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50¢



Bike Rodeo, B1

A 'monumentally colossal failure'

PSJ commissioners frustrated with water plant deficiencies

By TIM CROFT

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Port St. Joe city commissioner Rex Buzzett noted during a workshop last week that the city had a water treatment system unique in the country.

In the next breath, Buzzett wondered sarcastically whether any other community was interested in taking it off the city's hands.

Commissioners

expressed uniform frustration last week with a series of deficiencies plaguing the city's \$21 million surface water treatment plant that is less than three years into operation.

This coming as the city has begun a multi-million project to replace aging pipes in the water distribution system.

"I think somebody saw us coming," said Mayor Mel Magidson of problems at the water treatment plant. "This is a failure from day

one. This is a 2-and-a-half year old, 21 million dollar plant and it is going to go bust one day."

The workshop was convened to discuss ongoing concerns pertaining to a leak in a concrete wall in a tank holding one of the microfiltration membranes which serve as the filtering system for the plant.

The leak was discovered in December 2011. The long-term impacts could be significant. The plant can not operate if the filtration

tanks can not produce water, as outlined in a memo from former city manager Charlie Weston, and the leak has the potential of taking one of the membranes down.

Staff from contractor CDM, which designed the water treatment plant, and Marshall Brothers, the contractor on construction of the plant, have made onsite visits to inspect the tank — one of just two currently operable at the plant — with varying advice.

Recommendations on how to proceed from CDM

— which expressed concern about possible vulnerability of the steel rebar in the concrete wall where the leak occurred — were disputed by Marshall Brothers, which was to investigate the cost of sealing the leak by injecting a sealing compound into the wall.

"We don't know that the rebar is not compromised," Magidson said.

Neither CDM nor Marshall Brothers committed

to picking up the cost of fixing the leak.

The leak, several commissioners noted, stems from a seam within the concrete wall — Magidson wondered why the walls were not a single pour of concrete instead of using a method that left seams — that threads around the diameter of the entire tank.

And during discussion of the leak, several other deficiencies were noted by

See PLANT A6



PHOTOS BY CHARLOTTE FRISTOE; COURTESY OF FROM THE HEART

Country artist Billy Dean performs at the Monticello Opera House during a previous filming of the documentary show "From the Heart Music Hour", which airs on regional public broadcast station WFSU. Dean will headline a weekend concert in Gulf County April 6 through 8 to be featured in a new episode of From the Heart Music Hour.

Music from the heart

Gulf County concert to be featured in documentary

By VALERIE GARMAN

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Country musician Billy Dean's recipe for a North Florida music genre calls for two parts classic rock and one part good ole boy country music, mixed with influences from Jacksonville natives Lynyrd Skynyrd and Macon, GA rockers The Allman Brothers Band, and finished with a dash of Southern Gospel and blues.

"North Florida was kind of a crossroads for a lot of different music styles," said Dean, a native of Quincy. "I was exposed to all that growing up (in North Florida). Some of those ingredients are what makes up country music today."

Dean spent most of his Saturday nights at the American Legion in his hometown, listening to his dad's band play a mixture of classic rock and country to a



gritty, rough and tumble crowd. "We called it 'the rat races' back then," Dean said. "It was rough — there was a lot of drinking and fighting."

It was also the place where Dean developed a passion for music.

See MUSIC A6

Fishermen hope to reel in change at rally

By VALERIE GARMAN

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If John Lee could have seen the future of charter fishing before he invested in the business, he would have chosen a different career.

He is now in too deep to get out.

"Now I have to work on other people's boats to support my charter habits," Lee said. "I wouldn't do it over again. If I were

able to see the future, I would have chosen a different line of work."

Lee, along with 13 other concerned recreational, commercial and charter fishermen, boarded a bus to Washington, D.C. Tuesday with one common goal: to be heard.

Fishermen from coastal states around the country will converge on the lawn of the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. today at the Keep Fishermen Fishing Rally to spark action

against a law they say has been steadily erasing their livelihood over the years.

Capt. Tom Adams of Mexico Beach Charters said the purpose of the rally is to raise awareness and hopefully bring about change to the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the primary law governing marine fisheries in the United States.

Adams is hoping for an amendment in the law to give charter fisherman like himself the leeway they need to make a living.

"Hopefully we can get an amendment to the Magnuson-Stevens where they can relax the fishing regulations a little bit," Adams said. "The way it's stated now, if there's any overfishing done on a species, they have to shut down the fishery. We're trying to get them to look at it with a little bit of economic input because the strict regulations are putting the charter fishermen out of

See REEL A7



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Real Estate Ad deadline is Thursday 11 a.m. ET

Legal ad deadline is Friday 11 a.m. ET

Display ad deadline is Friday 11 a.m. ET **227-1278**

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

PAC mission to 'improve Gulf County'

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

Seeking to marginalize special interest groups and bring county-wide voting to Gulf County, a new Political Action Committee, "Citizens Improving Gulf County" has been formed and headed by local businessman Jim Garth.

The non-profit PAC has a mission to bring important issues to the public's attention and support candidates who share the principles and values that the community deserves, according to Garth.

"We want and need to change the political landscape from all-for-one to one-for-all," Garth said.

The intent is to fully inform the public regarding key issues that impact daily lives in the county as well as significant and serious issues that impede what

the group contends are basic rights and freedoms.

The intention, Garth said, is in part to bring about county-wide voting, as opposed to the current system of single-member districts for county commissioners, as well as supporting candidates "who want to do the right thing for all the people and not for one individual or company."

Garth added, "We are tired of our vote being discriminated and only counting 20 percent (in elections of county commissioners) due to the federal order placed on the county back in the early '80s. Our current County Commission is pretending to be in favor of county-wide voting but really not doing anything to change it."

Garth noted that what commissioners vote for and what they do seem to be entirely different things.

"The county government is an out-of-control runaway freight train on a collision course that needs to be stopped and how we do this is through the power of the vote and the people's voice."

Jim Garth

"It is time to improve our county and unleash it from the special interest groups and return it back to where it belongs, to the people."

Since a 2004 referendum showed the vast majority of voters in the county, and in all districts, supported county-wide voting, commissioners have twice voted to move forward on the issue only to reverse course.

This past year, commissioners declined to set aside dollars for a legal challenge to the decree. Several years ago, Garth noted, commissioners voted in favor of moving toward county-wide voting only to flip and vote against moving ahead, asserting that voters did not actually

want county-wide voting.

"Now is the time to realize we do not live in the past and the future belongs to the people in this community," Garth said. "In our opinion, (commissioners) would have us believe through their ridiculous rhetorical self-serving spin that up is down, in is out and wrong is right. This shameless and despicable behavior is an embarrassment to the people of this county and this critical election year is the time to make a difference."

The list of actions Garth

ago to donate funds for the legal fight.

"The county government is an out-of-control runaway freight train on a collision course that needs to be stopped and how we do this is through the power of the vote and the people's voice."

Garth said the PAC was attracting individuals from across the county to join, noting that some intend on being quite active and visible while others are supporting quietly and in their own way.

"Everyone is important and we are encouraging anyone and all to join up," Garth said. "This is the year as there are three seats available on the County Commission and we need action for improvement, not the same old excuses. The people's voice and vote are powerful; let's use them for a change."

During the prior decade, Garth helped found the first PAC in Gulf County, Citizens for Reduced Taxes. That PAC put pressure on county commissioners concerning improper spending and unnecessary taxes. Through prodding by Citizens for Reduced Taxes, commissioners finally reduced the budget during a marathon session and followed the next year by continuing to reduce the budget via state mandates, Garth noted.

The money drain known as the Five Points Landfill, which Garth labeled a ticking bomb, a series of broken promises and commissioners precluded from key votes due to conflicts with their full-time employment also fuel the PAC's mission.

"Did you notice how county-wide voting is conveniently shelved to protect the five kingdoms (districts) under the pretense of extreme legal costs and ridiculous remarks that claim the chance of (winning a case to overturn the federal decree) is almost impossible?" Garth said, adding that a group of local businessmen approached the county several years

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NOTICE OF HEARING FOR PURPOSES OF ADOPTING AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND AUTHORIZING TRANSMITTAL OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT TO APPROPRIATE STATE AGENCIES

The Planning and Development Review Board, sitting as the local planning agency will hold a hearing at 4:00 p.m., EST, on April 10, 2012, to review the amendment and recommend it to the City Commission of the City of Port St. Joe, and the Board of City Commissioners will hold a meeting on April 17, 2012 at 6:00 p.m., EST, at the City of Port St. Joe City Hall located at 305 Cecil G. Costin Blvd., Port St. Joe, Florida, for the purposes of reading the Ordinance and authorizing transmittal of the Comprehensive Plan Amendment to appropriate state agencies.

The title of proposed Ordinance is as follows:

ORDINANCE NO.: 480

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF THE CITY OF PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA, BY AND THROUGH PROCEDURES REQUIRED FOR LARGE-SCALE MAP AMENDMENTS PURSUANT TO AUTHORITY UNDER STATE STATUTES SECTION 163.3187, SPECIFICALLY APPROVING THE AMENDMENT TO THE COASTAL MANAGEMENT ELEMENT- PORT OF PORT ST. JOE MASTER PLAN EXPANDING THE PORT PLANNING AREA; AS SHOWN IN THE REVISED PORT PLANNING AREA MAP; PROVIDING THAT SPECIFIC PLANS FOR THE LANDS ADDED TO THE PORT PLANNING SHALL BE REFLECTED IN THE NEXT UPDATE OF THE PORT MASTER PLAN; AND PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ANY CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

A copy of the proposed Port Planning Area is attached hereto.

Copies of the Ordinance are available for public inspection at City of Port St. Joe City Hall, located at 305 Cecil G. Costin Sr., Blvd., Port St. Joe, Florida. The hearing may be continued from time to time as may be necessary.

Interested persons may attend and be heard at the public hearing or provide comments in writing to the City Commissioners, City of Port St. Joe City Hall, 305 Cecil G. Costin, Sr., Blvd., Port St. Joe, Florida. Transactions of the public hearing will not be recorded. Persons wishing to appeal any decision made during the hearing will need a record of the proceeding and should ensure a verbatim record is made, including the testimony on which the appeal is based.

Any person requiring a special accommodation at this hearing because of a disability or physical impairment should contact the City Clerk's Office at (850) 229-8261, at least five (5) calendar days prior to the hearing.



WEEKLY ALMANAC

Date	High	Low	% Precip
Thu, Mar 22	77°	65°	30 %
Fri, Mar 23	77°	67°	50 %
Sat, Mar 24	76°	63°	40 %
Sun, Mar 25	78°	60°	0 %
Mon, Mar 26	78°	62°	0 %
Tues, Mar 27	77°	63°	0 %
Wed, Mar 28	76°	63°	10 %

TIDE TABLES MONTHLY AVERAGES

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

	HIGH	LOW
Cat Point	Minus 0:40	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:

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

ST.JOSEPH BAY

Date	Day	High Tide	High Tide	Low Tide	Low Tide
15	Th	4:35pm	1.4	2:40am	-0.4
16	Fr	5:54pm	1.3	3:39am	-0.4
17	Sa	7:08pm	1.2	4:24am	-0.3
18	Su	8:19pm	1.1	4:54am	-0.2
19	Mo	9:29pm	0.9	5:07am	0.0
20	Tu	11:51pm	0.6	10:45pm	0.2
21	We	10:59pm	0.7	4:59am	0.2
22	Th	12:21am	0.6	10:48am	0.9
23	Fr	1:05am	1.0	7:12pm	0.1
24	Sa	1:11am	1.1	8:06pm	0.0
25	Su	1:18am	1.2	9:06pm	0.0
26	Mo	1:21am	1.3	10:21pm	-0.1
27	Tu	1:25pm	1.3	11:46pm	-0.1
28	We	3:42pm	1.4		

APALACHICOLA BAY, WEST PASS

Date	Day	High Tide	High Tide	Low Tide	Low Tide
15	Th	8:46pm	1.2	5:06am	-0.1
16	Fr	2:17pm	1.0	6:25am	-0.1
17	Sa	2:40pm	1.0	7:30am	-0.1
18	Su	12:04am	1.1	8:22am	0.0
19	Mo	1:35am	1.1	9:05am	0.1
20	Tu	2:44am	1.1	9:40am	0.2
21	We	3:38am	1.1	10:09am	0.3
22	Th	4:25am	1.1	10:33am	0.5
23	Fr	5:09am	1.1	10:52am	0.6
24	Sa	5:53am	1.1	11:10am	0.7
25	Su	6:37am	1.0	11:31am	0.8
26	Mo	7:25am	1.0	12:27pm	0.0
27	Tu	8:19am	1.0	10:3am	0.0
28	We	9:22am	1.0	1:47pm	0.0

APALACHICOLA BAY, WEST PASS

Date	Day	High Tide	High Tide	Low Tide	Low Tide
15	Th	8:46pm	1.2	5:06am	-0.1
16	Fr	2:17pm	1.0	6:25am	-0.1
17	Sa	2:40pm	1.0	7:30am	-0.1
18	Su	12:04am	1.1	8:22am	0.0
19	Mo	1:35am	1.1	9:05am	0.1
20	Tu	2:44am	1.1	9:40am	0.2
21	We	3:38am	1.1	10:09am	0.3
22	Th	4:25am	1.1	10:33am	0.5
23	Fr	5:09am	1.1	10:52am	0.6
24	Sa	5:53am	1.1	11:10am	0.7
25	Su	6:37am	1.0	11:31am	0.8
26	Mo	7:25			

Water plant solutions scant; city, School Board considering soccer field swap

By TIM CROFT
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Port St. Joe City Commissioners seeking answers Tuesday to problems plaguing the city water treatment plant heard few less than a week after venting their frustration with "deficiencies" at the \$21 million facility online less than three years. Philip Jones of Preble Rish Engineers, the city's engineer of record, said he had yet to hear from Marshall Brothers Contractors about fixing a leak in a concrete filtration membrane wall.

A certified letter had been sent Monday, but Jones said it had not been received and he did not know how the contractor who built the plant stood on the issue.

Jones also said they are continuing to investigate why paint is peeling on the floor throughout the plant and why a series of failures in raw water intake pumps, requiring a series of replacements, occurred.

Read More
See related story **Page A1.**

"One thing we do know now is we need to come up with a maintenance schedule."

— Jim Anderson
City Manager

Also yet to be determined is why fittings on pumps handling caustic chemicals failed — all four in one room at the plant have failed at some point — and why bolts that should have been coated to protect from corrosive chemicals were rusting.

Jones said a clarifier that was found to have rust was coated with the proper paint to specification and rust is a sign that

maintenance, as called for in one section of what Jones called "a voluminous" operations manual, is required every year or two.

Commissioner Lorinda Ginnell was skeptical, noting that the rust in the clarifier was only in the area of a crack, not uniform across the clarifier wall. Plant employee Lynn Todd also noted there is no maintenance staff at the plant and plant supervisor Larry McClamma said he was not aware of that maintenance provision.

"One thing we do know now is we need to come up with a maintenance schedule," said City Manager Jim Anderson.

Beyond that, Jones said investigation continues on a host of problems impacting the plant and said he would have more to report at the commission's next meeting in two weeks.

Lamar Faison Fields

As discussed at a Gulf County School Board meeting Monday, and again at the City Commission regular bi-monthly meeting Tuesday, the city and School Board are assessing the

possibility of leasing or donating the soccer complex at Lamar Faison Fields to the School Board.

The school district owns a southern portion of the complex and its soccer programs and physical education classes make more use of the soccer fields than local recreational and club teams.

The complex was built with state park and recreation grants, so continued public access would be required in any lease or donation, city attorney Tom Gibson said, but Superintendent of Schools Jim Norton indicated that was no hurdle for the district.

The St. Joe Co. would also have to sign-off as the company donated the land for city use with a clause reverting the land to St. Joe in the event the city no longer owned it.

The city would save \$20-\$30,000 in maintenance and utilities at the field, but Commissioner Bill Kennedy noted that the district would probably be able to perform the needed maintenance cheaper and more efficiently, as the district already maintains fields such as Shark Field.

"They are more efficient at it," Kennedy said. "They are in a better position to maintain that complex."

MEETING TO DISCUSS REMOVING CBRA

Star Staff Report

There will be a meeting at 2 p.m. ET Monday, March 26, for a public discussion about removing the CBRA designation from Cape San Blas. All impacted homeowners and business owners are encouraged to attend. There will be speakers available to discuss the potential challenge.

2012 Election Notice

Notice is hereby given that the City of Port St. Joe's Primary Election will be held Tuesday, May 8, 2012, in the Fire Station. Polls open at 7:00 A.M., ET, and close 7:00 P.M., ET.

Registration books are now open at the office of Linda Griffin, Gulf County Supervisor of Elections, and will remain open thru Monday April 9, 2012, at 5:00 P.M., ET.

Candidate qualifying begins Wednesday, March 21, 2012, at 12:00 Noon and ends on Wednesday, March 28, 2012, at Noon. The following offices will be up for election: Commissioner Group III and Commissioner Group IV.

Beginning April 28, 2012 – May 5, 2012, (includes Saturdays of April 28th and May 5th) Early Voting will be held at the Supervisor of Elections office located at 401 Long Avenue from 9:00 A.M., ET to 5:00 P.M., ET. No Sunday voting on April 29, 2012.

Also, Absentee Ballots may be requested now but will be mailed after received from printer.

The City of Port St. Joe

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE CODE ENFORCEMENT SPECIAL MATER WILL HOLD CODE ENFORCEMENT HEARINGS:

WHEN: Monday April 2, 2012
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
WHERE: Commissioner's Chamber
SUBJECT: Code Enforcement Violations

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

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, persons needing special accommodations to participate in this proceedings should contact Charlotte Pierce, Interim City Clerk, City of Port St. Joe, at City Hall, Telephone No. 850/229-8261.



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Admitting my mistakes

My middle child and I enjoy spending time in the kitchen together. She is my youngest daughter and seems to understand me a little better than her brother and older sister. It's a good feeling to be understood, even better to be understood by a teenager.

She may just be pretending, but it is still nice.

We were standing in front of the stove, when my daughter started laughing and said, "Look up there." She was looking at the kitchen cabinet. I couldn't help but start laughing also.

What we were laughing at had been there a couple of days; no one else had noticed it. We had made spaghetti together two nights earlier and she had done the "throw it against the wall to see if it sticks" test.

The spaghetti noodle had stuck on the cabinet door and we had declared the spaghetti ready to eat, forgetting to take the "test noodle" down. It was a Daddy/Daughter moment. I took a picture of the noodle before I took it down.

My football coach in high school had taught me the spaghetti throwing trick in a two week cooking class. Ever since the cooking class, that is the way I have done it. I've never really thought much about it.

So – I started thinking about it. I researched it. I found out that I have been doing things wrong for a long time.

I'm ready to admit my mistakes. Yes mistakes with an "s." I've been making a lot of them through the years. These are just my spaghetti mistakes.

Before I put the spaghetti noodles in the pot, I always break them in half. I've always enjoyed the breaking because of that big snapping sound and the mess it usually makes. To be honest, I do it so the spaghetti noodles will fit in the pot. It's always made good sense to me.

Rachael Ray tells me I'm all wrong. She says that breaking your noodles makes the spaghetti harder to eat because you can't twirl them on your fork. I've never been a twirler; I guess I understand why it was so hard for me to do now. I thought it was just another thing that I wasn't very good at.

Before I broke the spaghetti, I always put a little olive oil in the water. I can't remember who



CRANKS MY TRACTOR
BN Heard

told me to do this, but I do remember them telling me to do it so the spaghetti wouldn't stick together. Again, I was wrong.

Rachael Ray says that properly cooked noodles shouldn't stick together anyway. She also says that the olive oil will cause the sauce to slide off the spaghetti.

I'm feeling bad now, but it gets worse.

The "stick to the wall" test – it's wrong too! Thank you Rachael Ray, for making me feel incompetent. She says that the more you cook it, the gummier it gets. Therefore, I could have easily overcooked it and

wouldn't know it.

Well, how will I know when it is cooked? Rachael says I should taste it and it should be "firm" to the bite. I've never really thought about tasting it – that actually makes a little sense.

So far, I've missed on three things that I have done for years. I have already struck out.

There's more.

After the spaghetti sticks to the wall, I put it in a colander and rinse it. I can't remember why I do this. I think my reasoning may be similar to rinsing the "crazies" out of eggplant. Don't ask.

Rachael says I shouldn't rinse it either. Evidently, rinsing washes the starch off and the sauce won't stick to the spaghetti. That's four strikes, which means I just got hit in the back of the head walking to the dugout while the fans throw meatballs at me.

There is one more.

The coach is waiting at the top of the dugout steps with a pair of scissors where he proceeds to cut the strings off of my spaghetti apron. Rachael Ray then pops me with a wooden spoon (that wasn't so bad).

I put too much sauce on my spaghetti. I pile it on. It makes sense. I do this because if I don't, my teenage son will take it all and there won't be any left the second time around.

Rachael says that Italians will be the first to tell you it's pasta with sauce-not sauce with pasta! She also says that too much sauce overwhelms the flavor of the pasta.

At this point, I am overwhelmed.

How would I know what pasta is supposed to taste like?

I've broken it, oiled it, thrown it, rinsed it and then covered it with too much sauce.

See CRANKS A5

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Keyboard KLATTERINGS

Water plant woes need investigation

At this point it can not be said enough – water woes in Port St. Joe beg for investigation.

And a Port St. Joe city workshop last week, a report of which is in this paper, reaffirms the case.

The entire move to and construction of a new water treatment plant ought to be investigated and it should be investigated immediately before the damage to the pocketbooks of the city's taxpayers as well as consumers of city water continues.

Most everybody living in the south end of the county understands the water woes plaguing the city since the new plant went online less than three years ago and the city began servicing most areas from White City south.

There has been hand-wringing as a new water source, the freshwater canal, and new treatment protocols have stressed aging pipes that thread throughout the city.

Much discussion, including town hall and special meetings, has circled questions about water quality and discoloration in the water.

Some folks have experienced the bad – water filters turned brown, covered in a muddy mush – and others have experienced the not so bad.

But all have paid. The city is now in the first phase of a multi-phase project to replace 20 miles of aging pipe – some dating to before World War II – over several years at a cost of tens of millions of dollars, with state taxpayers paying part of the tab and local taxpayers and water consumers picking up the rest.

In addition, while wrestling with water quality issues, the city commission, using a water study undertaken several years ago to assess utility rates, has raised water and sewer rates three times in the past 18 months.

Water and sewer bills have doubled and, in some cases, spiked higher.

At the same time, many consumers of city water, put off by the

changes in water clarity have taken to purchasing water rather than drink from the tap, even as they pay ever higher prices for the liquid coming from the tap.

All of this has been well-chronicled.

What last week's city workshop highlighted is that the distribution system problems are only the tip of an iceberg cruising straight for a collision with city taxpayers and water consumers.

There are serious "deficiencies" at the new \$21 million plant. From rust in a clarifier; pumps leaking caustically dangerous chemicals, a leak in the wall of a treatment membrane tank, it all provides a picture of, as Mayor Mel Magidson put it, a plant "falling down" less than three years after being completed.

There were indications last year not all was right.

A generator fire spotlighted the fact that a single switch controlled both of the central functions of the plant: producing the water and pumping the water, unusual, to say the least, in water plants.

Consumers had to conserve as the city spent nearly two full days running strictly on reserve water in storage tanks around the community.

But as was noted last week, while the plant has a host of woes, some pressing, contractors that designed and built the plant are playing a bit of finger-pointing rather than fully addressing the problem.

And, apparently, there was a warranty on the construction of the plant – buyers of a car receive a broader and longer warranty than for a water plant it seems – which puts those in charge of putting it up free to walk away from responsibility.

But it is time for a grand jury – calling State Attorney Glenn Hess – to take a look at the entire project.

City attorney Tom Gibson said last week, "If this all goes bad we are all going to end up in court."

A grand jury would be a better place for the city to start. A grand jury can serve as an investigative tool. That is its job in this system of government.

Witnesses testify under oath, with penalties for false testimony. The grand jury, working in secrecy, can

subpoena documents, force open company and agency records and correspondence to understand the timeline of events that led to the construction of this plant.

The grand jury can also sift through the blame game currently in full swing to assign appropriate responsibility.

And there seems responsibility to spread around, from prior city commissioners to the city's engineer of record, Preble Rish Engineers, to CDM, the company that designed the plant, to Siemens, the company that provided the equipment for the microfiltration treatment system, and Marshall Brothers, the contractor which built the plant.

Toss in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, which urged the city off well water and onto a surface water source and was, at least in part, charged with shepherding the construction of the new plant.

There is likely nothing criminal to be found, but what has been borderline criminal is the failure of this new water plant and the existing distribution system to deliver clear, quality water to consumers who are paying more and more to turn the tap.

And consumers and taxpayers are now looking at a bill in the tens of millions of dollars for a fix to the distribution system as the new water plant offers up evidence of being a white elephant that could eventually cost taxpayers and consumers millions more.

If not Hess, current city commissioners should contact the office of the Governor to request an investigation by the Inspector General into one of the most important quality of life issues facing the community.

At this juncture, it is fair to say the city was sold a bill of goods with a new water plant it has never had a handle on and which has soaked up time, energy and money – all of it the public's – since coming online.

Relief will only come once the entire project is thoroughly investigated by an objective party and responsibility and accountability doled out appropriately.

You talk about a slam dunk!

Someone asked if I was caught up in March madness. Did I think Florida State had a chance to make the sweet sixteen? Could Lehigh or Norfolk State be this year's Cinderella team?



HUNKER DOWN
Kesley Colbert

I may be the only guy left in America that doesn't think "basketball" when March madness is propagandized.

Mother would actually move furniture out of the house. She'd stack pots and dishes and frying pans on the kitchen table and crawl into corner cabinets with a rag in one hand and a can of Old Dutch Cleanser in the other. She'd sweep the ceiling. She'd "air out" the quilts and bed sheets. She'd make us take the curtains off and wash every window inside and out. Leon had to stand on a chair and unscrew the light fixtures so she could soap them. She dusted, mopped, flopped, dipped, washed, scrubbed, beat, polished and cleansed until it shined like a new penny. And then she'd "turn loose" on the floors. I don't reckon any of ya'll out there are familiar with Johnson's Paste Wax....

I ain't talking about have you heard of it. Or, perhaps, you spied a can of it once at the hardware store. We're spring cleaning here. It's about as madness as March can get. And let me tell you something else you might not be aware of, carpet hadn't been invented in 1956. It might not have been a famous basketball

arena but we had our own hardwood court in every room. Mother would start us on one side and we had to "elbow grease" it all the way across. Our bed room was about the size of a football field.

And I swear, that living room looked like the deck of an aircraft carrier. As a preteen I got up close and personal with many a can of Johnson's Wax. The only thing that kept me wiping that stuff on with that small circular motion going 'round and 'round and 'round was the hopes of someday running into Mr. Johnson in a dark alley with his back turned.

Of course, I had to do most of the work. Mom figured David was still a might young to really pitch in. And Leon would be eating that wax so it looked like he had "wiped on" a lot more than anybody. I had calluses on my knees. I tore my rotator cuff reaching around the fire place. I developed tennis elbow as a six year old.

And listen, rubbing the wax in was just half of it. After it dried, you had to "go back over it" with a soft polish cloth to soak up the excess and get the brilliant sheen the Johnson folks guaranteed. Leon did finally help here. He tied the soft cloth to his bare feet and skated those floors to a shiny fare-the-well.

And get this, Mom was not a particularly good housekeeper. She thought there were way

more important things in life than a sparkling clean house. It was never a top priority with her. But spring cleaning was such a tradition it just naturally fell her lot each March to get it done.

Daddy had his own March madness. He humorously referred to it as a garden. When you dropped corn seed down a furrow that stretched past the three quarter mile mark it was a tad more than garden size to us. You were row cropping by then. Me and David stopped for lunch one day down toward the back side of the garden. They were eating supper by the time we walked to the house.

If you thought Leon was a little lax on waxing the floors, you should have seen him in the garden. You would have thought that he would snake bite him. Dad would tap the little hole for the seed. I would drop it in, Leon would cover it up with his shoe. He'd sorta kick enough dirt over it to get the job done. He would carry a hoe mind you, but he used it mostly to fight off imaginary Martians or sometimes he'd play it like a guitar. He could make a hoe sound like Chet Atkins or Duane Eddy.

Here's the maddening thing about planting a spring garden. That was only the beginning of the work. The weeds grew quicker than the peanuts. We had to stake those tomatoes. If it didn't rain we had to haul water out there. And the mere thought of cutting that okra made my arms

start to itch. We hit foul balls over in that garden and it would hold up the baseball game while we hunted amongst the Kentucky Wonders and the watermelon vines.

David Mark asked me once, "Can't we buy most of this stuff at the store?" I knew right then Dave was going to turn out to be the smartest one of us.

After being cooped up all winter we'd be ready to "get going" come spring. Leon made up most of our games. We played a lot of crabapple dodge. We'd run across the porch and see if we could clear the evergreen bushes Mom had carefully planted along the side of the house. We'd swing from thick branch to less thick branch through the mimosa tree and see who could break the first limb. We'd climb inside an old tire and roll each other down that hill behind George Sexton's house.

The object here was to see if we could make it to the big ditch at the bottom. The problem was that if you did make it, there was no way to stop. That ditch resembled the Grand Canyon the way it opened up down behind George's house.

About the time you hurled uncontrollably over the side you realized what March madness was really all about. That four point landing on one elbow, a foot (if you could get it untangled from the tire), your left knee and the side of your head would make a basketball game seem kind of tame.

Respectfully,
Kes

Can't pay your taxes? Try these tips

By JASON ALDERMAN

If you're worried you won't be able to pay your income taxes by this year's April 17 filing date, don't panic; but don't ignore the deadline and certainly don't wait for the IRS to reach out to you first. Acting quickly not only gives you more repayment options, it can also significantly lower penalties you might owe the government.

By not filing your 2011 federal tax return or asking for an extension by April 17, 2012, the penalty on any taxes you owe increases dramatically — usually an additional 5 percent of taxes owed for each full or partial

month you're late, plus interest, up to a maximum penalty of 25 percent. But file your return/extension on time and the penalty drops tenfold to 0.5 percent.

Eventually, the IRS could even place a tax lien on your assets and future earnings.

IRS tax repayment alternatives include:

Pay by credit card. You will be charged a small convenience fee that is tax-deductible if you itemize expenses. Just be sure you can pay off your credit card balance within a few months, or the interest accrued might exceed the penalty.

Short-term extension. If you can pay the full amount within 120 days, call the

IRS at 800-829-1040 and ask whether you qualify for a short-term extension. If granted, you'll still owe interest but will avoid an application fee.

Installment agreement. If you need longer, an installment agreement will let you pay your bill in monthly installments for up to five years. If you owe \$10,000 or less, you're guaranteed an installment agreement provided you have filed and paid all taxes for the previous five years and haven't had an installment agreement within that time.

If you owe \$25,000 or less and are in good standing, you'll still likely qualify for a streamlined installment

agreement; over \$25,000 you still may qualify, but may be required to file a detailed Collection Information Statement.

There's a \$105 fee to enter an installment agreement. It's reduced to \$52 if you set up a direct debit installment plan (or \$43 for low-income filers). For rules and to apply, see the "Online Payment Agreement Application" at www.irs.gov or submit IRS Form 9465.

Offer in Compromise. Under certain dire financial-hardship circumstances, the IRS may allow taxpayers with annual incomes of up to \$100,000 to negotiate a reduction in the amount

they owe through an Offer in Compromise.

To qualify, you must be current with all filing and payment requirements and not in bankruptcy. There is a \$150 non-refundable application fee, which may be waived for low-income applicants. You'll also be required to submit an initial payment with your application.

Please note: Only a small number of offers in compromise are accepted and you should only pursue one after having exhausted all other payment options. For step-by-step instructions, read the IRS Form 656 Booklet.

If you're unable to make payments on your

installment agreement or offer in compromise, call the IRS immediately for alternative payment options, which could include reducing the monthly payment to reflect your current financial condition.

Nothing beats staying current on your taxes, but if you fear you may fall behind, explore these options before the penalties start snowballing.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs. To participate in a free, online Financial Literacy and Education Summit on April 23, go to www.practicalmoneyskills.com/summit2012.

Cola Wars Impact on Marine Life

Four things to know about wild marine birds, fish and animals before discussing how the cola wars affect marine life.

1. Most wild animals when injured will mask their illness so predators will not attack them.

2. Once a wild creature becomes close to death they hide in a safe spot so as not to be eaten alive. Few are ever found or rescued.

3. Most wildlife stay away from crowded public beaches. They breed and grow in areas not frequented or easily accessible by the public.

4. For many species, if an item does not taste bad or hurt them when consumed, they are content eating it. Any one with a puppy will gladly testify to this fact. Wildlife is not as taste sensitive as humans and do not care about flavor.

These facts are what bring us to the subject of soft drinks. Many people think that plastic soft drink bottles are killing wildlife, and it is a contributor as it breaks down into small pieces. However, plastic bottles are not the main reason for plastics killing wildlife, it is the colorful plastic caps that become separated from the bottles. These colorful plastic caps act as lures, attract animals, and become bite size appetizers for sea turtles, dolphins and fish. The plastic can neither be digested nor passed through by most species. Instead, it clogs their intestinal tract and they die a slow and painful death at sea.

The beverage industry predicts selling 600 billion beverage containers over the next 3 years. They predict that at best only 200 billion of those containers will be recycled. This means that 400 billion will either make

their way to landfills or become litter. We are amazed that this issue has not yet been addressed. Due to the size of these caps they also represent a potential choking hazard for children. Most pediatricians will tell you that if you have a child under the age of 4, these bottle caps need to be kept out of the reach of your children. While bigger than the government classification's for labeling as a choking hazard, they are smaller than the number one choking hazard for children under the age of 5—hot dogs.

Think about having one of these caps lodged backwards down a child's throat.

What the beverage industry can do:

The beverage industry can immediately design and implement a cap that will not detach from the plastic bottles. Metal soda and beer cans were modified more than 20 years ago to protect wildlife. It is now time for the plastic industry to do the same.

What the public can do:

You can participate in the cola wars to help save wildlife. Pepsi and Coca-Cola both spend every hour of every day battling for market share of the lucrative soft drink market. Both of these companies are fully aware of the problem, and we want both of them to race to find a solution. We understand that there would be a transitional cost to switch cap systems.

As a result of the transitional cost, we also believe that the first company to implement a non-detachable bottle cap should be rewarded by the public with increased sales.

So if Coca-Cola is the first to market an improved cap, then Pepsi drinkers should switch their product loyalty until

Pepsi also implements a non-detachable bottle cap to help save wildlife and children or vice versa.

As the cola wars continue to take place, Coke and Pepsi will be competing for percentage shares of the hundreds of billions of beverages to be sold in plastic containers. Competing to get their beverages sold should only be half of the competition. We would like to have Pepsi and Coca-Cola also compete on cleaning up the marine litter and preventing animal deaths that will occur. We hope the prize would be the same, increased customer loyalty for the company that works the hardest to clean up the disposable packaging killing wildlife and creating an unsightly mess. We would like to invite both Pepsi and Coca-Cola, their consumers, and employees to donate and sponsor a boat to aid in our efforts to clean up their beverage containers that have been littered over the years. The money donated would be to sponsor a boat bearing their brand name which would allow us to clean up the caps that are already floating free harming the environment.

We will keep the public and media informed as we await direct replies from Muhtar Kent, Chairman and CEO of Coca-Cola and Indra Nooyi, Chairwoman and CEO of Pepsi.

Rudy Socha

CEO

Wounded Nature -

Working Veterans

www.woundednature.org

rudy@woundednature.org

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Mortgage Debt Forgiveness: 10 Key Points

By Keith L. Jones, CPA

Canceled debt is normally taxable to you, but there are exceptions. One of those exceptions is available to homeowners whose mortgage debt is partly or entirely forgiven during tax years 2007 through 2012.

You should know these 10 facts about Mortgage Debt Forgiveness:

1. Normally, debt forgiveness results in taxable income. However, under the Mortgage Forgiveness Debt Relief Act of 2007, you may be able to exclude up to \$2 million of debt forgiven on your principal residence.

2. The limit is \$1 million for a married person filing a separate return.

3. You may exclude debt reduced through mortgage restructuring, as well as mortgage debt forgiven in a foreclosure.

4. To qualify, the debt must have been

used to buy, build or substantially improve your principal residence and be secured by that residence.

5. Refinanced debt proceeds used for the purpose of substantially improving your principal residence also qualify for the exclusion.

6. Proceeds of refinanced debt used for other purposes — for example, to pay off credit card debt — do not qualify for the exclusion.

7. If you qualify, claim the special exclusion by filling out Form 982, Reduction of Tax Attributes Due to Discharge of Indebtedness, and attach it to your federal income tax return for the tax year in which the qualified debt was forgiven.

8. Debt forgiven on second homes, rental property, business property, credit cards or car loans does not qualify for the tax relief provision. In some cases, however, other tax relief provisions — such as

insolvency — may be applicable. IRS Form 982 provides more details about these provisions.

9. If your debt is reduced or eliminated you normally will receive a year-end statement, Form 1099-C, Cancellation of Debt, from your lender. By law, this form must show the amount of debt forgiven and the fair market value of any property foreclosed.

10. Examine the Form 1099-C carefully. Notify the lender immediately if any of the information shown is incorrect. You should pay particular attention to the amount of debt forgiven in Box 2 as well as the value listed for your home in Box 7.

For more information, contact a Certified Public Accountant. CPAs are who Americans count on to provide them with sound tax and financial advice.

Keith has an office in Port Saint Joe and can be contacted at keith@keithjonescpa.com

CRANKS from page A4

All mistakes...

I surrender.

Rachael, just hit me with that wooden spoon a couple

of more times.

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Denise Butler
Agent

PLANT from page A1

plant supervisor Larry McClamma.

Rust has appeared inside a clarifier tank, a place it should not be, McClamma said, indicating the tank had not been coated on the inside with the proper paint. Paint is also peeling from floors throughout the plant, he added.

In addition, in some areas where stainless steel bolts should have been used due to the presence of caustic chemicals, chrome bolts were used instead. Some of those bolts anchored into a wall show rust and decay.

"Nothing can survive a leak of caustic acid except stainless steel," said Commissioner Bill Kennedy.

McClamma also noted leakage of caustic chemicals in a pump room which has caused accidents requiring medical attention for two employees and noted that pumps used in a CIP room (Clean in Place) were the improper pump for that application.

One pump had to be replaced by city staff while another is leaking.

"I have had a lot of experience with CIP systems and this one is built to fail," said Kennedy of equipment purchased from Siemens which at the time of purchase was touted as employing unique and cutting-edge technology. "I've never seen valves or seals set up like this."

Magidson questioned the purchase of the equipment for the plant one year prior to construction. He wondered if that wasn't performing tasks out of order, acquiring the equipment then designing the plant around that equipment.

Further, after a generator fire last year, the city had to replace three intake pumps for bringing water to the plant – one had already been replaced. There is now a need to replace one of those

three new pumps.

"Is it equipment? Is it design? Is it construction?" Magidson wondered. "This is going to cause the city a lot of grief and money."

Magidson said if the workshop was a formal meeting, he would be inclined to pass the gavel and move that commissioners hire a litigation attorney and "go to the mat on this."

A central problem for commissioners is an understanding of the origins of the problems. While CDM designed the plant, Marshall Brothers built it and the equipment was purchased by Siemens none has yet to step up and accept responsibility for any of the myriad problems or offered much in the way of viable solutions for the city, several commissioners noted.

The warranty on the construction of the plant ran out July 31, 2010, as noted in a letter from Preble Rish Engineers, the city's engineer of record, to Marshall Brothers.

As of last week's workshop, the city had yet to hear from Marshall Brothers concerning problems outlined in a recent e-mail from city staff and city manager Jim Anderson indicated he did not expect the construction firm to be quick with answers.

"We need to get a handle on the scope of what's going on out there" before undertaking any fixes, Commissioner Lorinda Gingell said.

At that point, Gingell said, all parties should be brought to Port St. Joe for a thorough vetting of the scope of the problems, remedies and who is accountable for what.

"We've got to figure out who is responsible for this monumentally colossal failure," Magidson said. "This is just beyond the pale. Two years into this and this plant is falling apart."

City attorney Tom Gibson added, "If this goes bad we are all going to be in court."

MUSIC from page A1

Dean will soon be back in his home state where it all began, to headline a weekend concert appropriately honoring the music of North Florida.

Gulf County will welcome Dean and a host of other area musicians April 6-8 for an event that will place both the musicians and the Gulf Coast in the spotlight.

The public broadcasting sphere will soon get a taste of Gulf County through an episode of "From the Heart Music Hour", a program that highlights North Florida musicians and the areas they perform in.

The upcoming From the Heart Music Hour episode will focus on the upcoming three-day music festival, featuring footage from the weekend's live performances at the Haughty Heron and the Thirsty Goat in Port St. Joe, Lake Alice Park in Wewahitchka and the Indian Pass Raw Bar, plus additional footage from in and around Gulf County.

Dean will headline the weekend events with performances by local artists Charlie and Dana Black, Brian Bowen, Brook Sessions, The Currys, Frank Lindamood, Rick Ott and Mimi Hern, Randall Webster and 19 South.

Rick Ott and his wife Nelle McCall, the owners of From the Heart Recording studio in Sopchoppy and creators of From the Heart Music Hour, developed the show in an effort to help unknown artists with startup publicity and provide the audience with the story behind the songwriters.

"People come in and record music, but if you're an unknown artist you record all this stuff and nothing gets done with it," Ott said. "We just thought, 'How can we help these people who are working at our studio?'"

What began as a two hour segment on Oyster Radio that aired from April 2008 to October 2009 has since jumped into the TV medium, with episodes airing on Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) through WFSU.

Ott is also hoping for a future episode highlighting Wakulla County.

Ott said invit-

ing artists who have had success in the business, like Dean, helps the other artists by providing them with support and networking opportunities. In the music business, it's all about who you know.

For the Gulf County episode, Ott is hoping to focus more on the area and its sites and also include interviews with local business owners and community members.

"We want to get a real feel for the community, and then just weave the music in," Ott said. "It's a fantastic area and we just feel like people need to be aware of it."

Ott and his team have already shot some footage on the Dead Lakes in Wewahitchka with the help of Wewahitchka Search and Rescue. He was blown away by the quantity of recreational areas in a small community like Wewahitchka and enjoyed spending the day spotting Osprey nests and capturing the eerie beauty of the Dead Lakes.

Ott refers to Gulf County as "The gateway to Florida" because it's got a little bit of everything.

"Our goal (for the show) is to just keep highlighting North Florida," Ott said. "I just want to see the program grow and for people to really focus on the music of the South—we don't really have anything else highlighting the music in the Southeast."

Ott said the show is similar to Austin City Limits, a PBS program featuring live music performances out of Austin, Texas, but with more of a documentary focus.

The Gulf County episode will be the sixth installment of From the Heart Music Hour. The previous five episodes were filmed at the Monticello Opera House in Monticello (Jefferson County) and the seventh episode will feature footage from live performances from The Moon in Tallahassee, the Indian Pass Raw Bar and also footage from club performances in Ireland this August with local musicians The Currys.

Ott is also hoping for a future episode highlighting Wakulla County.

"I think every artist on our show has a direct connection to

North Florida," Ott said. "We do try to focus on North Florida."

"Charlie and Dana Black, those guys have written as many hit songs as any songwriter in the country. That's pretty amazing, and they're right there in your community."

For Dean, the upcoming trip to the Gulf Coast will bring back memories of vacationing in Mexico Beach as a kid and his teenage years spent touring on the Gulf Coast club circuit from Panama City to Tallahassee.

"The whole Gulf Coast of Florida is kind of my stomping grounds," Dean said. "For me, it's exciting to come back to my home area—I have a lot of history there."

Dean looks back at the summer after high school as some of the best times in his life, when he spent his nights playing at beach bars along the coast.

"I'm glad to see that they're still using live music down there," Dean said. "It's good to know that not everything has gone to karaoke."

He is looking forward to reuniting with the friends and family who have supported his music career through the years and helped send him to Nashville to pursue his dream.

After winning a local talent contest, followed by the state talent contest, Dean's friends and family pooled their money to send Dean to Nashville for the finals.

Eight years later, he had the number one song in Nashville. Dean has since had 11 top ten singles, five number ones, and has sold more than 4 million albums, and he owes it all to those local folks who supported his dream, like his dad's band and the Horse Lounge in Quincy where he started playing as a teenager.

"I couldn't have done it without the support from those local folks," Dean said. "The North Florida area is still home—even though I've been in Nashville for 30 years."

For more information about the upcoming event or to view past episodes of From the Heart Music Hour visit www.fromtheheartofsopchoppy.com.



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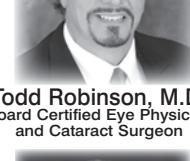
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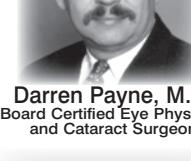
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REEL from page A1

work."

More than 30 congressmen and senators from across the country are scheduled to speak, including Rep. Steve Southerland of Panama City, who has said he sees a dangerous precedent being set by federal agencies like the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, whose regulations he believes are another attempt to take away individual rights.

Capt. Chuck Guilford of Charisma Charters in Mexico Beach hopes Wednesday's rally is enough to bring about the change that never happened after the previous rally in 2010.

"In 2010 we had a good bunch of people from all over the U.S. and Canada," Guilford said. "But it wasn't enough to get anything changed."

Guilford, who has been charter fishing for 37 years, said he hasn't made a penny on his charter business in the last two years, and it looks like this year will be worse.

"I don't know how much longer I can do it), with all the regulations and the cost of fuel to operate," he said. "I love it so much that I'll try to go as far as I

can, but if we don't change presidents and don't have a change in the economy, I don't see a place for my business."

In previous years, Guilford said he was fishing around 190 to 240 days a year. In 2011, he fished only 87 days on his boat Charisma and 58 days on his second boat.

He ran an 11-hour trip on Monday on Charisma that used 140 gallons of diesel fuel, which even at a wholesale price cost more than \$700.

Guilford, who will turn 82 this year, said people are not willing to pay for a charter trip if they can't keep any of the fish.

"There are so many fish out there," said Guilford, who noted one of the main flaws of the system is that it is based on poor science.

Guilford has run seven scientific trips for the National Marine Fisheries service. During one trip they caught, measured, tagged and released 179 red snapper in four hours.

Emily Muelstein, Fisheries Outreach Specialist for the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, the branch of NOAA that controls the Gulf waters, said fisheries are a hard



PHOTOS BY VALERIE GARMAN | The Star

Chuck Guilford of Mexico Beach was hoping for a larger turnout this year than in 2010.

subject to study because there is no way of knowing how many fish are in the ocean.

Jim Kline and Jim Bush from Eufaula, Ala. met the group in Panama City to participate in the rally.

Kline described the science used to regulate fisheries as "hogwash".

Kline read about the rally on an online fishing forum, and as a recreational fisherman, it's a cause he is more than happy to support.

Decreased bag limits and shorter seasons have limited his once frequent visits to the Florida Panhandle.

"During snapper season, of course now it's kind of abbreviated, we try to (fish) every weekend," Kline said. "It's different now in that people used to come down (to fish in the Panhandle) every weekend all year long. Now they only come down every weekend for 48 days (for snapper season) and it's fixing to be only 40."

"To go out and spend \$300 to catch two fish, it's not worth it. That's a pretty expensive fish."

Kline said the law is so difficult to comprehend, you have to be a Philadel-

phia lawyer to figure out what you can and can't catch-- and if you're not up-to-date on the most recent regulations, you can get in trouble in an instant.

"We just want to raise awareness of the fact that it's an economic hardship on the coastal areas; it's cost a lot of jobs," Kline said. "I would like for at least some of the legislators to recognize how this is affecting boaters."

Kline said at least his livelihood is not affected by the regulations.

"This is our recreation," Kline said. "Some of these guys here, it's killing their businesses."

John Wiley, who runs Tight Line Charters in Port St. Joe with his son John Wiley, has been fishing in the Gulf waters since 1963.

Although Wiley's business does inshore charters and is not affected as much by federal regulations as the offshore charters, he understands the economic effect stricter regulations have on the entire community.

Wiley is also representing Bluewater Outriggers in Port St. Joe at the rally.

"They're really concerned with the plight of



John Lee is among those rallying to bring change to federal fishing laws.

fishermen as well," Wiley said. "They wanted it to be known that they're supporting this. Bluewater Outriggers supports all the fishermen in Northwest Florida and welcomed the opportunity to be a part of this."

Wiley's goal for the rally is to simply get the message out about how stricter regulations affect coastal communities like Port St. Joe and Mexico Beach.

"There were times when (the regulations) were needed," Wiley said. "But the statistical model they're using now just doesn't fit the bill anymore. Nobody's against science, let's just use the right science."

Geoff Owens, a commercial fisherman from St. Augustine boarded the bus to Washington, D.C. as it stopped in Jacksonville to pick up more riders.

Owens has run the commercial boat "Rollin' Thunder" for 20 years and has seen the fishing get better, but the regulations get worse.

"It's not as bad over here as the Gulf has it, but

they're giving us crumbs," Owens said. "For Florida not to have an open fishery, it's criminal."

Owens said the only way he has managed to stay in the business is by acquiring many different permits and specializing in different species.

"I want to have a voice in my future," Owens said of his goal for the rally. "I want them to make a change. Just the fact that something like this could happen in America-- it's criminal."

Stan Jarusinski and his wife Barbara from Port St. Lucie, also joined the group in Jacksonville.

Jarusinski, a charter captain and a member of the Southern Kingfish Organization, has been actively involved in fighting regulations for years.

"I'm here because I don't want to see us lose our fishing culture," Jarusinski said. "I want to see kids continue to fish because I enjoy fishing."

When the couple lived in the small town of Swansboro, North Carolina they saw two fish houses shut down due to stricter government regulations and charter boats sit at the docks without any days at sea.

"I want to see fishing continue and to help these people who have lost their livelihood," said Jarusinski, who is also meeting with Rep. Allen West before the rally.

Jarusinski was active in getting his North Carolina Congressman Walter Jones involved in the issue and also convinced Jones to attend and speak at the rally.

"To go there and see our congressman, it's kind of a treat," Jarusinski said. "I feel that I owe this to the general fishing public."



Picking up fishermen in Jacksonville, FL on the trek to Washington.

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I, Ken Detzner, Secretary of State of the State of Florida, do hereby give notice that a GENERAL ELECTION will be held in GULF County, State of Florida, on the SIXTH day of NOVEMBER, 2012, A.D., to fill or retain the following offices:

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United States Senator
Representative in Congress
State Attorney: Judicial Circuit 14
Public Defender: Judicial Circuit 14
State Senator
State Representative
Supreme Court: Retention of Three Justices
First District Court of Appeal: Retention of Four Judges
Circuit Judge, Fourteenth Judicial Circuit: Groups 3, 6 and 11
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Sheriff
Property Appraiser
Tax Collector
Superintendent of Schools
Supervisor of Elections
County Court Judge: Group 1
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Harbor Master for the Port of Port Saint Joe
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St. Vincent hosts open house

Special to The Star

The most popular event held on St. Vincent Island is happening this month. This year, the annual Open House on St. Vincent Island will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. ET Friday, March 30 (rain date April 20). This is a chance to experience

the beauty of St. Vincent Island and learn more about what goes on at this wildlife refuge and other nearby natural areas. Free transportation to the island will be provided from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. The refuge barge will pick up visitors at the USFWS barge dock which is located a short distance northeast of the Indian Pass boat ramp. The barge also will provide free transportation back to the mainland at Indian Pass until 3 p.m. There will be a limit of 250 visitors on the island for this event.

There will be guided walks and educational tours of the island plus several guided wagon tours. Visitors can sign up for the wagon tour and other guided events when they reach the island or they



can explore the island on their own. Visitors signing up for tours can only sign up for themselves. Some of the guided activities include birding walks, beach walks, photography safaris, and hiking tours. In the outdoor amphitheater created by placing folding chairs under one of the island's huge live oaks, there will be a presentation by the St. Mark's NWR staff called "Whooping Cranes and More Talk."

The Supporters of St. Vincent Island will be providing hot dogs and drinks in a booth right beside an all-day live musical performance by John Miick and Cletus Heaps. There will be other informational booths set up by the Riverkeepers, St. Mark's Refuge, Panama City Fish and Wildlife, Riverkeepers and the St. Vincent Supporters. Come prepared to enjoy the day

on St. Vincent Island; wear walking shoes and a smile. Volunteers will be at the Indian Pass boat ramp to guide you to the barge that will take you to the island. Here is the schedule of events for the Open House: 9 a.m., music by John Miick & Cletus Heaps; 9:30 a.m. Wagon Tour, Landy Luther and Paulette Moss; Coastal Photo Walk with Debbie Hooper; 9:45 a.m., Hiking Tour with Denise Williams, Beach Walk with Brad Smith; 10:15 a.m., Birds of St. Vincent Walk with Erik Lovestrand, Beach Walk with Trish Petrie; 10:30 a.m., music with John Miick & Cletus Heaps; 11 a.m., Photographic Safari with Sue Bull, Wagon Tour with John Izetta and Debbie Hooper; 11:45 a.m. Hiking Tour with Denise Williams; noon, Music with John Miick & Cletus Heaps, Whooping Cranes and More talk with staff from St. Mark's,

Beach Walk with Trish Petrie; 12:15 p.m., Wagon Tour with Dave F. and Gloria Austin; 1 p.m., Photographic Safari with Sue Bull; 1:15 p.m., Hiking Tour with Denise Williams; Birds of St. Vincent Walk with Erik Lovestrand; 1:30 p.m. Wagon Tour with Landy Luther and Gloria Austin; Whooping Cranes and More talk with staff from St. Mark's, Beach Walk with Brad Smith.

The monthly spring tours on the island have been filling up quickly. All tours are on the second Wednesday of each month. The next island tour takes place on April 11 followed by the last spring tour on May 9. There will be no tours during the summer—bugs and heat make the experience less than pleasant. The tour is free, but participants must make a reservation at www.stvincentfriends.com. Click on "Island Tour Sign Up." There is a small charge for boat transportation to and from the island. Remember the island is primitive; bring everything you need, including drinking water, and leave only your footprints behind.

This monthly column is provided by the Supporters of St. Vincent Island National Wildlife Refuge.

For more information and volunteer opportunities, visit www.stvincentfriends.com.

Hooked on Outdoors

Ladies who always have wanted to learn how to fish and had no teacher will be glad to know the FWC will be having a workshop March 31 at St. Andrews State Park to teach you all the ins and outs.

The free

Women's Fishing Clinic will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Gulf pier.

Participants will receive free admission into the park unless they bring others with them

in their vehicle. Advanced registration is required since the classes are capped at 25 participants.

You can pre-register with Jennifer Saranzak at 352-543-9219, ext. 216, or Jennifer.Saranzak@MyFWC.com. Participants must be at least 16 years of age. All equipment is provided, but you can bring your own if you prefer. Lunch and drinks are not provided, so you will have to bring that along with sunscreen, etc.

Participants will learn skills such as casting, fish handling and much more with a catch-and-release event at the end. The participant will need to have a fishing license to take part in that portion of the clinic.

If you are only tagging along, there is plenty to do at the park. At the pier where the clinic is taking place, there is swimming and roaming the beach. If you like to fish, the pier offers pompano and whiting fishing along with the jetties.

If you enjoy watching nature, there are plenty of deer to be seen along the roads. Just get out and follow the paved roads. They all come back to the place you started. Come and enjoy one of Florida's best state parks if not the best.



Outdoor Life

Scott Lindsey
captainlindsey@knology.net

Overdue boaters found in pair of searches

By STAN KIRKLAND

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Every day of the year, literally hundreds of anglers, hunters and others who enjoy the outdoors head out for a day of recreation and away from suburbia to some of the state's most remote places. However, on occasion things go wrong and they need help.

That's when Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission law enforcement officers usually get a call for help. That was the case last week when officers rescued three people in back-to-back incidents on the lower Apalachicola

River area.

In the first incident on March 8, an Apalachicola woman called at about 8 p.m. and reported that her 65-year-old husband was overdue from a day-long fishing trip. FWC Lt. Charlie Wood said they quickly found the husband's truck and boat trailer at Abercrombie Boat Ramp on the Jackson River, off Bluff Road in Apalachicola. The wife told officers where she thought her husband had gone fishing.

After requesting other officers to assist in the search, Wood and another officer launched from the same ramp on the Jackson River. Twenty minutes later they found the husband

one mile upriver, with motor troubles.

"He could put the motor in gear and go a few feet, but then he had to take it out of gear, and repeat the process. It was taking him a long time to get back to the landing," Wood said.

The officers towed him back to the landing and a grateful reunion with his wife.

Two days later on March 10, a Liberty County father called around 10:30 p.m. and reported that his daughter and son-in-law were overdue from their fishing trip on the Apalachicola River. The young couple reportedly had launched on Owl Creek,

south of Sumatra.

Within an hour officers, assisted by the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, were searching Owl Creek and the Apalachicola. The search continued through the night. Officers found the uninjured pair around 8:30 the next morning.

"They were OK but were cold," Wood said. After running out of gas, the couple spent the night huddled on the bow of an unoccupied house boat.

The husband summed things up pretty succinctly when he told Wood, "We didn't have a peaceful night. I don't think my wife is happy with me right now." They, too, got a tow back to

the landing.

Wood said in both incidents the search was made easier by someone knowing which boat landings the boaters were using, where they were head-

ed and when they were expected to return.

"That gives us a place to start and saves time," Wood said. "That helps us more than you can believe."

FISH REPORT SPONSORED BY

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Freshwater

Spring time conditions have the fish biting! Lake Wimico has been on fire with bass and bream catches this week. Most anglers are using worms and spinner baits. Bream are biting on worms and crickets and they are everywhere. Depot Creek has been reporting some crappie bites and smaller catfish as well.

Inshore

St. Joe Bay is coming back to life. Good flounder reports have been coming from Black's Island and around the bomb holes. Surf fishing is still producing nice whiting and all you want to catch. Spanish Mackerel are at the Eagle Harbor area and out in the open water and along the Gulf side of cape San Blas also. Use mackerel trees or Got-chu plugs trolled behind spoons to improve your chances. Still no cobia in Gulf County has been weighed in, but this week we should see one!



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All-Star Classic East girls team set

By BRAD MILNER

747-5065 | @PCNHBBradMilner
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It's been said that variety is the spice of life. And it's variety that may bring a victory to the Freedom All-Star Classic East girls team.

The 12-player basketball roster comprising senior athletes in The News Herald's coverage area has been selected and it's balanced. The East girls have struggled in the series against the West, which is chosen by the sports department at the Northwest Florida Daily News, losing six of the previous seven games.

One key ingredient in the East's lone win in 2007 was post play. Graceville's Erika Johnson paced the East to a 90-76 win and earned MVP honors. One of the coaches on that team, Mosley's Steve Canfield, returns this year for his third appearance in the series. This year's game starts at 11 a.m. April 7 and will be contested at the Billy Harrison Field House on the campus of Gulf Coast State College.

Post play could figure to be another key ingredient this year. The East team features three players who can stake a claim to the paint in Ponce de Leon's Jazz

THE 2012 FREEDOM ALL-STAR CLASSIC EAST GIRLS ROSTER

G — Latilya Baker, Sneads
F — Deanna Canfield, Mosley
G — Kate Carroll, Ponce de Leon
G/F — Olivia Daniels, Malone

Flock, Graceville's Wynterra Pittman and Arnold's Grace Tennyson.

Flock averaged a double-double in scoring and rebounding during the Pirates' Class 1A semifinal and final games in leading her team to a 28-2 record and state championship. Pittman almost averaged a double-double in the same categories for the season and Tennyson averaged 7.9 rebounds a game while adding 31 blocked shots for the Marlins.

They combine with Mosley's Deanna Canfield and Malone's Olivia Daniels as players who can play forward and provide a presence around the rim. The remaining seven spots on the roster are occupied by guards with

F/C — Jazz Flock, Ponce de Leon

G — Kaylin Griffin, Bethlehem
F/C — Wynterra Pittman, Graceville
C — Grace Tennyson, Arnold
G — Tasha Trzaska, Mosley
G — Lakia Snowden, Rutherford
G — Tiara Sorey, Graceville
G — Tia Webb, Bay

Coach: Steve Canfield, Mosley

varied size and speed.

Bay's Tia Webb stands 5-foot-9 and played point guard for the Tornadoes, albeit doing so out of her natural shooting guard spot because of roster necessity. Bethlehem's Kaylin Griffin played taller than her 5-7 stature with eight rebounds a game for the Wildcats and both she and Webb averaged more than 10 ppg. Graceville's Tiara Sorey also stands 5-7 and provides size at point guard.

They join smaller guards in Mosley's Tasha Trzaska, Rutherford's Lakia Snowden, Ponce de Leon's Kate Carroll and Sneads' Latilya Baker. Each proved they can provide scoring punch and 3-point prowess.

CLICKING from page A9

March 12 against Graceville, and downed Altha 14-4 on Monday.

Ashleigh Price pitched seven innings, striking out six and walking two in beating Blountstown.

Tara Walding was 3 for 4 with a triple and one RBI and Cheyenne Luckie was 2 for 3 with a double and an RBI for Wewahitchka. Jessica Smith was 2 for 3 and reached on a walk and Tori Lanter had a pair of singles in four trips to the plate.

Price started on the mound against Graceville and went five innings, Smith coming on in relief for the final two innings. Combined Price and Smith walked 10 and struck out four.

Smith was 4 for 5 with a triple, double and two RBIs and Walding was 5 for 5 with a triple, double and three RBIs to pace the Lady Gators.

Jaden Rouse had four singles in five trips to the plate and Lanter was 3 for 5 with an RBI. Alyssa Bass had two singles and drove in three.

Ashley Price started on the mound against Altha and worked three innings striking out four. Smith relieved and pitched the final two innings of the game, called after five innings based on the mercy rule, striking out two and walking two.

Smith was 3 for 3 with a home run, triple and double for the Lady Gators. Lanter was 2 for 3 with a walk and drove in one run and Walding had a two-run triple.

The Lady Gators host Vernon at 6 p.m. CT on Friday.

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COMMUNITY

B
Section

Thursday, March 22, 2012

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Salt Air Farmers' Market returns April 7

Star Staff Report

Spring is in the air along the Forgotten Coast.

The Salt Air Farmers' Market begins its fourth year on Saturday, April 7, providing Port St. Joe and surrounding areas fresh produce, home-baked breads, jams, fresh seafood, our local Tupelo Honey and a variety of knickknacks from local artists and craftsmen.

Supported by the Small Farms Program at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, headed by Dr. Jennifer Taylor, the Salt Air Farmers' Market is a true grassroots, community effort. As a result of Taylor's guidance, the Salt Air Market draws both local and regional farmers.

The Salt Air farmers are from North Florida and South Georgia and bring in seasonal fruits and vegetables. A long-time participating member of the market, Dorothy and Willard Barnhart of Barnhart Farms were recently named the 2011

Jefferson County Outstanding Farm Family of the Year.

The Barnhart family owns about 162 acres in various parts of Jefferson County and harvests about 50 chemical free acres at a time. Planting from seeds, the family rotates crops according to need. Some of the crops that the Barnharts raise include: broccoli, collard greens, turnips, tomatoes, carrots, zucchini, squash, various peppers, spinach, Red Russian kale and two types of okra.

B&H Farms of Pelham grows organic tomatoes, eggplant, cucumbers, peppers, squash, greens, lettuce and herbs. B&H also offers home baked pies and quiche.

At the market, our own Indian Pass Nursery specializes in native and hard-to-find heirloom tomatoes.

The Salt Air Farmers' Market offers a venue for local artists to show off handcrafted soaps, unique tie dye garments, hand painted glassware, jewelry, shell

art and more. Fresh coffee is donated by No Name Café Books and More and is sold along with Lorinda's delicious homemade breads jams and chow-chow.

As a result of the market, City Commons Park downtown Port St. Joe where the market is held, was redesigned and upgraded through city and county funding, community effort, grants and the team at our local Redevelopment Agency. It is now a beautiful and welcoming park, complete with a monument to the paper mill workers of Port St. Joe. The Salt Air Farmers' Market has built a pavilion that has become the focal point of City Commons Park.

To encourage community involvement, the market offers free tables at every market for the use of local non-profit organizations, PTAs, Softball Teams, Churches, Scouts, etc. are invited to join us at each market.

This year the Salt Air Farmers' Market has partnered



SPECIAL TO THE STAR

The Salt Air Farmers' Market reopens next month.

with From the Heart of Sopchoppy recording studio will be offering live entertainment by Mimi Hearn at the opening market on April 7. Some portions of the market will be filmed for an episode of "From the Heart Music Hour" to be broadcast on WFSU at a later date.

The Salt Air Farmers'

Market is held on the first and third Saturday of every month April through November at the corner of Reid Avenue and State Highway 71 in Port St. Joe from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. EDT. You can also visit the website at www.saltairmarket.com or follow the Salt Air Farmers' Market on Facebook.

Climbing toward success

By VALERIE GARMAN

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vgarman@starfl.com

Carlos Likely has learned a successful interview relies mostly on body language.

He's learned how to address his strengths and weaknesses, that eye contact and clear language are key interview skills and that in order to become a better speaker, you need to step outside of your comfort zone.

Upon moving back to Port St. Joe to a 7-month-old daughter after an unsuccessful stab at college, the 22-year-old Likely admitted he needed some structure to point him in the right direction.

Likely was one of 10 students to participate in The Ladder program, a five-week pilot program through the Gulf Coast Workforce Board, funded with assistance from the Jessie Ball duPont Foundation.

The Ladder targets unemployed young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 for services intended to prepare them for the workforce and increase their likelihood of retention and advancement once employed.

One of the major components of the program is improving communications skills through Dale Carnegie training, a course designed to take the students out of their comfort zones and teach them how to express themselves.

Before beginning The Ladder program, Likely said he was "closed off" and lacking the communication skills needed for long-term employment.

"At the beginning of the program, I was on the shy side — but they had us doing silly things to get us loose and comfortable," Likely said. "My problem, I was too closed off. My main focus was to be more open."

He is now confident that the job search he will begin next week will be a successful one.

"Most of (the students) are shy," said Assane Beye, the program instructor. "If they know something, they can't express themselves. It's about being able to put their thoughts into words."

Beye said Likely is one of the program's success stories and describes Likely's transformation as unbelievable.

"Most of these kids don't have the family to teach

See SUCCESS B5

Safety on 2 wheels

Star Staff Report

Members of the Port St. Joe R. A. Driesbach Sr. Lodge No. 77 of the Knights of Pythias sponsored a Bike Rodeo and Bicycle Safety Check last week at the Washington Recreation Center for elementary and middle school age children. The goal of the rodeo was to provide an opportunity for the participants to learn, practice, and demonstrate their bicycle handling skills in a fun, noncompetitive atmosphere.

According to the National Center for Health Statistics, each year, more than 500,000 people in the U.S. are treated in emergency departments, and more than 700 people die as a result of bicycle-related injuries. Children are at particularly high risk for bicycle-related injuries. In 2010, children 15 years and younger accounted for 59 percent of all bicycle-related injuries seen in U.S. emergency departments.



The Rodeo began with Gulf County Sheriff officers Chris Buchanan and Larry Dickey conducting short lectures and showing videos on Safety Rules of the Road and Proper Use of Bike Helmets. Inspection stations were set up to make safety checks of tires, air pressure, brakes, cranks, chains and frames.

Repairs of bicycles were made by Sir Knights Horace Barr, Bonnie Bell, Eugene Jones, Kenneth Monette, Chancellor Commander Clarence Monette and GCSO deputy Jay Smith.

Each child was given an opportunity to navigate a skills course with their bicycle. The skills course consisted of teaching and testing each child's ability to turn corners, ride in a circle, stop quickly, obey stop signs, obey yield signs, use hand signals, be respectful of other bikers and listen to safety pointers from spotters around the skills course. Each participant received a bike helmet and refreshments. Everyone had a great time.



The Fraternal Order of Knights of Pythias and its members are dedicated to the cause of universal peace. Pythians are eager to enhance the communities in which they live and respect and honor the law of the land in which they live. Pythians seek to expand their circle of influence by association with people of like interests and energy. For more information about the Knights of Pythias programs, visit the website at www.knightsofpythiasfl.com.

Time to plant cucumbers

By Roy Lee Carter
County Extension director

It's cucumber planting time. Some gardeners already might have "cukes" in the ground. They can be planted from February through April in the Northern portions of our state. Just don't wait too long, because cucumbers do not grow well during the hot humid months of summer.

The cucumber is a widely cultivated plant in the gourd family cucurbitaceae, which includes squash, and in the same genus as the muskmelon. The plant is a creeping vine which bears cylindrical edible fruit when ripe. There are three main varieties of cucumber: "pickling," "slicing" and "burpless." Within these varieties, several different cultivars have emerged. The cucumber is originally from India but is now grown on most continents.

Cucumbers are a popular crop with Florida gardeners, because they're easy to grow in all areas of our state. My information was provided by Extension Small Farm Specialist Dr. Steve Olson, of the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

Cucumbers grow best on slightly acid soils. If the pH of your garden plot is below 5.5, you should add lime three to 5 pounds of dolomite per 100 square feet of row, applied one to three months before

planting. If your soil pH is above 6.6 you probably should add some minor plant foods, such as iron and manganese. These can be applied when you fertilize.

ROY LEE CARTER
County extension director

When preparing the garden for cucumbers, broadcast one quart of a general purpose fertilizer, such as an 8-8-8, along every 25 feet of row.

Mix the fertilizer into the soil to a depth of three or four inches. Next, shape up the bed. Then, open shallow furrows about three inches from both sides of the line where seeds are to be planted. Distribute one-half quart of fertilizer in each 25 feet of furrow. Cover the fertilizer with soil, and water the prepared bed before sowing the seeds. Every two or three weeks, after the plants start growing, add a little fertilizer about one cup 25 feet of row and water it in.

Cucumbers are started by planting seeds directly in the garden. Sow seeds two or three times thicker than the spacing suggested on the seed packet. When the first true leaves appear, thin the plants to the proper spacing. Keep the soil well moistened by watering thoroughly once or twice a week.

Although cucumbers are

easy to grow, some care is needed. An area at least one foot in diameter around each plant should be kept weed free. Watch for aphids, leaf miners, beetles, and fruit worms. If insects attack, spray or dust the plant with Bifenthrin, Malathion or Sevin.

Damage from damping-off fungi are a common problem with young seedlings. This danger can be minimized by planting treated seeds. Mildews and leaf spots which may injure growing leaves can be controlled by weekly applications of a fungicide, such as Maneb, Ridomil or Chlorothalonil can be used. Mulching around the plants will prevent some fruit rots.

Since there are both male and female flowers on each cucumber vine, bees are needed for pollination. Male flowers will not form fruit. So don't be alarmed when you see them dropping from the vines.

Cucumbers should be picked when they are tender, crisp and green. Removing ripe fruit from the vines encourages new fruit growth. Small slicing cucumbers may be used for pickling. But, pickling types make poor slicers.

For more information on Cucumber Production, call the Gulf County Extension Service at 639-3200, 229-2909 or visit the website at <http://gulf.ifas.ufl.edu>.



Maryanne Earley, Jarrett Bradley Nelson-McVay to wed

Mr. and Mrs. B. Phillip Earley and Mr. Jimmy Nelson and Mrs. Kristi Fontaine request the honor of your presence at the marriage of their children, Maryanne Earley and Jarrett Nelson-McVay at 4:30 p.m. EDT Saturday, March 24 at First Baptist Church at 102 3rd St. in Port St. Joe.

A reception will be held immediately following at Oak Grove Church, 613 Madison St.

Upcoming Relay For Life efforts at the VFW

Star Staff Report

On Friday, March 23 the VFW Relay For Life Team will be serving "Walking Taco's" at the VFW for their TGIF. They will be asking for a donation of \$4 each. They will start serving at 6 p.m. EDT. All proceeds will go to the "Relay For Life" being held at Port St. Joe High School Shark Stadium on April 27.

On Friday, April 6 the VFW Relay For Life Team will be serving Reuben sandwiches at the VFW for their TGIF.

They will be having a yard sale and again all proceeds will go to the Relay For Life. It will be from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. EDT behind the VFW Post Home in Highland View. Come by and support the cause.

They will be asking a donation of \$5 for a plate which will include potato salad, carrot salad, the sandwich and dessert.

They will be serving at 6 p.m. EDT and all proceeds will be going to their Relay For Life.

Help needed at Cape San Blas Lighthouse

Star Staff Report

Volunteers are needed.

Volunteers are needed at the lighthouse on occasion and one important event coming up is the Lighthouse Challenge in April. The Challenge is every two years.

Also, each year from October to March, there are full moon climbs, and one person in the tower isn't enough. It would be so much easier if staff could put two volunteers in the tower, one at the bottom and one at the top.

Snowbirds or winter visitors to the cape, this



would be a cool job that only requires three to four hours each month during the winter. Call and help out. Volunteering at the lighthouse is also great for couples.

High school students, your help is also needed

and this might be an easy and fun way to earn extra credits for graduation, so please give a call.

For more information and to volunteer, call Beverly Douds at 229-1151 or 229-1094.

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PET OF THE WEEK

St. Joseph Bay Humane Society



Remember, March is adoptable month at the St. Joseph's Bay Humane Society and we are celebrating by showcasing some of our available cats and kittens. Most of our beautiful black cats have been fully vetted by a generous sponsor and their (adoption fees have been waived)

for qualified homes. All adopters will have to complete an adoption application and be pre-approved before adopting. Kitten season is upon us and we are at capacity. We urgently need to find homes for these wonderful black kitties and all of the other great cats and kittens that have been entrusted into our care.

If you are unable to adopt at this time, perhaps you could foster or make a donation. All pets adopted from SJBSH will be current on vaccinations and spayed/neutered. Please do not hesitate to email townsend.hsdirector@gmail.com or adoptbaystjoe@gmail.com or call the St. Joseph Bay Humane Society at 850-227-1103 and ask for Melody or Debbie! Applications are available at www.sjbhumane.org and can be emailed to our office or faxed 850-227-1191. We require all potential adopters to complete an application form. Adoption fees include our cost of spay/neuter and current vaccinations.

Our hours for the shelter are Tuesday-Saturday from 10 am-4 pm! Come by and see our new outside "Catio" enclosure for our great kitties. Faith's Thrift Hut is always in need of donations also, and all the proceeds go directly to support the animals in our care! The hours for the store are Thursday-Saturday from 10 am-3 pm. Volunteers are always welcome at both our store and our shelter! Our store and shelter location is 1007 Tenth Street in Port St. Joe! Hope to see you all there soon!

www.sjbhumane.org

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

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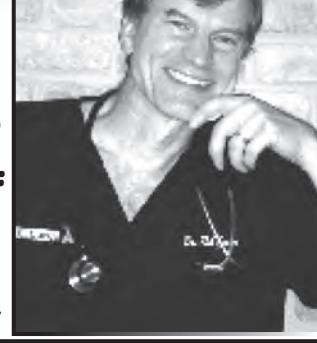
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Special to The Star

Spring has sprung. Winter has come and gone, and it is time once again for Faith Christian School's 13th Annual Spaghetti Dinner and Auction. An inviting meal featuring spaghetti, salad, roll, tea and dessert will be served

**The Lion's Tale**

at 5 p.m. Friday, March 23. Everyone is invited to join.

Many terrific and delightful items, goods and services have been

donated by generous local merchants to be bid on at the popular silent auction and the enjoyable live auction.

Tickets for this very worthwhile spring event are very reasonable, and all proceeds will help the school. For more information, call 229-6707.

WES hosts children's author

Star Staff Report

On Thursday, March 29, Wewahitchka Elementary School and media specialist Mrs. Kim Ludlam welcome children's author R. Friend.

Friend is an author, storyteller, songwriter, entertainer, musician and comedian. Her day at WES will begin with a presentation on stage for students in kindergarten through fourth grade. This will be a character-based assembly program with professional storytelling,



music, sign language, puppets and audience participation.

Friend will present a writing workshop for third-graders and the day will

conclude with Family Book Fair Night in the school Media Center.

Family Nights are a great opportunity to bring old and young together as parents and grandparents carve out time in their busy schedules to be with their loved ones. Join us for Book Fair Family Night from 5 to 7 p.m. CDT Thursday, March 29 in the WES Media Center. Come meet R. Friend and enjoy, visit and shop for a wonderful book or two. The Book Fair has books for all ages.

Special to The Star

Gulf Coast State College was awarded a \$500,000 grant from the State of Florida to provide training to biology teachers in 13 Northwest Florida counties, including Gulf County. The primary goal of the Northwest Florida Teacher Preparation Partnership Grant is to increase both content knowledge for high school biology teachers and their students. Other goals are to provide high quality professional development that addresses Florida's

Next Generation Sunshine State Standards as well as research-based best practices of teaching the content.

The first of five Saturday workshops recently was held with 27 area teachers in Chipley. "We are enthusiastic about this award to assist teachers achieving excellence in the classroom, especially in the sciences," said Jim Kerley, GCSC president. "We strive to have a great partnership with our K-12 educational family and are so pleased

with the efforts of our faculty and staff to bring additional resources to our institution."

Faculty from GCSC's Educator Preparation Institute will serve as the teaching experts and Natural Sciences faculty will serve as content experts in biology. The Panhandle Area Educational Consortium also serves as a partner in this endeavor to reach historically underserved and under-represented populations and make a positive impact on student achievement.

High School/High Tech luncheon for Business Advisory Council

Special to The Star

Florida High School/High Tech students and sponsors recently met with their Business Advisory Council to discuss group activities and to gain business sponsors for upcoming Career Shadowing Day and summer internships. Cathy Cox, activities director, and Pat Hardman, director, gave the presentation. The group welcomed Juanise Griffin, who will become the activities director in March.

Florida High School/High Tech is a career mentoring program for Port St. Joe High School students with disabilities. The goal is to provide students an opportunity to explore career options for after high school, to engage in mentoring

in fields in which they have an interest, to learn employability skills and to participate in paid internships to have true employment experience with businesses who mentor and teach them the "rules of the game" and how to be an employee who is an asset.

Florida High School/High Tech of Gulf County has grown to 26 PSJHS students and is in its fourth year. It is one of 27 Florida HS/HT Programs in Florida. Three student members attended the luncheon to receive their awards for already having met the number of points required to allow them to participate in paid internships this summer. Mary Branch, Carl Sheline and Cameron Pryor also received gift certificates. These three have already

earned refurbished laptop computers through the program.

Throughout the year, students gather points through community service, meeting attendance and participation to earn laptops and to be eligible for the summer paid internships. One of their community service programs this year was to restock the food pantry at People Helping People in January and they collected more than 500 pounds of food and \$1,200.

Several of the business leaders who have participated in the mentoring and internship programs for Florida HS/HT students in the past spoke on how much their own employees and they had gained from being involved with the students in the program, as well as how the students were given true work experiences during the summer internships.

Representatives in

attendance included Fairpoint Communications, Susan Machemer and Pat Jones; Gulf County, Commissioner Warren Yeager; The Bridge at St Joseph Bay, Terri Nelson; Gulf 2 Bay Development & Construction, Pat Hardman; Christian Community Development Fund, Diana Burkett; Gulf County Workforce Board, Tamlyn Smith; Gulf County Schools, Andria Dixon, Pam Lister, Jeremy Knapp, and Deborah Crosby.

Florida High School/High Tech needs more businesses in Gulf County to work with the students on "Career Shadowing Day" in April and during the paid internships this summer. Call our new activities director, Juanise Griffin, at 229-6140 if you or your business is willing to work with these young people. The success of the program has increased the number of students who have earned the right to participate.

Strange makes Dean's List

Special to The Star

Heather B. Strange of Wewahitchka, a junior, was named to the Dean's List of Mercer University's Eugene W. Stetson School of Business and Economics for the fall 2011 semester. Inclusion on this list requires students to meet rigorous grade-point-average standards for the Eugene W. Stetson School of Business and Economics.

Founded in 1833, Mercer University is a dynamic and comprehensive center of undergraduate, graduate and professional education. The university enrolls more than 8,300 students in 11 schools and colleges on campuses in Macon, Atlanta and Savannah and at four regional academic centers across the state. Mercer is affiliated with four teaching hospitals — Memorial University Medical Center in Savannah, the Medical Center of Central Georgia in Macon, and The Medical Center and St. Francis Hospital in Columbus — and has educational partnerships with Warner Robins Air Logistics Center in Warner Robins and Piedmont Healthcare in Atlanta.

The University operates an academic press and a performing arts center in Macon and an engineering research center in Warner Robins. Mercer is the only private university in Georgia to field an NCAA Division I athletic program.

Keith L. Jones, CPA, of Port St. Joe Begins Sixth Year as Board of Governor's Member for the Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants



Keith L. Jones, CPA, of Port St. Joe will begin his sixth consecutive year as a member of the Florida Institute of CPAs' Board of Governors and will also serve his fellow CPAs as the Region I Representative for the year July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013. This prestigious honor was bestowed upon Keith by his colleagues in the Tallahassee, Miracle Strip (Bay, Gulf, Calhoun, Jackson,

Washington, and Holmes Counties) Emerald Coast (Destin/Ft. Walton), West Florida (Greater Pensacola Area) Chapters of the FICPA.

As Regional Representative, Keith will continue to be responsible for coordination of the region's affairs, assisting members from Pensacola to Tallahassee in attaining their goals and encouraging members to become more active. He earned his certification as a CPA in 1995, joined the FICPA in 1996, and has served on more than two dozen committees for the FICPA over the last sixteen years.

"Duke" was born and raised in Port St Joe and is married to Emily Jones and has two step-children, Abby and Hinson. He has continuously maintained a successful practice in public accounting since 2005 in his hometown where he represents clients from all areas of the panhandle.

The FICPA is a professional association representing the interest of more than 19,000 CPAs with over 4,400 offices throughout Florida.

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LEARNING ABOUT PLANTING

Star Staff Report

The Gulf District after-school program participated in a spring planting project with the Gulf County Extension Service. Students studied planting, soil testing and fertilizing. All students learned the proper way to treat and care for a cabbage plant.

Soil samples were tested with a scientific experiment to determine the soil make-up and the role water and fertilizer plays in the growth process. Teachers were Sharron Hoffman, Adrian West, Shelly Oliver, Elizabeth Davis, Paulette Best, Reina Nixon and Julie Hodges.

Also, thank you to Roy Lee Carter and Melody Taylor for their devotion of time and supplies to our students at the Port St. Joe Elementary School After-School Program. Together we make learning happen.



FAITH

Thursday, March 22, 2012

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Page B4

OBITUARY

Travis Davis

Travis "Shorty" Davis, 67, of Dayton, Texas, passed away Tuesday, March 6, 2012, in Baytown, Texas, surrounded by his family.

He was born Nov. 5, 1944, in Dalkeith, Fla., to his late parents, TW and Martha Davis.

Shorty moved to Texas in 1969 to attend Texas A & M for heavy equipment operation. He then worked for Brown & Root in the plants along Highway 146 in Mont Belvieu. While there, he met the love of his life, Michaela.

Throughout the years, he worked in the oilfield industry with a highlight in 1974 as sharp shooter for Red Adair. In 1988, Shorty found a home at Barbers Hill Independent School District, in the operations department, for 22 years. While there, he spent most of his career at the Primary School and finishing as the night crew supervisor.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother-in-law, James Rollins; grandmother, Mattie Tharp; and best friends, Robert and Carolyn Turner.

Survivors include his wife, Michaela Shepherd Davis, of Dayton; son, Willie Davis and his wife, In, of Killeen, Texas; daughter, Susan Davis-Stewart and her husband, David, of Cove; acquired daughters

and families, Becky Rodriguez, Angie Selt and Anita Turner; all of Baytown; grandchildren, Hannah Davis, Jonah Stewart, Mary and Noel Lopez and Steve, Shannan and Eain Runyon; great-grandchildren, Dalton and Landry Runyon, Jade Borque and Cohen Bolton; brothers, Leland Davis and his wife, Michelle, of Havana, Fla.; Joe Davis of Bristol, Fla., and Harold Davis and his wife, Pam, of Wilmington, N.C.; sisters, Genell Cantrell and her husband, Larry, of Elizabethtown, Ga., Yvonne Rollins of Panama City, Fla., and Mattie Jane Henderson of Wewahitchka, Fla.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A celebration of Shorty's life was Saturday, March 10, 2012, at Eagle Heights Fellowship of Mont Belvieu.

In lieu of usual remembrances, the family requests donations to be made to the Barbara Hill Scholarship Association, P.O. Box 904, Mont Belvieu, Texas 77580 in memory of Travis "Shorty" Davis.

To view his online obituary or post a tribute to his family, go to www.navarrefuneralhome.com.

Arrangements under the direction of Navarre Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 2444 Rollingbrook Drive, Baytown, Texas 77521.

See OBITUARIES B5

Love Sinners

Abortion, murder, adultery, all of them are sin.

It's possible you know someone guilty of these, maybe even a friend.

I wonder, are you forgiving, or do you tend to condemn?

Maybe if you haven't done any of these, you think you're better than them.

Down through the years, at one time or another,

we've looked down on folks for this, even a Christian brother.

Take the woman caught in adultery, that the Pharisees tried to get Jesus to condemn.

I've often wondered what He wrote on the ground, it could have been about them.

He also said the one without sin, could be the first to throw.

This is when they had a conscience attack, and they all had to go.

Jesus didn't condemn the sinner, so why should we?

We're just here to witness to the lost,

Jesus will handle the judging you see.

Just think what a nice world this would be, if we loved each other, like Jesus loves you and me.

— Billy Johnson

CARD OF THANKS

Dear Friends and Family of Barbara A Picard,

Words can't express how grateful we are for all the generous donations, love and support that you have shown us during this very difficult time.

Special thanks to Wylie and the entire staff at the El Governor Motel for the beautiful reception. The El Governor was home to our mom for many years and she loved you all! Bobby Pollock for the beautiful memorial

wooden urns that you lovingly made, they will be cherished always. Vic Webb, thank you for the transport to and from the airport. Pastor Jerry for an unforgettable funeral service. Jackie Pollock and all of the church ladies for putting the reception dinner together.

It's very comforting to know that even though our mom was far from "home," she found her new home in Mexico Beach.

— Jennifer Kenny and Brian Forgette

FAITH BRIEFS

St. John's collecting items for needy

St. John's Episcopal Church in Wewahitchka is collecting gently used clothing, household items, furniture, working appliances, etc. These donations will be stored at the church for needy families and for the semi-annual church yard sales with proceeds going to charity. Drop off is at 233 E. Osceola Ave. Call Martha at 639-5924. Leave items on porch if no one is home.

Vacation Bible School FunShop Sky Training

Long Avenue Baptist Church in Port St. Joe will host a vacation Bible school training and networking event on March 24 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. EDT. Area churches that are planning to present Group Publishing's Sky: Everything is Possible with God VBS this summer will receive hands-on training from a group VBS expert to maximize the impact of their program. In addition to tons of fun and helpful information, participants can network and share ideas. For more information and to register to participate, please call the church office at 850-229-8691.

Blood drive at First Baptist of Port St. Joe

There will be a blood drive at First Baptist Church of Port St. Joe from 1 to 6 p.m. EDT Monday, March 26. All donors receive a free T-shirt. Please sign up at the church office.

Lifetree Café open in Mexico Beach

Lifetree Café is now open in Mexico Beach across from the El Governor Motel. Simply put, Lifetree Café is a "conversation café"—a place and time for people to gather weekly to experience stories and talk about thought-provoking topics relating to life and faith. The conversation group meets every Monday at 7 p.m. CDT. Lifetree Café is also open every Saturday morning for free coffee and relaxing conversation. Everyone is welcome. Lifetree Café is organized in conjunction with Living Water Church at the Beach. Starting in April, Living Water Church at the Beach will have service every Sunday at 8 a.m. CDT on the beach at Sunset Park in Mexico Beach. For more information, visit <http://livingwateratthebeach.com> or call Pastor Ted Richter at 850-890-1424.

Don't just celebrate Easter, experience it

Easter—it's the greatest story ever told, and this year at Highland View Assembly of God it comes to life with the Thorn Easter Experience! Experience an Easter service like no other featuring realistic videos of the Easter story, live dramas and beautiful and inspiring music. Join us at 10:30 a.m. EDT Easter Sunday, April 8. Your family will enjoy a friendly, relaxed atmosphere, free refreshments and an Easter egg hunt for the children. For more information, call 850-229-7161 and find us on Facebook.

Passion Week at Victory Temple

Victory Temple First Born Holiness Church Seasoned Women Department will be hosting "Passion Week" at 7:30 p.m. EDT nightly April 2-6.

Speakers to be announced. Everyone is cordially invited to attend the service.

It's not about us, but it's about Jesus.

Come and be blessed.

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

Wednesday	Wednesday Night Supper.....5:00 - 6:15 pm
Sunday	Children's Choir.....5:45 - 6:10 pm
Sunday School	6:00 - 7:30 pm
Worship Service.....	AWANA's.....6:15 - 7:30 pm
Youth Groups	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)

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Sunday School:	10:00 a.m. ET
Traditional Worship:	11:00 a.m. ET
Wednesday:	Children: 6:15 p.m. ET
	Youth: 6:15 p.m. ET
	Choir: 7:00 p.m. ET

Rev. Mac Fulcher
Pastor
Ann Comforter
Music Director
Deborah Tuttle
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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

Faith Bible Church
www.faithbiblepsj.net
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9:45 AM.....	Sunday School.....
10:30 AM.....	Fellowship Breakfast.....
10:45 AM.....	Worship.....
6:00 PM.....	Worship.....

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

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

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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

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church at the beach

Sunday: Worship at Sunset Park 8 am
Saturday: Coffee Time 8 - 11 am
Monday: Life Tree Café 7 pm

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

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507 10th Street • Port St. Joe
(850) 229-8111

OBITUARIES**Lester F. Neuman**

Lester F. Neuman, 85, of Beaver Dam, Wis., died Wednesday, March 14, 2012, in Port St. Joe, Fla.

The visitation was at Murray Funeral Home in Beaver Dam on Monday, March 19, 2012, from 5 to 7 p.m. There was also a visitation at St. Jerome's Catholic Church in Columbus on Tuesday, March 20, 2012, from 10 to 10:45 a.m. A Mass of Christian Burial followed at the church on Tuesday at 11 a.m. with Fr. Steven J. Kortendick officiating. Burial was at St. Michael's Cemetery, Town of Beaver Dam, Dodge County, Wis.

Lester Frank Neuman was born on September 3, 1926 in Waupun, Wis., to Frank and Leona (Davis) Neuman. He attended a one-room school house in rural Beaver Dam and later married his sweetheart, Delores Nehmer, on Jan. 4, 1949, in Sun Prairie. Lester retired from Kirsch Foundry in 1987, where he worked as a grinder. He enjoyed deer hunting and working on his Minneapolis Tractors and also had his hobby farm that occupied much of his time. Later in life, Lester bought a home in Port St. Joe, that he would spend his winters at. He was extremely thankful for the friends that he made in Port St. Joe and considered them to be his second family. His children are very grateful for all his wonderful friends in Port

LESTER F.
NEUMAN

St. Joe. Lester also had family history with his home parish, St. Michael's Catholic Church in Beaver Dam. After its closing, he attended St. Jerome's Catholic Church in Columbus.

Lester is survived by his daughters, Barb (Darrell) Lenz of Randolph, Susan (Ambrose) Reihbandt of Beaver Dam, Carol Neuman of Beaver Dam, and Cindy (Tom) Graff of Grand Marsh; sons, Lester C. (Lois) of Beaver Dam, Mike (Mary) of Casco, Ken (Pam) of Beaver Dam, and Jim (Kim Buss) of Columbus; 22 grandchildren, 44 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild; a half-brother, Bill Johnson of West Allis; nieces, nephews other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, a granddaughter, Lori Kay, a son-in-law, Durwin Drews, brothers, Bobby and Teddy, one half-brother, and two half-sisters.

The family suggests that memorials be made in Lester F. Neuman's name to Green Valley Enterprises, 1223 Madison St., Beaver Dam, WI 53916.

The Murray Funeral Home, 131 East Maple Ave. in Beaver Dam, is caring for the family.

To leave condolences, for directions, or for other information, visit the website at www.MurrayFH.com.

E. Thomas Ford Sr. "Tom" went home to be with his Lord and Savior on March 13, 2012.

He was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Harry Ford. He is survived by his loving wife of 45 years, Dawne and three sons, Randy Ford of Nashville, Tenn., Tommy Ford, his wife, Cathi, and daughter, Jessica, of Lynn Haven, Fla., and Tyler Ford, his wife Kristy, and sons, Zachary and Jacob of Marianna, Fla.

Mr. Ford grew up in Apalachicola, Fla. He attended Chipola College and Tulane University, where he played football and graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration in 1955.

He was commissioned into the U.S. Air Force in 1955 and proudly served his country as an Air Force pilot both at home and abroad, retiring at the rank of captain.

Following his military service, he moved to Port St. Joe, Fla., and began his 36 year career with the St. Joe Paper Company, retiring in 1996 as the vice-president of sales and a member of the board of directors.

Mr. Ford served faithfully as a deacon and treasurer of Long Avenue Baptist Church, among

E. THOMAS
FORD SR.

many other leadership roles, for more than 40 years.

He and his wife, Dawne, enjoyed their cabin in Waynesville, N.C., and were active in volunteer service at The Cove, the training center of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association in Asheville, N.C.

He was a wonderful Christian man and a true gentleman. "Dah" as he was affectionately known by his grandchildren, will be greatly missed by his friends and family.

Funeral services were at 10 a.m.

Friday, March 16, 2012, at Long Avenue Baptist Church in Port St. Joe.

Interment immediately followed in Holly Hill Cemetery.

The family received friends from 8 p.m. March 15, 2012 at the church.

The family would respectfully ask in lieu of flowers that donations be made to Faith Christian School, 801 20th St. Port St. Joe, FL 32456.

Condolences may be submitted or viewed at www.southerlandfamily.com.

Southerland Family Funeral Home
507 Tenth St.
Port St. Joe, FL 32456

Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf to hold artist reception Friday**Star Staff Report**

Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf's Arts In Medicine program will be holding a reception celebrating the first rotating artist display. Linda Matela, both a hospital volunteer and local artist will be sharing three pieces of her work — which will be unveiled at the reception.

Born and raised in South Florida, Linda contributes the influence of Florida's tropical light, color and water to her art. Now a resident of St. Joe Beach, she was inspired to paint the natural beauty of the area. As Linda shares, "My subjects are ordinary, but with the use of layers of color, I create my interpretation of items we discover in the area, like seashells, flowers, and fish."

The reception will be from 5 to 7 p.m. with additional tours of the hospital's artwork and information regarding

the national movement of integrating arts into healthcare.

Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf opened in 2010 to serve residents of Gulf, Franklin and Bay counties.

The 19-bed facility in Port St. Joe features 24-hour emergency services, inpatient services, surgical services, a full complement of diagnostic and laboratory services, and a helipad to be used by Sacred Heart's regional air ambulance service to provide rapid transport for trauma or critically ill patients. The hospital is operated by Sacred Heart Health System based in Pensacola and a part of Ascension Health, the nation's largest system of Catholic, not-for-profit healthcare facilities. For more information about Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf, visit www.sacredheartonthegef.org, find us on Facebook or call 850-229-5600.

Crop reporting deadline April 15**Star Staff Report**

The deadline to report fall and spring seeded crops, wheat, oats and annual rye grass, is April 15, according to a release from the Farm Service Agency. Spring and fall vegetables should be reported 15 days after planting. The final date to report other crops, peanuts,

cotton, corn, soybeans, fruits, grass for hay, seed or grazing must be reported by June 30.

For further information, write to the Calhoun-Franklin-Gulf and Liberty County FSA Office at 17413 NW Leonard St., Blountstown, FL 32424 or call 850-674-8388 or 800-243-9912, ext. 6.

**SUCCESS** from page B1

them and push them," said Beye, who recruited his students just from walking around the North Port St. Joe neighborhood. "The best way is to get out in the community to talk to them about it — explain what the program is about."

Because most of his students lack reliable transportation, Beye picks them up every morning and also helps to obtain important documentation they might be lacking like identification and social security cards.

"I've got my hands full — from recruiting them to making sure they do what they need to do," Beye said. "I pick them up every morning and we have personal coaching every afternoon."

Because reliable transportation is an integral part of employment, the program also gives

the students kick-start means for purchasing a vehicle.

The students were provided a \$50 stipend each week and also \$100 in a joint savings account each week, money to be used on a down payment for a car.

"Having dependable transportation is key to long-term employment for these young adults," said Kim Bodine, executive director of the Gulf Coast Workforce Board. "We can help them find jobs, but if they can't get to them reliably they won't keep them."

While the goal is to assist all of The Ladder students obtain employment, some also will be pursuing further training.

The Ladder is that you start where you can and work your way up through effort and education," Bodine said.

"For example, we have some students who will start work as certified nursing assistants. One has the long-term goal of becoming a traveling nurse — she knows that her next step is to earn her LPN certification and then pursue an RN degree. Through The Ladder these young people are learning not just how to enter the workforce but how to succeed."

With the five-week program complete, the students will now begin their job searches.

"We're trying to train them so they can see what they will have to go through," Beye said. "I always tell them, you have to be ready for the world — the world won't adjust to you, you have to adjust to the world."

Likely's long-term goal is to eventually go back to school and one day open his own business.

"One of the concepts of

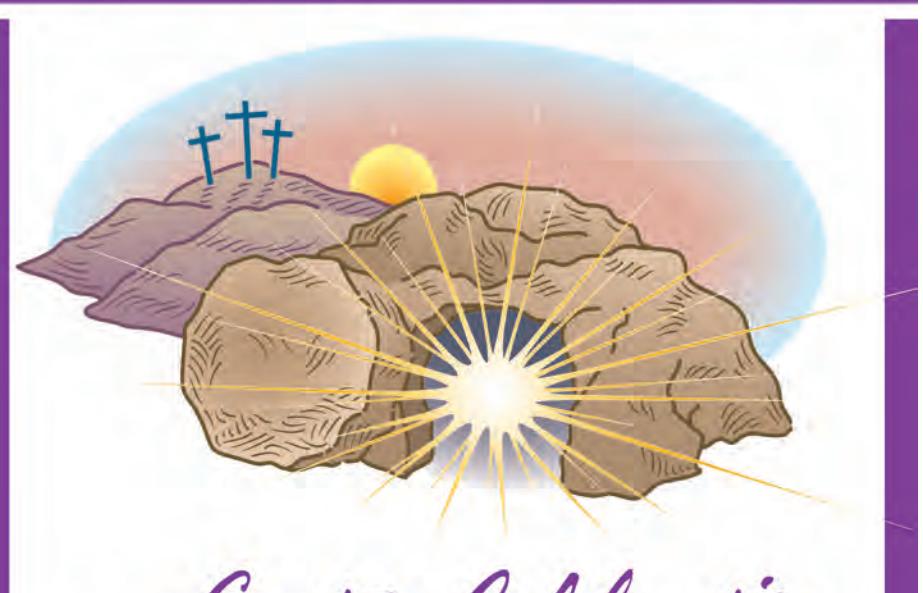
Participating students in the five-week Ladder Program hold certificates for completing the Dale Carnegie public speaking class, designed to give students the confidence needed to successfully interview for jobs. From left to right are Ka'diedra Gathers, Arsenio Sims, Shaquize Dawson, Carlos Likely, Latoya Fenn, Keasha Fenn, Ricardo Gainer and instructor Assane Beye.

VALERIE GARMAN | The Star

More than 50 percent of respondents said that if they saw a newspaper ad for a product they already knew about from the Internet, they were more likely to purchase.

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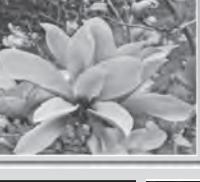
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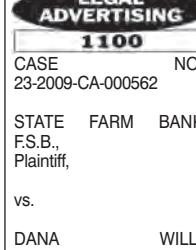


1100-1170

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1100

**LEGAL
ADVERTISING**



1100

NO.:

CASE NO.:

STATE FARM BANK,

F.S.B., Plaintiff,

vs.

DANA WILLS

COPELAND; STATE

FARM BANK, F.S.B.;

GEORGE COPELAND;

UNKNOWN TENANT(S);

IN POSSESSION OF THE

SUBJECT PROPERTY,

Defendants.

NOTICE OF

FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY

GIVEN pursuant to

Final Judgment of Fore-

closure dated the 1st

day of March, 2012,

and entered in Case

No. 23-2009-CA-000562,

the Circuit Court of the

14th Judicial Circuit in

and for Gulf County,

Florida, wherein STATE

FARM BANK, F.S.B. is

the Plaintiff and DANA

WILLS COPELAND,

STATE FARM BANK,

F.S.B., GEORGE

COPELAND and UN-

KNOWN TENANT(S) IN

POSSESSION OF THE

SUBJECT PROPERTY

are defendants. The

Clerk of this Court shall

sell to the highest and

best bidder for cash at

the FRONT LOBBY OF

THE GULF COUNTY

COURTHOUSE, 1000

5TH STREET, PORT

ST. JOE, FL 32456,

11:00 A.M. on the 31st

day of May, 2012,

the following described

property as set forth in

said Final Judgment,

to wit:

COMMENCE AT THE

SOUTHWEST CORNER

OF U.S. GOVERNMENT

LOT NO. 7,

IN FRACTIONAL SEC-

TION 30, TOWNSHIP 4

SOUTH, RANGE 9

WEST, IN GULF

COUNTY, FLORIDA;

THENCE RUN

S89°54'E, 425.00 FEET

ALONG THE LOT LINE;

THENCE RUN

N01°35'W, 100.00

FEET; THENCE RUN

S89°54'E, 425.00 FEET;

RUN

S01°35'E, 100.13 FEET;

THENCE RUN

N01°35'W, 100.00

FEET TO THE POINT OF BE-

GGINNIN.

Will accept highest bid

on total unit.

Call (850) 229-8014

Feb 2, 9, 2012

March 15, 22, 2012

24X40 WAREHOUSE

UNIT#149-F,

1,000 Sq. Ft. of Misc.

Construction Tools:

Metal Roof-cutting Ma-

chine, Metal Beake Ma-

chine, Metal Bending Ma-

chine, Rolls of Metal

(cuts rolled roof

panels), Forklift - 25

Taillift USA in excellent

condition, Fishing

Equipment, Tool

Boxes, Coolers, Ladders,

Filing Cabinets,

Scaffolds, Jaws, and

lots of tools and misc!

Personal Representa-

tive:

Marcus Sturdivant

111 Heritage Lane

Port St. Joe, FL 32456

March 15, 22, 2012

528 6th St.

Port St. Joe, FL 32457

Phone: (850) 227 7800

Fax: (850) 227 7878</

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defense within 30 days after the first publication, if any, on Albertelli Law, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is P.O. Box 23028, Tampa, FL 33623, and file the original with this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney, or immediately thereafter; otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint or petition.

This notice shall be published once a week for two consecutive weeks in The Star.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of this court on this 7th day of March, 2012.

REBECCA NORRIS
Clerk of the Circuit Court

By: BA BAXTER
Deputy Clerk

Attorney for Plaintiff:
STEVEN L. APPLEBAUM, Law Office of Brian D. Hess, P.O. Box 9454, Panama City Beach, Florida 32417, (850) 235-3004 phone (850) 235-1124 fax March 15, 2012

**See the Americans with Disability Act:

If you are a person who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator by mail at P.O. Box 1089, Panama City, FL 32402 or by phone at (850) 747-5338 at least seven (7) days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than seven (7) days. If you are hearing impaired, please call 711. March 15, 2012

772405

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEEN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 11-340-CA

PROSPERITY BANK, Plaintiff,
vs.

JAMES H. GORTMAN AND BRENDA G. GORTMAN, AND THE GULF COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO:
JAMES H. GORTMAN and BRENDA G. GORTMAN, and the, unknown spouse, heirs, devisees, grantee, assignees, liens, creditors, trustees and all other parties claiming interest by, through, under or against, Defendants, James H. Gortman and Brenda Gortman, and all parties having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in the property herein described and To All Others Whom It May Concern:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Foreclosure Complaint on the following parcel of real property located in Gulf County, Florida, described as follows:

Parcel 1:

Starting at the Northeast corner of the Southwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 36, Township 4 South, Range 11 West and thence run North 8 1/4 chains; thence run West 629.6 feet for POB; thence run West 100 feet; thence run North 2.61 chains; thence run East 100 feet; thence run South 2.61 chains to the POB in Section 36, Township 4 South, Range 10 West, Gulf County, Florida.

Parcel 2:

Commence at the Southwest corner of Lot 6, Block A of Thomas Subdivision, said subdivision being recorded in Plat Book 3, Page 15, Public Records of Gulf County, Florida; thence run South 1°13'42" West to the North R/W of Old Dairy Road for POB; from said POB retrace the line last described above to the Southwest corner of Lot 6, Block A of Thomas Subdivision; thence along the South line of said Lot 6, Block A of Thomas Subdivision a distance of 79.50 feet; thence South 1°13'24" East to the North R/W of Old Dairy Road; thence West to the POB. Said parcel being in Section 36, Township 4 South, Range 10 West, Gulf County, Florida.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defense, if any, to it on Steven L. Applebaum, attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is Post Office Box 9454, Panama City Beach, Florida 32417, on or before April 13, 2012, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court before service on Plaintiff or imme-

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

diately thereafter. If you fail to do so, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of the Court on this 6th day of March, 2012.

REBECA NORRIS
Clerk of the Court

BA BAXTER
Deputy Clerk

Attorney for Plaintiff:

STEVEN L. APPLEBAUM, Law Office of Brian D. Hess, P.O. Box 9454, Panama City Beach, Florida 32417, (850) 235-3004 phone (850) 235-1124 fax March 15, 2012

861975

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEEN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 11-189-CA

CAPITAL CITY BANK, Plaintiff,

vs.

JOHN TIMOTHY DEGRAFF A/K/A JOHN T. DEGRAFF, KIMBERLY D. DEGRAFF A/K/A KIMBERLY DEGRAFF, BENEFICIAL FLORIDA INC., UNITED STATES OF AMERICA DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, and UNKNOWN TENANT(S), Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45

NOTICE is given to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated March 7, 2012, in Case No. 11-189-CA, of the Circuit Court of the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit, in and for Gulf County, Florida, in which CAPITAL CITY BANK is the Plaintiff and JOHN TIMOTHY DEGRAFF A/K/A JOHN T. DEGRAFF, KIMBERLY D. DEGRAFF A/K/A KIMBERLY DEGRAFF, BENEFICIAL FLORIDA INC., and UNITED STATES OF AMERICA DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, are the Defendants, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the front door of the Gulf County Courthouse in Port St. Joe, Gulf County, Florida at 11:00 a.m., Eastern Time, on April 12th, 2012, the property set forth in the Final Judgment of Foreclosure and more particularly as follows:

PARCEL 23B:

A parcel of land lying and being in Section 5, Township 7 South, Range 11 West, also being a portion of Lot 2, Block 1, Port St. Joe Beach Unit One, as recorded in Plat Book, Page 58, together with a portion of Lot 23, Palm Ridge Subdivision, as recorded in Plat Book 3, Page 52, of the Public Records of Gulf County, Florida, and being more particularly described as follows:

Lot 4, Block 1, Stebel's Heights, according to plan on file in Plat Book 1, Page 53, public records of Gulf County, Florida.

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

DATED: March 9, 2012.

REBECCA L. NORRIS
Clerk of the Circuit Court

By: BA Baxter
Deputy Clerk

March 15, 2012

861995

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEEN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIVIL DIVISION
CASE NO.: 23-2010-CA-000174

BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., Plaintiff,

vs.

MATTHEW LIPSCOMB A/K/A MATTHEW G. LIPSCOMB, ET AL., Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, pursuant to Plaintiff's Final Summary Judgment entered in the above-captioned action, I will sell the property situated in Gulf County, Florida, described as follows, to wit:

LOT 4, BLOCK 3, PINEY WOODS BEACH ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN BOOK 5, PAGE 46 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA.

Commonly known as:

Lot 4, Block 3, Piney, Port Saint Joe,

at public sale, to the highest and best bidder, for cash at the Lobby of the Gulf County Courthouse, 1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Blvd., Port St. Joe, Florida 32456, at 11:00 AM (EST), on the 12th day of April, 2012.

If you are a subordinate lien holder claiming a right to funds remaining after the sale, you must file a claim with the Clerk of Court no later than 60 days after the sale. If you fail to

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file a claim, you will not be entitled to any remaining funds.

Notice to Persons With Disabilities: If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the Court Administrator's office not later than seven days prior to the proceeding.

Rebecca L. Norris
Clerk of the Circuit Court

By: BA Baxter
Deputy Clerk

Attorney for Plaintiff:

STEVEN L. APPLEBAUM, Law Office of Brian D. Hess, P.O. Box 9454, Panama City Beach, Florida 32417, (850) 235-3004 phone (850) 235-1124 fax March 15, 2012

862055

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEEN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 11-189-CA

CAPITAL CITY BANK
Plaintiff,

vs.

THEODORE D. POWELL, MARY A. MORGAN, and UNKNOWN TENANT(S), Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45

NOTICE is given pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated March 7, 2012, in Case No. 11-189-CA, of the Circuit Court of the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit, in and for Gulf County, Florida, in which CAPITAL CITY BANK is the Plaintiff and THEODORE D. POWELL and MARY A. MORGAN, are the Defendants. I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the front door of the Gulf County Courthouse in Port St. Joe, Gulf County, Florida at 11:00 a.m., Eastern Time, on April 12th, 2012, the property set forth in the Final Judgment of Foreclosure and more particularly as follows:

PARCEL 23B:

A parcel of land lying and being in Section 5, Township 7 South, Range 11 West, also being a portion of Lot 2, Block 1, Port St. Joe Beach Unit One, as recorded in Plat Book, Page 58, together with a portion of Lot 23, Palm Ridge Subdivision, as recorded in Plat Book 3, Page 52, of the Public Records of Gulf County, Florida, and being more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at the Northeast corner of said Lot 23; thence along the Southeast right of way line of Hidden Ridge Road, South 30°28'17" East, 126.00 feet to the Point of Beginning; thence continue along said right of way line, South 30°28'17" East, 18.32 feet to a point on the arc of a tangent curve concave to the Northeast; thence Southeast along said right of way line, along the arc of said curve having a radius of 133.00 feet, a central angle of 16°47'11" for an arc length of 38.97 feet, to the Northwest corner of Lot 22 of said Palm Ridge Subdivision; thence along the arc of said curve having a radius of 133.00 feet, a central angle of 16°47'11" for an arc length of 38.97 feet, to the Northwest corner of Lot 22 of said Palm Ridge Subdivision; thence along the Eastern boundary line of said Lot 23, and the Southerly extension thereof, South 00°00'00" West, 182.74 feet; thence North 30°27'52" West, 214.27 feet; thence North 59°33'11" East, 86.98 feet to the Point of Beginning. Said lands containing 0.28 acre, more or less.

(LEGAL DESCRIPTION AS RECORDED IN O.R. BOOK 516, PAGE 957, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA).

Name in which assessed:

Integras Therapy & Wellness Ctrs, Inc.

All of said property being in Gulf County, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate will be sold to the highest bidder in the front Lobby of the Gulf County Courthouse, 1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Blvd., Port St. Joe, Florida at 11:00 AM E.T., Wednesday, the 25th day of April, 2012.

Dated this 20th day of March, 2012.

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

By: BA Baxter
Deputy Clerk

March 15, 2012

861995

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEEN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIVIL DIVISION
CASE NO.: 23-2010-CA-000174

BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., Plaintiff,

vs.

MATTHEW LIPSCOMB A/K/A MATTHEW G. LIPSCOMB, ET AL., Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, pursuant to Plaintiff's Final Summary Judgment entered in the above-captioned action, I will sell the property situated in Gulf County, Florida, described as follows, to wit:

LOT 4, BLOCK 3, PINEY WOODS BEACH ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN BOOK 5, PAGE 46 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA.

Commonly known as:

Lot 4, Block 3, Piney, Port Saint Joe,

at public sale, to the highest and best bidder, for cash at the Lobby of the Gulf County Courthouse, 1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Blvd., Port St. Joe, Florida 32456, at 11:00 AM (EST), on the 12th day of April, 2012.

If you are a subordinate

lien holder claiming a

right to funds remain-

ing after the sale, you

must file a claim with

the Clerk of Court no

later than 60 days after

the sale. If you fail to

file a claim, you will not

be entitled to any remain-

ing funds.

Rebecca L. Norris
Clerk of the Circuit Court

By: BA Baxter
Deputy Clerk

March 15, 2012

862057

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Plymouth Park Tax Services, LLC

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

Certificate No. 959

Application No.

2012 - 04

Date of Issuance:

May 27, 2009

R.E. No. 03801-053R

**HELP WANTED
4100**

Food Svcs/Hospitality
The Port Inn & Mainstay Suites are now accepting applications

**PT Desk Service Agent
FT Room Attendant
PT Breakfast Attendant**

Weekends and holidays are required. Dependability is a must! If you have an eye for detail and a passion for service, we want you! Please apply in person at the address below: Make beds, make friends, make money! Inquire about benefits package. EOE, DFWP The Port Inn 501 Monument Ave, PSJ 32456

**HELP WANTED
4100**

NEW TODAY!
Medical/Health

ELDER CARE
Assist active Elder w/ various house and garden tasks. 2-3 hours daily. Indian Pass Area. Call 850-227-7234

FARM WORKERS AND CROP LABORERS

Colchester, Vermont Area 10 temporary positions at S. Mazza Farmstand & Greenhouses, Inc. / S.Mazza Farm, Inc. Work in greenhouse and needed to do field work, hand weeding, hoeing, planting etc. for diversified crops. Will also harvest crops. To start approx. 04/02/12 to 10/31/12. A great deal of heavy lifting, standing, bending and kneeling for long periods of time. Wage is \$10.56 per hr. Work is guaranteed for 3/4 of contract period. Tools are provided without cost. Housing provided at no cost to workers who reside outside of the normal commuting distance. Transportation cost reimbursed after 15 days or 50% of contract period, whichever comes first.

Contact The Nearest Department of Labor Office for application and referral. Job order number: 109498.

**JOE MAMA'S
WOOD FIRED PIZZA**

High School Seniors
We are now accepting applications for a part time server/nights. This is a great opportunity for college bound seniors to earn money over the summer.

Apply in person.
**Joe Mama's
Wood Fired Pizza
406 Reid Ave
Port St. Joe, FL**

**NEW TODAY!
Hospitality****RESORT VACATION PROPERTIES**

Accepting applications for FT Front Desk Clerk. Office experience, computer skills & good customer service skills required. Great benefits, weekend work required. Apply in person 9-5 weekdays at 123 W Gulf Beach Dr St. George Island

**NEW TODAY!
Logistics/Transport**

Now Hiring
Captains and Mates
Retail help needed. Commission based, flexible schedule, part time. Shipwright Wood Boat builder with experience. Call (850) 274-1321 or send email augusta.west@amfl.org. Web ID# 34201917

Classified Advertising Works hard... filling the employment needs of area business firms, helping people to meet their prospective employers, helping people buy and sell all kinds of goods and services, and much more! Nothing works harder than the Classifieds! **747-5020**



**REAL ESTATE FOR RENT
6100-6200**

**BUSINESS/ COMMERCIAL RENTALS
6100**

NEW TODAY!

Choice Commercial Space coming available on Reid Ave. Corner of 3rd, adjacent to Mulberry Square. Currently successful pet store.

Call Patrick 850-527-6090 or Randy 251-978-2538

**REAL ESTATE FOR RENT
6100**

**BUSINESS/ COMMERCIAL RENTALS
6100**

NEW TODAY!

Port St. Joe: One Bedroom apartment. New carpet, cabinets, & stainless steel appliances. \$650 per month, includes utilities. Call (850) 229-9125 OR (850) 227-3518 Text FL01713 to 56654

**REAL ESTATE FOR RENT
6100**

**BUSINESS/ COMMERCIAL RENTALS
6100**

NEW TODAY!

PSJ, 3 br, 1 ba, all brick 404 Battles Street, corner lot - large yard. W/D incl \$650/mo + dep. 301-265-5368

**REAL ESTATE FOR RENT
6100**

**BUSINESS/ COMMERCIAL RENTALS
6100**

NEW TODAY!

White City Clean 3/2 House!

2 Blk from boat ramp, quiet, long term, \$650 + dep. Call 850-270-8757. Text FL00312 to 56654

**REAL ESTATE FOR RENT
6100**

**BUSINESS/ COMMERCIAL RENTALS
6100**

NEW TODAY!

MOBILE HOME FOR RENT. 2br/1ba mobile home with land for rent in Wewahitchka, \$400 per month. Call or text 227-6551 anytime day or night. Text FL01973 to 56654

**REAL ESTATE FOR RENT
6100**

**BUSINESS/ COMMERCIAL RENTALS
6100**

NEW TODAY!

10% BUYER'S PREMIUM

Broker Compensation Available

**REAL ESTATE FOR RENT
6100**

**BUSINESS/ COMMERCIAL RENTALS
6100**

NEW TODAY!

Detailed Information JohnDixon.com 800.479.1763

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6100**

NEW TODAY!

MOBILE HOME FOR RENT. 2br/1ba mobile home with land for rent in Wewahitchka, \$400 per month. Call or text 227-6551 anytime day or night. Text FL01973 to 566