



Blast on the Bay, B1

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50¢

Lighthouse efforts, short-term solutions

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

As local officials and a committee of citizens consider long-term solutions for saving the Cape San Blas Lighthouse, Port St. Joe city commissioners looked at the short-term last week.

During their regular

bi-monthly meeting, commissioners considered the potential of a band-aid for the lighthouse and grounds while a permanent remedy is examined.

Mayor Mel Magidson met the prior week with officials from Eglin Air Force Base, which owns and leases to the county the lighthouse grounds, as well as engineers and building

movers to consider the best option for saving the lighthouse, the two keepers' quarters on the grounds and the oil house.

Magidson said that following the wave action from Hurricane Isaac, the lighthouse grounds are losing their footing by the day.

"We're down to 35 to 40 feet on one end and maybe 50 feet on the north end,

of shoreline," Magidson said. "The lighthouse itself is fairly safe for the time being."

The lighthouse and gift shop remain open to visitors, Beverly Mount-Douds emphasized in a phone call last week.

Magidson said the conclusion among the gathering was that moving the keepers' quarters and oil

house deeper into the property, effectively moving them behind the lighthouse in relation to the coastline, was the optimal path.

"That would buy us maybe 135-140 feet," Magidson said, easing somewhat the timetable for the fundraising effort to save the entire lighthouse and grounds, which is estimated to cost north of \$300,000.

The drive is nosing toward \$40,000. The St. Joseph Historical Society is selling Christmas ornaments that are replicas of the lighthouse for \$20 – the cost to produce is \$10, the other \$10 going to the Save the Lighthouse campaign – and are also selling posters of Debbie Hooper aerials of

See **LIGHTHOUSE A3**



PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Once the horn sounds, the annual packing party is a frenzy of activity among the Semper Fi Sisters and some community volunteers.

Drive seeks to insure kids

Star Staff Report

Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf wants your child.

SHH is currently in the midst of a drive to enroll eligible children in the Florida KidCare program which in turn will make those children eligible for five different insurance programs.

Entitled the Children's Health Insurance Enrollment Program, funded by a state grant, the drive aims at providing a low-cost insurance alternative for children, said Jo Ethridge, community health worker in Gulf and Franklin counties.

The current effort is to raise awareness of FloridaKidCare and to enroll eligible children.

FloridaKidCare offers affordable

See **DRIVE A9**

HD to hold flu shot clinics

Star Staff Report

The Gulf County Health Department will hold two flu shot clinics over the coming weeks, covering both ends of the county.

As a Health Department release notes, the flu season is headed this way and it is time to prepare with a flu shot.

Flu shots are \$25 per person. You must bring your identification and insurance cards and the Health Department accepts most third party insurances.

The first clinic will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. ET on Oct. 6, next Saturday, at the Port St. Joe facility located at 2475 Garrison Avenue in Port St. Joe.

The second will be held 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. CT on Oct. 16 at the Wewahitchka facility located at 807 W. Highway 22.

If you are unable to make either clinic and wish to schedule an appointment call the Port St. Joe facility at 227-1276 or the Wewahitchka office at 639-2644.

A blast of a sisterhood

Semper Fi Sister Beach Blast arrives Oct. 17

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

Mary Beth Gunnerson made an observation and took action. The reaction will make for some special comfort from home for servicemen and women in harm's way in Afghanistan.

Gunnerson, from Destin, attended the packing party during last year's annual Semper Fi Sisters Beach Blast in Port St. Joe. During the packing party, held last year in the Centennial Building, the Sisters – wives, grandmothers, sisters, aunts of deployed mil-

DONATE

If you would like to donate an item or money for shipping to the Semper Fi Sisters' effort to pack 1,000 "Boxes of Love" to troops overseas, please visit www.semperfisisters.com.

itary personnel – assembled care packages for troops in war zones.

From a first year when 12

See **SISTERHOOD A2**



During every Beach Blast, even the singing of the National Anthem stirs emotions.

County encouraged by latest step in Gustav reimbursement

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

Gulf County's long-running effort to be reimbursed for damages from Hurricane Gustav seems to have taken a turn for the better, said County Commissioner Warren Yeager.

During a meeting with representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Congressman Steve Southerland (R-Florida), Yeager said the argument was presented to FEMA that it could grant reimbursement of some \$15 million regardless of the

stance of U.S. Fish and Wildlife.

Gustav roared through the Gulf of Mexico in 2008 and the resulting impacts included significant erosion along St. Joseph Peninsula where the county had just completed a nearly \$20 million beach renourishment project.

The county sought reimbursement for the loss from FEMA, originally estimated at some \$15 million. The agency originally signed off, but the U.S. Fish and Wildlife stepped in, citing the peninsula as being in a Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) zone and the presence of endangered beach

mouse habitat, contending the reimbursement be denied.

The tussle has continued since. A bill filed earlier this year by Southerland to overturn the CBRA designation in Gulf County was in significant part filed due to the county's inability to be reimbursed for the loss of beach.

From the outset, Yeager noted, FEMA and all other parties were in agreement that the beach renourishment project was an exception to CBRA rules. Reimbursement, therefore, should also represent an exception.

"When the project started

everybody was in agreement, including FEMA, that this was an exception," Yeager said.

Yeager said the discussions with FEMA and Southerland were aimed at making the argument that FEMA could make the call on reimbursement, whether or not Fish and Wildlife agreed.

FEMA representatives said they would take that argument back to the agency and Yeager said he hoped to hear something in the next two months.

"I am encouraged and the Congressman was encouraged,"

See **GUSTAV A9**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Opinion	A4-A5	School News.....	B3
Letters to the Editor	A5	Faith.....	B4
Outdoors	A10	Obituaries.....	B4
Sports.....	A11	Classifieds.....	B8-B10

SISTERHOOD from page A1

women packed 36 boxes to 24 packing 300 boxes the next year to 52 packing more than 700 boxes last year, the effort has grown exponentially.

This year the goal is 1,000 "Boxes of Love."

"I came home so tired," Gunnerson said with a chuckle. "But I was so inspired. I had such a good time."

"The only thing we all had in common is a fierce, profound and protective love of our servicemen and women. Those are the ties that bind."

Gunnerson, who had been introduced to Semper Fi Sisters during a banquet for mothers of deployed soldiers, noticed that while two long lines were devoted to packing boxes with a masculine touch for the servicemen, the "powder puff" line packing for servicewomen was a single line and not nearly as long as the other two.

Gunnerson, co-owner with her husband of Sporty Lady, a women's sportswear and apparel shop in Destin, came up with a brainstorm while en route to a trade show in Miami.

She wondered if she brought a flyer about Semper Fi Sisters and their Beach Blast in Port St. Joe



TIM CROFT | The Star

Students in the South Walton High School chorus have decorated boxes and challenged their classmates to provide items for troops overseas. The items will become part of the "Boxes of Love" sent by the Semper Fi Sisters.

- this year's begins Oct. 17 - to each of her appointments, if vendors would be willing to ship her any leftover giveaway items after the trade show season was over.

Gunnerson told each vendor she would be back in touch and anything each vendor had left, she would gladly take.

She called and had a flyer emailed to her which she printed at a help kiosk at the Miami trade show. She took one on all appointments.

"I have been absolutely stunned by the response," Gunnerson said. "I've gotten monetary donations, not only from corporate

offices, but from regional offices of the same companies. One vendor sent merchandise that, wholesale, is worth about \$7,000.

"This industry has just responded."

Literally from all over the world as Gunnerson received pens, hats and visors from a vendor in Germany and merchandise from Australia.

Lip balms, mini-pedicure kits, boutique shirts, all, Gunnerson noted, arriving shipped in flat boxes to allow for easy packing in the care boxes.

A retailer in Manhattan, New York, sent boxes of tote bags and gift items.



Last year more than 50 women packed over 700 "Boxes of Love" at the Centennial Building as the major event of the Semper Fi Sister Beach Blast.

"I figured I might end up with a box of junk, but I have received a lot of great stuff," Gunnerson said. "Even people I have not yet done business with sent checks."

"Everyone in this country, regardless of political viewpoint, wants to help the military. They just need a vehicle. It's all about letting the servicemen and women know that the average citizen has not forgotten they are there and why they are there."

Even Gunnerson's dentist joined the fray. When she mentioned what she was doing and why, Gunnerson said he later produced 200 kits, complete with toothbrush, paste and floss.

Adele Armitage is the director of the Ecumenical Choir of Walton County, of which Gunnerson is also a member. The choir puts on several community performances each year to raise money for charity. A Marine mom introduced the group to Semper Fi Sisters.

Last year, the choir performed a concert for the 10th anniversary of 9/11 and donated the money to help defray shipping costs for the Semper Fi Sisters care packages.

Gunnerson and Armitage began, as Armitage put it, burning up the in-

ternet with ideas about getting more involved in the Semper Fi Sisters.

Armitage didn't stop at the concert. She broached the county Ministerial Association about becoming involved and expects to hear back soon.

"Hopefully all the area churches will be stepping up and donating," Armitage said.

In addition, Armitage got her chorus class at South Walton High School involved. One motivation, she said, was telling her kids that this would be a way to raise their profile, apply something of a "cool" sheen to the class.

Armitage and her kids decorated boxes in holiday colors and distributed them throughout the school, igniting something of a challenge to all classes

to see who could bring in the most items to send to troops. They wanted to provide a touch of home and the principal at the high school jumped on board the effort.

"The kids are pretty excited," Armitage said. "I think it's important for the kids not to be only part of themselves. They need to look beyond themselves to the world around them."

Armitage and Gunnerson will be in Port St. Joe - along with 75 Sisters from 23 states who have registered to attend this year's Beach Blast - next month with their donated items, applying some Forgotten Coast love to the Boxes of Love to be sent.

As a Marine mom, Gunnerson understands what the Beach Blast - in effect a four-day Girls Night Out break from the homefront of war - provides to the women, its value to those clinging to normalcy when little of life is normal with a loved one overseas in a war zone.

"I am so looking forward to it," Gunnerson said. "It's nice. We are all at different stages of having a need for support. If they are about to come home, you are happy. If they are just entering boot camp, you are sad."

"It's nice to have a group of women who know what you are going through."



Last year's Boxes of Love included this photo of Port St. Joe High School cheerleaders and students holding a "Thank You" banner after a football game.

WEBSITE from page A1

The new site will be far from a finished product upon launch, and we expect our website will be a "work in progress" for several weeks as we become proficient in its use.

There will be a period where the archives - a searchable collection of stories that have appeared online during

the last four years or so - are not available. They will be added later, a time-consuming process even for one computer talking to another.

Ultimately the change will offer a wider range of opportunities for both our online consumers and those of us who put it together - we

will have more local control over our website than ever and will be able to make changes in hours, not days.

We ask for your patience as we build this new site into the comprehensive source of local news and information for Port St. Joe that you have come to expect.

It's a great day to be a Republican!



Thank you all Republicans who participated and Voted! We have a great slate of Candidates who need our continued support!

HELP NOW TO GET OUT THE VOTE !

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- Superintendent of SchoolsJim Norton
- Property AppraiserMitch Burke
- Supervisor of ElectionsJohn Hanlon
- County Commissioner District 1Kenny Peak
- County Commissioner District 3Joanna Bryan
- State Representative District 7Halsey Beshears
- US RepresentativeSteve Southerland
- US SenateConnie Mack
- PresidentMitt Romney/Paul Ryan

KEY DATES

- Voter Registration CloseOct 9, 5 PM EST
- Absentee Ballots Request CloseOct 31, 5 PM EST
- Early Voting Begins-Oct 27 Ends--Nov 3, 5 PM EST

ELECTION DAY -- NOV 6

Membership Communication Committee Watch for our new website coming soon at www.gulfgop.com



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Paid for by Joanna Bryan, Republican, for County Commission Dist. 3

LIGHTHOUSE from page A1

the lighthouse and grounds for \$12.95.

The ornaments are available at Portside Trading, Joseph's Cottage, Bayside Florist and the No Name Café. The posters and ornaments are both available at the Cape San Blas Lighthouse gift shop.

"We just had another delivery of ornaments so we are ready for any order," said Charlotte Pierce of the Historical Society. "We are being optimistic."

The central milestone now is government action.

The land has been declared surplus by the Air Force and the process of putting the land under the jurisdiction of the General Services Administration for disposal to the private sector is underway.

However, as of press time a final determination on the proposal to move the keepers' quarters had not been made and while the GSA is reportedly moving "with due speed" on moving the disposal process along, the exact timetable is unknown.

"We are at the mercy of nature and the federal government, and I am not sure which is worse," Magidson said.

Underscoring the importance of the lighthouse

as a tourist destination, Commissioner Rex Buzzett noted that Panama City had recently unveiled plans to renovate a portion of the downtown marina area to accommodate a lighthouse.

As for the long-term with the lighthouse, commissioners approved a request from the Port St. Joe Redevelopment Agency to award a contract to Associates, LLC for the planning phase of a Lighthouse Park along the bayfront Port St. Joe.

The city has proposed for months moving the lighthouse to the bayfront as the centerpiece for recreational facility in George Core Park.

The planning will be funded by a \$20,000 "planning" grant secured by the PSJRA.

Gail Alsbrook, executive director of the PSJRA, said Associates, which had volunteered earlier to spearhead a task force for saving the lighthouse and grounds, would consider all of George Core Park and options for a "water and recreation" area to attract tourists.

"They would be looking at that to not only bring in tourists but also to have an educational component," Alsbrook said, alluding



FILE PHOTO

A short-term proposal to save the Cape San Blas Lighthouse and grounds is to move the keepers' quarters and oil house (background, left) back on the property to buy time for fundraising efforts.

to the history of the lighthouse and its connection to the community. "It would showcase the history and authenticity here."

Part of the planning phase will include meet-

ings to solicit public comment, Alsbrook noted.

Meanwhile, a citizens committee has been formed and is examining options for saving the lighthouse and grounds.

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VIEWPOINT

Delayed diligence

After hitching the cart to the front of the horse, Mexico Beach is ready to ride.

Let's see how far it gets.

The City Council on Tuesday approved a design plan from Cathey Construction and Development for a new 3,200-square-foot City Hall building on the site of the fire-damaged Parker House. In September 2011, the Council voted to hire Cathey over another company to restore the Parker House, but later decided it would be more cost-effective to demolish the structure.

Although the nature of the project changed considerably, the city did not rebid it. Cathey remained the contractor.

Oh, by the way, Cathey Construction is owned by the son of Mexico Beach Mayor Al Cathey. As The News Herald's Valerie Garman reported, the mayor is listed as vice president and co-founder on the company's website and also as being "responsible for assisting in the fiscal functions of the firm." (The mayor was not present for the 2011 Council vote to hire Cathey Construction.)

Also, by the way, Al Cathey is a member of the Parker family that owned the house that the city purchased in July 2011 to be the site of the new city hall.

The city is aware of the potential conflicts of interest. According to City Administrator Chris Hubbard, officials previously considered seeking an opinion from the state Attorney General's Office about the issues, but that idea has been discarded. Instead, the city attorney is looking into the bidding process and contract documents to make sure the city has followed the law.

"Right now our city attorney is looking over everything that has been done — just making sure everything is valid," Hubbard told Garman.

That is an excellent strategy — and one that should have been executed before the city took action on the

contract.

Why approve something and then determine whether it is proper? By acting prematurely, the city draws further attention to the issues and invites speculation about its motives. Had it all been cleared beforehand, the subsequent vote at least would have had the patina of legality.

Mexico Beach has been down this road before. Last year, the Florida Commission on Ethics cleared Mayor Cathey of allegations of a conflict of interest resulting from the city doing business with his hardware store. The Commission found that his employment did not create a frequently recurring conflict or impediment to his public duties.

However, don't assume that ruling applied to other instances of government business intersecting with the Cathey family.

Even if the Cathey Construction contract receives a legal seal of approval (and we would prefer the state review it just to make sure), Mexico Beach should re-examine its practice of doing business with the mayor. What is legal may not always be proper.

Sometimes in small towns there will be unavoidable overlap between public officials and their private interests — everyone seemingly is connected to each other in some way. Those conflicts need to be transparent and discussed, and those affected should abstain from voting. That has happened in Mexico Beach.

When they crop up repeatedly with the same person, though, officials should consider alternatives. Potential competitors might be discouraged from bidding, assuming the deck is stacked against them.

Ultimately, though, the power rests with the voters. If they are uncomfortable with the relationship, they can make changes.

Panama City News Herald

'Hey, Hey Paula, I Wanna Marry You'

Paula Travis Alexander married my older brother in the fall of 1962. I thought she was ok because she went to St. Louis with us that summer and sat through both ends of a double header. The first game went into extra innings and the nightcap saw lots of runs scored and lasted for hours. Ken Boyer hit a home run and Willie Mays lost his hat making a long running catch. I was in hog heaven. Paula, if not quite as ecstatic, never complained.



HUNKER DOWN
Kesley Colbert

True love is an amazing thing. I was fifteen years old when they got married; and certainly not accredited enough to understand if I was losing a brother or gaining a sister. I didn't really give it a minute's thought. I was pondering on the extra space I was going to have in the bedroom I had shared with him since birth. And I was hoping this would mark the end of him bullying me around on slow afternoons. It was also one of the first weddings I ever attended and I spent most of it wondering if they were actually going to kiss each other in front of all those people.

Right from the start Paula treated me more like an equal than someone's little brother. She would look me right in the eye and tell me what she thought. I've never seen her mad or flustered; which, when you consider she was married to Leon, was downright almost unbelievable! She could get him to do things that no one else in the world could do.

Leon sold his baby blue '57 convertible and bought a family looking car not long after the marriage. He quit cruising around town and got a steady job. Paula never fussed or appeared "put out" when she got stuck at the house with me and David Mark. She was, however, a tad confounded when the fight broke out. Mom would return from the grocery store and Paula raced outside for help, "Mrs. Colbert, come quickly, they are killing each other!" Mom would

assuage her fears with the "boys will be boys" line as she reached in the back for the sugar, flour, milk and sundries.

Somewhere along the way I took to calling her Chuck. It's too long of a story to relate here. She never seemed to mind and I think it gave us a special bond. When I had girlfriend problems I entrusted her with them. She never laughed or thought the dilemma insignificant. She also never suggested kidnapping or bashing them over the head with a club which is what Leon was telling me to do.

The marriage survived stops in Pochontas, Arkansas, (which was like the other side of the world) Lexington, Tennessee, and optometry school in Memphis. I never heard either of them complain. They settled in the Nashville area and poured their hearts into raising daughters, son-in-laws, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Let me give you a tip on a solid marriage. I was up visiting years ago and Leon was all hot to trot to show me this nice looking, low millage, gently used Corvette that he had his eye on. The salesman got quickly down to the price. We could "drive it off the lot today" for ten thousand dollars. Leon walked around it a couple of times quite studiously, "I don't know. Twenty thousand is a lot of money."

"Ahhh, Dr. Colbert, you must'a not heard me. It's only ten thousand."

Leon asked me what I thought. He checked out the inside and muttered to himself, "I just don't think I can go twenty thousand."

The dealer is jumping up and down. "DR. COLBERT, there is a big misunderstanding here! This like-new vehicle is only ten thousand dollars!"

"No", Leon barely looked up, "YOU don't understand. If I buy this car for ten thousand dollars, my wife is going to go out and spend ten thousand dollars on something she

wants!"

Leon bought the Corvette. Chuck, within a couple of weeks had purchased new carpet for the entire house and added a sunroom out back.

Both of my sons attended college in Nashville. Leon went to their ball games. He entertained them with crazy stories. He stood up for them when I couldn't. Chuck fed them. She opened up her house for them. Both of them consoled my boys when they were down. Both encouraged them in school. They shared all they had. When Mom's health began to slip it fell Leon and Paula's lot to care for her. You've never seen two people do more or care more.

I'm not sure to this day if Chuck is like the sister I never had, the good friend who has your best interest at heart or that older, wiser voice that keeps you on track. I've spent my journalistic career writing about Leon because he's made that much of an impression on my life. If you had one small glimpse into his wit, his spontaneity, his keen insight and his zest for living, you'd realize they've got the wrong Colbert writing these little stories.

Leon and Paula are celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary this week-end. WOW! How fast those years rolled by for all of us! When I got the invitation I immediately thought of the hot 1962 Sunday afternoon in St. Louis. I remembered that old blue convertible. I remember how they would drive a hundred miles an hour from Pochontas on Friday afternoons to make the eight o'clock kick off for my high school football games. I remembered Winnie-the-Poodle; the many Thanksgiving and Christmas meals; the birth of children and the home going of some precious people. I thought of Chuck's quiet, thoughtful advice over the years. I thought of Leon's laughing, carefree, laissez faire approach to life. What a great team!

True love IS an amazing thing.
Respectfully,
KC

'Hot Feet', tile in bathroom hotter than the rest

You've heard of getting cold feet? Well, I was beckoned to get out of bed the other morning at 5:55 a.m. because of "hot feet." My alarm was set for 6 a.m.; those last five minutes of sleep are the most important and they will be lost forever.

There is no getting those five minutes of sleep back and no nap can compensate for them. The only sleep that is better than the last five minutes of sleep you get in the morning is the sleep that you get after you hit the snooze button on your alarm (or turn it off).

My daughter was concerned that an area of the tile floor in the bathroom was warmer than the rest of the floor. I walked into the bathroom and gave it the "toe test." Indeed, it was warmer than the rest of the tile in the bathroom.

The "hot spot" seemed to be isolated to a few tiles and rectangular in shape on the floor. My first thought was that there might be a hot water line leaking because it was definitely warmer than the rest of the floor. On hands and knees, I held my ear down to the tile to listen for a hissing or dripping.

There was no sound, but the dogs decided they needed to lick my free ear. What is it with dogs and ears?

I went downstairs to look up at the ceiling and check for water on the ceiling. Thank goodness, there was no water on the ceiling. Checking

the floor again upstairs, I found that the isolated area of tile was still noticeably warmer than the rest.

It was puzzling, but I had to go to work.

The plumber was called; he came out and checked for leaks and everything else a plumber does for \$125 an hour. The plumber found no leaks.

We had to be happy about no leaks; we pay plumbers on a regular basis to feel happy — at least I do.

When you look at it that way, the price is a bargain. I've never been to a psychologist or psychiatrist, but I would bet they charge more than \$125 an hour.

In the event you actually do have a problem with your toilet or water line, a plumber can fix it. A psychologist or psychiatrist more than likely would not be able to help you with those types of problems. The bottom line is — plumbers are worth the money.

Poltergeist... Possibly, there was a ghost in the upstairs hall bathroom. Judging by the heat of the bathroom floor, I figure it was the ghost of a large man with hair on his back that likes to stand in front of the mirror with his heels together.

Envisioning what the ghost would look like, I tried the movement for a fellow at work. It can be done (heels together striking a Charles Atlas-like pose).

No, I don't believe in

I still can't decide what to do. Should I tear the floor up and see what's under there? Should I knock a hole in the ceiling from below?

Worrying about such things is not good for you. Unfortunately, I was not at home when the plumber came or I would have asked him. Perhaps a phone consult is a possibility.

ghosts, but there had to be an explanation. We have lived in this house for almost ten years.

What could it be?

The fellow that lived in the house before me was an avid photographer who was really into some sort of multi-level marketing that involved selling or pretending to sell some sort of beautification products.

Perhaps there were some really steamy photographs under that tile bathroom floor or perhaps it was a hiding place for something else really hot, like a secret stash of beautification products.

I still can't decide what to do. Should I tear the floor up and see what's under there? Should I knock a hole in the ceiling from below?

Worrying about such things is not good for you. Unfortunately, I was not at home when the plumber came or I would have asked him. Perhaps a phone consult is a possibility.

There are folks who have these seminars

where they help companies build a feeling of teamwork and confidence. One seminar I read about lets their attendees walk on hot coals. This is supposed to give them confidence and make them feel they conquer the world or sell more products.

That's it. I'm going to check with my homeowners association about pitching a tent in my backyard and letting folks come walk on the warm tile in my upstairs hall bathroom. They would pay me to stay overnight in the tent and walk on the warm tiles in the morning. It makes sense to me. If you are going to pay someone to walk on hot coals, you would pay to walk on my hot tiles. There has to be a market for it.

On second thought, I'm just going to call the plumber back. That's another good thing about plumbers, they generally don't charge for phone consultations.

Read more stories at www.CranksMyTractor.com.

THE STAR

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

SAVING GHOSTS ON THE COAST

Dear Editor:

I am passionate about our small town events and believe they are part of our culture and character.

I attended a meeting last week with a small group of about 10 dedicated volunteers trying to keep together a merchant's association. The majority in attendance felt like the Halloween event, Ghosts on the Coast, was not important enough to save. They were advised that the event generated no profits that evening so why should businesses participate. I protested and Jennifer Jenkins of the Gulf County Tourist Development Council appealed to them to give her an opportunity to speak to her board. The group decided to have another meeting in October to discuss the issue. Boyer Signs took responsibility for and will sponsor the costume contest in City Commons. A committee of volunteers is ready to go to work.

Becoming the adversarial member of a group is not pleasant. My thoughts immediately went back to the 4th of July and fireworks in Beacon Hill! This cannot happen! Halloween or "Ghost on the Coast" has become a traditional event

looked forward to by the entire community. Senior citizens and all age groups come to Reid Avenue to see friends and neighbors. Look at our wonderful downtown atmosphere that a mostly volunteer group the, PSJRA, has assisted in providing.

After being informed by a member of the merchant's committee that the Gulf County Chamber of Commerce would not produce the event, becoming proactive was required. Contacting local leaders and local business people became necessary, so I took responsibility.

Who is Dana Boyer? I have been doing events for about 30 years and love the Port St. Joe events that reinforce our small-town feeling. That feeling is what visitors and local residents appreciate about our town. I did not feel like the group at our meeting reflected the opinions of all the merchants or understand the traditions of Port St. Joe. Halloween has been celebrated downtown for at least 15 years, providing a safe environment for the children.

Guerry Magidson, president of the Chamber of Commerce, stated that the Chamber was under the impression that the merchants did

not support this event, but promised that the Chamber would support the event.

Barry Sellers, director of the Chamber of Commerce, declared that Ghost on the Coast was the first event in Port St. Joe that he participated in. He told me that the event showcases PSJ at its best; a family oriented event you don't see in Memphis or other cities. He said that even if no one purchases anything that evening, they leave feeling very positive about our businesses and community.

Three different survey sheets were presented to signers. As of Monday, 24 merchants on Reid Avenue have signed supporting the Halloween event. With a much smaller business district, we will be asking everyone in the community to drop a couple of bags of candy by your favorite business or to Boyer Signs to be distributed. No one offered to sign the form that was not in favor of the event. Businesses not on Reid Avenue signed another form showing support and offering candy.

My third call was to Port St. Joe City Commissioner Bo Patterson, also a Reid Avenue merchant. Bo was appalled, asking why we would not

do it, this is a tradition. He felt like there were not enough activities in PSJ for children.

We have a problem now in Port St. Joe. Our traditional events like Ghosts on the Coast, Christmas on the Coast and 4th of July do not have a home.

The TDC will assist with funding, but do not produce events and are bound by state statutes as to how their funds are dispersed. The Chamber of Commerce has endured huge budget cuts and has no staff. Its Scallop Festival helps fund the organization. A loosely knit merchants association has no charter, bank account or liability insurance. They still worked hard and we had a 4th of July to remember.

A volunteer events committee operating under the umbrella of one of the larger organizations could solve our problems. We need to work together and solve this problem for the good of our community. The politics of the situation do not matter.

The children in costumes trick or treating, having fun and laughing matter.

Thank you,

Dana Boyer
Port St. Joe

RESCUING THE RESTORE ACT

Dear Editor,

You may not know much about or have concern over the BP Restore Act funds but you need to learn and learn fast. Millions upon millions of dollars are becoming available to our County as compensation for the oil spill. It is an opportunity we can not take lightly and an opportunity for the public to participate and play a major role on how the funds should go for. The RESTORE the Gulf Coast States Act is a law that dedicates 80 percent of the Clean Water Act penalties that will be paid as a result of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill to the Gulf Coast states for environmental and economic restoration. The money will be used to rebuild wetlands, implement federal plans for coastal restoration and advance important resiliency measures in Gulf Coast communities. The first law of its kind, the RESTORE Act is a historic piece of legislation and a major step toward recovery in the Gulf Coast region.

The RESTORE Act was introduced in July 2011 by a bipartisan coalition of nine gulf senators. Officially named the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities and Revived Economy of the Gulf

Coast Act of 2011, the bill received broad, bipartisan support in Congress for its simple purpose: to send the oil spill penalty money back to the region damaged by the spill. The legislation was prompted in part by two official reports on the spill, one conducted by Navy Secretary and former Governor of Mississippi Ray Mabus and another from the bipartisan National Commission on the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling. Both reports recommended that Clean Water Act penalties from the spill be dedicated to Gulf Coast restoration. Given the devastation the spill caused in the gulf, this was the only fair thing to do. Without the RESTORE Act, this penalty money could have been used for unrelated federal spending rather than for restoration. These funds should not be left to the whims of the County Commission reeking with lame ducks and has displayed their improper stewardship in the mishandling of money like TDC.

Here is a website that will help you www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/07/16/bp-oil-spill-restore-act_n_1675566.html.

Most alarming is the obvious rush

that Commissioner Bill Williams is trying to accomplish before he leaves office this November. His display of disdain for Gulf County and his horrific personal financial mistakes should strike fear into all of us. He is no longer a resident of Gulf County as he lives in Tallahassee according to reliable sources. So you have a lame duck, proven financial failure who is not a resident of our community and for some reason rushing to make our financial decisions. Could it be that he has hopes to personally gain from this or do you think he is doing this out of the goodness of his heart? You decide.

Let's slow this train wreck down. Why do we not have more public participation, workshops to develop all the ideas? How about changing the commission meeting time so that the working public can attend? They work for us not the other way around. We should demand evening times so that more citizens can participate. Could it be they are afraid of public participation? Again, you decide.

There just might be other ideas about how the money should be utilized for economic development

other than where they are headed. There are some smart people in our community who could participate in this if we take time to do it right. Knee-jerk decision-making and rushing to turn in a plan before Williams is out of office in a few weeks does not seem the right way to go.

Did you know that our "rainy day" funds are all but non-existent? So if we are hit by a hurricane we are in trouble. This is merely one important area of concern where funds should be and are not. There are other issues such as our infrastructures like the land fill, proving that the plan must have more public participation and support. What could possibly be wrong with taking a little more time and if necessary getting an extension which is easily done to make sure we do the right thing.

This money belongs to our community not a select group of individuals who see this as a road to recovery for their personal financial faults. Contact your commissioner and let them know we need to slow down and have much more public input!

Citizens Improving Gulf County

Letter to the EDITOR

Water/Sewer Rates:

Dear Editor:

The city of Port St. Joe decides to raise water/sewer rates due to low usage? WOW ...dirty water ...low usage??? So penalize the users for the engineering mistakes. Way to go city elected officials...can't figure why the lack of usage? Defies logic. Again a reason for not having a "single source" for engineering services!

Bo Williams
St. Joe Beach/Beacon Hill

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**PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS TO BE VOTED ON NOVEMBER 6, 2012
NOTICE OF ELECTION**

I, Kenneth W. Detzner, Secretary of State of the State of Florida, do hereby give notice that an election will be held in each county in Florida, on November 6, 2012, for the ratification or rejection of proposed revisions to the constitution of the State of Florida.

**NO. 1
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
ARTICLE I, SECTION 28
(Legislative)**

Ballot Title: HEALTH CARE SERVICES.—

Ballot Summary: Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to prohibit laws or rules from compelling any person or employer to purchase, obtain, or otherwise provide for health care coverage; permit a person or an employer to purchase lawful health care services directly from a health care provider; permit a health care provider to accept direct payment from a person or an employer for lawful health care services; exempt persons, employers, and health care providers from penalties and taxes for paying directly or accepting direct payment for lawful health care services; and prohibit laws or rules from abolishing the private market for health care coverage of any lawful health care service. Specifies that the amendment does not affect which health care services a health care provider is required to perform or provide; affect which health care services are permitted by law; prohibit care provided pursuant to general law relating to workers' compensation; affect laws or rules in effect as of March 1, 2010; affect the terms or conditions of any health care system to the extent that those terms and conditions do not have the effect of punishing a person or an employer for paying directly for lawful health care services or a health care provider for accepting direct payment from a person or an employer for lawful health care services; or affect any general law passed by two-thirds vote of the membership of each house of the Legislature, passed after the effective date of the amendment, provided such law states with specificity the public necessity justifying the exceptions from the provisions of the amendment. The amendment expressly provides that it may not be construed to prohibit negotiated provisions in insurance contracts, network agreements, or other provider agreements contractually limiting copayments, coinsurance, deductibles, or other patient charges.

Full Text:
**ARTICLE I
DECLARATION OF RIGHTS
SECTION 28. Health care services.—**

(a) To preserve the freedom of all residents of the state to provide for their own health care:
(1) A law or rule may not compel, directly or indirectly, any person or employer to purchase, obtain, or otherwise provide for health care coverage.
(2) A person or an employer may pay directly for lawful health care services and may not be required to pay penalties or taxes for paying directly for lawful health care services. A health care provider may accept direct payment for lawful health care services and may not be required to pay penalties or taxes for accepting direct payment from a person or an employer for lawful health care services.
(b) The private market for health care coverage of any lawful health care service may not be abolished by law or rule.
(c) This section does not:
(1) Affect which health care services a health care provider is required to perform or provide.
(2) Affect which health care services are permitted by law.
(3) Prohibit care provided pursuant to general law relating to workers' compensation.
(4) Affect laws or rules in effect as of March 1, 2010.
(5) Affect the terms or conditions of any health care system to the extent that those terms and conditions do not have the effect of punishing a person or an employer for paying directly for lawful health care services or a health care provider for accepting direct payment from a person or an employer for lawful health care services, except that this section may not be construed to prohibit any negotiated provision in any insurance contract, network agreement, or other provider agreement contractually limiting copayments, coinsurance, deductibles, or other patient charges.
(6) Affect any general law passed by a two-thirds vote of the membership of each house of the legislature after the effective date of this section, if the law states with specificity the public necessity that justifies an exception from this section.
(d) As used in this section, the term:
(1) "Compel" includes the imposition of penalties or taxes.
(2) "Direct payment" or "pay directly" means payment for lawful health care services without a public or private third party, not including an employer, paying for any portion of the service.
(3) "Health care system" means any public or private entity whose function or purpose is the management of, processing of, enrollment of individuals for, or payment, in full or in part, for health care services, health care data, or health care information for its participants.
(4) "Lawful health care services" means any health-related service or treatment, to the extent that the service or treatment is permitted or not prohibited by law or regulation at the time the service or treatment is rendered, which may be provided by persons or businesses otherwise permitted to offer such services.
(5) "Penalties or taxes" means any civil or criminal penalty or fine, tax, salary or wage withholding or surcharge, or named fee with a similar effect established by law or rule by an agency established, created, or controlled by the government which is used to punish or discourage the exercise of rights protected under this section. For purposes of this section only, the term "rule by an agency" may not be construed to mean any negotiated provision in any insurance contract, network agreement, or other provider agreement contractually limiting copayments, coinsurance, deductibles, or other patient charges.

**NO. 2
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
ARTICLE VII, SECTION 6
ARTICLE XII, SECTION 32
(Legislative)**

Ballot Title: VETERANS DISABLED DUE TO COMBAT INJURY; HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX DISCOUNT.—

Ballot Summary: Proposing an amendment to Section 6 of Article VII and the creation of Section 32 of Article XII of the State Constitution to expand the availability of the property discount on the homesteads of veterans who became disabled as the result of a combat injury to include those who were not Florida residents when they entered the military and schedule the amendment to take effect January 1, 2013.

Full Text:
**ARTICLE VII
FINANCE AND TAXATION
SECTION 6. Homestead exemptions.—**

(a) Every person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner, or another legally or naturally dependent upon the owner, shall be exempt from taxation thereon, except assessments for special benefits, up to the assessed valuation of twenty-five thousand dollars and, for all levies other than school district levies, on the assessed valuation greater than fifty thousand dollars and up to seventy-five thousand dollars, upon establishment of right thereto in the manner prescribed by law. The real estate may be held by legal or equitable title, by the entireties, jointly, in common, as a condominium, or indirectly by stock ownership or membership representing the owner's or member's proprietary interest in a corporation owning a fee or a leasehold initially in excess of ninety-eight years. The exemption shall not apply with respect to any assessment roll until such roll is first determined to be in compliance with the provisions of section 4 by a state agency designated by general law. This exemption is repealed on the effective date of any amendment to this Article which provides for the assessment of homestead property at less than just value.
(b) Not more than one exemption shall be allowed any individual or family unit or with respect to any residential unit. No exemption shall exceed the value of the real estate assessable to the owner or, in case of ownership through stock or membership in a corporation, the value of the proportion which the interest in the corporation bears to the assessed value of the property.
(c) By general law and subject to conditions specified therein, the Legislature may provide to renters, who are permanent residents, ad valorem tax relief on all ad valorem tax levies. Such ad valorem tax relief shall be in the form and amount established by general law.
(d) The legislature may, by general law, allow counties or municipalities, for the purpose of their respective tax levies and subject to the provisions of general law, to grant an additional homestead tax exemption not exceeding fifty thousand dollars to any person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner and who has attained age sixty-five and whose household income, as defined by general law, does not exceed twenty thousand dollars. The general law must allow counties and municipalities to grant this additional exemption, within the limits prescribed in this subsection, by ordinance adopted in the manner prescribed by general law, and must provide for the periodic adjustment of the income limitation prescribed in this subsection for changes in the cost of living.
(e) Each veteran who is age 65 or older who is partially or totally permanently disabled shall receive a discount from the amount of the ad valorem tax otherwise owed on homestead property the veteran owns and resides in if the disability was combat related, the veteran was a resident of this state at the time of entering the military service of the United States, and the veteran was honorably discharged upon separation from military service. The discount shall be in a percentage equal to the percentage of the veteran's permanent, service-connected disability as determined by the

United States Department of Veterans Affairs. To qualify for the discount granted by this subsection, an applicant must submit to the county property appraiser, by March 1, proof of residency at the time of entering military service, an official letter from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs stating the percentage of the veteran's service-connected disability and such evidence that reasonably identifies the disability as combat related, and a copy of the veteran's honorable discharge. If the property appraiser denies the request for a discount, the appraiser must notify the applicant in writing of the reasons for the denial, and the veteran may reapply. The Legislature may, by general law, waive the annual application requirement in subsequent years. This subsection shall take effect December 7, 2006, is self-executing, and does not require implementing legislation.

**ARTICLE XII
SCHEDULE**

SECTION 32. Veterans disabled due to combat injury; homestead property tax discount.—The amendment to subsection (e) of Section 6 of Article VII relating to the homestead property tax discount for veterans who became disabled as the result of a combat injury shall take effect January 1, 2013.

**NO. 3
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
ARTICLE VII, SECTIONS 1 and 19
ARTICLE XII, SECTION 32
(Legislative)**

Ballot Title: STATE GOVERNMENT REVENUE LIMITATION.—

Ballot Summary: This proposed amendment to the State Constitution replaces the existing state revenue limitation based on Florida personal income growth with a new state revenue limitation based on inflation and population changes. Under the amendment, state revenues, as defined in the amendment, collected in excess of the revenue limitation must be deposited into the budget stabilization fund until the fund reaches its maximum balance, and thereafter shall be used for the support and maintenance of public schools by reducing the minimum financial effort required from school districts for participation in a state-funded education finance program, or, if the minimum financial effort is no longer required, returned to the taxpayers. The Legislature may increase the state revenue limitation through a bill approved by a super majority vote of each house of the Legislature. The Legislature may also submit a proposed increase in the state revenue limitation to the voters. The Legislature must implement this proposed amendment by general law. The amendment will take effect upon approval by the electors and will first apply to the 2014-2015 state fiscal year.

Full Text:
**ARTICLE VII
FINANCE AND TAXATION
SECTION 1. Taxation; appropriations; state expenses; state revenue limitation.—**

(a) No tax shall be levied except in pursuance of law. No state ad valorem taxes shall be levied upon real estate or tangible personal property. All other forms of taxation shall be preempted to the state except as provided by general law.
(b) Motor vehicles, boats, airplanes, trailers, trailer coaches and mobile homes, as defined by law, shall be subject to a license tax for their operation in the amounts and for the purposes prescribed by law, but shall not be subject to ad valorem taxes.
(c) No money shall be drawn from the treasury except in pursuance of appropriation made by law.
(d) Provision shall be made by law for raising sufficient revenue to defray the expenses of the state for each fiscal period.
(e) Except as provided herein, state revenues collected for any fiscal year shall be limited to state revenues allowed under this subsection for the prior fiscal year plus an adjustment for growth. As used in this subsection, "growth" means an amount equal to the average annual rate of growth in Florida personal income over the most recent twenty quarters times the state revenues allowed under this subsection for the prior fiscal year. For the 1995-1996 fiscal year, the state revenues allowed under this subsection for the prior fiscal year shall equal the state revenues collected for the 1994-1995 fiscal year. Florida personal income shall be determined by the legislature, from information available from the United States Department of Commerce or its successor on the first day of February prior to the beginning of the fiscal year. State revenues collected for any fiscal year in excess of this limitation shall be transferred to the budget stabilization fund until the fund reaches the maximum balance specified in Section 19(e) of Article III; and thereafter shall be refunded to taxpayers as provided by general law. State revenues allowed under this subsection for any fiscal year may be increased by a two-thirds vote of the membership of each house of the legislature in a separate bill that contains no other subject and that sets forth the dollar amount by which the state revenues allowed will be increased. The vote may not be taken less than seventy-two hours after the third reading of the bill. For purposes of this subsection, "state revenues" means taxes, fees, licenses, and charges for services imposed by the legislature on individuals, businesses, or agencies outside state government. However, "state revenues" does not include: revenues that are necessary to meet the requirements set forth in documents authorizing the issuance of bonds by the state; revenues that are used to provide matching funds for the federal Medicaid program with the exception of the revenues used to support the Public Medical Assistance Trust Fund or its successor program and with the exception of state matching funds used to fund elective expansions made after July 1, 1994; proceeds from the state lottery returned as prizes; receipts of the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund; balances carried forward from prior fiscal years; taxes, fees, and charges for services imposed by local, regional, or school district governing bodies; or revenue from taxes, fees, and charges for services required to be imposed by any amendment or revision to this constitution after July 1, 1994. An adjustment to the revenue limitation shall be made by general law to reflect the fiscal impact of transfers of responsibility for the funding of governmental functions between the state and other levels of government. The legislature shall, by general law, prescribe procedures necessary to administer this subsection.
SECTION 19. State revenue limitation.—

(a) **STATE REVENUE LIMITATION.—**Except as provided in this section, state revenues collected in any fiscal year are limited as follows:
(1) For the 2014-2015 fiscal year, state revenues are limited to an amount equal to the state revenues collected during the 2013-2014 fiscal year multiplied by the sum of the adjustment for growth plus four one-hundredths.
(2) For the 2015-2016 fiscal year, state revenues are limited to an amount equal to the state revenue limitation for fiscal year 2014-2015 multiplied by the sum of the adjustment for growth plus three one-hundredths.
(3) For the 2016-2017 fiscal year, state revenues are limited to an amount equal to the state revenue limitation for fiscal year 2015-2016 multiplied by the sum of the adjustment for growth plus two one-hundredths.
(4) For the 2017-2018 fiscal year, state revenues are limited to an amount equal to the state revenue limitation for fiscal year 2016-2017 multiplied by the sum of the adjustment for growth plus one one-hundredth.
(5) For the 2018-2019 fiscal year and thereafter, state revenues are limited to an amount equal to the state revenue limitation for the previous fiscal year multiplied by the adjustment for growth.
(6) The adjustment for growth for a fiscal year shall be determined by March 1 preceding the fiscal year using the latest information available. Once the adjustment for growth is determined for a fiscal year, it may not be changed based on revisions to the information used to make the determination.
(b) **REVENUES IN EXCESS OF THE LIMITATION.—**State revenues collected in any fiscal year in excess of the revenue limitation shall be transferred to the budget stabilization fund until the fund reaches the maximum balance specified in Section 19(e) of Article III, and thereafter shall be used for the support and maintenance of public schools by reducing the minimum financial effort required from school districts for participation in a state-funded education finance program, or, if the minimum financial effort is no longer required, returned to taxpayers as provided by general law.
(c) **AUTHORITY OF THE LEGISLATURE TO INCREASE THE REVENUE LIMITATION.—**
(1) The state revenue limitation for any fiscal year may be increased by a two-thirds vote of the membership of each house of the legislature. Unless otherwise provided by the bill increasing the revenue limitation, the increased revenue limitation enacted under this paragraph shall be used to determine the revenue limitation for future fiscal years.
(2) The state revenue limitation for any one fiscal year may be increased by a three-fifths vote of the membership of each house of the legislature. Increases to the revenue limitation enacted under this paragraph must be disregarded when determining the revenue limitation in subsequent fiscal years.
(3) A bill increasing the revenue limitation may not contain any other subject and must set forth the dollar amount by which the state revenue limitation will be increased. The vote may not be taken less than seventy-two hours after the third reading in either house of the legislature of the bill in the form that will be presented to the governor.
(d) **AUTHORITY OF THE ELECTORS TO INCREASE THE REVENUE LIMITATION.—**The legislature may propose an increase in the state revenue limitation pursuant to a concurrent resolution enacted by a three-fifths vote of the membership of each house. The proposed increase shall be submitted to the electors at the next general election held more than ninety days after the resolution is filed with the custodian of state records. However, the legislature may submit the proposed increase at an earlier special election held more than ninety days after it is filed with

the custodian of state records pursuant to a law enacted by the affirmative vote of three-fourths of the membership of each house of the legislature. The resolution must set forth the dollar amount by which the state revenue limitation will be increased. Unless otherwise provided in the resolution, the increased revenue limitation shall be used to determine the revenue limitation for future fiscal years. The proposed increase shall take effect if it is approved by a vote of at least 60 percent of the electors voting on the matter.

(e) **REVENUE LIMIT ADJUSTMENT BY THE LEGISLATURE.—**The legislature shall provide by general law for adjustments to the state revenue limitation to reflect:

(1) The fiscal impact of transfers of responsibility for the funding of governmental functions between the state and other levels of government occurring after May 6, 2011; or
(2) The fiscal impact of a new federal mandate.

(f) **GENERAL LAW IMPLEMENTATION.—**The legislature shall, by general law, prescribe procedures necessary to administer this section.

(g) **DEFINITIONS.—**As used in this section, the term:

(1) "Adjustment for growth" means an amount equal to the average for the previous five years of the product of the inflation factor and the population factor.
(2) "Inflation factor" means an amount equal to one plus the percent change in the calendar year annual average of the Consumer Price Index.

The term "Consumer Price Index" means the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, U.S. city average (not seasonally adjusted, current base for all items), as published by the United States Department of Labor. In the event the index ceases to exist, the legislature shall determine the successor index by general law.
(3) "Population factor" means an amount equal to one plus the percent change in population of the state as of April 1 compared to April 1 of the prior year. For purposes of calculating the annual rate of change in population, the state's official population estimates shall be used.

(4) "State revenues" means taxes, fees, licenses, fines, and charges for services imposed by the legislature on individuals, businesses, or agencies outside state government. However, the term "state revenues" does not include: revenues that are necessary to meet the requirements set forth in documents authorizing the issuance of bonds by the state for bonds issued before July 1, 2012; revenues that are used to provide matching funds for the federal Medicaid program with the exception of the revenues used to support the Public Medical Assistance Trust Fund or its successor program and with the exception of state matching funds used to fund optional expansions made after July 1, 1994; proceeds from the state lottery returned as prizes; receipts of the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund and Citizens Property Insurance Corporation; receipts of public universities and colleges; balances carried forward from prior fiscal years; taxes, fees, licenses, fines, and charges for services imposed by local, regional, or school district governing bodies; or revenue from taxes, fees, licenses, fines, and charges for services authorized by any amendment or revision to this constitution after May 6, 2011.

**ARTICLE XII
SCHEDULE**

SECTION 32. State revenue limitation.—The amendment to Section 1 and the creation of Section 19 of Article VII, revising the state revenue limitation, and this section take effect upon approval by the electors and apply beginning in the 2014-2015 state fiscal year.

**NO. 4
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
ARTICLE VII, SECTIONS 4, 6
ARTICLE XII, SECTIONS 27, 32, 33
(Legislative)**

Ballot Title: PROPERTY TAX LIMITATIONS; PROPERTY VALUE DECLINE; REDUCTION FOR NONHOMESTEAD ASSESSMENT INCREASES; DELAY OF SCHEDULED REPEAL.—

Ballot Summary:
(1) This would amend Florida Constitution Article VII, Section 4 (Taxation; assessments) and Section 6 (Homestead exemptions). It also would amend Article XII, Section 27, and add Sections 32 and 33, relating to the Schedule for the amendments.
(2) In certain circumstances, the law requires the assessed value of homestead and specified nonhomestead property to increase when the just value of the property decreases. Therefore, this amendment provides that the Legislature may, by general law, provide that the assessment of homestead and specified nonhomestead property may not increase if the just value of that property is less than the just value of the property on the preceding January 1, subject to any adjustment in the assessed value due to changes, additions, reductions, or improvements to such property which are assessed as provided for by general law. This amendment takes effect upon approval by the voters. If approved at a special election held on the date of the 2012 presidential preference primary, it shall operate retroactively to January 1, 2012, or, if approved at the 2012 general election, shall take effect January 1, 2013.
(3) This amendment reduces from 10 percent to 5 percent the limitation on annual changes in assessments of nonhomestead real property. This amendment takes effect upon approval of the voters. If approved at a special election held on the date of the 2012 presidential preference primary, it shall operate retroactively to January 1, 2012, or, if approved at the 2012 general election, takes effect January 1, 2013.
(4) This amendment also authorizes general law to provide, subject to conditions specified in such law, an additional homestead exemption to every person who establishes the right to receive the homestead exemption provided in the Florida Constitution within 1 year after purchasing the homestead property and who has not owned property in the previous 3 calendar years to which the Florida homestead exemption applied. The additional homestead exemption shall apply to all levies except school district levies. The additional exemption is an amount equal to 50 percent of the homestead property's just value on January 1 of the year the homestead is established. The additional homestead exemption may not exceed an amount equal to the median just value of all homestead property within the county where the property at issue is located for the calendar year immediately preceding January 1 of the year the homestead is established. The additional exemption shall apply for the shorter of 5 years or the year of sale of the property. The amount of the additional exemption shall be reduced in each subsequent year by an amount equal to 20 percent of the amount of the additional exemption received in the year the homestead was established or by an amount equal to the difference between the just value of the property and the assessed value of the property determined under Article VII, Section 4(d), whichever is greater. Not more than one such exemption shall be allowed per homestead property at one time. The additional exemption applies to property purchased on or after January 1, 2011, if approved by the voters at a special election held on the date of the 2012 presidential preference primary, or to property purchased on or after January 1, 2012, if approved by the voters at the 2012 general election. The additional exemption is not available in the sixth and subsequent years after it is first received. The amendment shall take effect upon approval by the voters. If approved at a special election held on the date of the 2012 presidential preference primary, it shall operate retroactively to January 1, 2012, or, if approved at the 2012 general election, takes effect January 1, 2013.
(5) This amendment also delays until 2023, the repeal, currently scheduled to take effect in 2019, of constitutional amendments adopted in 2008 which limit annual assessment increases for specified nonhomestead real property. This amendment delays until 2022 the submission of an amendment proposing the abrogation of such repeal to the voters.

Full Text:
**ARTICLE VII
FINANCE AND TAXATION
SECTION 4. Taxation; assessments.—**By general law regulations shall be prescribed which shall secure a just valuation of all property for ad valorem taxation, provided:
(a) Agricultural land, land producing high water recharge to Florida's aquifers, or land used exclusively for noncommercial recreational purposes may be classified by general law and assessed solely on the basis of character or use.
(b) As provided by general law and subject to conditions, limitations, and reasonable definitions specified therein, land used for conservation purposes shall be classified by general law and assessed solely on the basis of character or use.
(c) Pursuant to general law tangible personal property held for sale as stock in trade and livestock may be valued for taxation at a specified percentage of its value, may be classified for tax purposes, or may be exempted from taxation.
(d) All persons entitled to a homestead exemption under Section 6 of this Article shall have their homestead assessed at just value as of January 1 of the year following the effective date of this amendment. This assessment shall change only as provided in this subsection.
(1) Assessments subject to this subsection shall change be changed annually on January 1st of each year, but those changes in assessments
a. A change in an assessment may shall not exceed the lower of the following:
1.a. Three percent (3%) of the assessment for the prior year.
2.b. The percent change in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers, U.S. City Average, all items 1967=100, or a successor index reports for the preceding calendar year as initially reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.
b. The legislature may provide by general law, that, except for changes, additions, reductions, or improvements to homestead property

assessed as provided in paragraph (5), an assessment may not increase if the just value of the property is less than the just value of the property on the preceding January 1.

(2) An assessment may not exceed just value.
 (3) After a change of ownership, as provided by general law, homestead property shall be assessed at just value as of January 1 of the following year, unless the provisions of paragraph (8) apply. Thereafter, the homestead shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.

(4) New homestead property shall be assessed at just value as of January 1 of the year following the establishment of the homestead, unless the provisions of paragraph (8) apply. That assessment shall only change only as provided in this subsection.

(5) Changes, additions, reductions, or improvements to homestead property shall be assessed as provided for by general law; provided, However, after the adjustment for any change, addition, reduction, or improvement, the property shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.

(6) In the event of a termination of homestead status, the property shall be assessed as provided by general law.

(7) The provisions of this subsection amendment are severable. If a provision any of the provisions of this subsection is amendment shall be held unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, the decision of the such court does not affect or impair any remaining provisions of this subsection amendment.

(8)a. A person who establishes a new homestead as of January 1, 2009, or January 1 of any subsequent year and who has received a homestead exemption pursuant to Section 6 of this Article as of January 1 of either of the 2 years immediately preceding the establishment of the new homestead is entitled to have the new homestead assessed at less than just value. If this revision is approved in January of 2008, a person who establishes a new homestead as of January 1, 2008, is entitled to have the new homestead assessed at less than just value only if that person received a homestead exemption on January 1, 2007. The assessed value of the newly established homestead shall be determined as follows:

1. If the just value of the new homestead is greater than or equal to the just value of the prior homestead as of January 1 of the year in which the prior homestead was abandoned, the assessed value of the new homestead shall be the just value of the new homestead minus an amount equal to the lesser of \$500,000 or the difference between the just value and the assessed value of the prior homestead as of January 1 of the year in which the prior homestead was abandoned. Thereafter, the homestead shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.

2. If the just value of the new homestead is less than the just value of the prior homestead as of January 1 of the year in which the prior homestead was abandoned, the assessed value of the new homestead shall be equal to the just value of the new homestead divided by the just value of the prior homestead and multiplied by the assessed value of the prior homestead. However, if the difference between the just value of the new homestead and the assessed value of the new homestead calculated pursuant to this sub-subparagraph is greater than \$500,000, the assessed value of the new homestead shall be increased so that the difference between the just value and the assessed value equals \$500,000. Thereafter, the homestead shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.

b. By general law and subject to conditions specified therein, the legislature shall provide for application of this paragraph to property owned by more than one person.

(e) The legislature may, by general law, for assessment purposes and subject to the provisions of this subsection, allow counties and municipalities to authorize by ordinance that historic property may be assessed solely on the basis of character or use. Such character or use assessment shall apply only to the jurisdiction adopting the ordinance. The requirements for eligible properties must be specified by general law.

(f) A county may, in the manner prescribed by general law, provide for a reduction in the assessed value of homestead property to the extent of any increase in the assessed value of that property which results from the construction or reconstruction of the property for the purpose of providing living quarters for one or more natural or adoptive grandparents or parents of the owner of the property or of the owner's spouse if at least one of the grandparents or parents for whom the living quarters are provided is 62 years of age or older. Such a reduction may not exceed the lesser of the following:

(1) The increase in assessed value resulting from construction or reconstruction of the property.
 (2) Twenty percent of the total assessed value of the property as improved.

(g) For all levies other than school district levies, assessments of residential real property, as defined by general law, which contains nine units or fewer and which is not subject to the assessment limitations set forth in subsections (a) through (d) shall change only as provided in this subsection.

(1) Assessments subject to this subsection shall be changed annually on the date of assessment provided by law. However, but those changes in assessments may not exceed 5 ten percent (10%) of the assessment for the prior year. The legislature may provide by general law that, except for changes, additions, reductions, or improvements to property assessed as provided in paragraph (4), an assessment may not increase if the just value of the property is less than the just value of the property on the preceding date of assessment provided by law.

(2) An assessment may not exceed just value.
 (3) After a change of ownership or control, as defined by general law, including any change of ownership of a legal entity that owns the property, such property shall be assessed at just value as of the next assessment date. Thereafter, such property shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.

(4) Changes, additions, reductions, or improvements to such property shall be assessed as provided for by general law; However, after the adjustment for any change, addition, reduction, or improvement, the property shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.

(h) For all levies other than school district levies, assessments of real property that is not subject to the assessment limitations set forth in subsections (a) through (d) and (g) shall change only as provided in this subsection.

(1) Assessments subject to this subsection shall be changed annually on the date of assessment provided by law. However, but those changes in assessments may not exceed 5 ten percent (10%) of the assessment for the prior year. The legislature may provide by general law that, except for changes, additions, reductions, or improvements to property assessed as provided in paragraph (5), an assessment may not increase if the just value of the property is less than the just value of the property on the preceding date of assessment provided by law.

(2) An assessment may not exceed just value.
 (3) The legislature must provide that such property shall be assessed at just value as of the next assessment date after a qualifying improvement, as defined by general law, is made to such property. Thereafter, such property shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.

(4) The legislature may provide that such property shall be assessed at just value as of the next assessment date after a change of ownership or control, as defined by general law, including any change of ownership of the legal entity that owns the property. Thereafter, such property shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.

(5) Changes, additions, reductions, or improvements to such property shall be assessed as provided for by general law; However, after the adjustment for any change, addition, reduction, or improvement, the property shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.

(i) The legislature, by general law and subject to conditions specified therein, may prohibit the consideration of the following in the determination of the assessed value of real property used for residential purposes:

- (1) Any change or improvement made for the purpose of improving the property's resistance to wind damage.
- (2) The installation of a renewable energy source device.
- (j)(1) The assessment of the following working waterfront properties shall be based upon the current use of the property:
 - a. Land used predominantly for commercial fishing purposes.
 - b. Land that is accessible to the public and used for vessel launches into waters that are navigable.
 - c. Marinas and drystacks that are open to the public.
 - d. Water-dependent marine manufacturing facilities, commercial fishing facilities, and marine vessel construction and repair facilities and their support activities.

(2) The assessment benefit provided by this subsection is subject to conditions and limitations and reasonable definitions as specified by the legislature by general law.

SECTION 6. Homestead exemptions.—

(a) Every person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner, or another legally or naturally dependent upon the owner, shall be exempt from taxation thereon, except assessments for special benefits, up to the assessed valuation of \$25,000 twenty-five thousand dollars and, for all levies other than school district levies, on the assessed valuation greater than \$50,000 fifty-thousand dollars and up to \$75,000 seventy-five thousand dollars, upon establishment of right thereto in the manner prescribed by law. The real estate may be held by legal or equitable title, by the entireties, jointly, in common, as a condominium, or indirectly by stock ownership or membership representing the owner's or member's proprietary interest in a corporation owning a fee or a leasehold initially in excess of 98 ninety-eight years. The exemption shall not apply with respect to any assessment roll until such roll is first determined to be in compliance with the provisions of Section 4 by a state agency designated by general law. This exemption is repealed on the effective date of any amendment to this Article which provides for the assessment of homestead property at less than just value.

(b) Not more than one exemption shall be allowed any individual or family unit or with respect to any residential unit. No exemption shall exceed the value of the real estate assessable to the owner or, in case of ownership through stock or membership in a corporation, the value of the proportion which the interest in the corporation bears to the assessed value of the property.

(c) By general law and subject to conditions specified therein, the legislature may provide to renters, who are permanent residents, ad valorem tax relief on all ad valorem tax levies. Such ad valorem tax relief shall be in the form and amount established by general law.

(d) The legislature may, by general law, allow counties or municipalities, for the purpose of their respective tax levies and subject to the

provisions of general law, to grant an additional homestead tax exemption not exceeding \$50,000 fifty thousand dollars to any person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner and who has attained age 65 sixty-five and whose household income, as defined by general law, does not exceed \$20,000 twenty thousand dollars. The general law must allow counties and municipalities to grant this additional exemption, within the limits prescribed in this subsection, by ordinance adopted in the manner prescribed by general law, and must provide for the periodic adjustment of the income limitation prescribed in this subsection for changes in the cost of living.

(e) Each veteran who is age 65 or older who is partially or totally permanently disabled shall receive a discount from the amount of the ad valorem tax otherwise owed on homestead property the veteran owns and resides in if the disability was combat related, the veteran was a resident of this state at the time of entering the military service of the United States, and the veteran was honorably discharged upon separation from military service. The discount shall be in a percentage equal to the percentage of the veteran's permanent, service-connected disability as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. To qualify for the discount granted by this subsection, an applicant must submit to the county property appraiser, by March 1, proof of residency at the time of entering military service, an official letter from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs stating the percentage of the veteran's service-connected disability and such evidence that reasonably identifies the disability as combat related, and a copy of the veteran's honorable discharge. If the property appraiser denies the request for a discount, the appraiser must notify the applicant in writing of the reasons for the denial, and the veteran may reapply. The legislature may, by general law, waive the annual application requirement in subsequent years. This subsection shall take effect December 7, 2006, is self-executing, and does not require implementing legislation.

(f) As provided by general law and subject to conditions specified therein, every person who establishes the right to receive the homestead exemption provided in subsection (a) within 1 year after purchasing the homestead property and who has not owned property in the previous 3 calendar years to which the homestead exemption provided in subsection (a) applied is entitled to an additional homestead exemption for all levies except school district levies. The additional exemption is an amount equal to 50 percent of the homestead property's just value on January 1 of the year the homestead is established. The additional exemption may not exceed the median just value of all homestead property within the county where the property at issue is located for the calendar year immediately preceding January 1 of the year the homestead is established. The additional exemption shall apply for a period of 5 years or until the year the property is sold, whichever occurs first. The amount of the additional exemption shall be reduced in each subsequent year by an amount equal to 20 percent of the amount of the additional exemption received in the year the homestead was established or by an amount equal to the difference between the just value of the property and the assessed value of the property determined under Section 4(d), whichever is greater. Not more than one exemption provided under this subsection shall be allowed per homestead property at one time. The additional exemption applies to property purchased on or after January 1, 2011, if this amendment is approved at a special election held on the date of the 2012 presidential preference primary, or to property purchased on or after January 1, 2012, if this amendment is approved at the 2012 general election, but the additional exemption is not available in the sixth and subsequent years after it is first received.

ARTICLE XII

SCHEDULE

SECTION 27. Property tax exemptions and limitations on property tax assessments.—The amendments to Sections 3, 4, and 6 of Article VII, providing a \$25,000 exemption for tangible personal property, providing an additional \$25,000 homestead exemption, authorizing transfer of the accrued benefit from the limitations on the assessment of homestead property, and this section, if submitted to the electors of this state for approval or rejection at a special election authorized by law to be held on January 29, 2008, shall take effect upon approval by the electors and shall operate retroactively to January 1, 2008, or, if submitted to the electors of this state for approval or rejection at the next general election, shall take effect January 1 of the year following such general election. The amendments to Section 4 of Article VII creating subsections (f) and (g) of that section, creating a limitation on annual assessment increases for specified real property, shall take effect upon approval of the electors and shall first limit assessments beginning January 1, 2009, if approved at a special election held on January 29, 2008, or shall first limit assessments beginning January 1, 2010, if approved at the general election held in November of 2008. Subsections (g) (f) and (h) (g) of Section 4 of Article VII, initially adopted as subsections (f) and (g), are repealed effective January 1, 2023 2019; however, the legislature shall by joint resolution propose an amendment abrogating the repeal of subsections (g) (f) and (h) (g), which shall be submitted to the electors of this state for approval or rejection at the general election of 2022 2018 and, if approved, shall take effect January 1, 2023 2019.

SECTION 32. Property assessments.—This section and the amendment of Section 4 of Article VII addressing homestead and specified non-homestead property having a declining just value and reducing the limit on the maximum annual increase in the assessed value of nonhomestead property, if submitted to the electors of this state for approval or rejection at a special election authorized by law to be held on the date of the 2012 presidential preference primary, shall take effect upon approval by the electors and shall operate retroactively to January 1, 2012, or, if submitted to the electors of this state for approval or rejection at the 2012 general election, shall take effect January 1, 2013.

SECTION 33. Additional homestead exemption for owners of homestead property who recently have not owned homestead property.—This section and the amendment to Section 6 of Article VII providing for an additional homestead exemption for owners of homestead property who have not owned homestead property during the 3 calendar years immediately preceding purchase of the current homestead property, if submitted to the electors of this state for approval or rejection at a special election authorized by law to be held on the date of the 2012 presidential preference primary, shall take effect upon approval by the electors and operate retroactively to January 1, 2012, and the additional homestead exemption shall be available for properties purchased on or after January 1, 2011, or if submitted to the electors of this state for approval or rejection at the 2012 general election, shall take effect January 1, 2013, and the additional homestead exemption shall be available for properties purchased on or after January 1, 2012.

NO. 5

**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
 ARTICLE V, SECTIONS 2, 11, AND 12
 (Legislative)**

Ballot Title: STATE COURTS.—

Ballot Summary: Proposing a revision of Article V of the State Constitution relating to the judiciary.

The State Constitution authorizes the Supreme Court to adopt rules for the practice and procedure in all courts. The constitution further provides that a rule of court may be repealed by a general law enacted by a two-thirds vote of the membership of each house of the Legislature. This proposed constitutional revision eliminates the requirement that a general law repealing a court rule pass by a two-thirds vote of each house, thereby providing that the Legislature may repeal a rule of court by a general law approved by a majority vote of each house of the Legislature that expresses the policy behind the repeal. The court could readopt the rule in conformity with the public policy expressed by the Legislature, but if the Legislature determines that a rule has been readopted and repeals the readopted rule, this proposed revision prohibits the court from further readopting the repealed rule without the Legislature's prior approval. Under current law, rules of the judicial nominating commissions and the Judicial Qualifications Commission may be repealed by general law enacted by a majority vote of the membership of each house of the Legislature. Under this proposed revision, a vote to repeal those rules is changed to repeal by general law enacted by a majority vote of the legislators present.

Under current law, the Governor appoints a justice of the Supreme Court from a list of nominees provided by a judicial nominating commission, and appointments by the Governor are not subject to confirmation. This revision requires Senate confirmation of a justice of the Supreme Court before the appointee can take office. If the Senate votes not to confirm the appointment, the judicial nominating commission must reconvene and may not nominate any person whose prior appointment to fill the same vacancy was not confirmed by the Senate. For the purpose of confirmation, the Senate may meet at any time. If the Senate fails to vote on the appointment of a justice within 90 days, the justice will be deemed confirmed and will take office.

The Judicial Qualifications Commission is an independent commission created by the State Constitution to investigate and prosecute before the Florida Supreme Court alleged misconduct by a justice or judge. Currently under the constitution, commission proceedings are confidential until formal charges are filed by the investigative panel of the commission. Once formal charges are filed, the formal charges and all further proceedings of the commission are public. Currently, the constitution authorizes the House of Representatives to impeach a justice or judge. Further, the Speaker of the House of Representatives may request, and the Judicial Qualifications Commission must make available, all information in the commission's possession for use in deciding whether to impeach a justice or judge. This proposed revision requires the commission to make all of its files available to the Speaker of the House of Representatives but provides that such files would remain confidential during any investigation by the House of Representatives and until such information is used in the pursuit of an impeachment of a justice or judge. This revision also removes the power of the Governor to request files of the Judicial Qualifications Commission to conform to a prior constitutional change.

This revision also makes technical and clarifying additions and deletions relating to the selection of chief judges of a circuit and relating to the Judicial Qualifications Commission, and makes other nonsubstantive conforming and technical changes in the judicial article of the constitution.

Full Text:

ARTICLE V

JUDICIARY

SECTION 2. Administration; practice and procedure.—

(a) The supreme court shall adopt rules for the practice and procedure in all courts including the time for seeking appellate review, the administrative supervision of all courts, the transfer to the court having jurisdiction of any proceeding when the jurisdiction of another court has been improvidently invoked, and a requirement that no cause shall be dismissed because an improper remedy has been sought. The supreme court shall adopt rules to allow it the court and the district courts of appeal to submit questions relating to military law to the federal Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces for an advisory opinion. Rules of court may be repealed by general law that expresses the policy behind the repeal enacted by two-thirds vote of the membership of each house of the legislature. The court may readopt the repealed rule only in conformity with the public policy expressed by the legislature. If the legislature determines that a rule has been readopted and repeals the readopted rule, the rule may not be readopted thereafter without prior approval of the legislature.

(b) The chief justice of the supreme court shall be chosen by a majority of the members of the court; shall be the chief administrative officer of the judicial system; and shall have the power to assign justices or judges, including consenting retired justices or judges, to temporary duty in any court for which the judge is qualified and to delegate to a chief judge of a judicial circuit the power to assign judges for duty in that circuit.

(c) A chief judge for each district court of appeal shall be chosen by a majority of the judges thereof or, if there is no majority, by the chief justice. The chief judge shall be responsible for the administrative supervision of the court.

(d) A chief judge in each circuit shall be chosen from among the circuit judges as provided by supreme court rule. The chief judge of a circuit shall be responsible for the administrative supervision of the circuit courts and county courts in the his circuit.

SECTION 11. Vacancies.—

(a) Whenever a vacancy occurs in a judicial office to which election for retention applies, the governor shall fill the vacancy by appointing for a term ending on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January of the year following the next general election occurring at least one year after the date of appointment, one of not fewer than three persons nor more than six persons nominated by the appropriate judicial nominating commission.

(b) The governor shall fill each vacancy on a circuit court or on a county court, wherein the judges are elected by a majority vote of the electors, by appointing for a term ending on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January of the year following the next primary and general election occurring at least one year after the date of appointment, one of not fewer than three persons nor more than six persons nominated by the appropriate judicial nominating commission. An election shall be held to fill that judicial office for the term of the office beginning at the end of the appointed term.

(c) The nominations shall be made within thirty days from the occurrence of a vacancy unless the period is extended by the governor for a time not to exceed thirty days. The governor shall make the appointment within sixty days after the nominations have been certified to the governor.

(d) Each appointment of a justice of the supreme court is subject to confirmation by the senate. The senate may sit for the purpose of confirmation regardless of whether the house of representatives is in session or not. If the senate fails to vote on the appointment of a justice within 90 days, the justice shall be deemed confirmed. If the senate votes to not confirm the appointment, the supreme court judicial nominating commission shall reconvene as though a new vacancy had occurred but may not renominate any person whose prior appointment to fill the same vacancy was not confirmed by the senate. The appointment of a justice is effective upon confirmation by the senate.

(e)(d) There shall be a separate judicial nominating commission as provided by general law for the supreme court, one for each district court of appeal, and one for each judicial circuit for all trial courts within the circuit. Uniform rules of procedure shall be established by the judicial nominating commissions at each level of the court system. Such rules, or any part thereof, may be repealed by general law enacted by a majority vote of the membership of each house of the legislature; or by the supreme court, five justices concurring. Except for deliberations of the judicial nominating commissions, the proceedings of the commissions and their records shall be open to the public.

SECTION 12. Discipline; removal and retirement.—

(a) **JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION.—**A judicial qualifications commission is created.

(1) There shall be a judicial qualifications commission vested with jurisdiction to investigate and recommend to the Supreme Court of Florida the removal from office of any justice or judge whose conduct, during term of office or otherwise, occurring on or after November 1, 1966, (without regard to the effective date of this section) demonstrates a present unfitness to hold office, and to investigate and recommend the discipline of a justice or judge whose conduct, during term of office or otherwise occurring on or after November 1, 1966 (without regard to the effective date of this section); warrants such discipline. For purposes of this section, discipline is defined as any or all of the following: reprimand, fine, suspension with or without pay, or lawyer discipline. The commission shall have jurisdiction over justices and judges regarding allegations that misconduct occurred before or during service as a justice or judge if a complaint is made no later than one year following service as a justice or judge. The commission shall have jurisdiction regarding allegations of incapacity during service as a justice or judge. The commission shall be composed of:

- a. Two judges of district courts of appeal selected by the judges of those courts, two circuit judges selected by the judges of the circuit courts and two judges of county courts selected by the judges of those courts;
- b. Four electors who reside in the state, who are members of the bar of Florida, and who shall be chosen by the governing body of the bar of Florida; and
- c. Five electors who reside in the state, who have never held judicial office or been members of the bar of Florida, and who shall be appointed by the governor.

(2) The members of the judicial qualifications commission shall serve staggered terms, not to exceed six years, as prescribed by general law. No member of the commission except a judge shall be eligible for state judicial office while acting as a member of the commission and for a period of two years thereafter. No member of the commission shall hold office in a political party or participate in any campaign for judicial office or hold public office; provided that a judge may campaign for judicial office and hold that office. The commission shall elect one of its members as its chairperson.

(3) Members of the judicial qualifications commission not subject to impeachment shall be subject to removal from the commission pursuant to the provisions of Article IV, Section 7, Florida Constitution.

(4) The commission shall adopt rules regulating its proceedings, the filling of vacancies by the appointing authorities, the disqualification of members, the rotation of members between the panels, and the temporary replacement of disqualified or incapacitated members. The commission's rules, or any part thereof, may be repealed by general law enacted by a majority vote of the membership of each house of the legislature; or by the supreme court, five justices concurring. The commission shall have power to issue subpoenas. Until formal charges against a justice or judge are filed by the investigative panel with the clerk of the supreme court of Florida all proceedings by or before the commission shall be confidential; provided, however, upon a finding of probable cause and the filing by the investigative panel with said clerk of such formal charges against a justice or judge such charges and all further proceedings before the commission shall be public.

(5) The commission shall have access to all information from all executive, legislative and judicial agencies, including grand juries, subject to the rules of the commission. At any time, on request of the speaker of the house of representatives or the governor, the commission shall make available to the house of representatives all information in the possession of the commission, which information shall remain confidential during any investigation and until such information is used in the pursuit for use in consideration of impeachment or suspension, respectively.

(b) **PANELS.—**The commission shall be divided into an investigative panel and a hearing panel as established by rule of the commission. The investigative panel is vested with the jurisdiction to receive or initiate complaints, conduct investigations, dismiss complaints, and upon a vote of a simple majority of the panel submit formal charges to the hearing panel. The hearing panel is vested with the authority to receive and hear formal charges from the investigative panel and upon a two-thirds vote of the panel recommend to the supreme court the removal of a justice or judge or the involuntary retirement of a justice or judge for any permanent disability that seriously interferes with the performance of judicial duties. Upon a simple majority vote of the membership of the hearing panel, the panel may recommend to the supreme court that the justice or judge be subject to appropriate discipline.

(c) **SUPREME COURT.—**The supreme court shall receive recommendations from the judicial qualifications commission's hearing panel.

(1) The supreme court may accept, reject, or modify in whole or in part the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the commission and it may order that the justice or judge be subjected to appropriate discipline, or be removed from office with termination of compensation for willful or persistent failure to perform judicial duties or for other conduct unbecoming a member of the judiciary demonstrating a present unfitness to hold office, or be involuntarily retired for any permanent disability that seriously interferes with the performance of judicial duties. Malafides, scienter or moral turpitude on the part of a justice or judge shall not be required for removal from office of a justice or judge whose conduct demonstrates a present unfitness to hold office. After the filing of a formal proceeding and upon request of the investigative panel, the supreme court may suspend the justice or judge from office, with or without compensation, pending final determination of the inquiry.

(2) The supreme court may award costs to the prevailing party.

(d) **REMOVAL POWER.—**The power of removal conferred by this section shall be both alternative and cumulative to the power of impeachment.

(e) **PROCEEDINGS INVOLVING SUPREME COURT JUSTICE.—**Notwithstanding any of the foregoing provisions of this section, if the

person who is the subject of proceedings by the judicial qualifications commission is a justice of the supreme court of Florida all justices of such court automatically shall be disqualified to sit as justices of such court with respect to all proceedings therein concerning such person and the supreme court for such purposes shall be composed of a panel consisting of the seven chief judges of the judicial circuits of the state of Florida most senior in tenure of judicial office as circuit judge. For purposes of determining seniority of such circuit judges in the event there be judges of equal tenure in judicial office as circuit judge the judge or judges from the lower numbered circuit or circuits shall be deemed senior. In the event any such chief circuit judge is under investigation by the judicial qualifications commission or is otherwise disqualified or unable to serve on the panel, the next most senior chief circuit judge or judges shall serve in place of such disqualified or disabled chief circuit judge.

(f) SCHEDULE TO SECTION 12.—
 (1) Except to the extent inconsistent with the provisions of this section, all provisions of law and rules of court in force on the effective date of this article shall continue in effect until superseded in the manner authorized by the constitution.

(2) After this section becomes effective and until adopted by rule of the commission consistent with it:

a. The commission shall be divided, as determined by the chairperson, into one investigative panel and one hearing panel to meet the responsibilities set forth in this section.

b. The investigative panel shall be composed of:

1. Four judges,
2. Two members of the bar of Florida, and
3. Three non-lawyers.

c. The hearing panel shall be composed of:

1. Two judges,
2. Two members of the bar of Florida, and
3. Two non-lawyers.

d. Membership on the panels may rotate in a manner determined by the rules of the commission provided that no member shall vote as a member of the investigative and hearing panel on the same proceeding.

e. The commission shall hire separate staff for each panel.

f. The members of the commission shall serve for staggered terms of six years.

g. The terms of office of the present members of the judicial qualifications commission shall expire upon the effective date of the amendments to this section approved by the legislature during the regular session of the legislature in 1996 and new members shall be appointed to serve the following staggered terms:

1. Group I.—The terms of five members, composed of two electors as set forth in s. 12(a)(1)c. of Article V, one member of the bar of Florida as set forth in s. 12(a)(1)b. of Article V, one judge from the district courts of appeal and one circuit judge as set forth in s. 12(a)(1)a. of Article V, shall expire on December 31, 1998.

2. Group II.—The terms of five members, composed of one elector as set forth in s. 12(a)(1)c. of Article V, two members of the bar of Florida as set forth in s. 12(a)(1)b. of Article V, one circuit judge and one county judge as set forth in s. 12(a)(1)a. of Article V shall expire on December 31, 2000.

3. Group III.—The terms of five members, composed of two electors as set forth in s. 12(a)(1)c. of Article V, one member of the bar of Florida as set forth in s. 12(a)(1)b. of Article V, one judge from the district courts of appeal and one county judge as set forth in s. 12(a)(1)a. of Article V, shall expire on December 31, 2002.

g.h. An appointment to fill a vacancy of the commission shall be for the remainder of the term.

h.i. Selection of members by district courts of appeal judges, circuit judges, and county court judges, shall be by no less than a majority of the members voting at the respective courts' conferences. Selection of members by the board of governors of the bar of Florida shall be by no less than a majority of the board.

i.j. The commission shall be entitled to recover the costs of investigation and prosecution, in addition to any penalty levied by the supreme court.

j.k. The compensation of members and referees shall be the travel expenses or transportation and per diem allowance as provided by general law.

**NO. 6
 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
 ARTICLE I, SECTION 28
 (Legislative)**

Ballot Title: PROHIBITION ON PUBLIC FUNDING OF ABORTIONS; CONSTRUCTION OF ABORTION RIGHTS.—

Ballot Summary: This proposed amendment provides that public funds may not be expended for any abortion or for health-benefits coverage that includes coverage of abortion. This prohibition does not apply to an expenditure required by federal law, a case in which a woman suffers from a physical disorder, physical injury, or physical illness that would place her in danger of death unless an abortion is performed, or a case of rape or incest.

This proposed amendment provides that the State Constitution may not be interpreted to create broader rights to an abortion than those contained in the United States Constitution. With respect to abortion, this proposed amendment overrules court decisions which conclude that the right of privacy under Article I, Section 23 of the State Constitution is broader in scope than that of the United States Constitution.

**ARTICLE I
 DECLARATION OF RIGHTS
 SECTION 28. Prohibition on public funding of abortions; construction of abortion rights.—**

(a) Public funds may not be expended for any abortion or for health-benefits coverage that includes coverage of abortion. This subsection does not apply to:

- (1) An expenditure required by federal law;
 - (2) A case in which a woman suffers from a physical disorder, physical injury, or physical illness, including a life-endangering physical condition caused by or arising from the pregnancy itself, which would, as certified by a physician, place the woman in danger of death unless an abortion is performed; or
 - (3) A pregnancy that results from rape or incest.
- (b) This constitution may not be interpreted to create broader rights to an abortion than those contained in the United States Constitution.

**NO. 8
 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
 ARTICLE I, SECTION 3
 (Legislative)**

Ballot Title: RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.—

Ballot Summary: Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution providing that no individual or entity may be denied, on the basis of religious identity or belief, governmental benefits, funding or other support, except as required by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, and deleting the prohibition against using revenues from the public treasury directly or indirectly in aid of any church, sect, or religious denomination or in aid of any sectarian institution.

Full Text:
**ARTICLE I
 DECLARATION OF RIGHTS
 SECTION 3. Religious freedom.—**There shall be no law respecting the establishment of religion or prohibiting or penalizing the free exercise thereof. Religious freedom shall not justify practices inconsistent with public morals, peace, or safety. Except to the extent required by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, neither the government nor any agent of the government may deny to any individual or entity the benefits of any program, funding, or other support on the basis of religious identity or belief. No revenue of the state or any political subdivision or agency thereof shall ever be taken from the public treasury directly or indirectly in aid of any church, sect, or religious denomination or in aid of any sectarian institution.

**NO. 9
 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
 ARTICLE VII, SECTION 6
 ARTICLE XII, SECTION 32
 (Legislative)**

Ballot Title: HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR SURVIVING SPOUSE OF MILITARY VETERAN OR FIRST RESPONDER.—

Ballot Summary: Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to authorize the Legislature to provide by general law ad valorem homestead property tax relief to the surviving spouse of a military veteran who died from service-connected causes while on active duty or to the surviving spouse of a first responder who died in the line of duty. The amendment authorizes the Legislature to totally exempt or partially exempt such surviving spouse's homestead property from ad valorem taxation. The amendment defines a first responder as a law enforcement officer, a correctional officer, a firefighter, an emergency medical technician, or a paramedic. This amendment shall take effect January 1, 2013.

**ARTICLE VII
 FINANCE AND TAXATION
 SECTION 6. Homestead exemptions.—**

(a) Every person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate

and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner, or another legally or naturally dependent upon the owner, shall be exempt from taxation thereon, except assessments for special benefits, up to the assessed valuation of twenty-five thousand dollars and, for all levies other than school district levies, on the assessed valuation greater than fifty thousand dollars and up to seventy-five thousand dollars, upon establishment of right thereto in the manner prescribed by law. The real estate may be held by legal or equitable title, by the entireties, jointly, in common, as a condominium, or indirectly by stock ownership or membership representing the owner's or member's proprietary interest in a corporation owning a fee or a leasehold initially in excess of ninety-eight years. The exemption shall not apply with respect to any assessment roll until such roll is first determined to be in compliance with the provisions of section 4 by a state agency designated by general law. This exemption is repealed on the effective date of any amendment to this Article which provides for the assessment of homestead property at less than just value.

(b) Not more than one exemption shall be allowed any individual or family unit or with respect to any residential unit. No exemption shall exceed the value of the real estate assessable to the owner or, in case of ownership through stock or membership in a corporation, the value of the proportion which the interest in the corporation bears to the assessed value of the property.

(c) By general law and subject to conditions specified therein, the Legislature may provide to renters, who are permanent residents, ad valorem tax relief on all ad valorem tax levies. Such ad valorem tax relief shall be in the form and amount established by general law.

(d) The legislature may, by general law, allow counties or municipalities, for the purpose of their respective tax levies and subject to the provisions of general law, to grant an additional homestead tax exemption not exceeding fifty thousand dollars to any person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner and who has attained age sixty-five and whose household income, as defined by general law, does not exceed twenty thousand dollars. The general law must allow counties and municipalities to grant this additional exemption, within the limits prescribed in this subsection, by ordinance adopted in the manner prescribed by general law, and must provide for the periodic adjustment of the income limitation prescribed in this subsection for changes in the cost of living.

(e) Each veteran who is age 65 or older who is partially or totally permanently disabled shall receive a discount from the amount of the ad valorem tax otherwise owed on homestead property the veteran owns and resides in if the disability was combat related, the veteran was a resident of this state at the time of entering the military service of the United States, and the veteran was honorably discharged upon separation from military service. The discount shall be in a percentage equal to the percentage of the veteran's permanent, service-connected disability as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. To qualify for the discount granted by this subsection, an applicant must submit to the county property appraiser, by March 1, proof of residency at the time of entering military service, an official letter from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs stating the percentage of the veteran's service-connected disability and such evidence that reasonably identifies the disability as combat related, and a copy of the veteran's honorable discharge. If the property appraiser denies the request for a discount, the appraiser must notify the applicant in writing of the reasons for the denial, and the veteran may reapply. The Legislature may, by general law, waive the annual application requirement in subsequent years. This subsection shall take effect December 7, 2006, is self-executing, and does not require implementing legislation.

(f) By general law and subject to conditions and limitations specified therein, the Legislature may provide ad valorem tax relief equal to the total amount or a portion of the ad valorem tax otherwise owed on homestead property to the:

- (1) Surviving spouse of a veteran who died from service-connected causes while on active duty as a member of the United States Armed Forces.
- (2) Surviving spouse of a first responder who died in the line of duty.

(3) As used in this subsection and as further defined by general law, the term:

- a. "First responder" means a law enforcement officer, a correctional officer, a firefighter, an emergency medical technician, or a paramedic.
- b. "In the line of duty" means arising out of and in the actual performance of duty required by employment as a first responder.

**ARTICLE XII
 SCHEDULE**

SECTION 32. Ad valorem tax relief for surviving spouses of veterans who died from service-connected causes and first responders who died in the line of duty.—This section and the amendment to Section 6 of Article VII permitting the legislature to provide ad valorem tax relief to surviving spouses of veterans who died from service-connected causes and first responders who died in the line of duty shall take effect January 1, 2013.

**NO. 10
 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
 ARTICLE VII, SECTION 3
 ARTICLE XII, SECTION 32
 (Legislative)**

Ballot Title: TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION.—

Ballot Summary: Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to: (1) Provide an exemption from ad valorem taxes levied by counties, municipalities, school districts, and other local governments on tangible personal property if the assessed value of an owner's tangible personal property is greater than \$25,000 but less than \$50,000. This new exemption, if approved by the voters, will take effect on January 1, 2013, and apply to the 2013 tax roll and subsequent tax rolls.

(2) Authorize a county or municipality for the purpose of its respective levy, and as provided by general law, to provide tangible personal property tax exemptions by ordinance. This is in addition to other state-wide tangible personal property tax exemptions provided by the Constitution and this amendment.

**ARTICLE VII
 FINANCE AND TAXATION**

SECTION 3. Taxes; exemptions.—
 (a) All property owned by a municipality and used exclusively by it for municipal or public purposes shall be exempt from taxation. A municipality, owning property outside the municipality, may be required by general law to make payment to the taxing unit in which the property is located. Such portions of property as are used predominantly for educational, literary, scientific, religious or charitable purposes may be exempted by general law from taxation.

(b) There shall be exempt from taxation, cumulatively, to every head of a family residing in this state, household goods and personal effects to the value fixed by general law, not less than one thousand dollars, and to every widow or widower or person who is blind or totally and permanently disabled, property to the value fixed by general law not less than five hundred dollars.

(c) Any county or municipality may, for the purpose of its respective tax levy and subject to the provisions of this subsection and general law, grant community and economic development ad valorem tax exemptions to new businesses and expansions of existing businesses, as defined by general law. Such an exemption may be granted only by ordinance of the county or municipality, and only after the electors of the county or municipality voting on such question in a referendum authorize the county or municipality to adopt such ordinances. An exemption so granted shall apply to improvements to real property made by or for the use of a new business and improvements to real property related to the expansion of an existing business and shall also apply to tangible personal property of such new business and tangible personal property related to the expansion of an existing business. The amount or limits of the amount of such exemption shall be specified by general law. The period of time for which such exemption may be granted to a new business or expansion of an existing business shall be determined by general law. The authority to grant such exemption shall expire ten years from the date of approval by the electors of the county or municipality, and may be renewable by referendum as provided by general law.

(d) Any county or municipality may, for the purpose of its respective tax levy and subject to the provisions of this subsection and general law, grant historic preservation ad valorem tax exemptions to owners of historic properties. This exemption may be granted only by ordinance of the county or municipality. The amount or limits of the amount of this exemption and the requirements for eligible properties must be specified by general law. The period of time for which this exemption may be granted to a property owner shall be determined by general law.

(e)(1) By general law and subject to conditions specified therein, twenty-five thousand dollars of the assessed value of tangible personal property is subject to tangible personal property tax shall be exempt from ad valorem taxation. Tangible personal property is also exempt from ad valorem taxation if the assessed value of such property is greater than twenty-five thousand dollars but less than fifty thousand dollars.

(2) A county or municipality may, for the purposes of its respective tax levy, provide additional tangible personal property tax exemptions by ordinance, subject to this subsection and as provided in general law.

(f) There shall be granted an ad valorem tax exemption for real property dedicated in perpetuity for conservation purposes, including real property encumbered by perpetual conservation easements or by other perpetual conservation protections, as defined by general law.

(g) By general law and subject to the conditions specified therein, each person who receives a homestead exemption as provided in section 6 of this article; who was a member of the United States military or military reserves, the United States Coast Guard or its reserves, or the Florida National Guard; and who was deployed during the preceding calendar year on active duty outside the continental United States, Alaska, or Hawaii in

support of military operations designated by the legislature shall receive an additional exemption equal to a percentage of the taxable value of his or her homestead property. The applicable percentage shall be calculated as the number of days during the preceding calendar year the person was deployed on active duty outside the continental United States, Alaska, or Hawaii in support of military operations designated by the legislature divided by the number of days in that year.

**ARTICLE XII
 SCHEDULE**

SECTION 32. Tangible personal property: ad valorem tax exemption.—The amendment to Section 3 of Article VII providing that property is exempt from tangible personal property tax if the assessed value of such property is greater than twenty-five thousand dollars but less than fifty thousand dollars shall take effect January 1, 2013, and applies to assessments for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2013.

**NO. 11
 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
 ARTICLE VII, SECTION 6
 (Legislative)**

Ballot Title: ADDITIONAL HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION; LOW-INCOME SENIORS WHO MAINTAIN LONG-TERM RESIDENCY ON PROPERTY; EQUAL TO ASSESSED VALUE.—

Ballot Summary: Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to authorize the Legislature, by general law and subject to conditions set forth in the general law, to allow counties and municipalities to grant an additional homestead tax exemption equal to the assessed value of homestead property if the property has a just value less than \$250,000 to an owner who has maintained permanent residency on the property for not less than 25 years, who has attained age 65, and who has a low household income as defined by general law.

**ARTICLE VII
 FINANCE AND TAXATION
 SECTION 6. Homestead exemptions.—**

(a) Every person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner, or another legally or naturally dependent upon the owner, shall be exempt from taxation thereon, except assessments for special benefits, up to the assessed valuation of twenty-five thousand dollars and, for all levies other than school district levies, on the assessed valuation greater than fifty thousand dollars and up to seventy-five thousand dollars, upon establishment of right thereto in the manner prescribed by law. The real estate may be held by legal or equitable title, by the entireties, jointly, in common, as a condominium, or indirectly by stock ownership or membership representing the owner's or member's proprietary interest in a corporation owning a fee or a leasehold initially in excess of ninety-eight years. The exemption shall not apply with respect to any assessment roll until such roll is first determined to be in compliance with the provisions of section 4 by a state agency designated by general law. This exemption is repealed on the effective date of any amendment to this Article which provides for the assessment of homestead property at less than just value.

(b) Not more than one exemption shall be allowed any individual or family unit or with respect to any residential unit. No exemption shall exceed the value of the real estate assessable to the owner or, in case of ownership through stock or membership in a corporation, the value of the proportion which the interest in the corporation bears to the assessed value of the property.

(c) By general law and subject to conditions specified therein, the Legislature may provide to renters, who are permanent residents, ad valorem tax relief on all ad valorem tax levies. Such ad valorem tax relief shall be in the form and amount established by general law.

(d) The legislature may, by general law, allow counties or municipalities, for the purpose of their respective tax levies and subject to the provisions of general law, to grant either or both of the following an additional homestead tax exemptions:

- (1) An exemption not exceeding fifty thousand dollars to any person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner and who has attained age sixty-five and whose household income, as defined by general law, does not exceed twenty thousand dollars; or
- (2) An exemption equal to the assessed value of the property to any person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate with a just value less than two hundred and fifty thousand dollars and who has maintained, thereon the permanent residence of the owner for not less than twenty-five years and who has attained age sixty-five and whose household income does not exceed the income limitation prescribed in paragraph (1).

The general law must allow counties and municipalities to grant these this additional exemptions exemption; within the limits prescribed in this subsection, by ordinance adopted in the manner prescribed by general law, and must provide for the periodic adjustment of the income limitation prescribed in this subsection for changes in the cost of living.

(e) Each veteran who is age 65 or older who is partially or totally permanently disabled shall receive a discount from the amount of the ad valorem tax otherwise owed on homestead property the veteran owns and resides in if the disability was combat related, the veteran was a resident of this state at the time of entering the military service of the United States, and the veteran was honorably discharged upon separation from military service. The discount shall be in a percentage equal to the percentage of the veteran's permanent, service-connected disability as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. To qualify for the discount granted by this subsection, an applicant must submit to the county property appraiser, by March 1, proof of residency at the time of entering military service, an official letter from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs stating the percentage of the veteran's service-connected disability and such evidence that reasonably identifies the disability as combat related, and a copy of the veteran's honorable discharge. If the property appraiser denies the request for a discount, the appraiser must notify the applicant in writing of the reasons for the denial, and the veteran may reapply. The Legislature may, by general law, waive the annual application requirement in subsequent years. This subsection shall take effect December 7, 2006, is self-executing, and does not require implementing legislation.

**NO. 12
 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
 ARTICLE IX, SECTION 7
 (Legislative)**

Ballot Title: APPOINTMENT OF STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT TO BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM.—

Ballot Summary: Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to replace the president of the Florida Student Association with the chair of the council of state university student body presidents as the student member of the Board of Governors of the State University System and to require that the Board of Governors organize such council of state university student body presidents.

**ARTICLE IX
 EDUCATION
 SECTION 7. State University System.—**

(a) **PURPOSES.** In order to achieve excellence through teaching students, advancing research and providing public service for the benefit of Florida's citizens, their communities and economies, the people hereby establish a system of governance for the state university system of Florida.

(b) **STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM.** There shall be a single state university system comprised of all public universities. A board of trustees shall administer each public university and a board of governors shall govern the state university system.

(c) **LOCAL BOARDS OF TRUSTEES.** Each local constituent university shall be administered by a board of trustees consisting of thirteen members dedicated to the purposes of the state university system. The board of governors shall establish the powers and duties of the boards of trustees. Each board of trustees shall consist of six citizen members appointed by the governor and five citizen members appointed by the board of governors. The appointed members shall be confirmed by the senate and serve staggered terms of five years as provided by law. The chair of the faculty senate, or the equivalent, and the president of the student body of the university shall also be members.

(d) **STATEWIDE BOARD OF GOVERNORS.** The board of governors shall be a body corporate consisting of seventeen members. The board shall operate, regulate, control, and be fully responsible for the management of the whole university system. These responsibilities shall include, but not be limited to, defining the distinctive mission of each constituent university and its articulation with free public schools and community colleges, ensuring the well-planned coordination and operation of the system, and avoiding wasteful duplication of facilities or programs. The board's management shall be subject to the powers of the legislature to appropriate for the expenditure of funds, and the board shall account for such expenditures as provided by law. The governor shall appoint to the board fourteen citizens dedicated to the purposes of the state university system. The appointed members shall be confirmed by the senate and serve staggered terms of seven years as provided by law. The commissioner of education, the chair of the advisory council of faculty senates, or the equivalent, and the chair of the council of student body presidents, which council shall be organized by the board of governors and consist of all the student body presidents of the state university system president of the Florida student association; or the equivalent; shall also be members of the board.

GUSTAV from page A1

he said.
RESTORE Act Committee
 During its bi-monthly regular meeting on Tuesday, commissioners approved capping the members of the county's RESTORE Act committee at 12 members.

County administrator Don Butler noted that 43 members sit on the Okaloosa County committee and that he had a number of requests from citizens to sit on the committee.

Butler agreed with Commission chair Bill Williams who said that too many members would be cumbersome and noted that the RESTORE Act committee has weekly publicly noticed meetings.

Yeager added that he was sure the stretch run of work for the committee would include public town hall meetings for input from those not participating in the committee.

"Everybody is going to have a large opportunity to weigh in on this," Yeager said.

Land use fee waiver

Commissioners, citing precedent set by the BOCC in January, agreed to waive the fee for a small scale land use map amendment to the county comprehensive plan requested by the son of Commissioner Carmen McLemore.

The BOCC earlier this year decided to waive the \$500 appli-

cation fee for a small scale land use map amendment in the cases of property owners whose property had during the 1990 adoption of the comp plan been mistakenly placed in a conservation designation.

Such a designation does not allow building. The parcel in question, along the Chipola River, is surrounded by other lands also designated conservation, some of which are in state hands others in private hands.

The waiver fee had raised questions, Commissioner Ward McDaniel noted.

There is already a structure on the property, the Property Appraiser's office lists a residential dwelling on the property, there

has been no inspection or other building department process requirements met and the county placed a halt on construction on the property when a complaint was filed in July.

County planner David Richardson emphasized that the matter before the board was simply the waiver of the application fee before the issue is taken to the Planning and Development Review board for further consideration.

After several conflicts in the application were noted by a citizen, commissioners emphasized that disparities would be worked out in the process and that all required permits, state and local, would have to be secured.

DRIVE from page A1

health insurance for a child not covered by a health insurance plan.

FloridaKidCare is a private affordable insurance for children from birth to age 18. A family's income and size determines eligibility for the child.

Services covered by FloridaKidCare include doctor visits, check-ups, prescriptions, vaccinations, hospital, vision, hearing, mental health, dental, surgery and emergencies.

If you are a guardian or parent with children age 18 or younger, contact Ethridge at 624-3640 to explore whether that child is eligible for FloridaKidCare.

By signing up for FloridaKidCare, a child is eligible for five other low-cost insurance programs, Ethridge said.



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Member Board

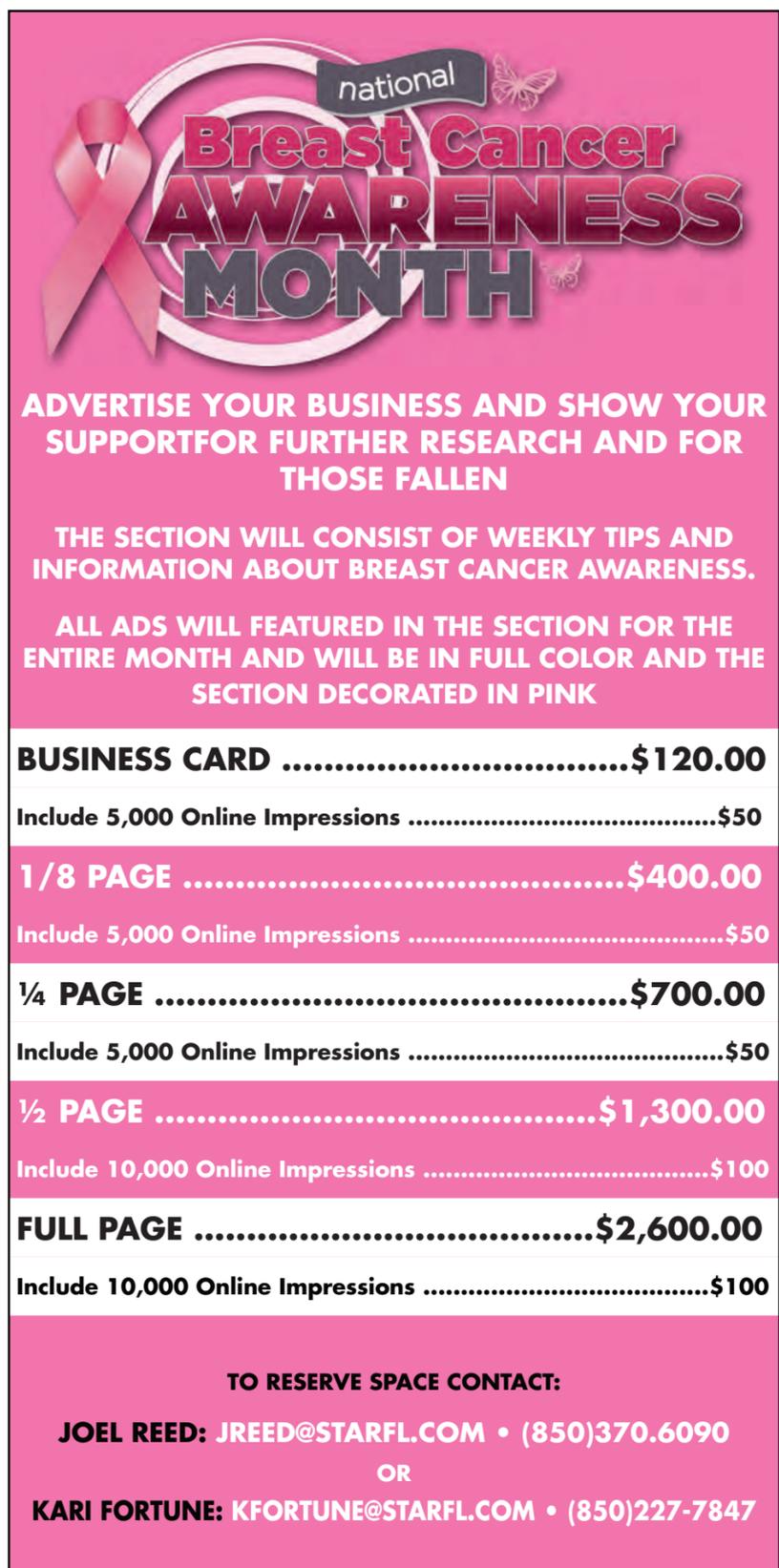
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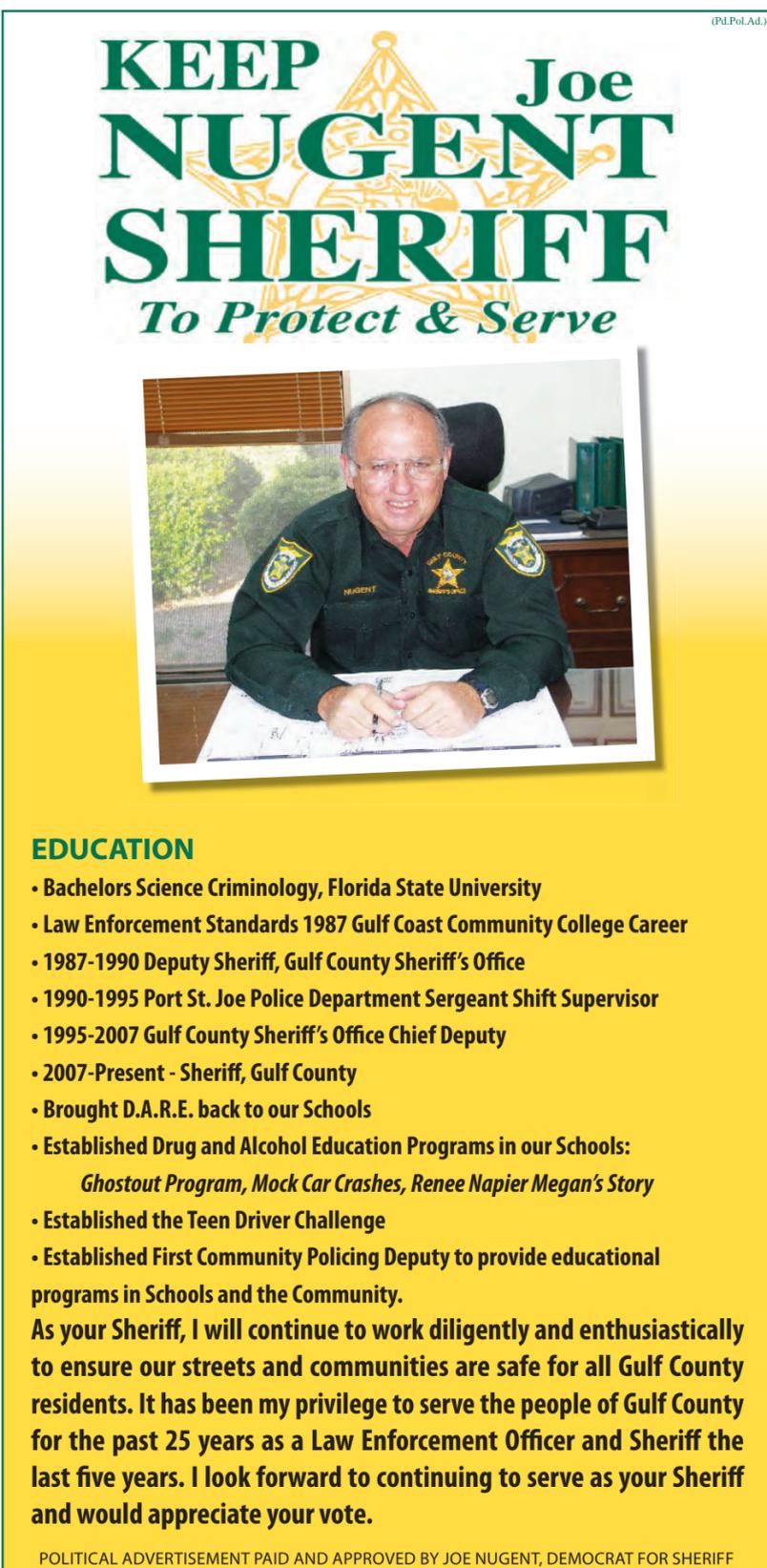
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KEEP JOE NUGENT SHERIFF
To Protect & Serve

EDUCATION

- Bachelors Science Criminology, Florida State University
- Law Enforcement Standards 1987 Gulf Coast Community College Career
- 1987-1990 Deputy Sheriff, Gulf County Sheriff's Office
- 1990-1995 Port St. Joe Police Department Sergeant Shift Supervisor
- 1995-2007 Gulf County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy
- 2007-Present - Sheriff, Gulf County
- Brought D.A.R.E. back to our Schools
- Established Drug and Alcohol Education Programs in our Schools:
Ghostout Program, Mock Car Crashes, Renee Napier Megan's Story
- Established the Teen Driver Challenge
- Established First Community Policing Deputy to provide educational programs in Schools and the Community.

As your Sheriff, I will continue to work diligently and enthusiastically to ensure our streets and communities are safe for all Gulf County residents. It has been my privilege to serve the people of Gulf County for the past 25 years as a Law Enforcement Officer and Sheriff the last five years. I look forward to continuing to serve as your Sheriff and would appreciate your vote.

POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT PAID AND APPROVED BY JOE NUGENT, DEMOCRAT FOR SHERIFF

Enjoy country's No. 1 state park Saturday

Star Staff Report

T. H. Stone St. Joseph Peninsula State Park recently was named the country's No. 1 state park by a popular destination website.

This Saturday, the Friends of the St. Joseph Peninsula State Park want to show off the treasure they volunteer to maintain.

The Friends will sponsor St. Joseph State Park Appreciation Day this Saturday as part of National Lands Day.

There will be a morning shoreline cleanup and beverages and food will be served from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. ET.

The South Gulf County Volunteer Fire Department will be doing the grilling, and Scallop Cove will be providing ice cream for the kids.

The Appreciation Day kicks off in earnest from 3-7 p.m. with music from the Flabbergasted Band at Eagle Harbor. The music can be enjoyed from a boat or on land.

There will be a host of activities throughout the day.

St. Joseph Peninsula State Park was at the top of a list of great state parks. Find out why on Saturday.



WEEKLY ALMANAC

Date	High	Low	% Precip
Thu, Sept. 27	83°	72°	20 %
Fri, Sept. 28	83°	71°	20 %
Sat, Sept. 29	81°	70°	20 %
Sun, Sept. 30	83°	70°	30 %
Mon, Oct. 01	82°	68°	20 %
Tues, Oct. 02	82°	68°	60 %
Wed, Oct. 03	81°	68°	0 %

TIDE TABLES MONTHLY AVERAGES

To find the tides of the following areas, subtract the indicated times from these 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
27	Th	9:22am 1.4	1:04pm 1.1	4:28pm 0.9	
28	Fr	10:54am 1.2	1:01pm 1.3	3:31am 0.9	3:46pm 1.0
29	Sa	10:08pm 1.4		5:03am 0.8	
30	Su	10:21pm 1.7		6:07am 0.6	
1	Mo	10:43pm 1.8		7:02am 0.4	
2	Tu	11:12pm 1.8		7:56am 0.4	
3	We	11:48pm 1.9		8:55am 0.4	
4	Th			10:08am 0.3	
5	Fr	12:30am 1.9		11:27am 0.3	
6	Sa	1:18am 1.9		12:36pm 0.3	
7	Su	2:11am 1.9		1:29pm 0.3	
8	Mo	3:09am 1.8		2:10pm 0.3	
9	Tu	4:14am 1.8		2:40pm 0.3	

APALACHICOLA BAY, WEST PASS

Date	Day	High Tide	High Tide	Low Tide	Low Tide
27	Th	2:49am 1.4	2:25pm 1.5	8:32am 0.9	9:17pm 0.6
28	Fr	3:06am 1.4	3:23pm 1.5	9:17am 0.7	9:49pm 0.8
29	Sa	3:21am 1.4	4:14pm 1.5	9:57am 0.6	10:15pm 0.9
30	Su	3:34am 1.5	5:00pm 1.5	10:34am 0.4	10:37pm 1.0
1	Mo	3:49am 1.6	5:44pm 1.5	11:08am 0.4	10:57pm 1.1
2	Tu	4:08am 1.6	6:29pm 1.4	11:40am 0.3	11:18pm 1.2
3	We	4:32am 1.6	7:16pm 1.4	12:13pm 0.3	11:43pm 1.3
4	Th	5:02am 1.6	8:08pm 1.4	12:49pm 0.3	
5	Fr	5:37am 1.6	9:07pm 1.3	1:215am 1.3	1:33pm 0.4
6	Sa	6:19am 1.6	10:13pm 1.3	1:258am 1.4	2:29pm 0.4
7	Su	7:09am 1.5	11:18pm 1.3	1:59am 1.4	3:40pm 0.4
8	Mo	8:13am 1.4		3:27am 1.4	4:54pm 0.5
9	Tu	12:12am 1.4	9:34am 1.4	5:06am 1.3	5:58pm 0.5

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Squirrel season opens Oct. 13 on private lands

Special to The Star

Gray squirrel season opens in Florida on private lands Oct. 13. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission decided last spring to provide squirrel hunters another month of hunting, similar to dates in other southeastern states.

"This change means more opportunity for squirrel hunters," said Paul Scharine, FWC public hunting areas biologist. "The message we're trying to get out is this change only applies to private property."

For hunting dates on public lands, Scharine said hunters should consult the printed 2012-13 wildlife management area regulations or go online for specific area dates at MyFWC.com/Hunting and select "WMA Brochures." The daily bag limit is 12 gray squirrels.



SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Kayla Lindsey, left, and Hayley Smith each placed among the top 10 in Speed Events during the recent 4-H Regional Horse Show in Georgia.

Big River Riders compete at regional horse show

Star Staff Report

Hayley Smith and Kayla Lindsey of Gulf County, Area A, were two of 50 Florida 4-H youths who qualified at the Florida 4-H Horse Show in July for the Southern Regional Show in Perry, Ga., which was Aug. 1-5. The events the two competed in were poles, barrels and stake races, along with participants from 13 states across the Southern Region, including Arkansas, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Mississippi, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas and Virginia.

Seventy-seven riders competed in the poles Aug. 4, with Lindsey placing seventh in a time of 21.831 seconds and Smith finishing 14th with a time of 22.845.

Next up was the barrels, where the two competed against 78 other riders. Smith's time of 17.401 was good for eighth, and Lindsey finished out of the top 15 finalists with a time of 19.657.

There were 68 riders competing in the stake race, with Smith finishing 15th with a time of 9.075 and Lindsey finishing in 9.657 seconds, missing the top 15.

The top 15 riders in each class advanced to Sunday's finals. The final results are determined after the times of the two days are combined for calculating the placing and High Point Results.

On Sunday, Smith and Lindsey competed in the finals of the poles. Lindsey placed fourth in a time of 22.771 to earn seven points. Smith earned five points with a sixth-place finish in a time of 23.490.

Smith earned four points in barrels with a time of 17.815, good for seventh; and Smith added three points with a time of 8.763 seconds that placed her eighth among the final 15.

Smith ended up fourth in the speed events high point results among the top 22, finishing with 12 points and Lindsey's 10 points were good enough for 10th. All sponsors, volunteers and supporters of the Gulf County Big River Riders 4-H program congratulate Smith and Lindsey for "an astounding job competing in their classes."

For more information about local 4-H programs, call the Gulf County Extension Office at 639-3200 or 229-2909 or visit www.gulf.ifas.ufl.edu.

FISH REPORT SPONSORED BY



Inshore

What a huge difference in one week can make! Our inshore redfish and flounder catches are great. Most action for flounder is under the George Tapper Bridge fishing with finger mullet or bull minnows. Good redfish are coming out of the canal here as well, and most anglers are taking advantage of the plentiful live bait here as well for red fish. Scallop season is now over, and we hope next year will be better.

Offshore

Gag grouper season is still going strong. Good weather and seas last week produced great catches from Mexico Beach to Indian Pass. Good redfish are in the surf up and down the coast as well right now. Cut bait and finger mullets will do the trick, and all times of the day seem to be producing fish!

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COURTESY OF WAYNE TAYLOR

Jarkeice Davis (1) and the Tiger Sharks held Blountstown to 19 total yards of offense in the first half.

Blountstown edges PSJ

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

The host Tiger Sharks had a handle on the game in the first half, but Blountstown swiped it back in the second.

In a physical contest in which neither team managed 150 yards of total offense, Blountstown made several huge second-half plays to secure a 14-6 win in the District 2-1A opener for both teams Friday night.

"I am proud of the kids, but disappointed for them because when you play that hard you would like to win," Port St. Joe coach Chuck Gannon said. "They have to learn to finish. We are playing some good teams early in the season and we are just not learning how to finish.

"We're getting down in scoring position. We are creating chances. We are just not finishing. That is something we have to learn to do."

Both defenses were outstanding, particularly the Tiger Sharks (1-2 overall) in the opening half.

With two weeks to prepare, Port St. Joe tossed schemes and formations at the Tigers (3-1 overall) they had not shown before, said Blountstown coach Greg Jordan.

Blountstown managed just 19 total offensive yards in the first half and finished with 143 offensive yards, less than 100 on the ground.

"It's a win but we sure had to earn it," Jordan said. "They showed some things we had never seen on film and we were confused early in the game. In the end, we didn't have many offensive yards but we made enough big plays to make the difference.

"You have to give credit to Port St. Joe. No matter how much you tell the kids how physical a Blountstown-Port St. Joe game is, they have to play it to understand."

The Tiger Sharks, who actually outgained Blountstown by 5 yards, came up with the first key play of the game, on special teams.

Dusty Richter barreled in from the right side on a fourth-down punt and managed, with help from the up blocker who Richter pushed through on his way to the punter, to block the punt.

Ramello Zaccarro scooped up the ball at the Tiger 27 and was untouched on his way to the end zone. A pass was incomplete on the extra point try and it was 6-0.

The Tigers entered Port St. Joe territory just twice in the first half, once courtesy a roughing the kicker penalty, and could get no closer than the Tiger Shark 37.

Port St. Joe also had two forays into enemy territory, but one ended on downs and another on a fumbled snap.

The Tiger Sharks seemed to grab momentum when Jarkeice Davis (a game-high 80 rushing yards) recovered an onside kick to start the second half.

But Port St. Joe turned it over on downs at the Tiger 38, one of four times the Tiger Sharks were in Blountstown territory in the second half, the deepest penetration the 28, without coming away with points.

On its second possession of the half, the Tigers struck for the biggest play of the game when quarterback Hunter Jordan found Ryan Hathcox with inside position on a 32-yard post pattern for a touchdown, the extra point kick putting the Tigers ahead to stay.

They added an insurance touchdown early in the fourth quarter when on a fourth-and-goal from the 8, Hunter Jordan scrambled out trouble in the pocket and finessed his way just inside the left corner of the end zone.

The extra point made it 14-6 with 6:24 to play.

Port St. Joe hosts Holmes County at 7:30 p.m. ET Friday at Shark Field.

Amid signs of improvement, Lady Sharks drop 2

Star Staff Report

The Port St. Joe High School volleyball team continued to show improvement as the season reaches the midway mark, but wins are in short supply.

Last Monday, Port St. Joe traveled to Wewahitchka and lost in five games in a competitive match 25-23, 12-25, 26-24, 20-25 and 10-15.

The following night, the Lady Sharks were at home against Franklin County, coming up short in four games, 25-19, 21-25, 17-25 and 24-26.

Sophomore Daphne Baptista, setter, is healthy again and ready to practice, coach Wayne Taylor said.

Baptista has been out with a fractured fibula since FSU camp in July.

"She'll definitely be another asset to the team," Taylor said.

The team serving percentage is improving. Against Franklin County the Lady Sharks were 98 percent as a team with only two serving errors.

"Again, getting that first pass seems to be our hardest hurdle to clear," Taylor said. "With 13 digging errors and 18 receiving errors, you just can't expect to win a close match by giving away 31 of the points.

"Each match seems to be showing more and more signs of improvement."

The Lady Sharks were at Blountstown on Tuesday as the second half of the season gets underway.

Sports BRIEFS

Star Staff Report

Cottondale pulls away from Wewahitchka

WEWAHITCHKA — Cottondale held Wewahitchka scoreless in the second half and pulled away for a 34-20 District 2-1A victory in a football game Friday night.

The two teams were knotted 20-20 at halftime, and the host Gators failed to keep pace.

Wewa quarterback Rashard Rainey ran for a 4-yard touchdown, and he also heaved a pair of long touchdown passes. He connected with Jay Shiver on a 70-yard touchdown reception and later added a 57-yard pass to Jarvest Sherfield for another touchdown.

Jalyn Addison led the Gators (1-3) with 10 carries for 61 yards. Rainey completed just 5 of 17 passes but threw for 185 yards. Sherfield had three catches for 86 yards.

WHS cross country competes at Graceville, Tallahassee

The Wewahitchka High School cross country competed in a meet Sept. 12 at Graceville.

The boys' team placed second, led by Jakob Bidwell. Following Bidwell across the line were Micah Lister, Josh Epps, Shaquille Scott, Elijah Sarmiento, Colby Gay and Weston Sarmiento.

The Lady Gators placed fourth led by Ashleigh Price. Price was followed by ShaMario Cole, Rylee Waters, Mileena Shirah, Emily Roberts and Brooke Hysmith.

The cross country team also competed in a meet at Tom Brown Park in Tallahassee.

The boys were again led by Bidwell, Lister, Epps, Jason Haire, Scott, Gay, Elijah Sarmiento, Weston Sarmiento, Charlie Laird and Jonah Bidwell, in that order of finish.

The girls also did well, said coach Mary Holley, with Price leading the way in front of Cole, Waters, Brittany Griffin and Tara Walding.

Lady Gators improve to 7-3 in volleyball

The Wewahitchka High School volleyball team beat Port St. Joe and Graceville and Franklin County to reach 7-3 as the season reached its midpoint.

The Lady Gators beat Franklin County in four games, 25-10, 23-25, 25-22 and 25-6 before returning home to beat Port St. Joe in five, 23-25, 25-13, 24-26, 25-20 and 15-10.

The Lady Gators also swept a doubleheader with Graceville, winning the first best-of-three match 25-18 and 25-19 before winning a best-of-five match, 25-11, 10-25, 25-5 and 25-17.

The Lady Gators played at Franklin County on Monday.

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The Wewahitchka Dixie Girls Softball Team would like to thank the following businesses and individuals for their support in making our team's trip to the World Series possible and a memory of a lifetime!

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PSJES named 'School of Distinction'

Star Staff Report

Port St. Joe Elementary School, partnering with Gulf Coast State College, is among 20 schools nationwide and the only school in Florida to be honored by College For Every Student as a 2011-2012 "School of Distinction." Last week, CFES Program Director Carol Cathey presented a "School of Distinction" banner to Principal Sue Gannon, CFES Scholars, team members and Gulf County Superintendent Jim Norton.

"The CFES program has proven to be of benefit to all of our students grades pre-K through 6, and it is a honor to receive recognition as a CFES School of Distinction," Gannon said.

The CFES "School of Distinction" award recognizes schools that have exemplary programs incorporating the three CFES core practices: Leadership through Service, Mentoring, and Pathways to College. "Schools of Distinction" offer school-wide activities that enable all students

and their families to learn about the college application process, financial aid, and strategies that foster college persistence.

"The faculty members on the CFES team worked diligently with students and Gulf Coast State College representatives to complete all of the necessary requirements for this honor," Gannon stated. "Because of their efforts, our students are much more aware of the college opportunities

See PSJES B6



FILE PHOTOS

Will Rambeaux (right) will return to Blast on the Bay Songwriters' Festival for a fourth year. Below, the Blast on the Bay begins with the Thursday evening bonfire for sponsors and guests.

BEACHSIDE BASH

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

A songwriters' festival, Nashville, Tenn., songwriter Will Rambeaux said, is a chance to "reconnect to that skinny 18-year-old who wanted to be a rock star."

Rambeaux and almost two dozen songwriters will descend on the Forgotten Coast Oct. 19-20 for the fourth annual Blast on the Bay Songwriters' Festival.

"We love it down there," Rambeaux said from the set of a new Nashville-based television series in which he plays, surprise, a songwriter. "Songwriters do this all year round, all over the country. These kinds of festivals are growing."

"Port St. Joe is what I'd call a boutique festival. It is not Key West, where they have something like 300 songwriters and which is the granddaddy of them all. But we keep it small, because we like it that way. The community, the venues, has their

charms. We love it."

In a sense, Rambeaux could be considered the godfather of the Blast on the Bay event. After the closing of the paper mill and a move to attracting tourists to Gulf County, Rambeaux's nephew, who had grown up attending songwriters' festival with Rambeaux, suggested a festival along the Forgotten Coast.

"When it was first proposed I said, 'Port St. What?'" Rambeaux said with a laugh. "I never heard of the place. But I came down and scouted the area and just fell in love with it."

"I thought this is the best-kept secret in Florida."

The initial festival proved such a success that it has steadily grown, from a dozen artists the first year to almost two dozen this year. They will be performing at venues such as Sunset Coastal Grill, the Haughty Heron, Thirsty Goat, Toucan's, Lookout Lounge, Provisions and Mango Marley's.

See BASH B5

GCSC holding health care job training session

By JESSICA MCCARTHY
747-5073 | @PCNHJessica
jmccarthy@pcnh.com

PANAMA CITY — The number of jobs in the health care industry is expanding, and Gulf Coast State College is bringing job training information to the community.

GCSC, in conjunction with Career Step, an online health care school, offers training for health care-related jobs such as medical coding and billing, medical transcription and medical administrative assisting.

Elizabeth Hooks, business training and marketing coordinator for GCSC, said it is about opportunity.

"We want to provide training and information for the health care industry because it's such a growing career field," Hooks said. "It's one of the few industries still expanding in this economic situation."

The online training incorporates feedback from employers, ensuring graduates have the skills needed for the workforce. Some of the programs have been evaluated by industry associations; the medical coding and billing program is approved by the American Health Information Management Association, a certification organization.

Hooks also said for some, this can be a new start.

"So many people are changing careers right now because of the economy and this may be what they need," Hooks said. "They can come and learn about a new career option."

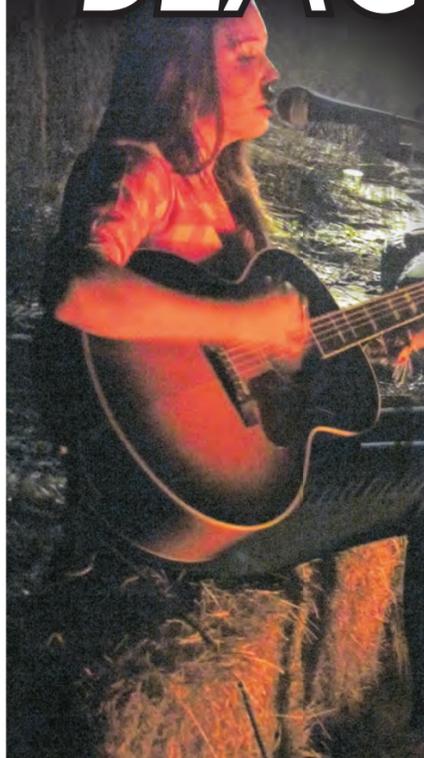
Sherrie Lock, health care coordinator for GCSC, said this online training offers fast beginnings.

"The advantage to the online health-care certificate course is the flexibility in schedule and convenience of learning from home," Lock said. "Students are able to register for the course anytime and begin the training within one to three business days and course access and student support is 24/7. Once the course is successfully completed, student support provides assistance to pass the national certification exam and resources with the job search."

If students enroll in the online training programs by Oct. 31, they might be eligible for a free laptop or discounted tuition.

WANT TO GO?

What: Info session on health care job training
Where: Gibson Lecture Hall, Student Union East, GCSC
When: 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Thursday
To register: Sherrie Lock at 850-872-3823 or slock@gulfcoast.edu



PSJHS inducts 6 into Athletics Hall of Fame

Star Staff Report

During halftime of last week's contest against Blountstown, Port St. Joe High School inducted six new members into the school's Athletic Hall of Fame, which already features greats such as Adrian Gant, David Langston and Vernon Eppinette.

The six run the gamut, from a player on the school's first state championship football team — when the game was played six a side — to a long-time announcer, two of the great coaches to walk the halls of Port St. Joe High and one of the great female athletes in school history.

The six were:

Billy Fleming

Named "Most Athletic" in 1949, Fleming became the voice of the Port St. Joe Sharks shortly after graduating high school.

During a span of four decades, Fleming's voice, described as a steady baritone, announced every Port St. Joe game from 1952-1987. Fleming was known to his accuracy and for his naming players and numbers, no matter the talent level.



BILLY FLEMING

On those rare occasions he missed the play, Fleming was known to simply say, "A host of Sharks in on the play" and leave it at that.

While at Port St. Joe, Fleming played and was a standout in football and basketball.

After his retirement as Shark public address announcer, he was succeeded by his son-in-law, Teedy Nobles, and grandson, Bobby Nobles, - all Sharks themselves.

Fleming was also known for his famous fourth-quarter pronouncement, "Following the game, there will be a [Victory Dance] at the Centennial Building...\$2 stag and \$3 drag."

Holly M. Russ

Holly Russ was the youngest of 10 and a 1988 graduate of Port St. Joe High School where she excelled as a student/athlete, particularly in basketball. She was a three year MVP, a member of the state Class 2A first team as a junior and senior, named first team All-Big-Bend in Class 2A and she finished her high school career in the regional finals.



HOLLY M. RUSS

See HALL OF FAME B7

County schools to participate in Fields of Faith event

Star Staff Report

Students from Gulf and Franklin county schools will be joining thousands of other students on athletic fields across the nation on Wednesday, Oct. 17 to share their faith with fellow students during the seventh annual Fields of Faith, sponsored by the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

This rapidly-growing, interdenominational outreach event will be held at more than 400 locations across the country.

While many Christian rallies are anchored

to an entertainer or professional speaker that creates a spectator event, Fields of Faith is structured as a student-to-student ministry. Peers invite their own classmates and teammates to meet on their school's athletic field to hear fellow students share their testimonies, challenge them to read the Bible and to come to faith in Jesus Christ.

This will be the first Fields of Faith event in Gulf County.

Since the beginning of Fields of Faith in 2004, more than 500,000

students have joined. In 2011, 160,000 students gathered on 475 fields across 36 states.

While Fields of Faith has its roots with FCA leadership, the event is designed to include multiple national Christian organizations, local churches and ministries. A local leadership will determine the program at each Fields of Faith event.

More information about Fields of Faith is available at FieldsOfFaith.com. To learn more about the event in Port St. Joe, contact Dena Sapp at 478-957-4501.

Patrick joins Boardwalk Realty

Star Staff Report

Boardwalk Realty of NW Florida, Inc. welcomes Michael Patrick. Michael is originally from Wyalusing, PA and has lived and enjoyed living in Port St. Joe since 2009.

Like many, after vacationing to the area with his family for the last 20 years, he and his family chose to make Port St. Joe their home.

He is a pilot, loves photography, scalloping, fishing, cooking and all that has to do with enjoying St. Joseph Bay.

Michael is a Florida-licensed real estate agent and a graduate of West Virginia University. His specialty is First Time Home Buyers and Relocation. As a resident of Port St. Joe, he knows not only the area, but the lifestyle and looks forward to helping you reach your real estate dreams. Michael can be reached at his office 227-7891.



Mike Patrick

SPECIAL TO THE STAR

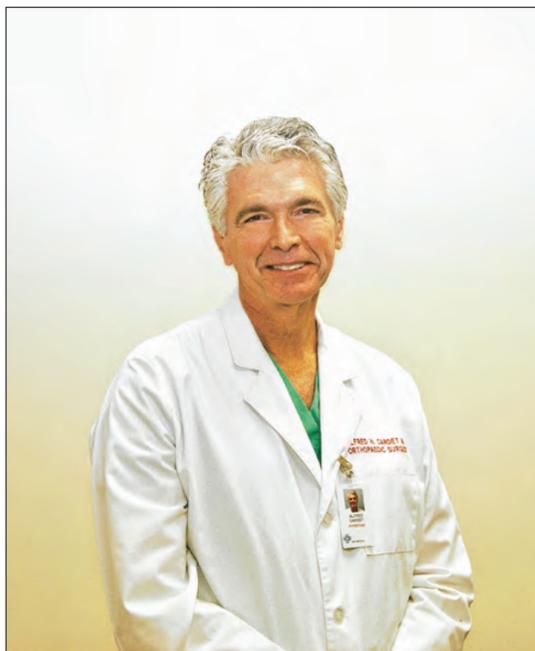
Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf Welcomes Alfred Cardet, MD

Star Staff Report

Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf welcomes to its staff Dr. Alfred Cardet, a board certified orthopedic surgeon. Dr. Cardet is an orthopedic surgeon with Bay Medical (a member of Sacred Heart Health System) and has recently received privileges to admit patients at Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf.

Dr. Cardet will be providing services to Bay, Gulf, and Franklin County residents at the Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf Medical Office Building on Thursdays, beginning on September 27.

Dr. Cardet is a member of the American Board of Orthopedic Surgery. He attended medical school at University of Miami/Jackson Memorial, Miami, Florida and an internship at John A. Burns School of Medicine, Honolulu, Hawaii. He later returned to the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial to complete his residency.



Dr. Cardet brings nearly 30 years of medical experience in orthopedic surgery. To schedule an appointment with Dr. Cardet, please ask your primary physician to refer you. If you have questions regarding the services that Dr. Cardet will be providing, please contact his offices at 850-914-7060.

Godwin honored

By UF/IFAS Extension and Farm Credit

On Friday, Aug. 17, 13 innovative farmers and ranchers were recognized by University of Florida IFAS Extension and Farm Credit of Northwest Florida at the Jay Community Center in Santa Rosa County. This is the second year these two organizations have teamed up to honor a selection of the Top Innovative Farmers in the Florida Panhandle.

Mark Godwin was recognized as Gulf County Agriculture Innovator of the Year by Roy Lee Carter, Gulf County Extension Director.

Mark operates Gulf Shrimp Farms near the Howard Creek Community. Gulf Shrimp Farms is a business that produces the pacific white shrimp in a pond culture. These shrimp are normally grown in the Gulf of Mexico and other saltwater bodies. Mark was able to drill a well 1,200 feet deep and tap into the underground aquifer and amazingly found water with the same salinity as sea water. He has approximately 55 acres in production at present and plans to double acres in the very near future.

POSEY, LINDSEY BENEFIT

Star Staff Report

There will be a benefit for Marsha Posey and Carol Jean Lindsey to help with the cost of medical and travel expenses due to both battling cancer. We will be doing photographs at noon ET on Saturday, Sept. 29, at Windmark Beach. There will be a minimum of a \$10 donation and it will include your pictures being taken and put on disc. Please come out and help support these amazing ladies!"

WEWAHITCHKA WOMAN'S CLUB AUCTION

Star Staff Report

The GFWC Wewahitchka Woman's Club, Inc., will be holding an auction at 9 a.m. CT on Saturday, Oct. 27, at Lake Alice Park. Items are needed for this auction. If you have anything that you would like to donate to the auction, we will take "almost" anything, and

will pick up the item(s). The Club is also selling tickets for "Desserts for a Year." Tickets are \$5 each and the winner will receive a homemade dessert made by members of the Club each month for a year. Drawing for the "Desserts for a Year" will be done during the upcoming auction. If you would like to donate

any items or purchase tickets for the "Desserts for a Year," please call either Patty Fisher at 639-9794 or Dianne Semmes at 639-5345/227-6425. All proceeds from these projects will go to scholarships for students at Wewahitchka High School, as well as various projects to help support our community.

Gulf County Senior citizens need your help

Star Staff Report

Gulf County Senior Citizens at 120 Library Drive in Port St. Joe are asking for donations of non-perishable foods for low-income seniors such as juice, canned

tuna and chicken, soup or vegetables. Small inexpensive bingo prizes are always needed for clients that love to play bingo several times a week. They provide hot nutritious, noon meals Monday through Friday to seniors

60 and over. Transportation may be available to meal sites. Anyone interested in coming to sites in Port St. Joe or Wewahitchka for meals and activities or who would like to donate any of the items listed above may call Debbie at 229-8466.

PET OF THE WEEK

St. Joseph Bay Humane Society



Meet the beautiful, green eyed and sweet Babykins. She is very sociable with kids and adults and has adapted well as a kitten watcher in the catio. Babykins is an upper deck kitty and would enjoy being spoiled in a furrever home where she would be a purrfect lady at all times. Give this sweet girl a second chance. Babykins adoption fee has been reduced.

WE ARE IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH SOME GENERAL MAINTANCE, CLEANING, PAINTING ECT...
VOLUNTEERS ARE ALSO NEEDED FOR PET SOCIALIZATION AND FOSTER HOMES.
SCHOOL CREDIT AVAILABLE TO QUALIFIED STUDENTS.

JOIN US FOR YAPPY HOUR AT TIKI PALMS INN!
FRIDAY, SEPT 28, 4PM TO 7PM
517 4TH STREET, 227-7454
Proceeds to benefit the St. Joseph Bay Humane Society



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Coin Show sponsored by Ft. Walton Beach Coin Club.

Saturday, September 29, 10 am - 5 pm and Sunday, September 30, 10 am - 4 pm.

In the Atrium of Westwood Retirement Resort, 1001 MarWalt Drive, FWB, FL (across from FWB Medical Center). FREE Coin to all Attendees signing in @ Welcome Table.

Admission = FREE Parking = FREE.
Coin Dealers from all over the southeast will be set up. Buy-Sell-Trade, Coins, Paper Money, Tokens, Medals. Numismatic literature available while supplies last. Don't Miss The Fun!
For additional info:
Dave (850) 936-4892 or Bill (850) 865-0529.

SHARK TALK



Special to The Star

The school year is in full swing and the students at Port St Joe Junior-Senior High School are rapidly moving forward. SGA kicked it off with a GREAT first day program and we already have 5 weeks of school in the books.

For parents, a progress report is sent home with your student every four weeks, so, if you haven't seen a Progress Report yet, ASK!

A BIG THANK YOU goes out to Mrs. Wanda Nixon and Ms. Pam Lister, our Guidance Department, who did a fantastic job with our College Fair held on Sept. 9. Over 25 Colleges and Universities were represented and truly made Port St Joe the center of College Information.

Football is in full swing. Our Sharks are in the mix for a District Championship. Come and see the Sharks take on Holmes County at 7:30 p.m. ET on Friday at Shark Field. Shark Field is also the place you can also our JV host Bozeman at 7 p.m. tonight. GO SHARKS.

Our Volleyball Teams are competing all over Northwest Florida. Our young Varsity, coached by Mr. Wayne Taylor, has been up against some pretty stiff competition but is gaining the experience needed to be true champions. Come support the Lady Sharks at 6 p.m. ET Tuesday, Oct. 2 when they host Liberty County. The JV's coached by Mrs. Karen Taylor, start the contest with the Varsity game following.

Coach "K" has taken the reins of our Cross Country Team. They hosted a District meet on Wednesday the 26th, and travel to Bay High on Oct. 6 to continue their quest for a district berth. Good Luck to our Cross Country runners.

The votes are in, and this year's Homecoming Court will be announced this week. Homecoming is Friday, Oct. 12 against Rocky Bayou. Festivities kick off with a Parade down Reid Avenue at 3:15 p.m. followed by kick-off at 7:30 p.m.

Any group, business, individual, club, etc. interested in participating in our Homecoming Parade, please contact LCDR Jarosz at 229-6177 and leave your Group Name, type of participation (Float, Golf Cart, classic vehicle, walking), Point of Contact, Phone Number and E-Mail address. The deadline for participation requests is Wednesday, October 10, 2012. Congratulations to the following Anniversaries; Classes of 1962 (50th), 1972 (40th), 1982 (30th), 1987 (25th), 1992 (20th), 2002 (10th), 2012 (1st). Come celebrate with us on October 12th.

If you would like to know what's going on at Port St Joe Junior-Senior High School, we can send you a copy of our weekly schedule. Email LCDR Jarosz at mjarosz@gulf.k12.fl.us and he'll put you on the "Shark Bites" list. Community support is essential for the success of all our programs. Come see what's happening and support The Sharks!

DAZZLING DOLPHINS



Port St. Joe Elementary School

Front Row: Ella Dimitrijevic, Nijah Quinn, Ava Kennedy, Cody Lamb.
Back Row: Caleb Schweikert, Troy Bell, Kyndell Moore, Karys Linton, Skylar Addison, Gunner Grogan.

PRINCIPAL'S SPECIAL RECOGNITION



WES Elementary School

Tray Mozie is in Ms. Bower's third grade class. "Tray is exceptionally mature and independent. He is a reliable young man who understands the importance of taking his school work seriously."

Registration begins for after-school art classes

Star Staff Report

Two four-week sessions of "Clay After School" art classes will be offered this fall for children ages 8 and up at The Artery Studio, 214 Williams Avenue.

Classes will be offered from 3:15 to 5:15 p.m. ET on Tuesday afternoons.

Session one begins Oct. 9, and runs for four consecutive weeks, and session two begins Nov. 6 running through Dec. 4, with a break during the week of Thanksgiving. Children may be dropped off immediately after school to enjoy social time and a snack before class.

The instructor for the class is Leslie Wentzell, an accomplished Port St. Joe artist who works primarily in clay, and is the owner of The Artery Studio.

"Working with clay helps children develop coordination, concentration, self esteem and teaches them

how to transform ideas into creative expression," said Wentzell.

The students will learn many different kinds of techniques in the classes, such as the pinch method, coiling, slab work, cartooning (figurines), abstract work, and various textured applications. While no prior clay experience is necessary. More challenging work will be offered to children with previous experience.

Wentzell enjoys sharing her love of art with young people, and has previously taught clay classes for the Gulf Alliance for Local Arts (GALA), as well as at the Visual Arts Center in Panama City. She has been an Artist-In-Residence at Port St. Joe Junior/Senior High School and at Franklin County Elementary School through a program offered by Very Special Arts-Florida (VSA-Florida).

"While teaching

technique is very important with clay, I try to incorporate broader art concepts into all of my teaching," she said.

The cost for the classes is \$60 for a four-week session. Each session will be different, with different projects, and all materials and firing are included. A \$20 family discount per additional child (\$40 cost per session) is available.

Additionally, a limited number of scholarships are available. Registration for the classes may be done at The Artery, which is open Wednesday through Friday afternoons, and Saturdays, or on their web site (www.ArteryStudio.com). More information is available by calling The Artery at 850-227-5741.

The Lion's TALE

Fundraising: Investing in our children

By KATHIE SARMIENTO
Special to The Star



The Lion's Tale

In his best selling book "Life's Little Instruction Book," H. Jackson Brown said, "Always buy from the kids that are trying to raise money." This can be a challenge in today's tough economic times. It seems that every sport, church, school, or civic group is in need. However, we must try to remember that it is all about the greater good. When you participate in a fundraiser, you are making an invest-

ment in the life of a child. So, everyone benefits.

FCS students are coming to a neighborhood near you. Be sure to look through the newest gift catalog for Christmas gifts.

THANK YOU to all the parents, students, and customers involved in the local fundraising projects. We are going to make the world a better place, one campaign at a time.

LGA Autumn Action

St. Joseph Bay Golf Club
Sunday
October 7, 2012
700 Country Club Road
Port St Joe, FL 32456

Shotgun Start
1:00 p.m. EST
It's a Family Affair!
Proceeds Go To: DBI's High School / High Tech Program; Gulf County Domestic Violence Task Force; and LGA

Scramble Golf Tournament

Hole-in-One Prize
Chevrolet Cruze from Bill Cramer Chevrolet

First Place Team
\$400 Cash
Second Place Team
\$300 Cash

Third Place Team
\$200 Cash
Junior Team Trophy

WELCOME Men, Women & Teens
Mixed Teams
Entry Fee: \$65 Non-Member \$55 Member
4 Person Teams ABCD Format

Entry Fee Includes:
Cart & Greens Fees
Dinner for Players
Door Prizes Galore

Practice Round: Sunday
\$25.00 Includes:
Cart, Greens Fees & Taxes

Rain Date:
October 14, 2012

For More Info, or Registration Forms
Contact: Patricia Hardman
850-627-2347
850-227-1751
Deadline: October 5, 2012

Longest Drive Closest to Pin
Women - Prize
Men - Prize
Teens - Prize

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Obituaries

Everett Andreus Gant

Everett Andréus was born to Adrian F. Gant, Jr. and Gloria Benn Gant on September 26, 1979, in Panama City, Fl. He attended Port St. Joe Elementary and High School where he graduated in 1997. He matriculated to Livingston University in Livingston, Al., where he studied Computer Science before moving back to Port St. Joe.

Everett was employed in many places where he was able to touch many people, but he loved being outdoors. He was employed by Coastal Landscaping and Design for the past four years where everyone could honk and wave at him when they saw him.

Everett confessed faith in Christ at an early age and became a member of Zion Fair Missionary Baptist Church. On September 17, 2012, God called Everett home after a brave fight.

He was preceded in death by his Grandfather

James Benn and Aunt Carmelita Davis.

Many will have happy, joyful memories of Everett.

However, he will be especially remembered by his parents Adrian and Gloria Gant; grandparents Adrian (Sr.) and Mae Ella Gant, Fannie Little; his daughter Kahlan Gant; his sisters Tracie (Robert Jr.) Jones, Elitha (Lonzy) Harrison, and Natalie (LaJuan) Zaccaro; his uncles Preston (Elaine) Gant, Jerome (Kim) Gant, Castelder (Desiree) Gant, Dewayne (Annie)

Benn, James Benn, Jr., Darrell Benn, Bernard Little, and Joe Little; aunts Aundray Benn, Deborah Davenport, Trudy Cooper, Angie Porter, Belinda Johnson; nieces and nephews Natasha Allen, Renzie Williams, Morgan Gant, Arianna Allen, and Roman Harrison. A host of cousins, great aunts and uncles, friends, co-workers and others who just may have needed a little help or shared a joke and a kind word will also have great memories of Everett.



EVERETT ANDREUS GANT

Roger E. Mims

Roger E. Mims passed away peacefully on September 17, 2012 at Covenant Hospice in Bay County after a long illness. He was born June 2, 1931 in Camilla, GA.

He is survived by his wife Josiane; his daughter, Valerie M. Dykstra (husband Craig); two granddaughters Amy and Anne; and by two stepsons, Stephen Kuhn (wife Lynda) and grandchildren Danielle, Zachary, Matthew,

Ethan, and Philip M. Kuhn (wife Debra) and grandchildren Philip, Jr., Michelle and Jessica; brothers Johnny, Glenn, Danny (wife Joanie); and sister Willene; and many cousins, nephews and nieces.

In lieu of flowers please make donations to Covenant Hospice in Panama City. There will be a memorial service at 1 p.m. ET on Saturday, September 29, 2012 at First United Methodist Church in Port St. Joe.



ROGER E. MIMS

Jesus is amazing grace

Lord, we know we're not temptation proof, we fail you every day.

We ask you Lord for guidance, as we travel life's highway.

Things like pride can provide an opening for the thrust of a satanic dark.

A critical tongue and quick temper also play a good part.

Impatience and the love of money bring with it temptation too.

Anything contrary to your will is what most people want to do.

If you belong to Jesus you have a job to do.

It matters not how large or small the job is just for you.

When doing this job stay close to God, read the word and pray.

It's hard for Satan's darts to strike with angel wings in the way.

Then hopefully we can say with Paul, we fought a good fight, we ran a good race.

We thank you Lord for your amazing grace.

Billy Johnson

Author of 'The Shack' talks spirituality at Lifetree Café

Special to The Star

William Paul Young, best known as the author of "The Shack," will discuss the difference between being spiritual and being religious in an exclusive filmed interview at Lifetree Café on Monday, October 1, 2012 at 7 p.m.

Nearly 30 percent of Americans identify themselves as spiritual but not religious, and the trend is growing. Young's best seller has prompted a national discussion of the difference between spirituality and religion.

"I make a distinction between the church as an organization and the church as people," says Young. "Biblically speaking, the church is people. It's only people. They didn't have the buildings, the structures, or platforms. It's simply people."

The Lifetree event, titled "Spiritual but Not Religious," offers participants the opportunity to explore the issue in a safe, open environment.

Admission to the 60-minute event is free. Snacks and beverages are available. Lifetree Café is at 1602 U.S. Highway 98 in Mexico Beach, across from El Governor Hotel.

Lifetree Café is a place where people gather for conversation about life and faith in a casual coffeehouse-type setting. Questions about Lifetree may be directed to Gary Grubb at 334-806-5667 or lwclifetreecafe@fairpoint.net.

Faith BRIEFS

Blessing of the animals at St. James'

Thursday, Oct. 4 is the celebration of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi who is noted for his love of animals. St. James' is offering a service of "Blessing of the Animals," in anticipation of the Feast Day, on Saturday, Sept. 29 at 4 p.m. ET. If you would like to have your pet blessed, please assemble in the church parking lot by 4 p.m. All animals must be on a lead, in a carrier, or otherwise suitably

restrained — you can imagine the chaos if they were not. St. James' is at 800 22nd St.

New Bethel anniversary

Pastor Cyril Mills and Sister Pamela Mills and New Bethel Baptist Church will celebrate the church's anniversary at 11 a.m. ET on Sunday, Oct. 7. Sister Brenda Fisher is chairperson for the event.

New Bethel Women/Men

annual observance

New Bethel Baptist Church will celebrate its annual Women/Men Observance at 11 a.m. ET on Sunday, Oct. 21. Chairperson is Evangelist Jennifer Bailey.

New Bethel Harvest Musical

New Bethel Baptist Church will host a Harvest Evening Musical at 5 p.m. ET on Saturday, Nov. 17. The colors are harvest colors. Chairperson is Sister Bonita Smith.

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Pastors Andrew & Cathy Rutherford
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Sunday Night Prayer 6pm
Wednesday 6pm

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Traditional Worship: 11:00 a.m. ET

Rev. Mac Fulcher
Pastor

Ann Comforter
Music Director

Deborah Tuttle
Director of Children Ministries

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

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

Dinner.....5:00 - 6:00 pm
AWANA.....6:00 - 7:30 pm
Surrender Student Ministry.....6:15 - 7:30 pm
Prayer/Bible Study.....6:30 - 7:30 pm
Read the Bible for Life Class.....6:15 - 7:30 pm
Nursery.....6:00 - 7:30 pm

www.fbcpsj.org

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Service Times
Sunday School.....9:45 am
Worship Service.....10:00 am
Discipleship Training.....5:00 pm
Evening Worship.....6:00 pm
Wednesday Night.....7:00 pm

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

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

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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

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Sunday School 9:00 AM
Morning worship all ages 10:00 AM

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

Nursery provided for all services

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SUNDAY : WORSHIP AT SUNSET PARK 8 AM
10:30 AM ON THE 2ND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH
SUNDAY: BIBLE CLASS 9:30 AM
SATURDAY : COFFEE TIME 9 - 11 AM
MONDAY : LIFE TREE CAFÉ 7 PM
WEDNESDAY: MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 8 AM & WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 5 PM

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9:45 a.m CST Bible Study
11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship

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BASH from page B1

SCHEDULE OF PERFORMANCES

Oct. 19

6 p.m. - Provisions
6:30 p.m. -
Thirsty Goat
7 p.m. (CT) -
Mango Marley's

Oct. 20

2 p.m. - Dockside
Cafe | Port Saint Joe
Marina-Songwriters'
Workshop
5 p.m. - Lookout
Lounge
6 p.m. - Sunset
Coastal Grill
7 p.m. - Haughty
Heron
6:30 p.m. (CT)
- Toucan's

Oct. 21

2 p.m. - Indian
Pass Raw Bar

As with each prior year, there will be a songwriters' workshop the Saturday of the event at Dockside Cafe, and the event will wrap up with hugely-popular Sunday afternoon jam session at the Indian Pass Raw Bar.

"We love doing the workshop," Rambeaux said. "We get a lot of people, it is very informal, and there are some good people who come out because they love songwriting and love music. It is great and you can get some ideas."

The beauty of it all for the public, the performances are all free beyond any door charge by the venue.

For the songwriters, the festival feeds several appetites.

One is networking, Rambeaux said. A second is the chance to bounce ideas off on another and write some songs. Another is a chance to see a songwriter you may not have had a chance to see in the stratified world of Nashville, Rambeaux said.

And, finally, there is the joy of picking up the guitar and being that teenager longing to be a



FILE PHOTO

Every year, songwriters perform during the Semper Fi Sisters "Boxes of Love" packing party at the Centennial Building. The two events have become linked since being established four years ago.

rock star again.

"The big secret is that all songwriters are closet performers," Rambeaux said. "In Nashville, you don't get that chance to perform. Your job is to be in a room and write songs."

"But at a festival we get to do what we started

out doing and what we love to do. You get to go back to being that skinny 18-year-old who wanted to

be a rock star. That is so great."

A dynamic that has grown uniquely during

the growth of Blast on the Bay is the event's connection to the Semper Fi Sisters, wives, mothers, grandmothers, sisters and aunts of deployed military personnel, who hold their annual "Beach Blast" at the same time as the festival.

The two events have grown together, founded in the same year. The Semper Fi Sisters provide volunteer work at some of the songwriting festival venues, some of the songwriters will perform during the SFS's "Boxes of Love" packing party, and the two events are partial sponsors of the other.

"They are great girls and we love playing for them and supporting them," Rambeaux said. "In every era there are young people who put on that uniform to save the rest of our (rear ends). I wasn't in the military myself, but I have come to really appreciate those who serve."

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DID YOU GET YOUR FLU SHOT YET???

It's that time of the year again.....FLU SEASON!
The GULF COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
will provide 2 Flu Shot Clinics in October to better serve you!
BELOW ARE THE DATES AND LOCATIONS:

Gulf County Health Department Location	Date	Time
Port St. Joe Clinic 2475 Garrison Ave. Port St. Joe, FL 32456 850-227-1276	October 6, 2012	9:00am - 1:00pm Eastern Time
Wewahitchka Clinic 807 West Hwy 22 Wewahitchka, FL 32465 850-639-2644	October 13, 2012	9:00am - 1:00pm Central Time



***Flu Shots are \$25.00.**
Please bring your identification and insurance cards.

We accept most Third Party Insurances.

***Unable to make it to either clinic? Call us to schedule an appointment.**

CONTACT INFO for Gulf County Health Department:

Port St. Joe Clinic
(850) 227-1276

Wewahitchka Clinic
(850) 639-2644



Chrysanthemums for your landscape

The blooming chrysanthemum is a sure sign of fall. These attractive and versatile flowers are showing up in nurseries, garden and florist shops, supermarkets, around homes, and, of course, at football games. We thought you might like to grow some of these hardy plants for your own enjoyment. Our focus in this article will be on the care and culture of chrysanthemums in landscape settings.

Commonly called "mums", chrysanthemums are available in a wide range of flower colors, shapes, and sizes. My information on these popular plants was provided by Emeritus Extension urban Horticulturist Dr. Robert Black, of the University of

Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Science.

There are two basic types of chrysanthemums, garden mums, and florist or pot mums. Those in the latter group are sold primarily as corsages and cut flowers, or as gift plants for indoor growth. They are not suited to garden culture. For outdoor plantings, you should purchase garden mum varieties from a nursery or garden center.



ROY LEE CARTER
County extension director

If you want to start a fall bed of chrysanthemums, buy full grown garden mums to plant now. These will probably already be in bloom. With proper care and a little luck you may enjoy their flowers from now through December and for years to come, because chrysanthemums are grown

as perennials here in Florida providing a new burst of color each fall.

Each spring, you could add to your chrysanthemum plantings with cuttings which you could root yourself from present stock. You could purchase some young plants that are already started.

Chrysanthemums will grow in almost any well-drained soil, as long as it contains plenty of organic material. If your landscape is low in organic matter, thoroughly work in a three or four inch layer of peat moss prior to planting.

Apply an 8-8-8 or 10-10-10 fertilizer, at the rate of one pound per 100 square feet of garden bed, three times a year in spring, early summer, and late summer. Be careful to keep the fertilizer off the foliage. Make sure the soil is moist before you fertilize, to avoid

root burn and, water thoroughly after fertilizing, to distribute the material throughout the root zone.

Strong, low-growing chrysanthemums seldom need staking. However, weak stemmed plants and exhibition varieties do require some form of support. Place stakes close to the plant when you set them. Staking later may injure developing root systems.

Young chrysanthemums should be pinched periodically during spring and summer, to develop compact plants with many flowers. When chrysanthemums reach 6 to 8 inches in height, remove about half the stem, leaving three sets of leaves. This will cause lateral branches to form. When these reach 6 to 8 inches in length, pinch again, and continue pinching back until about the first week in August.

When flower beds begin to form. Any later pruning will limit the number of blooms.

Several disease and pests can damage chrysanthemums. Fungus ailments, such as septoria leaf spot, mildew, botrytis, and ray blight, discolor leaves and blooms. Certain nematodes are a threat to both leaves and roots. Aphids, spider mites, thrips, and some caterpillars may also feast on chrysanthemum foliage and flowers. But, don't be alarmed. Effective controls are available. So at the first sign of trouble, check with your garden center operator, or your county extension agent.

For more information on chrysanthemum production contact the Gulf County Extension Service at 639-3200, 229-2909 or visit our website: <http://gulfcifas.ufl.edu>.



THE PORT ST. JOE STAR
FIND US
ON FACEBOOK

Bay Day Festival
Saturday October 6
11:00 to 2:00 EDT*

St. Joseph Bay Preserves Center
3915 Highway 30-A, Port St. Joe, Florida



*Served until food runs out. Come early!

\$10.00 donation per meal
All proceeds benefit The Friends of St. Joseph Bay Preserves

Menu
Boiled Shrimp
Sausage
Potatoes
Corn on the Cob
Cole Slaw
Garlic Bread
Beverages

Music by the Boyer Band: George, Cletus & Tom
Walk with the Stars Friday Night
Birding Trips
Exhibits
50/50 Raffle

Visit stjosephbaypreserves.org for schedule.
Call (850)229-1787 for more information.




PSJES from page B1

that are available and the need to continue their education after high school."

Brittney Simmons, the assistant coordinator of recruitment at Gulf Coast State College, expressed the sense of pride shared by everyone at Gulf Coast who worked with Port St. Joe Elementary School.

"It has been a pleasure to partner with them and to be a part of such an amazing program," she said. "It is evident when

interacting with their students during various campus visits or when visiting their school that they have a keen interest in learning more about the college experience and the options that are available to them."

Gannon added: "You should have seen how excited our students were after visiting Gulf Coast State College and Haney Vocational School. It opened their eyes to what is available practically in their own backyard."

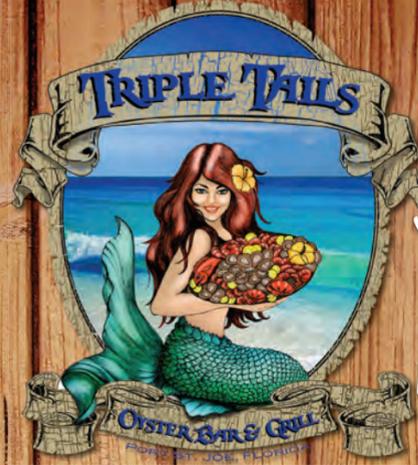


FREE
DIABETES EDUCATION CLASSES TO BE HELD EVERY TUESDAY BEGINNING TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2012
TWO LOCATIONS, TWO TIMES!

10:00AM	5:00PM
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Classes taught by Erica Ceska, Registered Dietitian

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MONDAY:
Fried Catfish Dinner with two side items: \$9.95
Fried Catfish Sandwich with one side: \$5.99

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY: CLOSED

THURSDAY:
Shrimp Dinner with two side items: \$10.95
Shrimp Po'Boy with one side: \$7.95

FRIDAY:
Fried Mullet Dinner with Fries & Coleslaw: \$9.95
Hamburger with Fries \$5.95

SATURDAY: COME WATCH THE GAMES WITH US
\$2.00 Longnecks: Bud Light, Budweiser, Miller Lite, Coors Light
10 wings 7.99, 20 wings 15.99, Fried Green Beans 6.99.

SUNDAY:
Buy one Entrée' at Regular price get 2nd Entrée' at 1/2 Price.
of equal or lesser value

HAPPY HOUR EVERYDAY 4 P.M. TO 6 P.M.
\$1.50 BUD LIGHT & MILLER LITE DRAFT, \$2.50 WELL DRINKS, \$3.00 HOUSE WINE.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Gulf County Tourist Development Council will hold a partner workshop on Tuesday, October 2, 2012, at 1:00 PM E.T in the Board Room at the Robert M. Moore Administration Building, located at 1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr. BLVD, Port St. Joe, Florida, 32456.

The purpose for this workshop is to present the findings from the TDC's recent Social Listening Evaluation and discuss overall best-practices in social media.

David Warriner
Chairman

(2012.91)

HALL OF FAME from page B1

After graduation, Russ received a scholarship to Chipola Junior College, where she attended 1988-1990 and received an AA degree and was voted to the Panhandle Conference first team both years.

The University of Texas El Paso followed and Russ received a BA degree in Liberal Arts/Journalism and was selected to the first team all-WAC Conference and set nine school records during her two years. She was UTEP Athlete of the Year for the 1990-1991 season. Holly continues to hold school records for the highest scoring average (21.9 ppg), most points scored in a single game (40), and most 3-pointers in a game (7 of 13).

She is a member of UTEP's 1,000 point club, and, in 2002, UTEP opened the doors to the Larry K. Durham Sports Center which features a Hall of Champions mural; in it, Russ's image is part of the mural honoring UTEP's athletic heritage, and she is a Hall of Fame inductee for the University of Texas at El Paso.

There were offers to continue playing the game of basketball professionally; however, Russ decided to enter into what turned out to be a successful career in finance and banking.

Holly is a member of the Florida High School Athletic Association as a participating sport official for the West Coast Official Association in Tampa, where she is entering her 11th season. She was recognized as the 2011 Meritorious Award recipient for achieving a Rank 1 status in the sport of basketball by the FHSAA. She received certificates of merit as a contest official in the 2009 and 2011 FHSAA Girls' Basketball State Finals. She is an Executive Board member serving as the EEOC Chairperson for the West Coast Officiating Association where she oversees the Evaluation Committee which helps officials in advancement in their officiating careers.

Harry Lee Smith

At any given event or school-related festival in Port St. Joe, Smith is likely to be spotted donning his iconic outfit as "Uncle Sam" and spiring the emotions of those gathered around.

Born in 1936 to Sanders and Pearl Smith, Harry Lee is a life-long resident of Port St. Joe. Like so many others during this period, the Smiths moved to Port St. Joe from Georgia to pursue work at the paper mill and other related businesses that had just started up. After his father's death in a railroad accident in 1942, Harry Lee's mother never re-married, but chose to remain in Port St. Joe, the only place Harry Lee would ever call home.

In the ensuing years, Harry Lee would play football, basketball and track at Port St. Joe High School. After suffering a broken leg during the 1953 football season, Smith, one of the tallest kids in school, would shift his athletic playing focus to basketball, where he became one of the star players.

Smith's standout year was the 1955 season when he garnered 59 rebounds, dominated at the "center" position, and earned the Babe Ruth Sportsmanship Award for basketball and the nickname "Bevo" from Coach Marion Craig, after basketball great, Bevo Francis.

Smith was a member of the 1953 football team; 1954 and 1955 basketball teams; a multi-year letterman at track and field; he participated on all intramural teams at that time; served many years as statistician for football during the Coach Wayne Taylor years; and game clock operator for basketball at Port St. Joe High School during the Coach Bill Dickson years; Harry Lee

also spent many years as a registered official with the FHSAA.

Smith's years of achievement, service and dedication to Port St. Joe are testament of why he's is one of the Greatest of Sharks, friends said.

Kesley Colbert

In 1969, "Coach" Kesley Colbert left Tennessee for Florida to join the coaching staff of Port St. Joe High School. Coach was a History teacher for PSJHS from 1969-1982. Colbert as coach was known for instilling hard-working ethics and a caring attitude that shaped hundreds of lives.

He attended Suwannee (The University of the South), where he was a three-sport standout and played every inning in every game from 1965-69 in baseball.

At PSJHS, Colbert was the only common denominator of all three modern football state championships, he coached football at Port St. Joe in six different decades, was part of two undefeated regular seasons, eight district championships, one state runner up, one rural state championship and state championships in 1971, 1984 and 2005.

Colbert's true love is baseball. His coaching tenure includes four conference titles, six district championships, two regional championships, one Final Four and one state runner-up. Colbert was the Gulf Coast Athletic Conference coach of the year 1981.

Colbert has coached in over 600 PSJHS ball games while being a part of over 400 Shark victories.

Ken Whittle

As a junior, Whittle was the

quarterback and leader of the 1971-72 Football State Champion Sharks.

Whittle was a two-sport athlete: a three-year letterman in football and a four-year letterman in baseball.

He was known by his coaches as a humble, hardworking, intelligent and a fierce competitor. Whittle graduated from Port St. Joe High School in 1973. He went on to play college baseball for Cumberland College and Huntington College.

Whittle contributed much of his success in high school and college athletics to his coaches.

"I was surrounded by so many great coaches who were such a tremendous influence on the lives of so many young men, and I wanted to be like them. They were hard, they were demanding, but they were men of character and I knew they loved us."

In 1978, Whittle accepted a position with Trinity Presbyterian School (in Montgomery, AL) as a physical education teacher and he also coaches football, basketball, and baseball. He became the head baseball coach in 1981, and his teams have won 15 area championships and have advanced past the first round of the state playoffs 19 times. They have won four state championships and Whittle has 602 career wins.

He has won the Montgomery Advisory Baseball Coach of the Year eight times, Alabama Sports Writers Association 3A Coach of the Year in 2009 and in 2012 and was chosen Fellowship of Christian Athletes Coach of the Year in 2010. Ken was inducted into the Alabama High School Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame and the Alabama High School Sports Hall of Fame in 2012.

Dave Maddox

Port St. Joe High School has fielded a football team for almost 75 years. In 1938, the Sharks would play Carrabelle as its first opponent in a football game.

In his modesty, Dave Maddox would say he didn't do anything great — other than, his part. He would probably contend that his early teammates were more deserving of honor.

As with this and so many other treasured stories, Dave Maddox has kept the memory for so much of our past alive, for us all to treasure and enjoy. He is the complete timeline for our community... and for so many years, has served as our unofficial community historian

Dave Maddox, son of Fred and Zola Maddox — pioneer residents of this area — was raised here when we were still a part of Calhoun County. He played football 74 seasons ago wearing a leather helmet. He would letter in football and basketball in 1938 and 1939 and go on to graduate from Port St. Joe High School in 1940.

During World War II, he served his country in both the Merchant Marine and the U. S. Navy in the South Pacific. He would return home to serve as harbor pilot for Port St. Joe for more than 41 years. He married Sara Duke, the love of his life, and they raised four children, Charlotte, David, Donnie and Eva — all Sharks themselves.

After his — and many others — return from the war, Maddox became the ramrod who sparked the building of Shark Field into reality.

In September 1955, the first game was played on this field against the Walton County Braves. Since then, given Friday nights each fall are reserved for uniting our community to root on its Sharks to victory.



HARRY LEE SMITH



KESLEY COLBERT



KEN WHITTLE



DAVE MADDOX




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SPECIAL EXCEPTION NOTICE

The City of Port St. Joe Planning and Development Review Board will hold a Meeting to discuss a Request for a Special Exception on October 9, 2012, 4:00 EST, at City Hall at 305 Cecil Costin Sr. Blvd., Port St Joe, FL for John B Miller located at 229 8th St, Parcel #04947-000R. The reason for the request is Per Section 3.04 (2)(m) of the Land Development Regulations. The proposed plans can be reviewed at the Building Department located at 1002 10th St. and can be reached for questions at (850)229-1093.

All persons are invited to attend this meeting. Any person who decides to appeal any decision made by the Planning and Development Review Board with respect to any matter considered at said meeting will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. The Planning and Review Board 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 these proceedings should contact Charlotte Pierce, City Clerk, City of Port St. Joe, at City Hall, (850)229-8261

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LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

PROPERTY: Defendants
NOTICE OF ACTION
To the following Defendant(s):

DONNA J. GRABAREK Last Known Address 120 E. CHICKSAW LANE PORT ST. JOE, FL 32456

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Foreclosure of Mortgage on the following described property:

LOT 2 INDIAN SUMMER, AS PER PLAT RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 41, IN THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it, on Marinicos Law Group, P.C., Attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is 100 W. Cypress Creek Road, Suite 1045, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33309 on or before October 15th, 2012, a date which is the first (30) days after the first publication of this notice in THE STAR and file the original with the Clerk of 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.

This notice is provided pursuant to Administrative Order No. 2.065.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, Persons with a disability needing special accommodation in order to access court facilities or participate in a court proceeding at any courthouse or court program, should within two (2) days of receipt of notice, contact Court Administration to request such an accommodation, please contact the following: Court Administration, P.O. Box 826, Marianna, Florida 32447; Phone: 850-718-0026; Hearing & Voice Impaired: 1-800-955-8711; Email: ADARequest@jud14.flcourts.org

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Notice of Filing was mailed to all the parties in the attached mailing list.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court this 06th day of August, 2012.

Rebecca L. Norris, Clerk As Clerk of the Court

BA Baxter As Deputy Clerk

Submitted by: Marinicos Law Group, P.C. 100 W. Cypress Creek Road, Suite 1045 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33060 (954)644-8704 FAX (954)772-9601 September 27, 2012 October 4, 2012

89060S IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA

GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION CASE NO.: 23-2012-CA-000096

U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE CERTIFICATE HOLDERS OF HARBORVIEW MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2005-08, MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-08, Plaintiff,



LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE(S) 34 AND 35, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA.

at public sale, to the highest and best bidder, for cash, at Gulf County Courthouse, 1000 5th Street, Port St. Joe, FL 32456 at 11:00 AM, ET on the 18th day of October, 2012.

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

Dated: September 12, 2012

REBECCA NORRIS GULF COUNTY CLERK OF COURT CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

BA Baxter Deputy Clerk

In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons in need of a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding shall, within seven (7) days prior to any proceeding, contact the Administrative Office of the Court, GULF COUNTY COURT HOUSE, 1000 CECIL G. COSTIN, SR. BOULEVARD, ROOM 148, PORT ST. JOE, FL 32456, telephone 850-229-6112, TDD 1-800-955-8771 or 1-800-955-8770 via Florida Relay Service. September 27, 2012 October 4, 2012

89064S IN THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO. 11-511-CA

CENTENNIAL BANK, Plaintiff,

vs. LEON TEAT, ERIC TEAT, WANDA TEAT, JASON M. HART, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY, and ENVISION CREDIT UNION, Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE GIVEN pursuant to a Summary Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated September 10th, 2012 and entered in Civil Action No. 11-511-CA of the Circuit Court of the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit in and for Gulf County, Florida, wherein the parties were the plaintiff, CENTENNIAL BANK, and the defendants, LEON TEAT, ERIC TEAT, WANDA TEAT, JASON M. HART, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY, and ENVISION CREDIT UNION. I will sell to the highest and best bidder, for cash, at 11:00 a.m. (Eastern Time) on the October 18, 2012, at the front door of the Gulf County Courthouse, Port St. Joe, Florida, the following-described real property as set forth in said Final Judgment of Foreclosure:

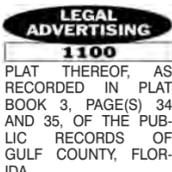
Commence at the Northeast corner of Camp Palms Subdivision on Indian Peninsula as recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 53-A, of the Public Records of Gulf County, Florida, and thence run Southerly along the Western Boundary of said Camp Palms Subdivision 505.97 feet to the Southerly right-of-way boundary of County Road No. S-30-B, thence run Northwest-right-of-way boundary to a point that is 2042.73 feet measured perpendicularly from said Western boundary of Camp Palms Subdivision, thence run North 78 degrees 41 minutes 44 seconds West along said right-of-way boundary 58.09 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING. From said POINT OF BEGINNING thence run South 05 degrees 21 minutes 45 seconds West 346.00 feet, thence run North 78 degrees 42 minutes 09 seconds West 42.04 feet, thence run North 05 degrees 21 minutes 05 seconds East 346.00 feet to a re-bar on the Southerly right-of-way boundary of said County Road No. S-30-B, thence run South 78 degrees 41 minutes 44 seconds East along said

right-of-way boundary 42.00 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

and Lot 8 Commencing at the Northeast corner of Section 31, Township 8 South, Range 8 West, Franklin County, Florida; thence West (assumed) along the North Line said Section 31 for 859.67 feet, thence run South 255.00 feet for the POINT OF BEGINNING; thence continue South for 150.00 feet, thence West 263.65 feet; thence North 35 degrees 35 minutes 05 seconds West 67.63 feet; thence North 95.00 feet; thence East 303.00 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING. Containing 1.015 acres, more or less. Together with a 20.00 foot access easement, more particularly described as follows:

Commence at the Northeast corner of Section 31, Township 8 South, Range 8 West, Franklin County, Florida, and run West along the North boundary of said Section 31 a distance of 859.67 feet, thence run South 110.00 feet, thence run West 283.00 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING. From said POINT OF BEGINNING run South 233.58 feet, thence run South 35 degrees 35 minutes 05 seconds East 298.99 feet, thence run South 15 degrees 47 minutes 00 seconds East 76.14 feet to a point lying on the Northerly right-of-way boundary of a County Graded Road, thence run West along said right-of-way boundary a distance of 20.78 feet, thence leaving said right-of-way boundary run North 15 degrees 47 minutes 00 seconds West 66.99 feet, thence run North 35 degrees 35 minutes 05 seconds West 301.92 feet, thence run North 240.00 feet, thence run East 20.00 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

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



LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

right-of-way boundary 42.00 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

at public sale, to the highest and best bidder, for cash, at Gulf County Courthouse, 1000 5th Street, Port St. Joe, FL 32456 at 11:00 AM, ET on the 18th day of October, 2012.

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

Dated: September 12, 2012

REBECCA NORRIS GULF COUNTY CLERK OF COURT CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

BA Baxter Deputy Clerk

In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons in need of a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding shall, within seven (7) days prior to any proceeding, contact the Administrative Office of the Court, GULF COUNTY COURT HOUSE, 1000 CECIL G. COSTIN, SR. BOULEVARD, ROOM 148, PORT ST. JOE, FL 32456, telephone 850-229-6112, TDD 1-800-955-8771 or 1-800-955-8770 via Florida Relay Service. September 27, 2012 October 4, 2012

89064S IN THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA

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LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

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

DATED THIS 13th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2012.

REBECCA NORRIS CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

BA Baxter Deputy Clerk

This notice is provided pursuant to Administrative Order No. 2.065. In accordance with the American with Disabilities Act, if you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the Court Administrator at 1000 Cecil Costin Boulevard, Rm. 148, Port St. Joe, FL 32456, Phone No. (850)229-6112 within 2 working days of your receipt of this notice or pleading; if you are hearing impaired, call 1-800-955-8771 (TDD); if you are voice impaired, call 1-800-955-8770 (V) (Via Florida Relay Services).

89096S NOTICE UNDER FICTITIOUS NAME LAW PURSUANT TO SECTION 865.09, FLORIDA STATUTES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of One Way Fitness Center located at 209 Reid Avenue, Port St. Joe, FL 32456, in the County of Gulf, in the City of Port St. Joe, Florida 32456 intends to register the said name with the Divisions of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida.

Dated at Port St. Joe, Florida, this 20th day of September, 2012.

WHRS LLC William H. Ramsey, Managing Member September 20, 2012

89481S PUBLIC NOTICE PSJRA Board of Directors Meeting Regular meetings of the Port St. Joe Redevelopment Agency Board of Directors are held on the second Thursday of each month at 10 AM. Specific dates for the first quarter are October 11, November 8, and December 13, 2012. Location is 150 Captain Fred's Place in Port St. Joe, FL. All persons are invited to attend and participate. Anyone want to appeal an official decision made on any subject at the meeting must have a verbatim record of the meeting that includes the testimony and evidence on which the appeal is based. September 27, 2012

89507S NOTICE OF SALE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AMERICA'S MINI STORAGE AND OFFICE, INC., INTENDS TO DISPOSE OF OR OFFER FOR SALE THE PERSONAL PROPERTY DESCRIBED BELOW TO ENFORCE A LIEN IMPOSED ON SAID PROPERTY UNDER THE SELF STORAGE FACILITY ACT STATUTES SECTION 83.801-83.89. AMERICA'S MINI STORAGE AND OFFICE, INC., WILL DISPOSE OF SAID PROPERTY NO LATER THAN THE DATE OF OCTOBER 5, 2012. PROPERTY IS LOCATED AT

SHIP 9 SOUTH RANGE 11 WEST, GULF COUNTY FLORIDA, LYING NORTH OF COUNTY ROAD NO. 30-E BEING 75 FEET IN WIDTH AND EXTENDING FROM THE NORTH SIDE OF COUNTY ROAD NO. 30-E TO THE MEAN HIGH WATER LINE OF ST. JOSEPH BAY.

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

Dated this 13th day of September, 2012

Rebecca L. Norris, Clerk As Clerk of said Court



LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

at public sale, to the highest and best bidder, for cash, at Gulf County Courthouse, 1000 5th Street, Port St. Joe, FL 32456 at 11:00 a.m. ET, on October 18th, 2012.

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

DATED THIS 13th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2012.

REBECCA NORRIS CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

BA Baxter Deputy Clerk

This notice is provided pursuant to Administrative Order No. 2.065. In accordance with the American with Disabilities Act, if you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the Court Administrator at 1000 Cecil Costin Boulevard, Rm. 148, Port St. Joe, FL 32456, Phone No. (850)229-6112 within 2 working days of your receipt of this notice or pleading; if you are hearing impaired, call 1-800-955-8771 (TDD); if you are voice impaired, call 1-800-955-8770 (V) (Via Florida Relay Services).

89096S NOTICE UNDER FICTITIOUS NAME LAW PURSUANT TO SECTION 865.09, FLORIDA STATUTES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of One Way Fitness Center located at 209 Reid Avenue, Port St. Joe, FL 32456, in the County of Gulf, in the City of Port St. Joe, Florida 32456 intends to register the said name with the Divisions of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida.

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Rebecca L. Norris, Clerk As Clerk of said Court



LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

141 COMMERCE DRIVE, PORT ST. JOE, FL. GULF COUNTY.

SALE DATE: Friday, 10/5/2012 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

David and Sara O'Barr 477 Pondersora Pines Port St. Joe, FL 32456

Contents of Storage Unit C-5 10x30

Lots of misc construction (roofing) equipment, utility trailer, 2 pallets of Telacoda tile, personal items, 300SF of stuff.

Will accept highest bid on total unit. Call (850) 229-8014 Sept. 20, 27, 2012

89643S IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO.: 12-132-CA

CAPITAL CITY BANK, Plaintiff,

vs. JOEL A. GODWIN, DONNA M. GODWIN, SEVEN SPRINGS LAKE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC., and U N K N O W N TENANT(S), Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45

NOTICE is given pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated August 28, 2012, in Case No. 12-132-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 JOEL A. GODWIN, DONNA M. GODWIN, and SEVEN SPRINGS LAKE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC. 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 the 11th day of October, 2012, the property set forth in the Final Judgment of Foreclosure and more particularly describe as follows:

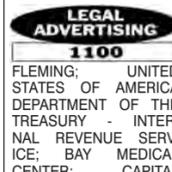
Lot 9, Block B, Seven Springs Lake Subdivision, according to the plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 5, Pages 17 & 18, of the Public Records of Gulf County, Florida.

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

DATED: September 10, 2012.

REBECCA L. NORRIS Clerk of the Circuit Court

By: BA Baxter Deputy Clerk Sept. 20, 27, 2012



LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

FLEMING: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY - INTER-NAL REVENUE SERVICE; BAY MEDICAL CENTER; CAPITAL ONE BANK; and UNKNOWN TENANT(S), Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, OR OTHER PERSONS CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST MAXWELL WOODROW FLEMING, JR. A/K/A MAXWELL W. FLEMING A/K/A DR. MAXWELL W. FLEMING A/K/A MAX FLEMING A/K/A MAX W. FLEMING, DECEASED:

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in Gulf County Florida:

Lots 7, 8, 9 and the North 5 feet of Lot 6, Block 9 of Gulf County Land Company's Subdivision of Wewahatchka, Florida according to the plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 1, Page(s) 11, of the Public Records of Gulf County, Florida.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on GARVIN B. BOWDEN, the plaintiffs attorney, whose address is Gardner, Bist, Wiener, Wadsworth, Bowden, Bush, Dee, LaVia & Wright, PA., 1300 Thomaswood Drive, Tallahassee, Florida 32308, within 30 days of first publication, and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on the plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered

Employment Today

emeraldcoastjobs.com

Have a great first day at work

By PETER VOGT
Monster Senior Contributing Writer

Only a parent could offer the kind of advice Jessica Donnelly got when she started her first job: "My old-fashioned mother warned me to have my clothes ready and bag packed the night before," says Donnelly, a 2005 Marist College graduate who works for a New York City-based public relations firm. "She also told me to eat a good breakfast and arrive early."

It turns out Mom's seemingly simplistic advice was more valuable than Donnelly thought. "Those little precautions helped to make a nerve-filled morning run more smoothly," she says.

Your first day of work will help define you in the eyes of your new co-workers. Make a good first impression, and soon you will be viewed as a capable, respected colleague. But a bad first impression could mean months or years of trying to undo the damage. Here's what you can do — both before and during your start date — to be remembered for all the right reasons.

Before your first day

● **Relearn how to sleep:** Two weeks before your first day, start establishing the sleep habits you'll follow when your new job begins. If you're usually out well past midnight on weeknights, get home earlier or, even better, stay home more often than not. And if you know your new job will require you to wake up at 6 a.m. to catch a 7 a.m. train, start going to bed at 10 p.m. or 11 p.m.

"Most new graduates underestimate how exhausting it is to work a full eight hours," says Carol Vellucci, assistant to the president for communications at Towson University.

● **Study the organization:** The more you know about your new company and its activities before you start, the faster you'll get up to speed.

"I read everything I could on the company to prepare myself for my first day," says Mike Adorno, an Ithaca College graduate who works for Articulate Communications in New York City. That included not only Articulate's website but also its clients' websites.



On your first day

● **Bring a notebook — and use it:** You'll be meeting new people and trying to remember their names, learning about office procedures, becoming familiar with the work environment and discovering how your work fits in with that of your department and colleagues. All of this information can be overwhelming.

"No one can remember it all," says Michael Smith, a professor of mass communications at Campbell University who teaches

a course for his department's interns. "So write it down."

● **Listen and ask questions more than you talk:** When you were in job search mode, it probably took awhile to adjust to talking about yourself and your many outstanding skills and achievements. Now it's time to listen and ask questions instead.

"No one likes a mouthy know-it-all," says Patrick Gray, president of consulting firm Prevoyance Group. "Keeping your ears open can turn into a competitive advantage when

you're able to crack the culture of your new home more quickly and become a more productive and insightful employee."

● **Be ready for indifference or instant action:** You might be welcomed to the organization with apparent indifference — no cubicle, no security badge or even no work to do, says Gray. "Keep a smile on your face, and go with the flow for the first couple of days," he says. "Things will usually get sorted out."

On the other hand, don't be surprised if you're tossed right into the proverbial fire. That's what happened to Cara Chancellor, a 2006 Yale University graduate who works for public relations firm O'Connell and Goldberg. The company immediately called upon Chancellor's fluency in French to pursue a media placement. "Six French phone calls and innumerable French emails later, we secured an interview with Le Monde, the largest and most popular newspaper in France," she says.

What a way to start the day — and a new job.

Featured Jobs



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Email: lbrown@pcnh.com

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SALES SPECIALIST

Capital Area Community Action Agency
HEAD START PROGRAM
is seeking applications for the positions of **Center Director** and **Teacher Assistant** in its Eastpoint location.
Visit www.cacaainc.org for qualifications and to download application, or call (850) 222-2043

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Medical/Health
Caring People
and CNAs needed. Join a team of people who make a difference in the lives of the elderly. Provide non medical companionship, in home help & personal care for the elderly. Must be flexible. PT leading to FT. positions in the Port St. Joe and Apalachicola areas.
Home Instead Senior Care
Call Mon-Thur 9-3pm 850-640-1223 or toll free 1-866-301-1919
Web ID#: 34224375
Text FL24375 to 56654

HELP WANTED 4100
Other
Personal Assistant & Handyman
Furnished apartment possibly available. Salaries negotiable. Must have references. Call (850) 229-4327

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Hospitality
RESORT VACATION PROPERTIES
Accepting applications for a **Full-time Reservationist**
Great benefits. Requires previous sales experience & excellent computer skills. Schedule varies and includes weekend work. Apply in person 9-5 weekdays at 123 W Gulf Beach Dr, St. George Island

HELP WANTED 4100
Sales/Business Dev
Scallop Cove
Now hiring for permanent full time position. Will require working morning and evening shifts. Responsibilities include stocking, lifting, cashier duties, and food prep. Must work well with others and maintain an attitude of gracious customer service. Call Melissa Hart with questions at 227-1573 from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. 4310 Cape San Blas Road.

HELP WANTED 4100
JOB NOTICE
The City of Port St. Joe (pop. 3445) is accepting applications for the following position:
Utility Service Worker — Public Works Department
Please submit an application to
The City of Port St. Joe, Attn: Charlotte Pierce, POB 278, Port St. Joe, FL 32457.
Applications and a full job description can be found on our website cityofportstjoe.com. If you have any questions, please contact Charlotte Pierce at (850)229-8261. The position will close on October 12, 2012. The entry level salary for a Utility Service Worker will be \$12.08 per hr. The City of Port St. Joe is an Equal Opportunity Employer and a Drug Free Workplace.

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Compensation is based on ability.
Apply via email only by sending resume to info@kerigan.com

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Earn While You Learn with the On the Job Training Program
If you are unemployed you may be eligible for the Workforce Center's OJT program. On the job training gives you hands on experience in a new job — and employers, OJT helps you save money!
For more information call (850) 227-8752
An equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. All voice telephone numbers on this document may be reached by persons using TTY/TDD equipment via the Florida Relay Service at 711.

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