermen’s Association represents several hundred commercial fishermen in the Gulf of Mexico and more than half of the Red Snapper and Grouper industry. We are dedicated to providing fresh domestic seafood to America’s citizens year-round in a sustainable fishery.

From first hand experience, we can tell Americans how fishing jobs were prior to implementation of our catch-share programs. Our industry was eating itself alive. The more we

competed, the shorter our seasons became and the longer we had to run to catch fish. The science was right, fish stocks were declining. Shorter seasons caused greater waste, gluts of older product, lower prices and less income. As income dropped, we fished with dilapidated boats in worse weather with less qualified crews for fewer fish. Things got so bad that a plan was developed that would eliminate more than a third of the boats in the fishery. Cheap fish worked great for the big fish houses and the Mexican fishermen who sold to them during our closures, but not so well for American fishermen.

In search of a solution, Gulf fishermen worked with the regional Fishery Management Council to develop catch-share programs. Both programs were approved by more than 80 percent in referendums of reliable fishermen. Today, we have real jobs, year-round,

for the first time in many years. When we go fishing, we actually catch fish again and our business is profitable. We are starting to enjoy real lives, with less danger. Prices are up, and imports are down. Qualified fishermen are in demand. And even more incredibly, while that is happening, we are rebuilding our fisheries by avoiding overfished stocks and reducing waste. Many responsible fishermen have been able to fish for several years with near-zero dead discards of overfished stocks. This would be impossible with any other program. Fishing year-round while rebuilding the fishery is a great thing for jobs now and in the future.

Not one single fish has been taken from anyone for our programs. We are producing better science under discrete catch limits that are easier to enforce, and with fewer wasted fish. We are also fishing

more sustainably than ever in the history of Gulf fishery management. This benefits every fisherman and every American, yet we are amazed at some of the claims we have heard even from legislators.

This misguided thinking is manifested in the flawed legislative proposal offered by Rep. Jon Runyan (HR 2772). Mr. Runyan has tried to disguise his bill as a “jobs bill.” What it really does is sabotage the future of fishermen and their jobs by eliminating catch shares as an option.

Lastly, we want to address the common mischaracterization as “privatization of the resource.” Prior to our catch-share programs, permitted fishermen were unlimited as to how many fish they could catch. Now fishermen are capped according to their landings history. Fishermen don’t “own” the fish; they simply have a fishing license proportionate to their

investment in the fishery. In order for one fisherman to catch more, another fisherman has to forego that fishing privilege so overfishing doesn’t occur. Income for trading this privilege or catching the fish is all taxable income. Unlike open access fisheries, every single fish is made available to American taxpayers through federally authorized seafood wholesalers. More so than ever, the public owns the fish. The fisherman simply has a license to catch them, and that could be revoked at any time.

Regardless of the heated Washington D.C. rhetoric, the facts are these: We are delivering fresh, domestic seafood to America year-round for the first time in years while at the same time rebuilding our fishery and its future. This is a great thing for commercial and recreational fishermen and the two hundred million taxpayers that rely on us for fresh domestic seafood.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thanks to ‘friends’ of library

Dear Editor:
Many thanks to all who helped with the fish fry fundraiser for Port St. Joe’s Public Library. Without your hard work this event would not have been successful. To all those in the community who came to the park or ordered their lunch ahead of time, our thanks go to you for supporting the library. Steve Kerigan started the effort with a donation of tickets and printing. Special appreciation goes out to Carmen McLemore (for the fish and the cooking), Bill Kennedy for cooking, Sheriff Joe Nugent for heading the serving line, Mike Lerch and Charles

Radcliff, Carol Dow for the grits, Eric Spilde for the hush puppies and Patti Blaylock for the coleslaw. Yum! from all of us. Others who helped make this a great event were Half Hitch Tackle, the Port St. Joe NJROTC, South Gulf County Volunteer Fire Department for the ice, city workers, the Gulf Coast Electric Coop for their ingenious cooker and Al Smith who helped secure the cooking supplies.

Also, a big thanks to The Star for covering the fish fry and encouraging people to attend. The backbone of this event is the ever-present workers who care about our local public library. Thanks to you all.

Reid Avenue Bunco Babes

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

Send your letters to :

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Fax: 850-227-7212
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Comments from our readers in the form of letters to the editor or a guest column are solicited and encouraged. A newspaper’s editorial page should be a forum where differing ideas and opinions are exchanged. All letters and guest columns must be signed and should include the address and phone number of the author. The street address and phone number are for verification and will not be published. Letters must be in good taste and The Star reserves the right to edit letters for correctness and style.

WEEKLY ALMANAC

Date	High	Low	% Precip
Thu, Dec 8	59°	38°	0 %
Fri, Dec 9	65°	44°	10 %
Sat, Dec 10	64°	41°	10 %
Sun, Dec 11	62°	43°	0 %
Mon, Dec 12	65°	47°	30 %
Tues, Dec 13	67°	47°	20 %
Wed, Dec 14	68°	51°	40 %

TIDE TABLES MONTHLY AVERAGES

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

Cat Point	HIGH Minus 0:40	LOW Minus 1:17
East Pass	Minus 0:27	Minus 0:27

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

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

St. Joseph Bay

Date	Time	Height	Direction	Time	Height	Direction
12/8	Thu	05:19AM	-0.4	L	07:38PM	1.6 H
12/9	Fri	06:07AM	-0.4	L	08:19PM	1.7 H
12/10	Sat	06:55AM	-0.6	L	09:00PM	1.7 H
12/11	Sun	07:40AM	-0.7	L	09:40PM	1.7 H
12/12	Mon	08:18AM	-0.7	L	10:18PM	1.7 H
12/13	Tue	08:51AM	-0.7	L	10:55PM	1.6 H
12/14	Wed	09:16AM	-0.6	L	11:31PM	1.3 H

Apalachicola Bay, West Pass

Date	Time	Height	Direction	Time	Height	Direction
12/8	Thu	08:38AM	-0.4	L	04:23PM	1.1 H
		07:50PM	1.1	L		
12/9	Fri	12:25AM	1.3	H	09:15AM	-0.5 L
		04:58PM	1.1	H	08:31PM	1.1 L
12/10	Sat	01:04AM	1.3	H	09:50AM	-0.5 L
		05:29PM	1.1	H	09:09PM	1.1 L
12/11	Sun	01:46AM	1.3	H	10:22AM	-0.5 L
		05:59PM	1.1	H	09:46PM	1.1 L
12/12	Mon	02:29AM	1.3	H	10:53AM	-0.5 L
		06:26PM	1.1	H	10:26PM	1.0 L
12/13	Tue	03:15AM	1.3	H	11:24AM	-0.4 L
		06:53PM	1.1	H	11:12PM	1.0 L
12/14	Wed	04:05AM	1.2	H	11:56AM	-0.4 L
		07:18PM	1.0	H		

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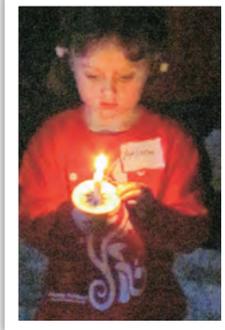
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CHRISTMAS from page A1

Right, A float from Whoville at the Port St. Joe Christmas Parade. **Far right**, a young patron carols by candlelight at the Mexico Beach tree lighting ceremony. **Photos by VALERIE GARMAN | The Star**



MISSION from page A1

willing to give (my son and I) a helping hand," Scoggins said. "We want to give people the chance to be productive citizens like I was given the chance to do."

Commissioner Lorinda Gingell relayed feedback from her constituents, who have expressed concern about the bad reputation associated with the Panama City Rescue Mission, and fear it will be reproduced in Port St. Joe.

"Part of this is perception," Gingell said. "This comes in as the Panama City Rescue Mission; that's whose name is on this. If this was Matt's Ministry under the bridge, we wouldn't have this problem."

Joe Atkinson, the future director of the Gulf Coast Hope Center, said the organization has done everything the commission has asked, including moving the location from Reid Avenue to North Port St. Joe.

Atkinson said the last thing they want to do is hurt the community.

"Fear is what scares people

away from certain things," Atkinson said. "The only way we're going to overcome this negative perception is to invite people to come see for themselves."

Mayor Mel Magidson compared the organization to a "pink pony" applying for a business license, and that it was natural for commissioners to raise questions about the intentions of the center. "I am personally convinced of what the intention is," Magidson said. "If it causes problems, we can deal with that."

Magidson asked Atkinson to promise that they wouldn't provide food and shelter.

Atkinson said the organization has no intentions of providing shelter or food at the facility, which would prevent loitering.

"There's absolutely no space to sleep or feed anyone in there," Atkinson said.

Magidson went on to say the commission was not going to vote on whether or not to allow the organization a business license.

"Unless somebody can give

me a reason why we can deny this (license) to you, I don't think we can," Magidson said.

Magidson was not without opposition.

Residents raised questions of whether there was a need for the organization in Gulf County.

Steve Sheridan said the organization was hiding their real intentions of servicing people from out of town.

"This is an outside organization wanting to bring people in," Sheridan said. "We don't have a substantial homeless problem here. Our property and safety is going to be threatened."

Amber Davis also addressed the commission in opposition of the Gulf Coast Hope Center. She said the community doesn't trust the organization and the mission would end up costing taxpayers dollars in the long run.

"These concerns are not fear-mongering," Davis said. "It's what this organization presented—intentions to open up a homeless shelter."

HOSPITALS from page A1

35-mile range, Sacred Heart cannot receive a CAH designation, which would boost the Medicaid and Medicare reimbursements the hospital receives.

"A critical access hospital would be reimbursed dollar for dollar," Hall said. "They receive a much larger reimbursement."

With 98 employees, Sacred Heart is one of the largest employers in Gulf County. Hall said that although the hospital has been hit with lower reimbursement rates, there has been no talk of cutting jobs.

As a rural hospital, Hall said there are many challenges Sacred Heart faces, particularly in its ability to recruit new doctors to the area and staff qualified employees. Eighty percent of the hospital's staff requires specific certifications and licenses.

The instability of reimbursement amounts also provides new challenges, Hall added.

"We're trying to do the best job with the resources that we have," Hall said. "We will work with the state and federal agencies as we go. We're going to constantly be looking at how we can provide care to our community with better reimbursement rates."

Hall said the hospital's partnerships are providing a means for growth.

Sacred Heart Health Systems has been working to compile a lease agreement with Bay Medical Center in Panama City, which would lease Bay Medical to Sacred Heart for 40 years for about \$150 million.

Although 90 percent complete, the agreement has not yet been finalized.

"We don't know totally what that is going to look like right

now," Hall said. "But we very much anticipate that the partnership will bring more specialists in and provide better access to health care here in Gulf County."

Hall anticipates only positive effects will come from the lease agreement.

Hall said Sacred Heart's partnership with the Gulf County Health Department also provides many resources the hospital would not otherwise have access to.

Through its partnership with the health department, Sacred Heart qualifies for various grants that have funded primary care expenses and mammography equipment for its new Women's Center.

"It's our objective to remove the silos of health care in Gulf County so we can all shoulder the services," Hall said. "We have had a very positive response from the county health department."

Hall said Sacred Heart on the Gulf and the Gulf County Health Department have the same goal in mind, and are constantly sharing information and resources in order to become better stewards of health care for the community.

As for the future of Sacred Heart on the Gulf, Hall said there are plans for continued growth. He hopes to announce new services within a month, when contracts are finalized.

"We're very excited to be able to bring about the high-quality women's diagnostic center," Hall said. "We're in the process of looking at bringing in more services for the people of Gulf County."

"We are a new hospital and we have growing services. We want people to know that there is sustainable health care here in Gulf County."

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LOCAL from page A1

In fact, he has had more economic development leads in the last two weeks in Port St. Joe than in the last two months at his old job in Corning.

"You have everything an economic developer could want here," he said. "Between the Port of Port St. Joe, the Bay and Gulf front, the State College which will provide a place for training and workforce development, the new hospital and the people, you've got a lot of positive things to sell here."

Sellers said the opportunity in Florida right now is great, and with new prospects arising in the development of the deepwater port, he feels the timing is right to get something done here.

"(The Port Authority) has done a great job at laying out the properties,"

Sellers said. "They've got the product ready; now my job is to sell that product."

When he was asked to stay at his position in Corning by commissioners, Sellers gave a tongue-in-cheek answer.

"I just told them, 'Can you move that Port to Arkansas? Because that's where I need to be,'" Sellers said.

And while industrial prospects remain at the top of his "to do" list, Sellers believes there is a way to create industry while preserving the areas natural draws.

"We certainly don't want to change the Bay or Gulf front," he said. "We don't want to turn Port St. Joe into Destin or Panama City. There's a happy medium, but there needs to be some growth."

Sellers's number one focus right now is to create

"Everyone that wants to work, deserves a chance to work. One of my main jobs is to give people the choice to stay in Gulf County if they want to. Many of the youth here, graduating from high school or getting out of the service, don't have that choice."

Barry Sellers

Gulf County Chamber of Commerce Director

jobs and a diverse economy.

"I'm here to retain the companies and jobs we have and help them expand and grow and hire, and to recruit new companies, including industry, to create more jobs in the county and the region," he said. "The best of the best (economic developers) do it because they want to help improve

other people's lives. What gives me the most satisfaction is to actually put people to work. That's why I do it."

Sellers said economic development is the process of creating wealth, which has a different meaning for each person.

"Everyone that wants

to work, deserves a chance to work," Sellers said. "One of my main jobs is to give people the choice to stay in Gulf County if they want to. Many of the youth here, graduating from high school or getting out of the service, don't have that choice."

"Ninety-plus percent of the people I've talked to in Gulf County love Gulf County. They love their city, they love their school, they love living here."

When he asks people what they don't like about Gulf County the response is usually "I wish we had more jobs."

Sellers said the consolidation of the chamber and the EDC will be helpful because the two go hand-in-hand, especially in a small county.

On the chamber side, Sellers said they are trying to get membership up and

earn the business owners' trust.

He is trying to stress the importance of shopping local first.

"People are going to get tired of me using the word 'local,'" Sellers said. "But to keep the money in Gulf County, you have to shop local."

An Arkansas State University Alumnus, Sellers missed his first ASU game in 40 years this fall, an event that he said proves his dedication to Gulf County.

"The football fans out there will understand, I was a little bit emotional," Sellers said. "I made the decision to come here and I am committed to being here."

"I feel like sometimes I'm running in circles, but I'm just trying to get as many opinions as I can."

artcamp

Date: January 2-6, 2011
Time: 9:00 - 11:30 (ages 5-9)
 12:00 - 2:30 (ages 10-17)
Location: The Artery (214 Williams Avenue)
Cost: 5 classes for \$25 (scholarships available)

In this camp we will "Mix it Up" and combine two dimensional paintings with three dimensional sculpted clay. The result will be truly unique mixed media pieces including 3-D paintings, chalkboards and picture frames and more.

Registration available online at www.gulfalliance.org or at The Artery. For additional information, contact artclasses@gulfalliance.org or Dolores at 814-2826 or seagrassart@gmail.com



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World of Color
 Instructor: Dolores Lowery
Mixed media, acrylic paints, gels and mediums on canvas
 Session Two: Tuesday, January 17 - February 21
 Session Three: Thursday, March 20 - April 24

World of Clay
 Instructor: Leslie Wentzell
 Session Two: Thursday, January 19 - February 23
 Session Three: Tuesday, March 20 - April 24

Time: 2:45 - 4:15 (ages 5-9)
 4:30 - 6:00 (ages 10-18)

Fee: \$50 per 6 week session or \$10 per class. Scholarships are available. Classes to be held @ The Artery (214 Williams Ave.)

Registration available online at www.gulfalliance.org or at The Artery. For additional information, contact artclasses@gulfalliance.org or Dolores at 814-2826 or seagrassart@gmail.com



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Capital City Bank awards fall grants

Star Staff Report

Capital City Bank is pleased to announce its fall 2011 grant recipients. The Capital City Bank Group Foundation rewarded three grants this

fall to area non-profit organizations. This year's recipients include \$1,000 to the Growing Minds Center, \$500 to the St. Joseph Bay Humane Society, and \$500 to the Friends of the Gulf County Public Libraries.

"We are grateful to be in a position to help organizations make an impact in our communities," said Ray Thompson, president of the Gulf County Capital City Bank. "Community involvement has always

been a hallmark of Capital City Bank and by donating valuable funds to worthwhile organizations such as these, the Capital City Bank Group Foundation can help us build stronger communities."



PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE STAR
ABOVE: Cathy Colbert, president of the Friends of the Gulf County Library group, and Thompson
AT RIGHT: Christine Hermsdorfer, director of the Growing Minds Center, with Growing Minds student Trey Cumbie and Capital City Bank President Ray Thompson.

ABOVE: Melody Townsend, director of the St. Joseph Bay Humane Society, and Thompson.

GCEC trustee becomes cooperative director

Special to The Star

Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative trustee Gary Cox, representing District 1, Group 2, recently attained the Credentialed Cooperative Director certification.

Today's electric utility environment imposes new demands on electric cooperative directors,

particularly increased knowledge of changes in the electric utility business, new governance skills and a working knowledge of the cooperative principles. Electric co-ops in Florida have a commitment to work



GARY COX
GCEC Co-Op Director

through NRECA to sharpen this body of knowledge for the benefit of their electric cooperative consumer-owners.

The NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director program

requires attendance and demonstrated understanding of the

basic competencies contained in five core courses. Cox completed the following classes: director utilities and liabilities; understanding the electric business; board roles and relationships; business planning; and understanding financial planning.

"We are proud to have Mr. Cox serving on

our board of trustees," GCEC CEO/general manager Michael White said. "Completing this certification certainly makes him even more of an asset to the Cooperative."

Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative is part of the Touchstone Energy national alliance of local, consumer-owned electric cooperatives providing

high standards of service to customers large and small. Approximately 70 employees serve more than 20,000 meters and 2,500 miles of line in Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Jackson, Walton and Washington counties and in the municipalities of Wewahitchka, Ebro, Lynn Haven, White City, Fountain and Southport.

Supreme Court weighs Fla. drug law

By Chris Olwell

Florida Freedom Newspapers

TALLAHASSEE—The Florida Supreme Court heard oral arguments Tuesday on the constitutionality of the state's drug law, and the court's decision could have far-reaching repercussions.

A judge in Manatee County had thrown out cases against 42 defendants, ruling that the law deprived the defendants of due process rights. The state appealed to the 2nd District Court of Appeal, which passed the case to the Supreme Court to quickly clear up the issue.

Assistant Attorney General Diana Bock ar-

gued for the state Tuesday. "This is a war," Bock said. "This is a tool that we've been given by the Legislature."

Assistant Public Defender Matthew Bernstein said the law is broad enough that it could criminalize innocent conduct. For example, if someone were mistakenly given some roxycodone, a narcotic, they believed to be an over-the-counter pain reliever, they could be convicted under current law, he said.

"Because it has the potential to criminalize innocent activity, it is un-

constitutional," he said.

The law has come under scrutiny recently since a federal court judge in Orlando declared the law unconstitutional, declaring that it doesn't require prosecutors to prove a defendant's intent in drug cases. Since that ruling, at least two circuit court judges have thrown out nearly 80 drug cases for the same reason.

State Attorney Glenn Hess, like the 19 other state attorneys, is opposed to any changes to the law, but he said he doesn't worry about what would happen if the law changed.

"I think, as a practical matter, I could live with it either way," Hess said.

Locally, at least two judges have defended the laws against challenges from defendants with pending drug cases based on the argument that they are bound to the decisions of the 1st District Court of Appeal (DCA).

The 1st DCA has upheld the law because it allows for the defendant to raise questions about their lack of intent in what is called the affirmative defense. Essentially, if a defendant says something like, "I didn't know I had drugs," or, "I thought that was baking soda," it shifts the burden back to the state to

prove the defendant knew what he or she was doing.

The Supreme Court justices essentially will decide whether the 1st DCA or the federal court in Orlando is right, said Michael Allen, a law professor at Stetson University College of Law.

If the federal judge, Mary Scriven, is correct in ruling that shifting the burden of proof to the defendant is improper, "that seems unconstitutional," Allen said. If the 1st DCA is right and the affirmative defense makes the law proper, "that really solves a lot of problems," Allen said.

Allen pointed out Florida is the only state in the nation that doesn't require prosecutors to prove intent.

It appears changes to the law could be in store regardless of how the court rules. The Associated Press reported that state Sen. Ellyn Bogdanoff, R-Fort Lauderdale, and state Rep. Erik Fresen, R-Miami, would seek to pass legislation that would require prosecutors to prove intent in drug trafficking cases, at the least.

"As a lawyer, I have problems constitutionally with forcing a party to prove their innocence versus the state proving guilt," Bogdanoff told the . "We're shifting that burden to potentially an innocent person, which I believe is against everything our constitution stands for."



GLENN HESS

Reserve a place in the Christmas Bird Count

It's that time of year again. Alan Knothe is once again coordinating the county's Christmas Bird Counts.

The count period for the 112th annual count will be Wednesday, Dec. 14, through Jan. 5.

Tens of thousands of volunteers throughout the Americas will take part in what has become a family tradition for many. For more than a century, the desire to both make a difference and experience the beauty of nature has driven dedicated people to leave the comfort of a warm house during the holiday season and count birds.

Before the turn of the century, people engaged in a holiday tradition known as the Christmas "Side Hunt," in which they would choose sides and go afield with their guns. Whoever brought in the biggest pile of dead animals won.

Conservation was in its beginning stages around the turn of the 20th century, and observers and scientists were becoming concerned about declining bird populations. Beginning Christmas Day 1900, ornithologist Frank Chapman, an early officer in the then-budding Audubon Society, proposed a new holiday tradition, a "Christmas Bird Census," that would count birds in the holidays rather than hunt them. Locally this year's

dates have been set as Dec. 19 for the Choctawhatchee Bay count in Okaloosa County, Dec. 28 for the Gulf County count and Dec. 29 for the Franklin County count.

You need not be an expert birder to participate. Each team will be headed by an experienced expert, but volunteers are needed to act as spotters and record data. Counts generally begin early and end at dark.

Scientists and land manager use data from the count to make more informed decisions about management practices and, since birds are good indicators of environmental health, the count benefits all kinds of wildlife.

To volunteer for the count, contact Knothe at aknothe@audubon.org or call 200-6279.



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North Florida Fair a success for Gulf County 4-H'ers

Star Staff Report

Thirty-seven Gulf County youth traveled to Tallahassee on Nov. 12 to participate in the annual North Florida Fair 4-H Day competitions. There were hundreds of 4-H youth from North Florida competing and experiencing "The Fun Starts Here" — the 2011 fair theme.

Gulf County 4-Hers trained for several weeks in preparation for the 4-H Day Agriculture Judging and Consumer Choices contests.

Agriculture participants were trained on how to judge the quality of agricultural crops and livestock. Some of the items they judged were corn, oats, perennial peanut hay, poultry, heifers and steers.

Consumer Choices participants were trained on making smart shopping choices in the areas of selecting computer security systems, video games, plants and good quality popcorn.

After the competitions, the 4-Hers spent several hours enjoying the fair exhibits, carnival rides, and scrumptious food. Their day concluded with an awards ceremony during which many Gulf County 4-Hers were recognized with trophies and ribbons due to winning scores.

Gulf County winners were:

4-H Fair Exhibits

Shawn Elia — intermediate individual — fine arts — wood crafted house — 1st place

Shawn Elia — intermediate individual — fine arts — wood crafted airplane — 1st place

Consumer Choices

Hope Freeman, Ennesia Hughes, Kimberly Sims — intermediate team — 2nd place

Kimberly Sims — intermediate individual high score — 3rd place

Gabrielle Jones, Jeneesa Lewis, Bridgette Myers, Daneyasia Wymes — senior team — 1st place

Mikaleh Graham — senior individual — 3rd place

Agriculture Judging

Shawn Elia — intermediate individual high score — 3rd place

Shawn Elia, Tori Lanter, and Desiree Outlaw — intermediate team — 1st place

If you are interested in participating in future 4-H programs, please contact the Gulf County Extension Office at 639-3200, 229-2909, or metaylor@ulf.edu.



PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Torie Lanter, Shawn Elia and Desiree Outlaw took first in agriculture judging, intermediate team.



Hope Freeman, Ennesia Hughes and Kimberly Sims finished second in consumer choice, intermediate team.



Shawn Elia won third place in agriculture judging, individual high score.



Gabrielle Jones, Jeneesa Lewis, Bridgette Myers and Daneyasia Wymes placed first in consumer choice, senior team.



Shawn Elia took first place for his wood-crafted house and wood-crafted airplane.



GULF COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY HOLIDAY MEETING

Capital City Bank
December 12, 2011
7:00 EST

Please join us, as we celebrate our
Success in 2011 and begin plans for 2012

Please plan to bring your favorite dish to share along with two toys unwrapped. One for a boy and one for a girl ages 0-14 for the Christmas Charity "People Helping People"

ALL INTERESTED REPUBLICANS ARE INVITED

Concealed Weapons Class, January 14, 2012
Contact Tom Semmes 639-5345



Above, Kimberly Sims won third place, consumer choice, intermediate individual high score. **Left,** Mikaleh Graham finished third in consumer choice, senior individual.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT GTC, INC. D/B/A FAIRPOINT COMMUNICATIONS

GTC, Inc. d/b/a FairPoint Communications provides a wide variety of products and services including the following basic service offerings in The Beaches (647 and 648) and Port St. Joe (227, 229, and 827) exchanges:

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Single Party Residential Service	\$6.95	\$30.25
Single Party Business Service	\$19.02	\$46.25
Single Party LifeLine Telephone Service*	\$0.00	\$15.13

In addition to the above monthly rates, a \$6.50 Federal Subscriber Line Charge applies to business and residential single party lines and \$9.20 for a business with more than one line. This \$6.50 charge is paid entirely by the federal lifeline program for qualifying customers.

The above rates include the following:

- Local calling and the ability to receive unlimited incoming calls;
- Touch tone capability;
- Access to operator services, directory assistance, and long distance service providers;
- Voice grade access to the public switched network;
- Free access to emergency 9-1-1 and 800 or 800-like toll free services;
- One free directory listing;
- One free white page telephone directory;
- Free toll blocking for qualifying low-income customers;
- Free access to the telephone relay service; and
- Free access to the business office.

This is a state and federally funded program, which provides discounted service to low-income residential customers who meet the eligibility rules that have been established. Includes discounted basic service rates, discounted one-time installation charges or change charges, and free toll blocking. All this is made available to those who qualify for LifeLine Telephone Service.

For additional details on any of the services, please contact our business office at 1.800.400.5568.



Sheepish behavior: Winter's panfish can excite the fisherman

Set the hook just before they bite.

That is the sage advice of salty old sheephead aficionados, who like to pull the leg of those with less experience at extracting *Archosargus probatocephalus* from coastal waters. The seeming paradoxical how-to is nearly correct, though, because no fish in the sea can steal a bait more quickly. In fact, some people, outdoors writer-types mostly, call them "convict fish" for their nefarious behavior — and of course they wear the same black and white stripes you used to see on prison road-gangs so the look also suits.

Sheepshead are shaped like a sort of giant saltwater bluegill, with average weights of 1 to 4 pounds. The big attraction at this time of year is that they continue to bite when reds and trout are hunkered down shivering in the holes, and when Spanish, kings and cobia are enjoying a few margaritas off Key West.

The limit on sheepshead is liberal — 15 daily — which means if you have two or three anglers aboard and happen into a swarm of hungry 'heads, you can actually fill the cooler, a rarity with any species these days.

You won't be taking home any 20-pounders, as you might with gags or red snapper, to be sure, (the all-tackle sheepshead record is 21 pounds, 4 ounces) but a stack of 1- to 3-pounders is likely in winter, and if you fish rockpiles off the beach during the March/April spawn, you may add some fish of 5 to 8 pounds to the box. The jetties at St.

Andrews are a famed spot for this. (Minimum size is 12 inches total length.)

Don't expect any line-class record 'heads, either; the IGFA does not extend their respect to the species by keeping class records, though they do provide this honor to the mighty black sea bass (all-tackle record 10 pounds, 4 ounces, not half the size of the biggest sheepie.)

Sheepshead are not wimps, either; they're remarkably powerful critters for their size. A five-pounder caught on the flats is a match for a redfish of similar size — though it's rare to catch 'em on the flats because they are so much more wary than redfish. And when you hook up with a heavy one around a piling, he's just as quick to wrap up and cut you off.

The sheepshead is a member of the porgie family, thus his shape. They are named for their teeth, which do look somewhat sheeplike, and enable them to crunch up the shellfish and crabs that are their primary diet. Inside the mouth are hard, bony nodules that complete the crushing operation; they can grind up anything from oysters to mussels to barnacles — if you've ever tried to scrape barnacles off a boat bottom, you have to admire the power in the sheepshead jaws because they nip them off like carrots.

Catching sheepshead is a learned art. It looks as if it should be very simple; toss a piece of fresh-cut shrimp in front of them and they eat it, most of the time. But that parsimonious mouth is very stingy when it comes to ingesting hooks; often they nip off the bait



PHOTOS BY FRANK SARGEANT | Special to The News Herald

Main, Sheepshead occasionally prowl very shallow water, particularly on warm winter afternoons. They can be caught on unweighted fresh shrimp in these situations, but they're easily spooked. **Inset,** Sheepshead may be the only game in town as cold weather sets in along the Panhandle, but they provide good action and great eating for those who learn how to hook them.

and leave Mr. Gamakatsu hanging naked.

First, it's essential to use a hook small enough to fit the relatively small mouth of the fish; size 1 or 1/0 is the ticket to admission. Actually, smaller hooks work even better; but the teeth are so strong that the fish can occasionally bite right through the light wire of smaller hardware — choose small hook size made in a strong wire for best results.

Sheepshead can also bite through mono or fluoro leader and line, and there's not much you can do about that if the hook goes in far enough for them to chomp on, either. Adding wire leader is not an option — they'll rarely eat even the tastiest bait suspended on wire.

You usually need a sinker of some sort

because 'heads are most often found in holes, channels and cuts, usually around rocks, concrete or other hard structure where shellfish can fix and grow and where small crabs live.

One good way to rig is to put the hook on a dropper made of 20-pound test "hard" mono like the Mason's that's a favorite of offshore anglers, or fluorocarbon, which is nearly twice as dense as mono, then hang the sinker on the bitter end of the line about 18 inches below — it's like the drop-shot rig preferred by bass anglers, and a neat hook for the job is the new VMC Spin-Shot hook, which has a swivel on each side and stands out vertically between line and leader.

With this rig, you can immediately feel it when a fish starts nibbling on the

bait; if the sinker is above the hook, as in a standard rig, the fish has to bite hard enough to move the sinker before you feel anything — and by that time the bait may be long gone.

Another rig that works well in winter is a one-eighth to one-quarter-ounce jig head with an oversized hook, size 1/0 or so, on which a piece of fresh cut shrimp, about thumbnail-sized, is impaled. With the jig, you feel the bite immediately, and it casts more easily than a separate sinker/dropper rig.

While fresh shrimp is by far the easiest bait to come by, sheepshead also readily take an assortment of other natural baits; fiddler crabs, tubeworms and oysters are all high on the list of sheepshead experts. In some areas, you can scoop up sand

fleas with a basket rake, and these make ideal bait not only for sheepshead but also for pompano. (Parboil them in salted water, store them in plastic zipper bags and freeze them, and you've got fresh bait any time you need it.)

By the way, the traditional tactic of putting an oyster on a treble or double hook to catch sheepshead is no longer legal; it's single hooks only for the species.

Whatever the bait, the trick is to hold light tension on the line when you feel that first bump. If you can sense weight there as you take up the slack, set the hook; you miss some, but you hook most once you develop the touch. Microfiber line like PowerPro helps a lot; better sensitivity and more authority to set the hook.

Cattails: An interesting edible

By Kathleen Dawson,
OPS Park Ranger St. Joseph
Peninsula State Park
(850) 227-1327

One of the more interesting plant species in St. Joseph Peninsula State Park is the common cattail. We've all seen them; growing in marshes, lakes and wetlands with their long stems reaching for the sky and brown heads swaying in the breeze. But what some people don't realize is the cattail has many uses

when it comes to the culinary arts.

Cattail leaves are erect and sword like. Their stems are branchless and stiff, topped by compact, cylindrical heads of flowers. Male flowers, when they are full of pollen, are yellow or golden and will dissipate. The female plant has sausage like heads that are green at first and then turn brown. The cattail is probably one of the most versatile of our native edible plants.

In the early spring you

can easily pull the 24- to 36-inch young shoots from the root and if you peel back the root you will reveal a tender white core. This can be eaten raw and some say it tastes like cucumber. You can also cook the root like asparagus by boiling it for 15 minutes. By late spring the green cattail tops, just before they break out of their paper like sheath, can be gathered and boiled for a few minutes. Serve them up with butter and you can eat them like corn on the

cob.

During the summer, the brown flower spikes will start to produce pollen. You can collect the pollen by placing a plastic bag over the flower and giving it a good shake. Sift out the non-pollen material, then dry. You can use the pollen to thicken soups or mix half and half with wheat flour for rich protein flour.

In the fall, you can dig up the white starchy roots. After cleaning them in fresh water, you can crush

the roots and white powdery flour will break free. Let the mix sit a couple of hours, the flour will separate from the plant fibers. Do this two or three times. Collect what you can and use it in breads and cakes. The sticky white flour can be used to bake breads and to thicken and give flavor to cream soups.

In the winter, just as in the fall, the roots can be washed off and eaten raw, or cooked like a potato. Cattails are also used for

crafts and home décor.

Please don't collect cattails in the park. All plants and animals are protected inside state parks. If you have a group interested in an edible plant program or some other nature program, contact the park office 227-1327.

Until next week, From the Rangers at St. Joseph Peninsula State Park

For information about Florida State Parks, visit www.floridastateparks.org.

Preserves nature photo contest

Star Staff Report

The Friends of St. Joseph Bay Preserves announces its first Nature Photo Contest.

Entry fees benefit the Friends organization, a non-profit that provides support and advocacy for the Buffer and Aquatic Preserves.

Photo categories are:

landscapes, animal kingdom, floral kingdom, up close and personal (macro) and at the buffer preserve.

The entry deadline is Jan. 6, 2012 and an entry form and rules can be downloaded at stjosephbaypreserves.org/photo-contest.

Prizes and ribbons will be awarded for the best

photos in each category.

The winning photos will be displayed at the Preserves Center during Bay Day on Feb. 4 and will be exhibited at the center on Feb. 4-11. The photos will also be on display at the Apalachicola Center for History, Culture and Art Jan. 14-28.



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Freshwater

After all the rain and winds from last week, we finally found a break in the weather. The recent warm spell should increase the freshwater bite in the creeks and rivers. Lake Wimico has had good reports of small bass in good numbers from last week. Great reports of crappie in the river and into deeper holes. Heavy salt water has pushed trout into the Brothers and at Christmas Lake.

Inshore

The trout bite has improved in the I.C.W. canal in St. Joe, but most are still on the small side. A few reports of bigger trout being caught at the "T" have been stirring; however, the recent rain and advancing cold temps might push the trout even farther up the river. Bull red are still being caught on the docks at the St. Joe Marina. Early morning or late in the evening seem to be the best times for this action.

Port St. Joe boys split first two games

By Tim Croft
Star News Editor

Two Bay County teams, two nights, two different results.

The Port St. Joe Tiger Sharks split their first two games last week with a 73-58 defeat to Lynn Haven Mosley last Thursday followed by a 54-48 victory at Bay last Friday.

"It was a nice win,"

said Port St. Joe coach Derek Kurnitsky. "It was nice to beat a Bay County team, good to beat a bigger school."

"The players need to play with confidence. I told them the name on the front of the jersey is as important as the name on the back. We are Port St. Joe. It doesn't matter who the opposition is. I was really impressed with them after

(Mosley). I was proud of them."

The Tiger Sharks broke to a 16-7 lead after one quarter but were trailing 32-29 at half following the lone period that Bay would manage double-digits scoring.

Port St. Joe began to pull ahead in the third quarter and pushed the margin over the final eight minutes.

Alex King, who scored at least 20 points in each of the first two games, had 21 to lead Port St. Joe. Chad Quinn and Arion Ward added 10 points each. Natrone Lee had six, Ramello Zaccarro four and Caleb Odom three.

Against Mosley the previous night, the Tiger Sharks fell behind big. The host Dolphins pushed an early 19-8 first quar-

ter lead to as much as 18 points in the third quarter.

The Tiger Sharks battled back to within four early in the fourth quarter but Mosley pulled away in the final minutes.

"They jumped on us early," Kurnitsky said. "We went on a run and got to within four but just couldn't keep it going. They are a good team. I was proud of the boys

fighting hard and coming back."

King scored 20 to pace Port St. Joe. Quinn added 15, Ward nine, Marcel Johnson and Zaccarro had five points each and Lee finished with four.

The Tiger Sharks hosted Blountstown on Tuesday night, host South Walton at 6 p.m. ET on Friday and travel to Wewahitchka at 6 p.m. ET on Saturday.

Boys remain unbeaten, girls lose first for PSJHS soccer

Star Staff Report

With wins over Marianna, Baker and South Walton last week, the Port St. Joe boys soccer team continued its unbeaten season.

Meanwhile, the Lady Tiger Sharks suffered their first defeat of the season.

The girls are now 3-1-0 overall, 1-0-0 in District 1-1A.

The Lady Tiger Sharks, who had allowed just one goal all season, were in a tight contest against unbeaten South Walton when goalkeeper Christian Laine attempted to clear a through pass in front of the goal as freshman Kathleen Rish rushed to clear the ball. Laine's ball hit Rish square in the face and rebounded into the goal for the only score in the 1-0 game.

South Walton outshot Port St. Joe eight to five. Laine had three saves in 60 minutes in goal, while freshman Shannon Prigdeon had four in 30 minutes.

The boys, now 5-0-0 and 1-0-0, won 2-1.

Freshman forward Marcel Duart scored his team-leading seventh goal at the eight minute mark and Daniel May put in the game-winner on a 35-yard free kick in the 58th minute, five minutes after South Walton had tied the game.

Junior Javarri Beachum had a solid game in goal as he was called on to make six saves on 12 South Walton shots. With the win, he is now 3-0-0 on the year, with a 0.36 goals against average.

Both teams traveled to Rocky Bayou on Tuesday and the boys visit North Bay Haven Thursday.

Both teams host Rocky Bayou on Saturday, the girls at 2 p.m. ET and the boys at 4 p.m.

Marianna

The Lady Tiger continued their shutout streak with a 5-0 win on Nov. 29.

First-year player Cat Robles scored the lone first half goal for Port St. Joe, while Allie Stripling, Laine, Haley Woods, and Mary Branch added goals in the second half. Stripling also tallied an assist on the final goal by Branch; the other goals were all unassisted.

Returning sophomore and all-district goalkeeper, Laine, started the game in goal and played 25 minutes and had one save. Laine shared the shutout with Prigdeon, seeing her first action in goal and recording two saves in 55 minutes in net.

The Tiger Sharks won a hard-fought game 3-2.

The Marianna goals were the first surrendered by the Port St. Joe boys this season.

Beachum tallied Port St. Joe's first goal in the 70th minute, on an assist from senior defender Daniel May, a co-captain who scored the second goal for the Tiger Sharks, an unassisted tally five minutes after Beachum's goal. The Tiger Sharks were up 2-1 at the point but Marianna scored minutes later to knot the score.

In a wild finish, sophomore midfielder Drew Lacour provided the winning goal, on yet another assist from May.

Starting goalie, Beachum, handled the first 40 minutes in goal before turning to the field and first-time goalkeeper Walt Bowers took over from there. Beachum made two saves, Bowers three.

Baker

The Lady Tiger Sharks allowed their first goal of the season but scored five to take the win.

The Baker goal came in the last minutes of the game, long after the outcome was decided.

Sophomore Lexie McGhee, last year's second-leading scorer, tallied her first two goals of the year and added an assist. Sophomore Stripling, the girls' top scorer this season, added a goal and an assist. Freshman Wood and senior co-captain Rachel Jones each had a goal, Jones also tallying an assist. Junior midfielder Bryanna Stuart had an assist. Prigdeon got her first start in goal, recording three saves on four Baker shots.

The Tiger Sharks recorded their third shutout in four games as Bowers got his first start in goal. Seventh-grader Joseph Kerrigan finished the game in the net to share the shutout with Bowers. Bowers recorded two saves and Kerrigan three.

Freshman forward Marcel Duarte scored a hat trick in the first half, during which goals were also scored by senior co-captain Witt Shoaf, Lacour, freshman Cole Cryderman, and May. The lone tally of the second half was netted by senior defender Blaine Bush, which signaled the "mercy rule," which is mandated by Florida High School Athletic Association rules when an eight-goal margin is reached in the second half. Bush also recorded the only Port St. Joe assist on a corner kick that resulted in a header into the net by May near the end of the first half.



CARLA MAY | Special to The Star

The Port St. Joe girls continued their shutout streak in a 5-0 win over Marianna on Nov. 29.



The Tiger Sharks won a hard-fought 3-2 game over Marianna, the first goals the boys had surrendered on the season.

Gene Raffield Football League says thanks

Special to The Star

The Gene Raffield Football League has just finished its most successful season in its 13-year history. All three teams went undefeated and won the Super Bowl. The League's success was made possible because of the generosity, love and support of a number of Port St. Joe businesses and organizations. They

donated the financial help the League must have to properly equip our players.

Our heartfelt thanks to the following: Platinum Sponsor: Duren's Piggly Wiggly; Gold Sponsors: Raffield Fisheries, Inc., John C. Gainous VFW Post 10069, C. W. Roberts Contracting, Inc.; Silver Sponsors: Boardwalk Realty of N.W. FL, Inc., Sunset Coastal Grill,

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TDC-sponsored race truck to be displayed

Star Staff Report

NASCAR driver Grant Enfinger and the Ford F-150 Race Truck he drove during the 2011 season will be on display Sunday, Dec. 11, from 3-6 p.m. ET at the Port City Shopping Center in front of Piggly Wiggly. Enfinger drove the truck, sponsored by Gulf County Tourism Development Council, in the October Talladega running of the Camping World Truck Series sporting the VisitGulf.com logo.

Enfinger will be available for photos and information from racing enthusiasts, kids and the general public. Enfinger is scheduled to drive in the NASCAR Sprint Cup series in 2012.

This is the first time the Gulf County Tourist Development Council has teamed up with the 26-year-old Fairhope, Ala., native. The No. 82 red and white machine promoted the beaches and tourism of Gulf County Florida.

"We learned just how loyal NASCAR fans

are; we've had so many calls and emails into our Welcome Center since the Talladega race requesting photos and more information," said Tim Kerigan, executive director of the Gulf County TDC. "We wanted to build awareness for Gulf County among that market. Now we want share a bit of the NASCAR experience with our local community."

More information is available by calling the Gulf County TDC at 229-7800.



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 is proud to announce the **11th Annual Shoe Drive** is now underway.
Help those in need!
 It's time to go through your closets for those unwanted pairs of shoes, in reasonable condition. You can bring the shoes to Coastal Foot and Ankle Clinic located at 221 HWY 98. Donations will go to Franklin's Promise and will be distributed at The community service center (old Apalachicola high school) at 192 14th street in Apalachicola. Distribution will be December 6th and 20th from 9:00am to 12:00pm.
You can call 653-FEET (3338) for more information.

"Dogs for Dogs"
December 9, 2011
 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
 At Port St. Joe Marina
 340 Marina Drive,
 Port St. Joe, FL 32456
 850-227-9393

Give one of our special friends a home for Christmas. We have so many wonderful faces and personalities to choose from. Adopting is easy and inexpensive. In return you will get years of companionship, love, and lots and lots of memories.
 Be sure to come by the Port St. Joe Marina around lunchtime (11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.) and enjoy a hot dog or chili dog (max. 2 hot dogs) lunch, (chips, and soda included for a \$5.00 cash donation. All proceeds will be given to the Humane Society.

SHOP OUT BLOCK SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY BY SHOPPING LOCALLY

WIN!
 A 32" SONY BRAVIA LCD TV

CHECK OUT OUR AWESOME CHRISTMAS SPECIALS!

RAMSEYS'
 PRINTING & OFFICE PRODUCTS
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Register with each purchase... receive an additional chance for each \$50 increment. Ask for details inside. Drawing to be held December 23, 2011. You need not be present to win.

SANTA SHOPS AT RAMSEYS' FOR:

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- CALCULATORS
- MOUSE PADS
- GLUE GUNS
- POSTER PAINT
- BASEBALLS
- GLITTER

Ramsey's selling paper, helping kids

By Tim Croft
Star News Editor

Ramsey's Printing and Office Products is one of just four small commercial printers/office products outfit in the Southeast to be selected to partner with International Paper on a campaign to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, a nationally recognized leader in research of childhood cancers.

The campaign slogan is "Paper beats Cancer."

"It's kind of neat," said Willie Ramsey, referring to being just one of four small commercial printers selected for the campaign. "Ramsey's is honored to participate with Hammermill Papers and International Paper's effort to fight childhood cancer."

Hammermill is a brand of paper produced by International Paper.

See **RAMSEY'S B6**



Photos by VALERIE GARMAN | The Star

Erika White, executive director of People Helping People of Gulf County, hands a bag of food to a local man in need. **At right**, White organizes the food pantry shelves. With more than 100 families registered to receive monthly supplements from the pantry, White said the food goes quickly.

"Unfortunately, the economy is continuing to decline. I think now more than ever we really need people to help fight against hunger and help feed our neighbors."

Cheryl Phoenix
executive director, America's Second Harvest of the Big Bend



'Lean times'

Food banks feel pinch in down economy

By Valerie Garman
Star Staff Writer

Erika White hates to send people away empty-handed, but sometimes she has no choice.

It was a meager summer, with the pantry shelves at People Helping People of Gulf County consistently barren as the organization struggled to meet compliances to qualify to receive food from distribution services while changing locations this summer.

"Those lean times are not my favorite times, but it does happen," said White, executive director of People Helping People. "It got to be pretty bad. People would come, and there was nothing on the shelves."

Although the shelves are no longer bare, the two wire racks of the pantry are by no means full, and with more than 100 families signed up for monthly food service, the food fades quickly.

White said the group survived the summer, but with huge cuts being made in the distribution programs the organization relies on, there is a greater need than ever for community donations to keep the shelves stocked.

People Helping People works in partnership with America's Second Harvest of the Big Bend, a Tallahassee food bank that distributes to smaller food pantries in Northwest Florida.

This summer, Second Harvest saw a drastic cut in USDA Commodities, a government surplus food program that accounts for 36 percent of their annual

distribution. In July and August, Second Harvest saw a 55 percent decrease in its distribution of commodities, a decline the organization believes will continue, with indications of further federal funding cuts on the way in 2012.

"Second Harvest is experiencing a reduction to the amount of food they're getting, and in turn we're getting less food," White said.

America's Second Harvest of the Big Bend delivers food to more than 140 partner agencies in 11 counties, including twice-monthly deliveries to two Gulf County organizations, People Helping People and Wewahitchka Search and Rescue.

"(USDA Commodities) has declined substantially since July 1, unfortunately, even though the need hasn't changed," said Cheryl Phoenix, executive director of America's Second Harvest of the Big Bend.

The dip in commodities makes it difficult for Second Harvest to keep the shelves stocked, causing a rippling reality check for the smaller agencies as well.

"Because of the decline, we're needing more donated products," Phoenix said. "But as soon as it comes in, it's going back out. We have a lot less food than we usually do because it's going out so quickly."

With an anticipated decrease of 1 million pounds in the amount of food Second Harvest will distribute this year, Phoenix said donations will not make up for the

difference, and with more federal funding cuts on the way for 2012, it's becoming a national epidemic.

"It would be really good if the people would encourage our Congressmen to not make these cuts," Phoenix said. "Unfortunately, the economy is continuing to decline. I think now more than ever we really need people to help fight against hunger and help feed our neighbors."

Angel Food Ministries, a national organization that provided discounted groceries to needy families, went out of business in late September, closing offices across the country, including one in Port St. Joe. The organization cited the economic downturn as its reason for its closure, which will place more pressure on community food banks to fill the void.

Debbie Sumner, coordinator for the Older Americans Act (OAA) Program at the Gulf County Senior Citizen's Center, said her program also received steep funding cuts this year. Through funding from OAA

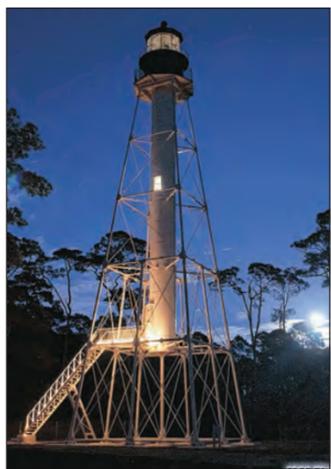
and other state and federal funding sources, the Senior Citizen's Center provides needy elderly people in Gulf County activities, a noon meal Monday through Friday and home-delivered meals for those with physical disabilities. The organization serves about 1,100 meals every month throughout Gulf County, Sumner said.

"Unfortunately, my federal program, the Older Americans Act, did get cut \$21,000 for our next fiscal year," Sumner said. "Somehow we've got to make up for that cut through donations or fundraising. A lot of our seniors are low-income, and they really depend on that hot meal and the socialization."

With the holiday season having arrived, Phoenix said there will be more of an effort to collect food for the hungry.

"Typically, a lot of people do food drives in November," Phoenix said. "If someone calls us and wants to do a food drive, we try to keep that food in those counties."

White said she hopes local
See **'LEAN TIMES' B6**



Climb the Cape San Blas Lighthouse this weekend

Star Staff Report

The full moon is due to light up clear skies this weekend, a good thing for those wishing to climb the Cape San Blas Lighthouse.

December's full moon arrives this weekend, so climbs will be Friday, Dec. 9, and Saturday, Dec. 10. All climbs begin at 6 p.m. ET and end at roughly 10 p.m.

No one under age 16 may climb the lighthouse. Climbers should wear proper shoes — please no flip-flops.

Only 25 persons are allowed up top at one time, so it is first-come, first-served.

The cost is \$5 per person and includes the sunset and the view of a full moon (if, by chance, the weather is bad, the lighthouse will be closed).

For more information, call Beverly at 229-1151 during the day at the lighthouse gift shop, which also has a host of Christmas gift ideas on sale right now.

BUNCO BABES RAISE \$2,230 FOR THE LIBRARY



VALERIE GARMAN | The Star

The Reid Avenue Bunco Babes' recent fish fry fundraiser was a success, raising \$2,230 for the Gulf County Library. The Bunco Babes have raised \$7,577 for the library since spring 2010. From left are Friends of the Library President Cathy Colbert, Sheila Mahlkov, Bobbye Johnson, Nancy Brockman and Bunco Babes Dana Boyer and Pamela Garmon.

NFCD SCHOOL RISING FROM THE GROUND



DEBBIE HOOPER AT JOEBAY.COM | Special to The Star

This aerial view shows the new school being constructed by North Florida Child Development near the Gulf/Franklin Center taking shape. Infrastructure and foundation are in, and the walls are coming up for the first new school in Gulf County in some 40 years.

Quit smoking now

Star Staff Report

If you are ready to quit smoking now, a free weekly class/support group will begin at 5:30 p.m. ET on Thursday, Jan. 12, 2012 at Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf.

Quit Smoking Now is a curriculum developed by ex-smokers for those who want to become ex-smokers.

Free nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) is available to all class participants.

Register at 1-877-QUIT-NOW-6 (1-877-848-6696) or contact Brigitta Nuccio at 850-482-6500 or e-mail her at bnuccio@bigbendahec.org.

The class is sponsored by the Florida AHEC Network and the Florida Department of Health.

CELEBRATING 65 YEARS OF MARRIAGE



On Saturday, from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. ET, there will be a reception for Bill and Jewell Weldon as they celebrate 65 years of marriage. Bill and Jewell were joined together at Capitol Heights United Methodist Church in Montgomery, Ala., in December of 1946. Bill and Jewell have been a part of this community for two and a half years and

have loved calling Port St. Joe their new home. They are very active at First United Methodist Church, and are volunteers at the Clothes Closet and Sacred Heart Hospital. The reception will be held at 1009 Constitution Drive and all of their friends are invited to attend. Please, no gifts, but cards and letters will be cherished for years to come.

Wewahitchka's Justin Boone makes the Dean's List

Justin Boone of Wewahitchka has been named to the Dean's List at the Savannah College of Art and Design for fall quarter 2011. Full-time undergraduate students who earn a grade point average of 3.5 or above for the quarter receive recognition on the Dean's List. Congratulations, Justin on your academic achievement!

The Savannah College of Art and Design is a private, nonprofit,

accredited institution conferring bachelor's and master's degrees at distinctive locations and online to prepare talented students for professional careers. SCAD has more than 20,000 alumni and offers an exceptional education and unparalleled career preparation. The diverse student body, consisting of more than 11,000 students, comes from all 50 United States and more than 100 countries worldwide.

PET OF THE WEEK

St. Joseph Bay Humane Society



WHAT A GREAT PRESENT FOR CHRISTMAS!

Meet Little Mike. He is a 25 pound Terrier/ Catahoula Mix. He is approximately 1 year old. Little Mike did not grow up in the best

environment. He is deserving of a much better life. This little guy is full of personality and spunk. Mike is not overly active but is a affectionate and loving boy who is willing to please. He walks very well on a leash and knows sit and stay. If you are interested in any of our wonderful pets, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Marry Christmas and Happy New Years From all the Doggies and Kitty's here at SJBHS!

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!

VFW POST HONORS DUREN



Dan McDonough, commander at left, and Butch Arendt, senior vice commander on right, from VFW Post 100069 honored George Duren last week for his support of the community. The Post made Duren a lifetime member and he received a certificate of appreciation. "This is all about his support of the community," Arendt said.

THOMAS AND WAGNER TO WED



Mr. and Mrs. Roger Thomas of Port St. Joe and Mr. and Mrs. Gary Wagner of Roanoke, Va., are pleased to announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their children, Kimberly Diane Thomas and Brian Lee Wagner. Kimberly is the granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Miller of Tallahassee and the late Mr. and Mrs. A.W. Thomas of Port St. Joe.

Brian is the father of three beautiful girls, Chloe, Rachel, and Abigail and grandson of Ms. Arleta Schrieber and the late Mr. Raymond Schrieber of Tonawanda, New York and the late Mr. and Mrs. Donald Wagner of North Tonawanda, N.Y.

Kimberly is a 1993 graduate of Port St. Joe

High School and 1998 graduate of the University of Florida, where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in physical therapy. She is currently employed as a physical therapist at Sacred Heart Rehabilitation. Brian is a 1990 graduate of Friendly High School in Fort Washington, Md., and a graduate of Excelsior College, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree. He is an F-22 Avionics/Weapons Equipment Specialist with Air Force Engineering and Technical Services at Tyndall Air Force Base.

Their wedding will be on Dec. 17 at 4 p.m. ET at First United Methodist Church in Port St. Joe. Family and friends are invited to attend.

United Way to offer tax assistance program

Star Staff Report

United Way of Northwest Florida is partnering with The Christian Community Development Fund to provide a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program in Port St. Joe. The organization is looking for additional volunteers interested in the following positions: greeters, screeners and tax preparers to help with the initiative.

The first training date is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET Tuesday, Dec. 13, at the WIG Building, 401 Peters St. Days and hours of operation are not confirmed pending on availability of volunteers, but the goal is to offer this service three days a week with open hours to meet the needs of the local community. Online training is also available. To sign up, call Diana Burkett at 227-3394 or Ron Sharpe at 215-6749.

In spring 2011, United Way's Bay County VITA site assisted with more than 2,400 tax returns, putting more than \$3 million back into the local economy while saving more than \$200,000 in preparation fees for those in need. Of those 2,400 helped, 89 were residents from Port St. Joe. Of the 5,198 homes in Gulf County, 60 percent qualify for the maximum income limit for Earned Income Tax Credits at \$50,270.

Society BRIEFS

Volunteer tax assistance

People Helping People, through the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, will offer free tax preparation to low- to moderate-income in Gulf County from Jan. 17 to April 15. To become an IRS certified tax preparer please join us on Dec. 13 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET at 2010 Parker Ave. in

Highland View. For more information give us a call at 850-229-5262.

you are interested, please call 850-596-9552 for more information.

Salvation Army seeks volunteers

The Salvation Army is currently looking for volunteers to ring the bell at the Piggly Wiggly this holiday season. Volunteers are asked to work one-hour shifts. If

Juvenile Justice Council meeting next week

The Gulf County Juvenile Justice Council will meet on Wednesday, Dec. 14, at 1 p.m. ET at the Port St. Joe Fire Station building, located at 408

Turtle Patrol seeks volunteers to help cold-stunned turtles

The St. Joseph Peninsula Turtle Patrol and University of Florida Marine Turtle Research Group are seeking volunteers to help with cold-stunned sea turtle events in St. Joseph Bay this winter. Assistance is greatly needed to help search, retrieve, and transport stranded turtles to the rehabilitation center in Panama City. There will be a meeting on Thursday, Dec. 15 at 6 p.m. ET, at the St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve Center, 3915 State Road 30-A in Port St. Joe, to discuss volunteer response needs and to sign up anyone who would like to assist.

The coordinating groups are also seeking "Towels for Turtles" to provide warmth for sea turtles retrieved during cold stun events.

If you have towels or blankets that you would like to donate, there will be drop-off bins located at the Fish Inn, 3841 Cape San Blas Road in Port St. Joe, and the Cape Tradin' Post on the St. Joseph Peninsula. Donations of hand sanitizer, paper towels, bottled water, laundry detergent, and plastic tubs for turtle transport are also greatly needed.

For more information please contact Jessica McKenzie at jmbama@gmail.com.

BAYSIDE ANIMAL HOSPITAL

Located at 324 Long Avenue in Port St. Joe will be closed as of 11-14-2011.



Dr. Leslie Biagini would like to thank all of her loyal clients and wishes their pets continued good health.

Client and patient records have been transferred to

APALACHICOLA BAY ANIMAL CLINIC at 187 HWY 98 in Eastpoint, Fl.

For continued care by Dr. Hobson Fulmer.

For more information call 850-670-8306.

Student receives Regional Award

Special to The Star

Daniel Fisher, a student at Wewahitchka Junior/Senior High School, was recently recognized as a Panhandle Area Education Consortium (PAEC) Regional Transition Council's Outstanding Student in Transition.

Daniel, a senior, works at the Dixie Dandy performing a wide range of vocational skills. Upon graduation he is interested in continuing his education at Tom P. Haney Technical Center in order to pursue a career in welding.

Daniel's work at Dixie Dandy is part of a career prep program provided by a partnership between Gulf County schools

and the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation. This partnership provides students the opportunity to gain real world work experience while attending school.

Daniel was nominated for the PAEC Regional Transition Council's Outstanding Student in Transition Award by Linda D. Tschudi, Employment Specialist for Gulf County Schools. This award spotlights outstanding students that are in the process of moving from their lives as students into the world of work, post-secondary education and independence. Each recipient is a shining example of focus and determination in the area of post-secondary transition.



SPECIAL TO THE STAR

From left, Mrs. Debbie Baxley, Principal at Wewahitchka High School, Aunnie Slack, supervisor, Dixie Dandy, Daniel Fisher, honored student, Linda D. Tschudi, Employment Specialist, and Will McLemore, owner of Dixie Dandy.



By Jacob Lacour and Tyrek Sims

Clubs

* NJROTC- Congratulations to Mrs. Karen Taylor, our school's Financial Officer, the winner of the Port St. Joe School's T-shirt Quilt Raffle held on Nov. 23. Thanks to all who made this fundraising event a rousing success.

Sports

- * Dec. 8: Girls and Boys soccer teams play at North Bay Haven at 5 and 7 p.m.
- * Dec. 9: JV and varsity boys' basketball at South Walton at 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- * Dec. 12: Girls basketball at Bay High, 6 p.m.
- * Dec. 13: Boys and girls varsity basketball at Bozeman, 4:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.
- * Dec. 14: Home game- Jr. High basketball vs. Marianna, 6 p.m.
- * Dec. 15: J.V. and varsity boys basketball at Rutherford, 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Events

- * Dec. 13: Christmas Concert in commons area at Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High School. The concert begins at 6 p.m.
- * Dec. 9: 7th-, 8th- and 9th-graders will be going to Rocket Lanes in Panama City as a reward for their hard work preparing for FCAT last year — resulting in an A in school.

The Lion's TALE

Special to The Star

Faith Christian School proudly announces the honor roll students for the first term of the 2010-2011 school year. Congratulations to all of the following:

All A's: Magnolia Sarmiento, Halee Whicker, Kristen Bouington and Shelby Causey.

All A's and B's: Donovan Cumbie, Luke O'Barr, Theron Smith (not pictured), Jacob Davis, Farren Newman, Catherine Bouington, Jade Cothran (not pictured), J.J. Laine and Elijah Sarmiento.



The Lion's Tale



SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Right: The students who earned all A's during the first term of the school year. **Above:** Students earning all A's and B's during the first term.



DAZZLING DOLPHINS



- | | |
|--|--|
| Pre-Kindergarten- Rylan Fortune | 6th grade- James White |
| 1st grade- Bobbie Sue Fowler | Best of Lunchroom- Albert Scheffer |
| 2nd grade- Porter Hodges | Bus Riders of the Week: Alex Thomason and Cheyenne Crum |
| 3rd grade- Kaylee Jones | |
| 4th grade- Colton Jones | |
| 5th grade- Xavier Maestri | |



SPECIAL TO THE STAR

The fifth-grade winners were Jaden Grantland (first place), Haleigh Smith (second) and Jacob Kennedy (third).

PORT ST. JOE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SCIENCE FAIR

Special to The Star

Port St. Joe Elementary School held the 5th- and 6th-grade science fair in the gym on Nov. 29. Students arrived in droves with their projects on a very windy and rainy Monday morning, and frazzled parents unloaded garbage bag-wrapped science boards and equipment in preparation of the next day's competition and exhibition.

There were clouds in bottles, plants that had been sung to, buoyant eggs and sinking canned soft drinks, socks washed in every kind of detergent on the shelf, rotten fruit, and magnetic money to name a few. One student even managed to change a bar of Ivory soap into what appeared to be a white, fluffy cloud of cotton candy!

Needless to say, the adults (teachers included) learned almost as much as the students. It was fun for all, and parents did a wonderful job of assisting their children demonstrate an understanding of the scientific method.

The winners of the 6th-grade science fair were: Lacy Linton, first place (Extreme Heat),



SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Sixth-grade winners, from left, were Shad Tracy (second place), Lacy Linton (first place) and Braden Baumgardner (third place).

Shad Tracy, second place (A Sizzling Sensation) and third place, Braden Baumgardner (Weight Wonder).

Honorable mentions went to Cole Thursby, Lexie Combs, Brooks Kennington, Thomas Miniat, Claudia Alcorn, Courtney Davidson, and James White.

Taking top honors in 5th-grade were Jaden Grantland, first place (Salinity and Displacement), Haleigh Smith, second place (Pumped Up) and Jacob Kennedy, third place (Viscosity).

Honorable mention awards went to Devin Crews, Hannah Fulk, Chandler Godwin, Aaron Godwin, Jacob Tracy, and Caleb Butts. Congratulations future scientists!

Port St. Joe Elementary School would also like to thank the science fair judges for offering their time and experience in helping us this year. The feedback provided by the judges is very beneficial in showing the students areas in need of improvement while highlighting areas of strength in preparing a proper science fair project.

Help fight childhood cancer. Purchase Hammermill® in December.

When you purchase select Hammermill Paper products in December, Hammermill will donate 10% of the purchase price to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital® in the fight against childhood cancer.



Ramseys' is honored to be one of four commercial printers/office products in the Southeastern United States selected to team with Hammermill® for this campaign.



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Give thanks for the healthy kids in your life, and give to those who are not.

1-800-4STJUDE | www.stjude.org

FAITH

This business invites you to visit the church of your choice this week.

COMFORTER FUNERAL HOME
W. P. "Rocky" Comforter
L.F.D.
(850) 227-1818

Faith BRIEFS

Compassionate Friends Candle Lighting

For parents who have lost a child to death, it can be very difficult to cope with because the pain of the loss is one that never goes away. The pain of losing a child is often intensified during the holiday season. One helpful way for parents to keep the memory of their child alive is by participating in the Worldwide Candle Lighting at 7 p.m. on the second Sunday in December.

This event unites bereaved parents, family and friends around the world

by lighting candles for one hour to honor and remember children who have died at any age from any cause. This international global event is nondenominational and is hosted as a gift to the bereaved community around the world by The Compassionate Friends. The event is believed to be the largest mass candle lighting on the globe. This year, the Compassionate Friends Candle Lighting service will be at 7 p.m. ET Dec. 11 at First United Methodist Church, 1001 Constitution Drive in Port St. Joe. This is for people of all faiths, and

everyone is welcome.

Christmas Musical at Long Avenue Baptist Church this Sunday

The Long Avenue Baptist Children's Choir will present the musical, "iHope Christmas" at 6 p.m. ET Sunday, Dec. 11, in the church sanctuary. The musical follows a group of kids who create their own web show called "iHope" based on the main character, Hope. They want to do a Christmas special but feel like they need inspiration and information

before going live. Hope and her friends seek advice from Hope's great aunt, who used to be in show business, and they find themselves with some pretty eccentric show-biz-type friends at the local theatre who inspire them for their show. A cast of more than 35 kids and adults make this a colorful and exciting presentation with music, drama and dance that points to the real message of Christmas and how we should respond to it. The community is cordially invited to come and enjoy a unique Christmas musical sure to bring a smile.

His will not mine

To overcome evil with good is the Godly thing to do.

But for me it takes a lot of prayer, does this sound a little like you?

To turn the other cheek is a problem for me, too.

But Jesus said that's what we're to do.

We have to be close to God for His will to be done in our life.

To live by the words of Jesus will take care of our worldly strife.

So now we know what the problem is.

We need to stop living our way and start living His.

Billy Johnson

In Loving Memory

Happy Birthday 12-5-59

Our Son and Our Brother

Ernie Woodrow

If Tears could build a Stairway, and Memories a Lane,

We'll walk right up to Heaven, and Bring you Home.

We Love you and Miss you with all our Hearts.

Your Momma and Dad, Sisters Pat, Susan and Becky.



Obituaries

Catherine 'Sue' Lois Thomas Jones

Catherine "Sue" Lois Thomas Jones was born June 27, 1952, to Early Thomas and the late Maggie Bell in Blountstown, Fla. On Nov. 26, 2011, she departed this life at Sacred Heart Hospital in Port St. Joe.

She was preceded in death by her mother, her husband, Z. W. Jones, Sr., one brother and one sister. She was a member of Amazing Grace Church.

She leaves to cherish in her loving memories her father, Early Thomas (Florene) of Blountstown; one daughter, Sherry Bailey

(Cederick) of Port St. Joe; two sons, Z. W. "Reggie" Jones, Jr. (Shalonda) of Orlando and Richard Jones (Lacretia) of Port St. Joe; three brothers, Joe Pruitt (Trish) of Marion, Ala., Alvin Thomas (Helen) of Atlanta, Georgia, and Dexter Thomas of Blountstown; two sisters, Renee Hunter (Bishop) of Panama City, and Vernita Brown of Orlando; seven grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and loving friends.

Mark Allen Holland

Mark Allen Holland, age 53, of Forest City, died Monday, Nov. 21, 2011 at the Rutherford Regional Medical Center. Mark was a native of Rutherford County, son of George and Louise Holland of Forest City, a former resident of Port St. Joe, Fla., graduate of Port St. Joe High School, a member of the Catamount Club, Western Carolina University, attended Florence Baptist Church and was a devoted Auburn fan. He worked in Real Estate and Development

with the Gateway Group.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his wife, Rosemary Toney Holland, of Forest City; two daughters, Jenny and Charity Holland, both of Forest City; a brother, Ed (Betsy) Holland, of Atlanta; sister Julie (Rodney) Nobles, of Crestview, Fla.; and three grandchildren, Je'Shaun Gill, Ian Gill and Malachi Dato. Locally, Mark is survived by his cousins, John Wright, Phil Earley, Chris Earley and Mary Earley, and their families.

Trixye Griffin Rich

1934 - 2011

Trixye Griffin Rich, a resident of Port St. Joe, passed away at home after a brief illness on Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2011. She was born in Thomasville, Ga. to Carlton and Trudy Griffin, who predeceased her. She was known for her many good deeds in the community and was loved by all who knew her. She was a member of First Baptist Church and was involved in teaching and ministering to many over the years. She loved Jesus, her family and her church. She dedicated her life to serving God.

She is survived by her husband of 57 years, John E. Rich; her sons, Eddy Rich (Lajuana), Carlton Rich, Larry Rich (Cindy); her daughter, Tina (David); her grandchildren, Jonathan (Callie), Christopher, Matt (Kristen), Caitlin and Britney Rich, and Sara and Harley Whitfield; her great-

grandchildren, Josiah, Evangeline and Brody Rich; her brother, Edwin Griffin; sister, Doris Acevedo; as well as many nieces, nephews, and extended family.

A visitation was Friday, Dec. 2, from 6-8 p.m. ET at First Baptist Church in Port St. Joe. Funeral services were held on Saturday, Dec. 3, at 11 a.m. at First Baptist Church.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting that donations be made to the following organizations that were dear to Trixye: The Growing Minds Center (227-4392), The Gideons International and Covenant Hospice (785-3040).

Those wishing to express words of condolences may do so at www.heritagefhllc.com. Heritage Funeral Home, 247 N. Tyndall Parkway, Panama City, FL 32404. Phone: (850) 785-1316

Claude Randall 'Randy' Weston

Claude Randall "Randy" Weston, 65, of Mexico Beach passed away Friday, Dec. 2, 2011. Randy was born Oct. 6, 1946 to Gundy and Eva Weston in Marianna, Fla. He served his country in the U.S. Navy and was a member of the American Legion Post 116.

Randy was a retired engineer from the Apalachicola Railroad. He loved time on the river, hunting and fishing, but most of all spending time with his family.

He is survived by his wife, Karla Weston; his parents, Gundy and Eva Weston; sons, Robert (Ann Marie) Weston, Randall Weston, Mark Weston, Ryan (Julie) Thornburg; a daughter, Alicia (Steve) Matincheck; brothers, Mike (Ellen) Weston, Greg (Becky)

Weston, Kenny (Barbara) Weston; grandchildren, Johnathan, Jessica, Danielle, Parker, Griana, Gabe, Hunter, Ethan, Chessney, Haley Jo and Dean.

Funeral services will be 5 p.m. CT Thursday, Dec. 8, at White City Baptist Church with the Rev. Nick Davis officiating. The family received friends on Wednesday, Dec. 7 at the church.

In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, or to the charity of your choice.

Condolences may be submitted or viewed at www.southerlandfamily.com. Mailing address: Southerland Family Funeral Home, 507 Tenth Ave., Port St. Joe, FL 32456.

First Baptist Church
102 THIRD STREET • PORT ST. JOE
Jeff Pinder Pastor
Buddy Caswell, Minister of Music & Education
Bobby Alexander, Minister to Students

New Service Schedule for First Baptist Church

Sunday	
Sunday School	9:00 am
Worship Service	10:30 am
Youth Groups	5:30 pm

www.fbcpsj.org

Wednesday	
Wednesday Night Supper	5:00 - 6:15 pm
Children's Choir	5:45 - 6:10 pm
Nursery	6:00 - 7:30 pm
AWANA's	6:15 - 7:30 pm
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
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

Rev. Mac Fulcher
Pastor

Ann Comforter
Music Director

Jeremy Dixon
Youth Minister

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

Deborah Loyless
Director of Children Ministries

Faith Bible Church
www.faithbiblepsj.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

Home of Faith Christian School
www.faithchristianpsj.net

"Our Church can be your home"
First Church of the Nazarene
2420 Long Avenue • Port St. Joe, Florida 32456
(850) 229-9596

Give unto the Lord the glory due His name, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.
Psalm 29:2

Sunday School	10 a.m.	Sunday Evening Worship	6 p.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	11 a.m.	Wednesday Evening Service	7 p.m.

Family Life Church
A Spirit Filled
Outreach Oriented
Word of Faith Church

Pastors Andrew & Cathy Rutherford
Welcome you to worship with us:
Sunday 10:30am
Sunday Night Prayer 6pm
Wednesday 7pm

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POWERHOUSE
YOUTH MINISTRIES

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

oak grove church
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

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 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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Nursery Provided
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ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH
800 22ND STREET, PORT ST. JOE
8:00 and 11:00 a.m. (EST) • Sunday School 9:45
www.stjamesepiscopalchurch.org

This Christmas see Jesus in a whole new light

Special to The Star

Author Michael Lister of Wewahitchka, best known for his literary mysteries and thrillers set in North Florida, is just out with his first work of nonfiction in over a decade.

"My focus has been on fiction," Lister said, "but I've continued to write nonfiction as well. I've worked on this book for a very long time."

His new book is "Finding the Way Again: Rediscovering radical love and freedom in the lost teachings of Jesus."

"I've been intrigued by and a student of Jesus since adolescence," Lister said. "This book is birthed out of that."

With degrees in biblical studies and theology, Lister has specialized over the years in story theology, spirituality, myth and meaning, and Jesus scholarship.

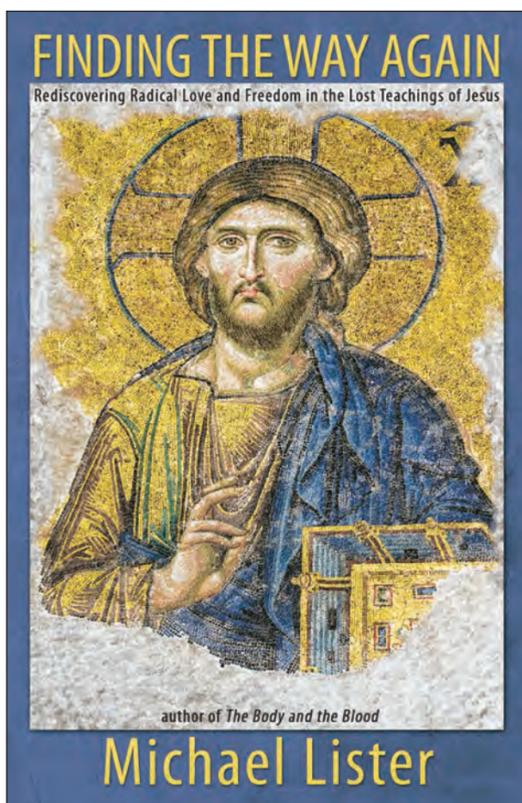
"To me 'Finding the Way Again' is a work of restoration," Lister said. "My focus is on what has been lost about the man and his message. I look at the ways in which Jesus' message and the meaning of his life have been altered, obscured, and ignored and what we can do to recover them."

Lister writes in the book, "My goal with this intentionally simple, slim volume (based on scholarship, but not bogged down by notes and

references) is to attempt to remove that which has obscured, hidden, and even replaced Jesus and his radical revolution, extricating him from the stiflingly narrow religious context that all but silences him, so his message can reverberate around us, resonate within us. What I offer is not dogma or doctrine but discussion—a contribution to the ongoing conversation between open seekers of understanding and enlightenment. I write this as one asking questions far more than offering answers."

Bestselling author, River Jordan, had this to say about the book: "In 'Finding the Way Again,' Michael Lister will rock religious walls raw to the nerve. His words may anger or inspire - perhaps, both in the same moment but one thing is for certain, his portrait of Jesus as a man with a true message will not be soon forgotten or overlooked."

In the preface Lister writes, "As if a conservator refurbishing an ancient mosaic in a pre-modern monastery, I am attempting to restore, repair, and preserve what I believe to be the truest, most accurate image of Jesus. Beneath the layers and layers of dust and dirt, of history and tradition, of culture and religion, there is a more perfect picture awaiting rediscovery."



Behind the cosmic Christ there is Jesus, an illegitimate peasant with the power of God on his tongue and in his hands. Beyond the icon, there is an iconoclast who overturns temple tables and kicks down fear-based religion and class-based divisions and proclaims God's unconditional love until it gets him killed."

"Finding the Way Again" is available now

in hardcover, paperback, and ebook. Lister will be discussing and reading from the book on Rap Line on WKGC on Monday, Dec. 5 at 5:30 p.m. CT and signing the book at a reception following the show in the conference room of WKGC at 6 p.m. Everyone is invited. Lister will also be signing the book at Downtown Books in Apalachicola on Saturday, Dec. 10 from 1-3 p.m. ET.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY DEADLINE

Special to The Star

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is currently accepting applications for NAP coverage. NAP provides financial assistance to eligible producers affected by natural disasters. Eligible disasters are any of the following: damaging weather such as drought, excessive moisture, or hurricane; an adverse natural occurrence such as earthquake or flood; a condition related to damaging weather or adverse natural occurrence. Applicants must pay a nonrefundable

administrative fee of \$250 per crop, per county. Fees are capped at \$750 per county not to exceed \$1750 for farmers with interest in multiple counties. Loss must be greater than 50 percent of expected production and coverage must have been purchased 30 days prior to the coverage period. The application closing date is Jan. 31. For further information, please contact the Calhoun-Franklin-Gulf and Liberty County FSA Office at 17413 NW Leonard Street, Blountstown, FL 32424 or call 674-8388 or 1-800-243-9912 Ext. 6.

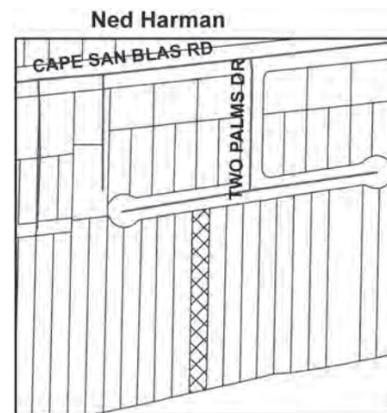
PUBLIC NOTICE

A Public Hearing will be held at the Planning and Development Review Board (PDRB) meeting on Monday, December 19, 2011 at 8:45 a.m. EST, and at the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) meeting on Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

EST. Both public hearings will be held in the BOCC Meeting Room at the Robert M. Moore Administration Building, 1000 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd., Port St. Joe, Florida. The public hearings will be to discuss and act on the following:

1. Variance Application - by Ned Harman - for Parcel ID # 06314-075R - Located in Section 23 Township 9 South, Range 11 West, Gulf County, Florida - Replace an existing 4' dune walkover with a 6' dune walkover for handicap accessibility.
2. Public and Open Discussion
3. Staff

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



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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS BID #1112-03

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

MISDEMEANOR PROBATION SERVICES

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

Bids must be submitted to and specifications may be obtained from the Gulf County Clerk's Office at 1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr., Blvd., Room 148, Port St. Joe, Florida, 32456 by 4:30 p.m., E.T. on Friday, December 9, 2011. Bids will be opened at this same location on Monday, December 12, 2011 at 10:00 a.m., E.T. Specifications may also be viewed at www.gulfcounty-fl.gov.

Any questions concerning this bid should be directed to Lynn Lanier, Gulf County Deputy Administrator at (850) 229-6106 or (850) 227-8973. Gulf County enforces a Drug-Free Workplace Policy and is an Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action Employer.

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

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

Attest:
/s/ Rebecca L. Norris, Clerk

(Ad#2011-84)

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners will hold a public hearing to consider adoption of an Ordinance with the following title:

AN ORDINANCE OF GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA; IMPOSING A MANDATORY SURCHARGE OF THIRTY DOLLARS (\$30) ON EACH NON-CRIMINAL OR CRIMINAL TRAFFIC VIOLATION; PROVIDING FOR THE USE OF SAID SURCHARGE; PROVIDING AUTHORITY; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL AND SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Complete Ordinance on file in the Clerk's Office

The public hearing will be held during the Gulf County Board of County Commissioner's Regular Meeting on Tuesday, December 13, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. est. in the County Commissioner's meeting room in the Robert M. Moore Administration Building, Gulf County Courthouse Complex, Port St. Joe, Florida.

All interested persons may appear and be heard with respect to the proposed Ordinance. If a person decides to appeal any decisions made by the Gulf County Commission with respect to any matter considered at this hearing, he/she will need a record of the proceedings and that for such purpose he/she may need to ensure a verbatim record of the proceedings made and which would include any evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

A copy of the proposed Ordinance is available for inspection on weekdays between the hours of 9:00 a.m. est., and 5:00 p.m. est. at the Office of the Clerk of Court, Gulf County Courthouse, 1000 C.G. Costin, Sr., Blvd., Port St. Joe, Florida, 32456.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY: WARREN YEAGER, CHAIRMAN

(Ad#2011-85)

RAMSEY'S from page B1

"We have a full selection of Hammermill," Ramsey said. "It has been one of the elite papers. It has all the qualities you look for in a copy or printer paper."

During the month of December, 10 percent of all proceeds from the sale of Hammermill products will be donated to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Customers who purchase Hammermill products during December at Ramsey's also will be provided an ornamental badge they can write their name on and place on the Christmas tree in the Ramsey store on Reid Avenue in Port St. Joe.

"I bet we've used International Paper products as long as they've had International Paper products," Ramsey said of his business, which was first founded in 1937 as Star Publishing Company before renaming the company Ramsey's Printing and Office Supply after selling The Star

Help fight childhood cancer. Purchase Hammermill® paper in November and December.

When you purchase select Hammermill Paper products in November and December, Hammermill will donate 10% of the purchase price to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in the fight against childhood cancer.

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newspaper in 2004. Ramsey purchased IP products through Mac Paper Company in Georgia, a distributor of IP products throughout the Southeast. "We are on their original customer list," Ramsey

said of Mac Paper. That allegiance to Hammermill was one of the reasons, Ramsey said, that his printing and office supply company was selected to participate in the St. Jude campaign.

'LEAN TIMES' from page B1

food drives will help supplement the People Helping People pantry. "We definitely receive more donations during the holidays," White said. "People want to make sure during the holidays that people are eating."

Other local organizations are making sure nobody goes hungry during the holidays. Jerry Stokoe organizes a county-wide Thanksgiving dinner each year, along with an army of sponsors and volunteers, to make sure everybody in Gulf County has a hot turkey dinner. In partnership with Oak Grove Church's Fish and Loaves food ministry, the volunteers distributed hundreds of hot meals on Thanksgiving.

With the holidays upon us, a new location at 2010 Parker Avenue and a dedicated group of donors, White is optimistic

about the organization's future despite meager circumstances. "We're moving forward for sure," White said. "Here lately we've had something on the shelves."

The organization recently obtained \$3,500 worth of new refrigerators and freezers through a Presbyterian Church grant and received a donated air-conditioning unit so they will no longer struggle to meet compliances. A community garden also has been planted out front so fresh produce can be offered to the hungry.

People Helping People receives regular donations from First United Methodist Church, St. Joseph Catholic Church, St. James Episcopal Church and First Presbyterian Church, and from generous people like Gail and Richard Day, who bring food every Monday like clockwork.

"There have been times when we've had nothing on the shelf, but then here comes the Day family," White said. "Sometimes we get here in the morning, and there's food sitting on the steps."

Even with the dedicated donors, the organization

can offer only one bag of supplemental food per family every 30 days, and sometimes less.

"I think people think it might feed them for a week, but it's a supplement," White said. "We need the community to give to the food bank so we can make sure everyone that comes can get a good supplement. I know some children, the best meal they get is at school."

She also said Gulf County has a large population of elderly people that need food.

"The people in need always find us," White said. "But the people with the money and the time to give can't seem to."

Volunteers and donations are always needed. White said the pantry needs more filling foods like meat items, peanut butter, beans, soups and cereals.

If you are interested in donating to People Helping People of Gulf County or becoming a volunteer, call Erika White at 229-5262.

To donate or volunteer with the Gulf County Senior Citizen's Center, call Debbie Sumner at 229-8466.

WE ARE HAVING AN AUCTION

Saturday, Dec. 17th 2011
10:00 AM Central Time
Preview Starts at 9:00AM Central

Gaddis and Associates

1107 Nth 15th Street
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www.auctionzip.com ID# 28587
House hold items, antiques, tools, collectables and much more.
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*We will be at Mexico Beach
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LOOKOUT LOUNGE & DISCOUNT PACKAGE

Upcoming Events!!

FRIDAY & SATURDAY 9 PM ET
KARAOKE & DANCING IN THE CROW'S NEST

THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY 9 PM ET
RANDY STARK ON THE POOP DECK

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY LADIES NIGHT 5 PM TIL CLOSING

Christmas Party THURSDAY DEC 15TH

OPEN AT 11AM ET - 7 DAYS A WEEK
WWW.LOOKOUTLOUNGE.COM
9454 HWY 98 BEACON HILL AT THE MEXICO BEACH CITY LIMITS (850) 647-2971

MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET

By Valentine Davies
Music by Doug Smith
Book & Lyrics by Vern Stefanic

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Sunday, Dec 11 at 5pm
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LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100
36046S IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA

EMC MORTGAGE CORPORATION, Plaintiff, vs. WALTER JOSEPH LEVICK; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF WALTER JOSEPH LEVICK, IF ANY; ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE HEREIN NAMED INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEEES OR OTHER CLAIMANTS, GULF AIRE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.; JOHN DOE AND JANE DOE AS UNKNOWN TENANTS IN POSSESSION, Defendant(s).

RE-NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Summary Judgment of Foreclosure dated September 13, 2011 and an Order Rescheduling Foreclosure Sale dated November 8, 2011, entered in Civil Case No.: 232008CA 000231CAXXX of the Circuit Court of the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit in and for Gulf County, Florida, wherein EMC MORTGAGE CORPORATION, Plaintiff, and WALTER JOSEPH LEVICK; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF WALTER JOSEPH LEVICK, IF ANY, ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE HEREIN NAMED INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEEES OR OTHER CLAIMANTS; GULF AIRE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.; JOHN DOE AND JANE DOE AS UNKNOWN TENANTS IN POSSESSION, are Defendants.

I will sell to the highest bidder for cash, at the Front Lobby of the Courthouse, 1000 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd., Port St. Joe, FL 32456 at 11:00 AM ET on the 26th day of January, 2012 the following described real property as set forth in said Final Summary Judgment, to wit:

COMMENCE AT THE POINT OF INTERSECTION OF THE NORTH-EASTERN RIGHT OF

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

WAY LINE OF U.S. HIGHWAY 98 (S.R. #30) AND SOUTH BOUNDARY LINE OF SECTION 32, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 11 WEST, AS SAME IS SHOWN ON THE OFFICIAL PLAT OF PORT ST. JOE BEACH, UNIT TWO, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGE 6 IN THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 52' 49" WEST ALONG SAID SOUTH BOUNDARY LINE OF SECTION 32 FOR 22.105 FEET; THENCE NORTH 39 DEGREES 51' 00" WEST ALONG SAID NORTHEASTERN R/W LINE 486.37 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 50 DEGREES 09' 00" WEST FOR 66 FEET TO A POINT ON THE SOUTHEASTERLY R/W LINE OF U.S. HIGHWAY 98; THENCE NORTH 39 DEGREES 51' WEST ALONG SAID R/W LINE 318.50 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE ALONG SAID R/W LINE 18 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 50 WEST 27.71 FEET TO THE CENTERLINE OF A COMMON WALL; THENCE CONTINUE ALONG SAID COMMON WALL 36 FEET; THENCE CONTINUE ALONG SAID BEARING 167.20 FEET MORE OR LESS TO THE WATERS EDGE OF THE GULF OF MEXICO; THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY ALONG SAID WATERS EDGE 18 FEET MORE OR LESS TO A POINT SOUTH 50 DEGREES 09' WEST OF THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE NORTH 50 DEGREES 09' EAST 167.20 FEET TO THE CENTERLINE OF A COMMON WALL; THENCE CONTINUE ALONG SAID COMMON WALL 36 FEET; THENCE CONTINUE ALONG SAID BEARING 27.76 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

NOTICE IS GIVEN that pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated November 14, 2011, in the above-styled cause, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in the Lobby of the Clerk's Office, of the Gulf County Courthouse in Port St. Joe, Florida, on December 29, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. ET, the following described property:

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

Public Records of Gulf County, Florida. and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Caridad M. Garrido, Esq., attorney for LEONARD MARNELL, whose address is 2800 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Suite 190 Coral Gables, FL 33134 on or before December 27th, 2011, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiffs attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

East, 56.67 feet; thence South 88 degrees 34 minutes 57 minutes West, 37.51 feet; thence North 00 degrees 14 minutes 43 seconds West, 57.83 feet; thence South 89 degrees 45 minutes 17 seconds East, 36.91 feet to the Point of Beginning

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Any person who wishes to attend and requires assistance may call the City Clerk's Office at (850) 229-8261, Ext. 114.

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

BOOK 3, PAGE 59, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA

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A/K/A 910 AVENUE A, PORT SAINT JOE, FL 32456

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

ING MAY OCCUR, PROVIDING FOR PERSONAL LIABILITY, PROVIDING FOR SANCTIONS UPON VIOLATION, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

Florida Default Law Group, P.L. PO. Box 25018 Tampa, Florida 33622-5018 F10109690 December 1, 8, 2011

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LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

Florida Default Law Group, P.L. PO. Box 25018 Tampa, Florida 33622-5018 F10109690 December 1, 8, 2011

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

Rebecca L. Norris, Clerk of the Circuit Court By: BA Baxter Deputy Clerk

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Rebecca L. Norris, Clerk of the Circuit Court By: BA Baxter Deputy Clerk

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

ING MAY OCCUR, PROVIDING FOR PERSONAL LIABILITY, PROVIDING FOR SANCTIONS UPON VIOLATION, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

Florida Default Law Group, P.L. PO. Box 25018 Tampa, Florida 33622-5018 F10109690 December 1, 8, 2011

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LEGAL ADVERTISING
1100

36180S
NWFCA Meeting
Notification

Notice is hereby given The Northwest Florida Transportation Corridor Authority will hold a meeting on December 13, 2011. The meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. CST at the Destin City Hall - Annex, 4100 Indian Bayou Trail, Destin, FL. Any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this meeting is asked to advise the Corridor Authority at least 48 hours prior to the meeting by contacting Amy Paulk at (850) 415-1040 or by email apaulk@gc-inc.com. Dec 8, 2011

PETS & ANIMALS
2100-2150

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

PETS
2100

Extra Mile Pet Sitting
Home visits/overnight in the comfort of your pets home. Gulf & Bay County Diana 227-5770 Dan 227-8225
extramilepetsitting.com

HELP WANTED
4100

Medical/Health

Caring People
and CNAs needed. Join a team of people who make a difference in the lives of the elderly. Provide non medical companionship, in home help and personal care for the elderly. Flexible day, evening & weekend hours. Positions available in the Appalachicola, Mexico Beach and Port St. Joe areas.

Home Instead Senior Care
Call Mon-Thur 9-3pm 850-640-1223 or toll free 1-866-301-1919
Web ID#: 34186584
Text FL86584 to 56654

HELP WANTED
4100

Quality Assurance

Collins Vacation Rentals, Inc
St George Island
Property Inspector Position

Join the Collins team, working together for customer satisfaction since 1973! Now hiring for position of Property Inspector. Must be detail-oriented, willing to work weekends and enthusiastic about Customer Service. Employee must have own transportation and cell phone and be willing and able to climb stairs every day.

BUSINESS & FINANCIAL
5100-5110

5100 - Business Opportunities
5110 - Money to Lend

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
5100

NEW TODAY
Apalach Restaurant
Full Service turn key restaurant. Excellent downtown location. Lease. Call for information 850-653-8801

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT
6100-6200

6100 - Business/Commercial
6110 - Apartments
6120 - Beach Rentals
6130 - Condo/Townhouse
6140 - House Rentals
6150 - Roommate Wanted
6160 - Rooms for Rent
6170 - Mobile Home/Lot
6180 - Out-of-Town Rentals
6190 - Timeshare Rentals
6200 - Vacation Rentals

APARTMENT RENTALS
6110

CONDO/TOWNHOUSE
6130

NEW TODAY
2 br, 2 ba, 1200 sq ft, Carrabelle, large deck \$550 month \$550 deposit. Available January 1st. For appointment 850-562-4996.

Long Term Rental
Call for more information. 850-648-1012

HOUSE RENTALS
6140

NEW TODAY
Rent to Own!
2105 Long Ave PSJ. 3 br, 2 ba, 700 month 697-2768 or 381-6122

HOUSE RENTALS
6140

PSJ, 3 br, 1 ba, all brick 404 Battles Street, corner lot large yard, \$650 month + deposit 301-265-5368

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE
7100-7200

HOME FOR SALE
7100

Your land or family land is all you need to buy a new home. Call 850-682-3344

36761S PUBLIC NOTICE

The Mexico Beach Community Development Council, Inc. is seeking Request for Qualifications to contract advertising and marketing services to support the tourism sector in Mexico Beach, FL. Complete details and guidelines for submission may be formally requested by contacting Kimberly Shoaif at 850-648-8196.

The qualification proposals must be submitted to the Mexico Beach Community Development Council by 4:00pm CT on January 20, 2012. Proposals must be submitted via mail or e-mail as either Word documents or PDF documents and sent to info@mexico-beach.com. When submitting your proposal the e-mail subject line should read: Mexico Beach Marketing Campaign RFQ. Proposal should be addressed to Mexico Beach Community Development Council, Inc and should be mailed to Post Office Box 13382, Mexico Beach, FL 32410. Dec 8, 2011

3100-3350 MERCHANDISE

3100 - Antiques
3110 - Appliances
3120 - Arts & Crafts
3130 - Auctions
3140 - Baby Items
3150 - Building Supplies
3160 - Business Equipment
3170 - Collectibles
3180 - Computers
3190 - Electronics
3200 - Firewood
3210 - Free Pass It On
3220 - Furniture
3230 - Garage/Yard Sales
3240 - Guns
3250 - Good Things to Eat
3260 - Health & Fitness
3270 - Jewelry/Clothing
3280 - Machinery/Equipment
3290 - Medical Equipment
3300 - Miscellaneous
3310 - Musical Instruments
3320 - Plants & Shrubs/Supplies
3330 - Restaurant/Hotel
3340 - Sporting Goods
3350 - Tickets (Buy & Sell)

FURNITURE
3220

City Manager

The City of Port St. Joe (pop. 3,445) is accepting Resumes for the position of City Manager. This professional position performs highly responsible administrative, personnel, finance, budgeting, and project management functions. The City Manager is responsible for managing the daily operations of the City to include City Hall, Water/Wastewater Facilities, Police Department, Fire Department, Public Works and Utility Services. The City has a budget of \$15± million and 65 full and part time employees. The City of Port St. Joe is a Commissioner/Manager form of government with the City Manager reporting to and working under the direction of the five member City Council. Candidates must have strong communicative skills and exhibit exceptional skills in fiscal management. Candidates must have a 4 year degree with a major in Public Administration, Business Administration or closely related field. Candidates should also have a minimum of five years of experience as a top level municipal or public sector administrator. Position is open until filled. Salary will be DOQ.

Applications are available via the City of Port St. Joe Website: <http://www.cityofportstjoe.com> Please submit an application and cover letter along with five references to the City of Port St. Joe, Attention Charlotte Pierce Human Resource Officer, POB 278, Port St. Joe, FL 32457. If you have any questions, please contact Charlotte Pierce at (850) 229-8261. *The City of Port St. Joe is an Equal Opportunity Employer and a Drug Free Workplace.*

Publisher's Notice

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

PSJ - 216 7th St
4 br, 2 bath Large kitchen, living room and dining room
Avail \$675 month
Please Call
850-867-3368

MOBILE HOME/LOT RENTALS
6170

NEW TODAY
2 br, 1 ba
\$400 month + \$400 dep. Hilland View. Call 850-227-4051

MOBILE HOME/LOT RENTALS
6170

2 Trailer lots available, Beacon Hill, 50x150, Call (850) 348-7770 for information

BUSINESS/COMMERCIAL RENTALS
6100

BUSINESS/COMMERCIAL RENTALS
6100

LOTS AND ACREAGE
7150

Price Reduced
FSBO: 5.5 acres White City, FL. Nice property, minutes to Intercoastal Water Way. Convenient to beaches, reasonable offers considered. call 904-626-1482

CLASSIFIED NOTICES
1110

Incorrect Insertion Policy

For Classified In-column Advertisers

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

Please your ad.

Advertisers are requested to check the advertisement on the first insertion for correctness. Errors should be reported immediately.

Your Florida Freedom newspaper will not be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion, nor will it be liable for any error in advertisements to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the error.

Any copy change, during an ordered schedule constitutes a new ad and new charges.

We do not guarantee position of ANY ad under any classification.

LOOK HERE!

Antique Oak chest with brass handles \$200. Pine coffee table and 2 end tables \$200. Black leather recliner \$50. Marble patio set \$400. Custom design Oak and Paduke end table \$300 and more see pictures on JoeBay.com /sale Call 850-229-1215

GARAGE/YARD SALES
3230

NEW TODAY
Port Saint Joe
2720 C-30 A. Corner of C-30 & Country club road. Saturday (12-10) 8:00 am - 2:00 pm
Garage Sale
Toys, tools, household items, baby clothes, etc. Rain cancels.

NEW TODAY
ST. Joe 674 Jones Homestead Rd. Fri & Sat 8am-?
Yard Sale
Lots of items!

MISCELLANEOUS
3300

DIABETIC TEST STRIPS NEEDED
I Buy sealed, unexpired Boxes (850)710-0189

DIABETIC TEST STRIPS NEEDED
I Buy sealed, unexpired Boxes (850)710-0189

EARN SOME DOUGH

See emeraldcoastjobs.com/monster to find a job at the intersection of both.

Wouldn't you like a job that fulfills you both professionally and personally? With Monster's new filtering tools, you can quickly hone in on the job that's right for you. So visit emeraldcoastjobseast.com/monster, and you might find yourself in the middle of the best of both worlds.

HELP WANTED
4100

HELP WANTED
4100

HELP WANTED
4100

HELP WANTED
4100

These tiny ads sell, hire, rent and inform for thousands of families each week. Let a little Classified ad do a big job for you. Emerald Coast Marketplace 747-5020

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

Sea Crest Real Estate
108 S. E. AVE. A
CARRABELLE, FLORIDA 32322
850-697-9604 850-323-0444
www.seacrestre.com
www.firstfitness.com/carrabelle
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT AND RENTALS

AMERICA'S MINI-STORAGE AND OFFICE COMPLEX

- Climate Controlled Units
- Lease Warehouse Space
- Lease Office Space
- Watercraft and RV Storage

★ Now Available ★ 10 x 30 Storage Units
850-229-8014
★ www.AMERICAMINISTORAGEANDOFFICE.com ★

BUSINESS/COMMERCIAL RENTALS
6100

BUSINESS/COMMERCIAL RENTALS
6100

BUSINESS/COMMERCIAL RENTALS
6100

Publisher's Notice

"SCAM"

To avoid possible scams, it is recommended that consumers should verify caller information when receiving calls regarding credit card payments. Consumers should also contact the local company themselves instead of giving this information to individuals who are contacting them directly.

LOST
1160

Lost cat -reward!!!!
Female, American short hair, with shaded silver coloring, blue eyes, spayed & declawed in front, very shy, if found call (850) 227-6017 or 227-4707

EMPLOYMENT
4100-4130

4100 - Help Wanted
4130 - Employment Information

HELP WANTED
4100

Now Hiring!
Are You Making Less Than \$40,000 Per Year? Covenant Transport Needs Driver Trainees Now! No experience required.
*Immediate Job Placement Assistance
*OTR, Regional, & Local Jobs
CALL NOW FOR MORE INFORMATION
1-866-280-5309

Gulf Coast REAL ESTATE GROUP
www.floridagulfcoast.com

252 MARINA DRIVE PORT ST. JOE
850-227-9600
800-451-2349

101 S 33RD ST. MEXICO BEACH
850-648-5683
800-260-1137

FOR SALE

MLS#	Property Address	Price	Notes
243988	100 Plantation Drive, Carrabelle, FL	\$534,600	Bank Owned
243816	17 Little Rive Circle, Wewahitchka, FL	\$9,900	Lot
243812	2500 HWY 71 North, Wewahitchka, FL	\$59,900	Lot
244924	2 HWY 381, Wewahitchka, FL	\$89,900	Acreage
244322	101 Lower Landing Dr., Wewahitchka, FL	\$109,900	Riverfront
243496	148 Squirrel Ave., Wewahitchka, FL	\$89,900	Home
240660	249 Bonita St., Port St. Joe, FL	\$34,000	Lot
243493	480 Ponderosa Pines Dr., Port St. Joe, FL	\$44,500	Lot
242660	1209 Monument Ave., Port St. Joe, FL	\$175,000	Home
241998	357 HWY 98, Port St. Joe, FL	\$295,000	Commercial
243184	2850 Hwy 98, Port St. Joe, FL	\$299,900	Commercial
243095	415 Monument Ave., Port St. Joe, FL	\$299,900	Commercial
244920	22 Cape San Blas Rd, Cape San Blas, FL	\$39,900	Deeded Beach Access
244919	18 Cape San Blas Rd., Cape San Blas, FL	\$59,900	Deeded Beach Access
244921	10 Cape San Blas Rd, Cape San Blas, FL	\$59,900	Deeded Beach Access
241222	8 Cape San Blas Rd, Cape San Blas, FL	\$112,900	Bay Front
242510	3 Cape San Blas Rd, Cape San Blas, FL	\$136,900	Bay Front
243939	102 Seascap Dr., Cape San Blas, FL	\$225,000	Under Contract
244556	112 Rosemary Court, Cape San Blas, FL	\$449,000	Jubilation Subdivision
241453	106 Sand Dollar Way, Cape San Blas, FL	\$779,900	Gulf Front
239971	7750 Cape Sane Blas Rd, Cape San Blas, FL	\$1,199,000	Gulf Front
242710	210 Sting Ray Lane, Port St. Joe, FL	\$23,900	Lot
244659	400 Gulf Aire Drive, Port St. Joe, FL	\$119,900	Under Contract
108831	512 Long St., Mexico Beach, FL	\$189,000	ICW Front
244604	118 41st St., Mexico Beach, FL	\$239,900	Beachside

FOR RENT

Property	Bed/Bath	Notes
Villas of Mexico Beach 3706 Hwy 98, New Condos	3bd/3ba	
Furnished, Gulf Access, on Canal Unit 301 - Furnished	1bd/2ba	
West End Harbor - Unit 4-104 Fully Furnished	2bd/2ba	SNOW BIRD SPECIAL
604 Fortner Avenue - Duplex	2bd/2ba	SNOW BIRD SPECIAL
Furnished	3bd/2ba	Highland Subdivision - St. Joe Beach
ST. JOE BEACH	2bd/2ba	No pets
113 Gulf Terrace	2 bd/2ba	SNOW BIRD SPECIAL
311 Bonnet Street	2 bd/2ba	SNOW BIRD SPECIAL
Coronado # 3 - 7314 W. Hwy 98, St. Joe Beach	2 bd/2ba	SNOW BIRD SPECIAL
Furnished	2 bd/2ba	SNOW BIRD SPECIAL
Coronado #4 - 7318 W. Hwy 98, St. Joe Beach	2 bd/2ba	SNOW BIRD SPECIAL
Furnished	2bd/2ba	SNOW BIRD SPECIAL
WINDMARK BEACH	2bd/2ba	SNOW BIRD SPECIAL
212 Watermark Way (old Hwy 98) Townhouse-Unit #4 Fully Furnished	2bd/2ba	SNOW BIRD SPECIAL
210 Watermark Way (old Hwy 98) Townhouse-Unit #6 Fully Furnished	2bd/2ba	SNOW BIRD SPECIAL
Carr's Bungalow#2 155 Beach Street	1bd/1ba	
Carr's Bungalow #3 159 Beach Street	1bd/1ba	
INDIAN PASS		
8822 - CR 30A - Right down from Raw Bar Unfurnished	3bd/2ba	Pictures available on MLS #243890
CAPE SAN BLAS/INDIAN PASS		
Jubilation Subdivision Unfurnished	4bd	
101 Two Palms Drive - Two Palm Subdivision	3bd/3ba	Small pet allowed with pet deposit
Furnished and covered pool	3bd/2ba	
PORT ST. JOE		
1903 Juniper Avenue Unfurnished	3bd/2ba	
1206 Palm Blvd Partially Furnished	1.5 bd	
Eagle Landing - Ponderosa Pines - Jones Homestead	2bd/2ba	
Partially Furnished		

Port St. Joe Commercial For Lease Retail / Office Space

202 Marina Drive Centennial Bank Bldg 2nd & 3rd Floor Spaces Avail; +/-491-5,000sf; \$12 psf mod gross
316 & 318 Reid Avenue Office /Retail; +/- 1,700sf; Can be subdivided; \$13.25psf
308 Reid Avenue Suite A +/- 1100 sq ft \$1100 mo mod gross
101 Reid Avenue Seven office suites avail starting at \$400 mo plus pro rata CAM
103 Reid Avenue Great office/retail location ready for occupancy; \$10 psf mod gross

Warehouse / Flex Space

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

For Sale

300 Long Avenue +/- 2,000sf **SOLD**
Loggerhead Restaurant Cape San Blas, +/-3000sf, FFE incl., .47 ac, on site-parking, sewer, asking \$350,000. Short Sale
60 Island Drive, Eastpoint, FL +/-19,620sf: Fully climate controlled office & retail show space; located on primary SGI access corridor; \$675,000
516 1st Street +/-11,400 sf office/warehouse : .09 acres; Four roll up and/or high clearance entryways; \$395,000
320 Marina Drive Corner lot entry to Marina Cove : .14 acres; High visibility site; Call for details
260 Marina Drive +/- 3,200 sf : Multi-tenant building in Marina Cove; New Construction w/ ample parking; Also avail for lease; Inquire for details; \$285,000
PSJ Commerce Park +/- 6.5 acre site : \$119,900; owner financing available
235 W. Gulf Beach Drive Office/Retail; +/-5,335sf multi-tenant bldg St. George Island; Also avail for lease; inquire for terms; \$399,000
131 E. Gulf Beach Drive St. George Island, +/- 3,550sf office/retail; \$285,000
71 Market Street Multi tenant high end bldg downtown Appalachicola; +/- 7,252; Inquire for terms

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

CONTRACTORS

D & B Home Repairs Inc.
Seamless Gutters. 12 colors available. Call 850-340-0605

These tiny ads sell, hire, rent and inform for thousands of families each week. Let a little Classified ad do a big job for you. Emerald Coast Marketplace 747-5020

WWW.FLORIDAGULFCOAST.COM

Marketed Exclusively by:
850-229-6373

UNDER CONTRACT

NORTH FLORIDA LAND & CAPITAL