



Senior Olympics bring out fierce competition, **A3**

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50¢

PSJ awarded Cape San Blas Lighthouse

By TIM CROFT
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The National Park Service last week approved the city of Port St. Joe's application for conveyance of the Cape San Blas Lighthouse to the city.

A similar application from the Board of County Commissioners was turned down.

In a letter to Port St. Joe Mayor Mel Magidson, John R. Barrett, program manager of the Federal Lands

to Parks program with the Department of the Interior National Park Service, wrote that "it is a pleasure to inform you that the application has been approved pursuant to the requirements of the Federal Lands to Parks program.

"The next step in the acquisition process involves requesting assignment of the property from the General Services Administration for subsequent transfer."

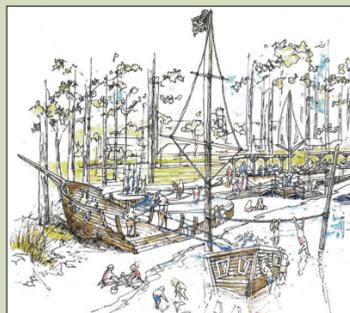
The city's goal is to create a public park and recreation area, currently called BayPark, along the coast of St.

Joseph Bay as part of George Core Park.

"They had actually sent the letter Dec. 21, but our servers were down so we didn't get it until (Dec. 27), so it really was a great Christmas present," Magidson said. "I feel great because a lot of people have worked on this (the Historical Society, the Port St. Joe Redevelopment Agency). A lot of credit goes to them.

"I just think between the two submissions, which was unfortunate,

See **LIGHTHOUSE A2**



INSIDE

See details of the proposed BayPark, including the addition of the Cape San Blas Lighthouse and recreation opportunities for all ages on **Page A2**.

SANTA VISITS GROWING MINDS CENTER



PHOTOS BY TIM CROFT | The Star

GROWING OPPORTUNITY

Center for autistic children gains students, staff

By TIM CROFT
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As Santa Claus arrived at the Growing Minds Center on Dec. 20, the faces of children lit up, the energy increased and wishes came tumbling out.

Some games for one student, a doll for another and a happy family and good holiday for another spilled out of the students, ages 6 to 18, who call the

Growing Minds Center for children with autism and related disabilities their school.

The center has grown steadily in the six years since owner and operator Christine Hermsdorfer began to offer individual tutoring to children with autism.

She started out with five students. In two years, Hermsdorfer established a full-time school, and the current enrollment is 11 full-time students and seven children who come after public school.

"I never planned on this kind of growth," Hermsdorfer said. "I never planned on having a school. It just started as tutoring, but the need is there."

Hermsdorfer uses the concepts behind applied behavior analysis to both assess each student's needs, assessing language and functional skills and crafting

a curriculum for each student.

The school is on Commerce Park next to Sherwin Williams in the old Emerson Heating and Cooling building.

The new space — the school's original site was the fellowship hall at Long Avenue Baptist Church — includes a full kitchen and several rooms that allow Hermsdorfer and her faculty to provide the individual care and education that some students with autism require. Hermsdorfer has four Florida State University grad students from the Panama

See **GROWING A3**

City to begin new flushing round on Monday

By TIM CROFT
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With the first phase of water distribution line replacement nearing completion, the city of Port St. Joe will begin its first round of uni-directional flushing of the entire system for 2013 on Monday.

The flushing will begin from the plant, moving through the main part of the city proper to 16th Street, said Public Works director John Grantland.

"We will fall back at that point and start at First Street and move west to east to the (Gulf/Franklin Center), covering Ward Ridge and Oak Grove," Grantland said. "With two people and the data we have from (the initial uni-directional flushing in 2012), that should take us about two to four weeks."

The work then will move to the neighborhood of North Port St. Joe and steadily spread from there to Highland View, the

Beaches and White City. Grantland said the phase one replacement of water distribution lines should help with the flushing program in 2013.

The first phase, scheduled for completion in March, is replacing roughly eight miles of the more than 20 miles the city must replace.

"Those new pipes should cut down on flush time and allow us to increase velocity," Grantland said.

There will be upset in the lines, Grantland and city manager Jim Anderson cautioned.

That likely will lead to some households experiencing discoloration of water from the tap as the flushing program works through the entire system.

"Absolutely, there will be some collateral damage, shall we say," Grantland said. "We encourage customers to call the city and let us know so we can come out and make

See **FLUSHING A3**

Plein Air Paint-Out to kick off Jan. 14

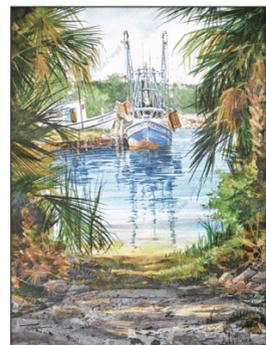
By TIM CROFT
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Organizers are putting the first strokes to this year's America's Great Plein Air Paint-out.

The Forgotten Coast Cultural Coalition will sponsor this year's eighth-annual Paint-out, which brings artists from around the country to paint locales from Alligator Point in Franklin County to Mexico Beach in Bay County, from May 2-12.

The official kickoff comes at 6:30 p.m. ET Jan. 14 with the 2013 Volunteer Kickoff and Appreciation gathering at the Indian Pass Raw Bar.

There will be oysters, shrimp and gumbo. The event is in need of volunteers, so Mary Kenny from the FCCC encourages folks to come out and "bring a friend."



SPECIAL TO THE STAR

"Wood's Fisheries," painted by Luke Buck during a previous Plein Air Paint-Out, was sold for \$2,450.

"Plein air" is French term that translates simply to "open air."

John Constable, a 19th century English artist

See **PLEIN AIR A3**

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Proposed park a gateway to St. Joseph Bay

By **TIM CROFT**
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Port St. Joe Mayor Mel Magidson said the opportunity to relocate the Cape San Blas Lighthouse to a new park on the city's bayfront is a chance to create an "iconic" attraction for locals and visitors.

The Port St. Joe Redevelopment Agency is working to make that vision a reality.

At the last meetings for 2012 of the Port St. Joe City Commission and the Gulf County Board of Commissioners, Gail Alsbrook, executive director of the PSJRA, provided initial designs and overview for a new BayPark: Gateway to the Bay.

The initial design is the creation of a team comprising Erin Searcy, Gena Johnson, George Coon, Eric Davidson, Mark Hawley and Steve Butler, largely local professionals working with The Associates LLC out of Panama City, which was the contractor for the planning document under a grant secured by the PSJRA.

The preliminary plan — the first public workshop on the plan will be at 5 p.m. ET Jan. 15 — has several objectives, Alsbrook said.

One is to connect the community to St. Joseph Bay and in turn the Port St. Joe downtown to the BayPark.

Another is to redevelop the "dead beach" area adjacent to the Port St. Joe Marina and relocate the Cape San Blas Lighthouse to BayPark.

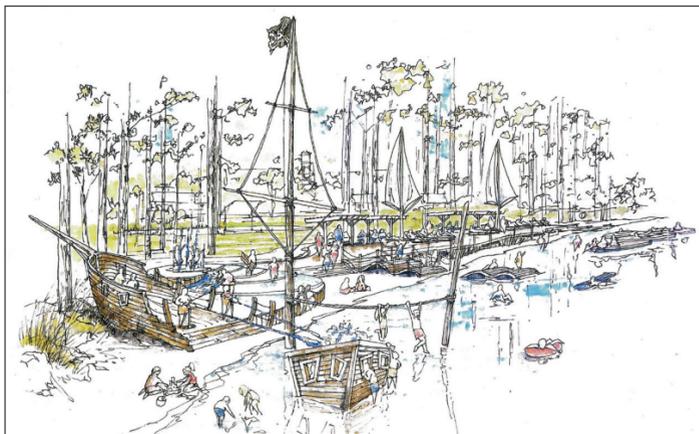
The city and county both applied to receive the lighthouse for relocation as the threat of erosion at the current site, on U.S. Air Force property. The city was awarded the lighthouse last week (see related story on A1).

The tentative plan for BayPark is broken into three major components: a promenade, the lighthouse and a coastal ecological center.

The promenade would represent the redevelopment of the industrial area adjacent to the Port St. Joe Marina but outside of the St. Joseph Bay Aquatic Preserve.

The promenade would provide a welcoming entrance to the park and along the bayfront would provide a host of recreational opportunities for folks of all ages, Alsbrook said.

That includes a replica sailing ship with hand-pumped water cannon and



SPECIAL TO THE STAR

This schematic shows the bayfront of a proposed BayPark, with recreational opportunities for folks of all ages.

a water slide.

There would also be spots for quiet reflection or reading or sunning and there would also be an area with a fire pit suitable for hosting small groups.

The promenade would provide additional seating to view events on the stage at what is now George Core Park and would offer interactive activities for children pertaining to the marine culture of the area.

"The promenade would be a welcoming place and would also provide for simple enjoyment of the BayPark coastal edge," Alsbrook said.

Also along the coastline would be Discovery Island, a natural and ecologically friendly spot for folks to hike or simply enjoy the water.

On the back side of the park, close to what is now Baltzell Avenue, the BayPark would offer a Coastal Ecology Resource Center and community center.

"This would be created in a phased approach to meet the needs of the region," Alsbrook said.

There would be larger meeting/event space, and the center would celebrate the natural resources of the area.

Alsbrook said she envisions something along the lines of the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve in Eastpoint in Franklin County.

There is also the hope that BayPark would offer something of a turtle rescue preserve, something Gulf

World in Panama City Beach has long desired as many of its sea turtle rescues in recent years have occurred in Gulf County and St. Joseph Bay.

The final component would center on history of the area, with the centerpiece the Cape San Blas Lighthouse and ancillary buildings, including two keepers' quarters and an oil shed.

This area would be situated behind the promenade and west of the Ecology Center. It would include upgrades and renovations to the historic Maddox House along the waterfront and at the far end, the Tourist Development Welcome Center would provide one bookend to the park, the other being the Chamber of Commerce Living Color building.

"The goal would be consolidating the story of the community and the bay by centralizing educational, cultural and historic programs," Alsbrook said. "We want to tell the bay story by centralizing regional assets."

She envisioned an interactive exhibit in which the oral histories of long-time residents could be recorded and listened to in perpetuity.

"If you notice, the BayPark would be right at the gateway to the bay, centrally located on this side of the bay providing an opening to the entire bay," Alsbrook said.

Alsbrook also expressed confidence the PSJRA could find private sector partners and grants to transform the plan from paper to reality.

"I have no doubt," she said.

LIGHTHOUSE from page A1

they saw more merit for our site where we wanted to place it and the historic and recreational uses we intended. My hope is the people who wanted it to stay on the cape will see that in the long run, this is something that is going to benefit the entire county."

The Cape San Blas Lighthouse rose on the radar after Hurricane Isaac took away another 24-30 feet of coastline near the lighthouse grounds earlier this year. That area of the coast, owned by the U.S. Air Force, has been eroding steadily and at times rapidly for years.

At one time, the grounds served for walking eagle tours during an annual festival, and a row of barracks once sat adjacent to the lighthouse grounds. The Air Force tested rockets near the site as recently as the early 1990s.

But all that land has been swallowed by the ocean, and Air Force officials out of Eglin, the home base for the land, contacted Magidson to gauge the city's interest in taking possession of the lighthouse and ancillary buildings.

After the city expressed interest and a fundraising campaign was launched to the fund the relocation, the BOCC also expressed an interest in acquiring the lighthouse and moving it to Salinas Park on Cape San Blas.

The PSJRA created the tentative design for BayPark and provided much of the material for the application to gain possession of the lighthouse.

"We have our work cut out for us," Magidson said. "We have to raise a lot of money. We have big plans, but for something like this, I think you need to think big."

The organization most invested in the lighthouse, the St. Joseph Bay Historical

Society, had voted unanimously among members at its last meeting to support a move of the lighthouse to the city.

The Historical Society began working to restore the lighthouse and grounds some 22 years ago.

Over the years, the organization has secured more than \$800,000 in grant funding to restore one of two keepers' quarters — the other had been renovated by the U.S. Air Force — and to provide lead abatement for the tower, to facilitate visitors climbing the tower.

The society established and operated a gift shop on the grounds and was the liaison in a lease agreement between the BOCC and the U.S. Air Force on a lease for the lighthouse and grounds.

"We at the St. Joseph Bay Historical Society are elated that the city's application was accepted," said Historical Society president Charlotte Pierce. "We are excited, look forward to it and are honored at the trust placed in us to preserve this piece of our heritage and history."

The Historical Society has been on a fundraising campaign since summer to secure funding for relocation of the lighthouse and associated buildings.

An estimated \$300,000 will be needed for the relocation, but fundraising efforts have been complicated by the competing interest and application from the BOCC.

"When you realize that we started all this back in 1990, it has been a learning experience," Pierce said. "We asked for volunteers, but we decided that we were just going to have to put our shoulder to the wheel and get it done."

"We learned a lot, we prayed a lot and we are elated that we have gotten it. This is something very dear to our hearts."

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ARSON SUSPECTED IN MASONIC LODGE FIRES

Authorities believe arson was the root of two fires, on Dec. 21 and Dec. 24, that have caused major smoke and heat damage to the Masonic Lodge in the 200 block on Reid Avenue in downtown Port St. Joe.

The Port St. Joe Fire Department received the calls late in the evening both days. Units from Highland View Volunteer Fire Department and the Beaches Volunteer Fire Department provided backup. The Fire Marshall declared the cause as arson, and a reward of up to \$2,500 is offered for information leading to the arrest of a suspect(s) in the fire. Call 877-662-7766 or email facap.org if you have any information.



TIM CROFT | The Star

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Panhandle Senior Olympics a fierce competition

Bridge at Bay St. Joe among participants

Special to The Star

It wasn't quite London 2012, but for 30 nursing home residents from around the Florida Panhandle, it might have been even better.

The Signature HealthCARE Florida Panhandle Senior Olympics Games were held last week at Hammock Bay, a residential community in Freeport. Residents from six nursing homes operated by Louisville, Ky.-based Signature HealthCARE gathered to compete in a number of Olympics-style events, including a wheelchair race, horseshoes, shot put, bowling and more.

Staff and residents from participating homes also competed in a karaoke contest, singing Jimmy Buffett and Kenny Chesney songs.

"It didn't matter if they could sing or not — it was about how entertaining they could be," said Ellie Curry, a Regional Quality of Life Director for Signature. "Every team just really put



their heart and soul into it."

The nursing home residents were joined by students from Freeport Middle School, who participated in separate events. A couple of the students even managed to sink a couple of holes-in-one during the putting contest.

"Their parents were there, and they were just so excited to see their kids get to participate and receive medals," said Dawne Dries, Director of Operations for Signature.

The luau-themed Olympics games also were attended by a group of Freeport Middle School

cheerleaders and a representative from nearby Eglin Air Force Base who helped with the opening ceremonies. A second Olympics games event is already being discussed for next year.

Dorris Chauncey, a 77-year-old resident from Surrey Place Care Center, made the four-and-a-half hour trek from Live Oak to Freeport for the event, along with caregivers from the facility. She took home the Silver Medal in the wheelchair race.

"It was a really wonderful event for me — I'd never competed in anything," she said. "I plan

to compete again next year, Lord willing. And hopefully, I can do better!"

Planning for the event took the better part of the year, beginning in January. But for staff and event organizers, the effort was well worth it just to see the reactions of the residents and students who participated.

"It was a great event and a great community partnership," said event organizer Sonya Brown, who serves as Quality of Life Director at Chautauqua Rehab and Nursing Center in DeFuniak Springs. "We really enjoyed it."

FLUSHED from page A1

sure those areas can be flushed as thoroughly as possible as quickly as possible."

With the initial phase of pipe replacement nearing its end, the city is preparing to segue into the next phases.

According to Bruce Balister with the Apalachee Regional Planning Council, who is coordinating the city's application for a Community Development Block Grant for replacement of lines for much of North Port St. Joe, all indications are the city scored sufficiently high on its application that the CDBG

award should come early this year.

That grant would fund replacement of lines from Avenues B-D between Battle Street and Martin Luther King Blvd., though the scope hinges in large measure on funding.

The second phase of the water distribution line replacement is scheduled to begin in May or June with a completion date sometime in 2014.

The city will have to undertake a third phase to complete the replacement of some 25 miles of aging pipe, some of which dates to the Great Depression.

GROWING from page A1

City campus as well as one teacher on staff.

"They have been a big help," Hermsdorfer said of the FSU students.

Students come from Howard Creek to St. Joe Beach, and transportation for most is provided by Gulf County Transportation.

The students bring to the school state-funded McKay scholarships, created more than a decade ago to provide parents of children with learning disabilities greater choice and flexibility for educating their child.

At Growing Minds, lessons focus on core subjects such as reading and

math, but what is folded in, on an individual basis, are basic life skills. For example, a math lesson might entail understanding a cash transaction, making and receiving change.

"The key is patience and having a sense of humor," Hermsdorfer said. "You have to have a sense of humor. You have to be creative to get the kids to do what you want and what they need."

"I really enjoy it. Next year I will add three more students."

This means Santa will need all the knee strength he can muster when he drops by next year.

PLEIN AIR from page A1

whose paintings bring hundreds of thousands of dollars at auction, encouraged artists to forget about formulas and "trust their own vision in finding truth in nature."

Around that time, a group of artists in France focused on capturing everyday life and the natural world surrounding it. Plein air established the foundation for what became the Impressionist movement.

Plein air paintings are done on location, capturing the atmosphere of the movement, something of a

photograph on canvas with brushwork, with little to no work in the studio.

Last year, 20 nationally known artists gathered for America's Great Plein Air Paint-out, setting up easels to document the landscape and culture of the Forgotten Coast, considered the last vestige of "Old Florida."

The event included five exhibits across the Forgotten Coast, daily artist demonstrations, two workshops, art sales and a series of public receptions.

"Many local artists gather and paint alongside the

event's invited artists; it is amazing to see the art being created," said Joe Taylor, organizer of last year's Paint-out.

The FCCC is a nonprofit established to produce regional multi-community cultural events and coordinates the Paint-out among communities such as Mexico Beach, WindMark Beach, Port St. Joe, Cape San Blas, Indian Pass, Apalachicola, Eastpoint, St. George Island, Carrabelle, SummerCamp and Alligator Point.

Support also comes

from a host of private sponsors as well as the Tourist Development Councils of Gulf and Franklin counties.

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‘Christmas without Mama’

Christmas this year just wasn't the same. We all eventually suffer the loss of grandparents, parents, siblings and sometimes children. Holidays without them are hard. We go on, but spending the holidays without them is difficult, especially the first Christmas spent without lost loved ones.

My parents are now both gone, leaving only my brothers and me. Our parents would have been proud; we had a wonderful Christmas together with our families. Small children always make it fun and easier.

Thinking back, I remember how much I looked forward to Christmas as a child. Mama always made it special, although I know it wasn't always easy on my parents. I think they gave us everything they could and then some.

We grew up in small house with big love. On Christmas morning you couldn't find the floor for the toys and the wrapping paper. Between the Sears Roebuck catalog and Grandmama's ten cent store we were not "toy poor."

Mama was good about teaching us the true meaning of Christmas, but she had this thing about toys. She thought they were good for boys' imaginations and learning. She was a school teacher; she knew what she was doing.

If I thought I wanted to be a fireman, Mama gave me fire trucks. If I wanted to be a geologist, Mama gave me rocks, hammers and microscopes. I'm pretty sure if Mama thought I wanted to be a bank robber, she would have given me toy guns and a mask.

It was all about using our imagination. She taught us right from wrong and Daddy taught us that working was the only way to "make ends meet." He would say, "If you didn't work for it, you don't deserve it."

My brothers and I continue to work to be a testament to our parents.

There is probably not anything I can think of much worse than disappointing my parents.

So on this first Christmas without Mama, we sure wouldn't have disappointed them.

On the drive back from our get together, my son and I were sitting in the backseat of the car together. Out of the blue, my son asked, "You know what I miss?" Puzzled by his question, I simply said,



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"No, what?" My son responded, "Grandma's random bags of stuff."

We had not been talking about her, so it surprised me.

It got to me, and I started laughing. I knew exactly what he meant. Mama was the absolute best when it came to stuffing stockings (or bags).

Growing up, the stockings got too small to handle everything she wanted to put in them. Mama then started piling stuff in chairs and on the sofa on top of the stuffed stockings. Throughout the year, she would accumulate "stuff" to put in your stocking and always have too much.

When she had grandchildren, she gave up on the stockings and started using these huge Christmas bags with handles. Sometimes I thought the kids weren't that interested because they were so overwhelmed with the volume of it all.

Mama would have been happy to hear my son say that. No, Mama would have been thrilled.

All year long, she would accumulate little bags of things to put in the children's "Christmas Bags." I'm sure she lost a lot of it through the year, but she had so much that it didn't matter if she lost part of it.

As she got older, my older brother would help her put the bags together.

Most of the time what she put in the bags made sense, however sometimes it didn't. Sometimes the boys would get the girl's stuff and vice versa. The grandchildren didn't care; they would sit and trade things.

Through the years, Mama would almost always keep giving grandchildren and more importantly her sons the same things she gave us as children.

There was Silly Putty, a Slinky, baseball cards, playing cards and other card games, dice, balsa

See **CRANKS A5**

Keyboard KLATTERINGS

A sadder display

Two months ago it was stated in this space that the heated Oct. 25 meeting of the Board of County Commissioners was a sad display for local government.

Read through the investigative file pertaining to the alleged extortion by a local political action committee, the fuel for that Oct. 25 heated discussion, and the Oct. 25 meeting becomes even sadder.



TIM CROFT
Star news editor

During that meeting the public learned for the first time of a State Attorney investigation into allegations

of extortion against Citizens Improving Gulf County.

Not from a commissioner or the county sheriff, but from a public citizen who talked of speaking with investigators on "three or four" occasions and pointedly questioned why several others in the community had failed to speak to investigators when asked.

Of those names mentioned at the podium by Christine McElroy only that of PAC president Jim Garth is mentioned by investigators in the file.

Apparently, even though investigators documented interviews with BOCC chair Bill Williams and county administrator Don Butler, no other document in that file indicates that investigators talked to anyone beyond themselves.

No written reports, no recordings, no notations; nothing.

How does a private citizen have information about an investigation that does not appear in the official file?

Yet this presentation, having nothing to do with county business, fueled 20 minutes of badgering and allegations from the podium by county commissioners, with Williams pronouncing he had worn a wire and using the term "blackmail" at least five times.

That transcribed and recorded

conversation, by the by, should be a required civics lesson. It is a cynical, profane and calculating conversation about government from an experienced politician.

It is eye-opening. It also includes the only reference to McElroy, and not in the most positive light.

Nonetheless, the major component of that file is a transcription and CD of a recorded conversation between Williams and St. Joe Beach resident Tom Graney, a political adviser and personal friend.

Investigators' later interview with Graney is not even noted in the file made public.

Most astounding about that Oct. 25 meeting is that the taped conversation occurred four months earlier, nearly to the day, of that BOCC meeting.

That recorded conversation was the climax to a rapid series of conversations and affidavits - so rapid that Williams bent time, documenting for investigators by affidavit a phone conversation with Graney that sparked the brouhaha and signed it on the same day the call took place and four days before the investigation was launched.

Try investigating that timeline. More saddening still is that the investigation had already been closed with no charges.

State Attorney Glenn Hess did so on Oct. 16, nine days prior to the Oct. 25 meeting, without disseminating any information to the public about the investigation.

Therefore, none of this, none of these allegations or assertions or whatever adjective you wish to toss out about that Oct. 25 display, would have seen light if not for a 20-minute stretch of BOCC time devoted to axe-grinding.

That the second half of this display was a screed against a candidate for the BOCC, close to election day, during which Williams championed that candidate losing, forcing the BOCC to alter the canvassing board at the behest of the head judge of the 14th Judicial

Circuit due to a clear conflict, makes the episode sadder still.

And that Oct. 25 meeting essentially closed the extortion file to the public, with only those accusations from that bruising 20 minutes in the air.

What was already a public record became a non-public record after the meeting because, according to the file, the investigation was reopened to revisit various aspects of the case - the PIO called it "new information" - due to a number of "phone calls" after the "heated discussion" of the meeting.

That new information was limited to one person, Garth, and represented a legal issue going back some 40 years that as Garth has stated was, to his understanding, long-ago resolved.

It had nothing to do with the extortion case and was known to investigators, according to the file, when Hess closed the case in October. Garth and any voter qualification issue were not mentioned Oct. 16.

So, there is a fair conclusion to draw about what was involved - politics, with a twist.

Maybe there are those who do not think sending a letter or conveying a message to a county commissioner requesting they step aside due to a conflict of interest found in state law - and which is the subject of an ongoing state Ethics Commission probe - is not appropriate.

But neither is using taxpayer time and money to the same ends, as the Oct. 25 meeting, in hindsight, was as much about "dirty politics" as anything the PAC did and the timing and results support that conclusion.

Any doubt, go to the tape. Oct. 25.

Regular meeting. Board of County Commissioners.

The following is a statement provided by Graney, who was the nexus for much of what transpired. "Having the read the file which

See **KLATTERINGS A5**

What goes around... comes around!

"I'd like to grow two feet this year."

"I want to wave my hand and school would magically go away."

"I hope to pass reading class in case your magic doesn't work."

"My wish is that we all have more fun."

We all kinda nodded in agreement with Pam's last statement. Sure, we were almighty young, but we were fairly certain that none of us were likely to grow two feet. By the second grade, it had also become obvious that school wasn't going anywhere. And Ricky, bless his heart, wasn't going to pass reading unless Dick and Jane themselves showed up to help him pronounce "galoshes".

But we could all have more fun! That was one New Year's Resolution that was actually obtainable by the whole group. It wouldn't even take a lot of effort. "Ac-CENT-Tchu-Ate the Positive" is the way the popular song put it!

We were sitting on the meteorite that had blasted down to earth at the corner of Magnolia and Stonewall Street. It had special powers! None of us could remember exactly when it crash landed. And I couldn't say, of course for sure, that it was a real meteorite. But it was a different looking limestone, had pock marks all over it and it sure "seemed" to have come from outer space. We believed it was a special rock.....that was the important thing!

You might think our

requests simple. But growing was important to a second grader. School wasn't. And reading was even below arithmetic in that land of long ago.

We made the best resolutions we could make based on the circumstances.

In junior high we were still sitting on the meteorite for "power" but our resolutions had grown with us. "I want to be the quarterback and best linebacker we have next year."

"I hope to be the eighth grade Student Council representative."

"Would it be ok to wish for a month long snowstorm that would close school until, say April?"

"I want to make a million dollars this year and move to Hollywood!"

By High School our "resolving" had moved to the back booth of Frank's Dairy Bar. And perhaps our thoughts for the upcoming 1965 had narrowed a bit. "I want to get a date with Billie Jean."

"You reckon Larry would look at me if I lost forty pounds?"

"Do you think Nola would give me a second chance?"

"Kes, would you ask Yogi to ask Charlotte to ask LaRenda if she would talk to Bonnie and see if she might possibly think about going out with me?" Life had gotten a bit more complicated over those burgers and malted shakes. I stopped by the meteorite on my way home. "Lord, do you think Jane would go out with me this next year if I asked her plain out?" There

were some New Year's Resolutions that wasn't no one else's business!

College was another whole ball game! Halfway through the first year I wasn't thinking girl friends, growing two feet or running off to Hollywood. It was survival first and foremost! Mother was helping me pack at the end of the Christmas break and I'm thinking earthquake, tsunami, fire and brimstone.....anything that could keep me from going back! Never had my little hometown looked so good! College was hard.

It was lonely. And the professors didn't treat you like Miss Dorothy did back in the second grade. That New Year's, my resolutions centered on just making it till June. I stopped by the meteorite on my way back that afternoon. "Old friend, I'm not going to let this beat me. We somehow made it through grade school and junior high, I can do this.....but I sure wish Ricky, Pam, Jane, Buddy and the others were with me."

Family and children can change your whole outlook on the up coming year. My wishes were their wishes. The New Year's hankering kinda got caught up in their health and well being. I was busy trying to make a living. Providing. January 1's began rolling around faster than a bill collector during a depression! Before I could wish a prosperous year for my group, the next one would be here. Life happens sometimes when you are too busy to notice.

None of us, of course, could ignore the world stage as we pondered the

global aspects of New Year's wishes; fighting in Vietnam, unrest in Africa, a crazy leader in South America, threats and counter threats between Israel and the Arab world; suicide bombers, random shootings..... It was sometimes a chilling introspective as one stood on the eve of another year.

I have prayed for peace; and understanding; and for the whole world to get along. I have prayed for the less fortunate and the mundane. Shucks, I've prayed for Democrats and Republicans to sit down together and reason like adults. I have prayed against evil and dark places. I reckon in a lifetime that has seen so many sweeping events, advances, changes and a backwards step or two, I have run the preverbal gauntlet of New Year's Resolutions.

I have been blessed this Christmas by the presence of all five of my grandchildren. I have rolled on the floor; I have hidden in the secret room, I've climbed Pike's Peak and chased Bad Louie. I've asked for the "little hug" and near 'bout been squeezed to death! I have held them close and observed them at a distance.

As we stand on the outset of another year, there are things that are important.....and then, there are things that ARE important! Pam had it exactly right back in the second grade. My wish is that we all have more fun.

I reckon I've come full circle.

Happy New Year, Kes

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

Finding and understanding 401(k) fees

If you're like many Americans — 71 percent, according to an AARP survey — you might be under the impression that your 401(k) plan administrator doesn't charge you anything to maintain your account. You'd be wrong.

In fact, these companies typically charge fees equivalent to 0.5 to 2 percent of your account balance each year — sometimes as high as 5 percent. In addition to ongoing tariffs for managing your investment options, plan administrators often deduct numerous other fees from individuals' accounts, including charges for administrative costs, sales commissions, advertising, insurance, and trading expenses.

Perhaps equally disturbing is that many employers — which have a fiduciary responsibility to ensure the retirement plans they sponsor have reasonable

fees and expenses — often don't know what fees their employees are being charged either.

Over time, out-of-control fees can take a serious toll. The Department of Labor estimates that paying just 1 percent in extraneous fees each year could reduce your account balance by 28 percent during an average working career.

Finding — let alone understanding — such fee disclosures can be time-consuming and often involves wading through complex plan documents. That's why last year, the Labor Department issued regulations requiring fund administrators to provide a more transparent breakdown of their fees to employers, which in turn must pass the information along to employees.

During the first disclosure



JASON ALDERMAN

phase, investment companies were required to send a detailed statement about their plan's investment options, including fund performance and fees. You should have received this information from your employer by Aug. 31, 2012. This

statement, which will hereafter be sent annually, should include:

- An explanation of any fees and expenses for general plan administration, such as legal, accounting and record-keeping services.
- Total annual operating expenses expressed as a percentage of account assets and a dollar amount per \$1,000 invested.
- An explanation of fees and expenses incurred based on your actions (e.g., trading fees, loans, service charges for low balances, hardship withdrawals,

processing divorce decrees or qualified domestic relations orders, etc.)

• The historical performance of each fund in which you invest (at 1, 5 and 10 years, and since the fund's inception.)

• Benchmark performance — for example, if you invest in an S&P index fund, it should be compared to the average expense ratios for the S&P 500 over the same periods.

The second phase of fund disclosure was the release of quarterly performance statements tied to your particular investment accounts. The first of these statements was for July 1 – September 30, 2012, and most people should have received theirs by mid-November. It should include specific dollar amounts of plan-related expenses or fees charged to or deducted from your accounts that quarter, along with a detailed description

of the related services.

For many, these statements are a wake-up call for why they need to choose investment options more carefully. They won't do all the work: You'll still need to crunch the numbers on how your current investment choices stack up against other funds. And no piece of paper can determine your appetite for risk vs. reward. But they're a start.

The DOL hopes that by shining daylight on 401(k) plan costs, employers will be motivated to rein in costs and seek better investment options for employees — and that employees will be more inclined to seek out the most cost-effective funds for their retirement savings.

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

The GOP has an ace in the hole with Rubio

The GOP is currently in a bad state. The government is very divided as are the American people, and the GOP is being crucified daily by the liberal media and blamed for our division.

President Obama has been very disagreeable to Republicans, and has been using his executive power to usurp the Congress. In the wake of Obama's re-election the GOP has been heavily criticized by both liberals and conservatives. Many people think the GOP is down and out, but I think they have an ace in the hole that will hopefully bring them back to power in 2016; Marco Rubio.

Marco Rubio, I think, will be elected to the oval office in 2016. I believe he will be the game-changer in putting the GOP back on the map, and giving a solid foundation from which to build itself in the 21st century.

Rubio is a genuine

conservative who has a diverse background that appeals to many Americans, and he is a very intelligent well spoken politician. The man can give a great speech, and he is very inspiring with his personal story.

As a Cuban-American, Rubio, if he runs for president will be able to gain the GOP the Latino vote and votes from other demographics that it will desperately need in 2016, and did not get in the 2012 election.

Rubio has the charisma of Barack Obama, and could be very appealing to the youth of the country while providing a legitimate alternative to whomever the Democratic party presidential candidate will be in 2016; likely it will be Joe Biden or Hilary Clinton. Both Clinton and Biden would have trouble competing with the young and upbeat Rubio in a 2016

presidential race.

Rubio is the GOP's secret weapon. It would be nice to see him run for president with Paul Ryan as his VP candidate. Those two would make a great combo, and could re-energize the Republican base. Both are conservatives, both are fairly young politicians, and both have experience in governing.

After the election, news programs and many Americans criticized the GOP, and treated it like a red-headed step child. Conservatives have been criticizing their own party, and President Obama and his army of followers have completely demonized the Grand Old Party.

I find it funny that Democrats think they have the answer to everything and all their answers involve blaming Republicans. I really don't recall George W. Bush complaining on a

daily basis about what "Bubba" did, but every other day on television Barack Obama wags his finger at crowds and completely disrespects the Republican party. Democrats and liberals seem to think they are going to run this country for the rest of this century. Well they are wrong.

I hope and pray that Marco Rubio makes a presidential bid in 2016. If he does, he has a great chance of winning and reviving the GOP base, and uniting America. He is not divisive or arrogant, and seems to be a decent politician, which is rare nowadays.

The GOP has to transform itself in order to remain relevant in the 21st century, and I think embracing Marco Rubio and providing him a route to become a presidential candidate will change the Republican party for the

better in 2016.

A Rubio/Ryan ticket could change the GOP from the "party of old white guys", to a party that appeals to all demographics especially young folks.

Paul Ryan is a very intelligent man, and a very decent politician. He is a congressman that actually does his job, and knows what he is talking about.

He's written budgets, and is very practical and reasonable guy in my opinion. If he were to partner with Marco Rubio on the 2016 presidential bid, the GOP would bounce back in a big way.

Both Rubio and Ryan are very qualified to be in the White House. They are both conservatives who have the potential to fix the broken image of the Republican Party, and gain more support from other demographics that typically side with the

Democratic Party such as blacks, Latinos, women, and young folks.

If the Republicans fail to transform and adapt itself to the changing demographics of the times, they may be replaced with another party. The Democrats have such a grasp on the majority of the American people, and its time the Republicans put party ideology aside and attempt to appeal to all American demographics.

Marco Rubio and Paul Ryan, I think, are the guys for the job. 2016 is not very far away, and before you know it Barack will be out of the Whitehouse and someone else will be sworn in as president. The GOP can make a comeback in 2016 if it embraces Marco Rubio and Paul Ryan, and they make a presidential bid.

Brandon S. Todd
Howard Creek

CRANKS from page A4

wood airplanes, Matchbox cars & Hot Wheels, Pez dispensers and enough Pez candy for a year. These were just the staples of her "Christmas Bags."

She would put marbles, plastic parachute men, Duncan yo-yos, paddle balls, super balls, puzzles, tops, jacks and army men (because she knew I would still play with them).

Enough candy? No. My Mama never got the memo about candy being bad for you. I always appreciated that. Mama would give us candy canes, stick candy, Mallo and Reese's Cups, Goo Goo Cluster Bars, candy

necklaces, Tootsie Pops and all kinds of suckers, M&M's, Hershey Kisses, Coconut Long Boys, those books of LifeSavers candy and those little wax bottles of colored sugar water (Nik-L-Nips).

You say that sounds like enough?

No. You needed to be able to destroy things. Little boys liked tearing things up. Therefore, every little boy (or grown man) needed a magnifying glass to start fires on a sunny day, a jack knife, a sling shot, a rubber band gun and other things that "could shoot an eye out."

She wouldn't be

finished. In that bag, she would find room for magic tricks, whoopee cushions, Groucho glasses with the big nose and mustache and other secret spy stuff that she would find.

I thank God that I was always a little boy to my Mama.

Little boys also needed to make a lot of noise. Noise never bothered my Mama. She put in whistles, kazoos, juice harps and harmonicas. None of us turned out to be musicians, but her grandchildren are.

As the years passed, Mama started eating a lot of Happy Meals from McDonald's. She would keep bags of the toys she would get in her Happy Meals in her trunk to give her grandchildren and put in their Christmas Bags.

On top of all this, she would put random things like can openers, key chains, band aids, fingernail clippers, combs, brushes, rings from quarter machines, hair bows, cassette tapes, flashlights, pens, pencils, erasers, little pencil

sharpeners and magnets and postcards from places she had been.

I got some nice fingernail polish one time.

I just laugh thinking about all of that wonderful stuff Mama would come up with.

You know what? My son was right; I miss Mama's random bags of stuff at Christmas too.

Just like those bags, my Mama overdid it when it came to loving us.

We understood and we always will.

If Mama was still with us and I read this story to her like I always did, I know what she would say. She would ask, "What about those little dancing plastic people that danced when you pushed the button on the bottom, the little wind-up walking people, the Barrel of Monkeys, the wind-up chattering teeth and the Sugar Babies?"

Mama remembered the little things and so will we. Read more stories at www.CranksMyTractor.com.

Children's Hospital assists families to enroll in low-cost health insurance for children

Special to The Star

Children's Hospital at Sacred Heart is helping families enroll their children in low-cost health insurance through Florida KidCare.

Florida ranks third in the U.S. for the number of uninsured children, with more than 500,000 young lives without coverage. Children who do not have health insurance often miss preventive care, such as immunizations, doctors' visits, vision care and dental check-ups. Florida KidCare is comprehensive health insurance that covers services such as prescription medications, sports physicals, dental care, eye and hearing exams, eyeglasses, doctor's visits, emergencies and x-rays.

"Regular physician and dental visits are important to children's good health," says Cheryl Pilling, Manager of Sacred Heart's Community Wellness Outreach Program. "The earlier a problem is detected, the better chance a child has of getting treatment and avoiding complications. With insurance from Florida KidCare, families will be able to obtain the healthcare their children need to thrive."

Sacred Heart will provide one-on-one assistance to parents, grandparents and guardians in understanding their options, and will assist them to enroll in the Florida KidCare program. A community-health worker is available to help families in Gulf and Franklin counties.

For more information, please e-mail InsureKidsNow@shpens.org or call 1-877-787-1838 for the contact in Gulf and Franklin counties.

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

Send your letters to :

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KLATTERINGS from page A4

appears to me incomplete and misleading, I am pleased Mr. Hess has finally come to the obvious conclusion that the rights of citizens to organize, petition their government, exercise their right to free speech,

and campaign to hold their elected leaders responsible for their actions is not a criminal offense.

"I hope now that the State Attorney's Office will quietly spend some internal time examining

how it was duped or influenced into wasting time and resources on silly, trumped up, self-serving charges. Let's see, five-months of taxpayer-funded effort and resources wasted, in a clear politically-

motivated 'witch hunt' intended to intimidate those same taxpaying citizens to stop them from exercising their First Amendment rights.

"Wow — is that confusing, inept, silly, Keystone Kops, ya think?"

Friends of Bay Preserves annual membership meeting

Star Staff Report

Friends of St. Joseph Bay Preserves members and guests are invited to attend the Annual General Membership Meeting on Saturday, Jan. 12 beginning at 11 a.m. EST at the Preserves Center.

Members are encouraged to bring guests who may be interested in becoming a Friend of the Preserves. After the meeting, everyone can enjoy assorted chili recipes including vegetarian chili.

During the meeting the new Buffer Manager, Dylan Shoemaker, and two new resource managers on staff, Lisa Dlugolecki and Barry Townsend, will be introduced.

Also present will be Kim Wren, Stewardship Coordinator, who will make a short presentation.

The key item on the agenda is the nomination and election of the 2013 Board of Directors and a vote on a proposed amendment to the Bylaws. Members will also receive a recap of 2012 accomplishments.

The theme for 2013 is "volunteerism." There are so many wonderful ideas that the Board and Staff wish to implement, but we need more people to step forward

to help make these projects happen. At the meeting, you will have the chance to review and sign up for some of these projects and tasks.

Memberships

New memberships and renewals will be collected at the meeting: \$15 for individuals; \$25 for families; \$10 for seniors (65 and older); \$10 for students/researchers; \$100 or more are sponsors.

Donations are also accepted. Membership fees may qualify for a charitable tax deduction.

Board election

One of the most important items on the membership meeting agenda is the presentation of the nominating committee's slate of candidates for the 2013 Board of Directors of the Friends of St. Joseph Bay Preserves and a vote by all attending current members for the new year's board positions.

Currently serving on the Board are: Marcia Boothe, President; Charla Boggs, Past President; John Ehrman, President Elect; Nick Baldwin; Bill Boothe; and Gene Cox.

The Bootes, Cox and Ehrman will remain on the 2013 Board as they serve their second year of a two-year term.

The proposed slate of candidates for election to the Board is: William "Sonny" Chafin; Margaret "Margo" Posten; and Jody Wood-Putnam.

Amendment to bylaws

Members will also vote on an amendment to the Bylaws of the Friends of St. Joseph Bay Preserves.

The current bylaws state in Article V Section 1:

"Members shall consist of any individual or business entity whose yearly dues are current. With dues being charged under the following categories: Student/Senior: \$10; Individual: \$15; Family: \$25; Sponsor: \$100; Patron: \$250; Silver Benefactor: \$500 or more; Gold Benefactor: \$1,000 or more; Corporate Benefactor: \$1,000 or more."

The Board of Directors recommends the following amendment to the bylaws in Article V Section 1:

"Members shall consist of any individual or business entity whose yearly dues are current with dues being charged as stated below or as stipulated

by a majority vote of the Board of Directors under the following categories or as amended by a majority vote of the Board of Directors: Student/Senior: \$10; Individual: \$15; Family: \$25; Sponsor: \$100; Patron: \$250; Silver Benefactor: \$500 or more; Gold Benefactor: \$1,000 or more; Corporate Benefactor: \$1,000 or more."

Purpose of this proposed change: From time to time, inflation will necessitate a small increase in membership fees. Also, currently there are no categories for lifetime or honorary membership levels.

Chili potluck

After the meeting, please join the Friends for a potluck chili luncheon, prepared by fellow Friends members and free to all attendees. There will be several chili recipes including vegetarian that range from mild to hot.

You do not need to bring any food unless you wish to share some of your favorite fixings to go along with the chili. Be prepared to have a good time and meet fellow Friends!

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Preserves Center at (850) 229-1787.



George and Hilda Duren recognized

Star Staff Report

Jimmie Gainey presents a plaque to George Duren, owner of the Port St. Joe Piggly Wiggly Store, in recognition of the contributions of Duren and his wife, Hilda, to the annual Christmas and Thanksgiving dinners for the needy of Gulf County.

Duren is surrounded by his

department managers. He asked that they all be included in the picture. The Piggly Wiggly has generously supported this badly needed program since the paper mill closed in 1997. His generosity has been the key ingredient and his very motivated department managers and their staff have made the coordinators and the hundreds of volunteers feel like

part of the Piggly Wiggly family. Thousands of meals have been delivered to the families and individuals since it was started. Bunnie Gainey read the narrative on this plaque. The following people first began this Community dinner, Jim Newton, Willie Ramsey, the Gaineys and Billy Dixon would all be very proud of what this dinner has become.

Missing cat

Special to The Star

Blaze slipped out the door early Friday morning (12/21/12). Since he has not returned, I hope someone may have brought him inside their home to keep him warm. He is very friendly, but he needs medication and a special diet. Missing from Palm Blvd. and 21st St., close to the Centennial building in Port St. Joe.

A reward is offered for his safe return or any information you may have. Please contact Kendall at 227-8790.



Watson graduates from basic

Special to The Star

Air Force Airman Asa R. Watson graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included

training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Watson is the son of Sharon Asher of Woodward Avenue, Port St. Joe.

He is a 2010 graduate of Port St. Joe High School.



Ginny O'Hare and Tammy Shelton from the Sims Home and Doug Calendine of the American Legion Post 116.



Bart Lowry of St. Joe Bar, Kenny Wood of American Legion Post 116, and Ginny O'Hare and Tammy Shelton from Sims home.

Sims Veterans Home donations

Star Staff Report

The American Legion Willis V. Rowan Post 116 and the St. Joe Bar recently provided donations to the Friends of the Clifford Chester Sims State Veterans home. The money came from Roctoberfest, a

musical concert which drew strong support, and a sister event at the St. Joe Bar.

The Post sent heartfelt thanks to all the merchants, organizations and volunteers who helped in these worthwhile events.

"These events allow the Post to send a generous donation directly to the Clifford Sims State Veterans Nursing Home, a facility that takes care of our military veterans in Panama City," said John Miick, Post Adjutant.

Fish fry fundraiser for Wade Tillery

Star Staff Report

The friends of Wallace Tillery are holding a fish fry beginning at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 5 at Frank Pate Park. The fundraiser is being held to help defray funeral costs after the recent passing of Wade Tillery.

Plates are \$6 and include mullet, hush puppies, Cole slaw, baked beans and cheese grits. To-go plates include silverware, aluminum foil, oil and hush puppies.

The fundraiser will continue until all the food is gone.

PET OF THE WEEK

St. Joseph Bay Humane Society



GALE!

Meet Gale a young Maine Coon mix cat. Gale is very smart, and friendly. He loves to play with toys, kids and is very proficient on an Ipad. He would make a wonderful pet for a family or a companion for a senior. Please give this guy a second chance at a forever home. He even likes dogs. **Gale meets the qualifications for a Pets for Patriots sponsored adoption.** www.petsforpatriots.org

If you are unable to adopt at this time, perhaps you could foster or make a Donation. All pets adopted from SJBHS will be current on vaccinations and spayed/neutered. Please do not hesitate to email townsend.hsdirector@gmail.com or adoptbaystjoe@gmail.com or call the St. Joseph Bay Humane Society at 850-227-1103 and ask for Melody or Debbie!

Applications are available at <http://www.sjbhumaneociety.org>

Our hours for the shelter are Tuesday-Saturday from 10 am-4 pm!

Faith's Thrift Hut is always in need of donations also, and all the proceeds go directly to support the animals in our care! Faith's Thrift Hut Has Expanded! We now have more furniture & appliances. Plus lots of other great thrift store treasures. The hours for the store are Thursday-Saturday from 10 am-3 pm. Volunteers are always welcome at both our store and our shelter! Our store and shelter location is 1007 Tenth Street in Port St. Joe! Hope to see you all there soon!

If you are missing a pet or want to adopt a new pet, please check with your local Humane Society or Shelter.

COMING! TO PANAMA CITY BEACH
Welcome Winter Visitors & Locals

JIM STAFFORD

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Thur. Jan 24 - 7:30 at Arnold High School 550 Alf Coleman Rd

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13800 Panama City Bch Pkwy
(Back Bch Rd) - Ph: 236.8779

1016 Thomas Drive - PH: 249.2597
(across from Navy Base, by Burger King)

Please DO NOT call Arnold High School For Information Call Wayne Rader 850.234.8883

Ticket Locations

* COASTAL COTTAGE EMPORIUM
17756 Panama City Bch Pkwy
(Back Bch Rd - 1 mile W. of Hwy 79)
Ph: 249.3782

* ESTATE TREASURES
500 Harrison Ave @ 5th St
Downtown - PH: 215.3872

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GCSC President Kerley wins Workforce Excellence Award

ORLANDO — Gulf Coast State College President Dr. Jim Kerley was recognized by the Florida Workforce Development Association in Orlando as the statewide recipient of the prestigious Barbara K. Griffin Workforce Excellence Award.

The purpose of the award is to celebrate workforce excellence through an award given to a workforce development professional or system partner who best exemplifies excellence through exceptional performance.

“It’s a real honor to have even been nominated for this award because there are so many exciting ideas in workforce development and education taking place throughout the state right now,” Kerley said. “Our Advanced Technology Center is such a game-



SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

From left are Kim Bodine, Dr. Jim Kerley, Donna Kerley and Barbara Griffin.

changer for the present and future economy of Northwest Florida and really focuses on bringing high-skill, high-wage jobs to an area poised for real growth.

“We have worked hard within the college and

with community partners such as the Gulf Coast Workforce Board to bring workforce education and STEM learning opportunities to our region.”

On an annual basis, the president of the Florida

Workforce Development Association calls upon the 24 regional workforce boards, Workforce Florida and the Department of Economic Opportunity to nominate a deserving workforce system professional or partner.

“We were delighted to nominate Dr. Kerley,” said Kim Bodine, executive director for the Gulf Coast Workforce Board. “He embodies what this award is about and is certainly worthy of the award. He is a true champion for partnership and collaboration and is a results driven innovator for our community.”

Kerley has 20-plus years of community college experience and became the president of Gulf Coast State College in June 2007.

Since that time, Kerley has successfully added new degree programs to Gulf Coast State College and spearheaded the development of the state of the art Advanced Technology Center, which when finished, will serve as a national model for best practices in connecting education

to business and industry through flexible and accessible education programs across K-12 and articulating into postsecondary education.

Kerley was also a founding partner, along with the Gulf Coast Workforce Board and Bay District Schools, of the Bay County Career and Technical Education Council, a program which integrates core academic knowledge with technical and occupational knowledge to provide students with a pathway to postsecondary education and careers.

In addition, Kerley has fostered a strong and unique partnership with the Gulf Coast Workforce Board by having Gulf Coast State College serve as the Workforce Board’s fiscal agent and operate the one-stop career center.

FCS wishes farewell to Don Washabaugh



Thanks to Kathie for Christian education

Special to The Star

The staff, students and parents of Faith Christian School would like to extend a sincere thank you to Mr. Don Washabaugh for the many years of service to Faith Christian School. You will be greatly missed.

When the students need change during lunch, you will be missed because you made them figure out what their change should be. When we come in every morning and you aren’t in the office with your cheery “Good morning” and your comments and questions demonstrating your concern for each of us, you will be missed.

When we need someone to listen, and we think “Mr. Don,” you will be missed. Even when we have to take the absentee slips to the office, you will be missed. For all of the ways in which you have served our school, we say “Thank you,



Mr. Don. We love you. We pray the Lord’s blessings and grace upon you in all

that you do. Enjoy your retirement. You will be greatly missed.”

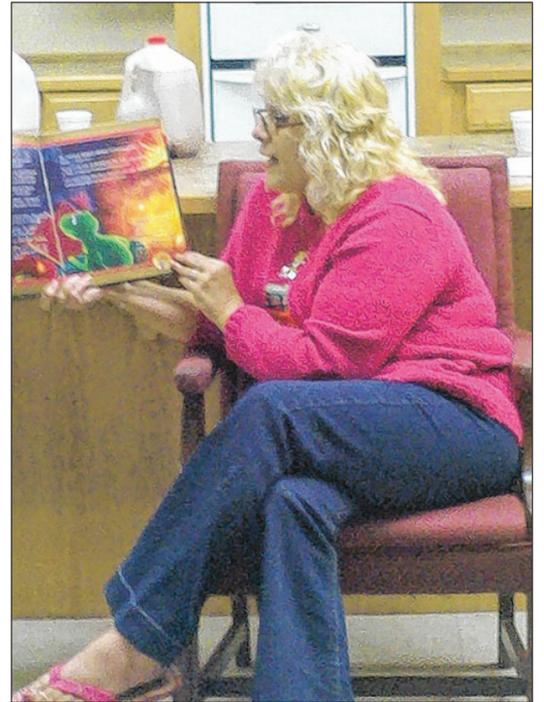
Special to The Star

Students at Faith Christian School enjoyed a Christmas story reading accompanied by a cup of hot cocoa last Thursday.

Mrs. Kathie Sarmiento, long-time staff member of FCS, read a book titled “The Christmas Lizard” by Cory Edwards. This charming story tells readers of a pet iguana who climbs the trunk of a sparkling tree that appears in the living room of his home. He meets fascinating ornaments like a nutcracker and elves, and each one tells him a different version of what Christmas is really about.

It is only when he gets to the very top of the tree a meets an angel that he learns the true meaning of Christmas.

Thank you, Mrs. Kathie Sarmiento, for sharing this wonderful story with the students of FCS, and



for your years of dedicated service to Christian

education. We will miss you!

Knights of Pythias announce winners of Triple Prize Giveaway

Special to The Star

Huge thanks to everyone who participated in the Knights of Pythias Triple Prize Giveaway.

First-prize winner of a \$100 Piggly Wiggly Gift

Card is Bob Wahl of Port St. Joe; the \$50 second prize was won by Jack Mullen of Mexico Beach; and the \$25 third prize was won by Michael Spivey of Jacksonville.

A special thanks to

Mr. George Duren for donating the First Prize gift card.

Monies raised from this event will support R.A. Diresbach, Sr. Lodge 77 – Knights of Pythias Scholarship Fund. Graduating seniors at

Port St. Joe High School may pick up scholarship applications in the guidance office.

The Fraternal Order of Knights of Pythias and its members are dedicated to the cause of universal peace. Pythians believe

friendship is an essential ingredient in live and make benevolence, kindness, generosity and tolerance a reality in their lives.

To make donations to the Pythian Scholarship fund, contact us at info@knightsofpythiasfl.com or

write to Clarence Monette, Chancellor Commander P.O. Box 731 Port St. Joe, FL 32457.

For additional information about the Knights of Pythias, visit www.knightsofpythiasfl.com.

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Paddleboarder set for yearlong journey, conservation effort

By VALERIE GARMAN

747-5076 | @valeriegarman
vgarman@pcnh.com

PANAMA CITY BEACH — Justin Riney will be putting a lot of miles on his paddleboard next year.

On New Year's Day, Riney will embark on a yearlong tour of Florida's waterways, paddling the entire perimeter of the state's coastline and down its major interior waterways, to raise awareness of the importance of conservation.

The journey, dubbed Expedition Florida 500, will be completed in conjunction with the 500th anniversary of Ponce de Leon's arrival on Florida's beaches.

"I hope, with the year's worth of paddling, we can raise a mass amount of awareness so people can learn to respect and appreciate these waterways," said Riney, of Vero Beach. "We want to make sure these waterways are here 500 years from now."

Expedition Florida 500 will kick off in Pensacola, where Riney and his accompanying paddlers will host a beach cleanup before launching into the water at Big

FOLLOW THEIR JOURNEY

To track Riney's journey through Expedition Florida 500, "like" the Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/XF500>.



COURTESY ROBERT SULLIVAN | Special to The Star

Justin Riney, on the water during a conservation paddle in the Florida Keys, will embark on a yearlong tour of Florida's waterways Tuesday to raise awareness for conservation.

awareness for the cause, through the St. Johns, Apalachicola and Kissimmee rivers, Indian River Lagoon, Everglades and Florida Keys.

During the trips, the duo paddled on the outskirts of two hurricanes and one tropical storm, spotted 183 alligators in one day on the Kissimmee River and even saved a man's life while paddling through the Keys after he fell off his boat while lobstering.

And everywhere they stopped, the group conducted cleanups, which also will be a goal of Expedition Florida.

On two of the conservation paddles, they hauled in more than a ton of trash.

Riney founded the nonprofit group Mother Ocean in January, and the group has become somewhat of a social media sensation since. Through a designated

"Ocean Hour" every week, the group encourages people to participate in cleanups in their own areas.

It didn't take long for the movement to reach around the world, with groups from Taiwan, India and the Philippines posting photos of their cleanup efforts on Ocean Hour's Facebook page.

Social media will be a driving force behind Expedition Florida.

"I'm going to be posting in real time on a daily basis so people can see when we're coming into their area," Riney said. "All of the pictures you see are taken from a paddle board on an iPhone."

To help with Expedition Florida 500, Riney's nonprofit Mother Ocean has partnered with Quick-silver Waterman Collection, Tahoe SUP and Viva Florida 500, a project headed by the Florida Department of State to recognize the 500th anniversary of Ponce de Leon's discovery.

Riney said the project's timing surrounded the project with the perfect combination of history, adventure, stewardship, science and sport.



ANDREW WARDLOW | Halifax Media Group file photo

In this file photo from early 2010, a young alligator suns itself near a swampy area of St. Andrews State Park in Panama City Beach.

TRAPPERS WANTED

Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission seeks gator catchers

By VALERIE GARMAN

747-5076 | @valeriegarman
vgarman@pcnh.com

PANAMA CITY — It's not your typical help wanted ad.

After the retirement of its long-time gator trapper, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Panama City office is seeking a new one to fill his boots.

"It's not for the faint of heart or the person afraid to get dirty," said FWC spokesman Stan Kirkland. "Sometimes it requires doing things that the average person can't understand."

The FWC employs 110 nuisance alligator trappers, who wrangle nuisance alligators throughout the state.

Although alligator populations are much higher in south and central Florida, the agency still has a need for trappers in the Panhandle, with the total alligator population in the state reaching upward of 1.5 million. Between 7,000 and 10,000 alligators are removed as nuisances in Florida each year, Kirkland said.

"There's not as many calls in the northern part of Florida, but we still have alligators up here," said Kirkland, who noted alligators can be found as far north as South Carolina.

GATOR PROBLEMS

Call the FWC's Statewide Nuisance Alligator Program hotline at 866-392-4286.

"It's not really a case of too many; it's a case of alligators doing things we wish they wouldn't do."

The trapper the agency is seeking would be responsible for all nuisance gator calls in Bay County.

To qualify to be the next Bay County nuisance alligator trapper, the applicant must live within the county and be at least 18 years old. The FWC does not require the trapper be male either. There are currently five female trappers working for the agency, Kirkland said.

The FWC asks people with a nuisance alligator problem to call the agency's Statewide Nuisance Alligator Program (SNAP) hot line and trappers then will be dispatched based on whether the call is an emergency or routine complaint.

"An emergency complaint — that would be a 7-foot alligator under somebody's car," Kirkland said. "And that happens by the way."

In an emergency situation, trappers are required to respond

immediately. For all other calls, the trapper receives a 45-day permit to remove the reptile.

All captured alligators 4 feet and larger are killed. Some smaller gators are not removed from public water bodies, but in some cases smaller gators are removed from private property and relocated.

"We have so many alligators that if we remove a nuisance alligator and take it to another water body, it's likely to be a nuisance there," Kirkland said. "We simply don't have a place to put them."

Although most of the alligators are killed, Kirkland said they don't go to waste.

"The beauty of the program is the trapper takes this alligator and they can sell the hides and the meat," Kirkland said. "Some trappers even go a step further and sell the skulls or make trinkets using the feet."

To help control the rising gator population, the FWC also sanctions an alligator hunting season Aug. 15 through Nov. 1. Hunters are required to have a permit to hunt gators, and Florida sells the second highest number of permits in the country. Louisiana is No. 1.

Overall, about 20,000 gators are harvested each year from hunting season and nuisance calls.

WEEKLY ALMANAC

Date	High	Low	% Precip
Thu, Jan. 03	61°	38°	40 %
Fri, Jan. 04	60°	38°	10 %
Sat, Jan. 05	60°	41°	0 %
Sun, Jan. 06	62°	44°	0 %
Mon, Jan. 07	63°	42°	0 %
Tues, Jan. 08	63°	42°	0 %
Wed, Jan. 09	63°	41°	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
3	Th	5:01pm 0.4		8:15am 0.0	
4	Fr	4:27pm 0.7		7:20am 0.1	
5	Sa	4:35pm 0.9		1:55am 0.0	
6	Su	5:05pm 1.1		2:25am -0.3	
7	Mo	5:49pm 1.3		3:16am -0.6	
8	Tu	6:41pm 1.4		4:12am -0.8	
9	We	7:35pm 1.6		5:08am -0.9	
10	Th	8:30pm 1.6		6:02am -1.0	
11	Fr	9:21pm 1.4		6:51am -1.0	
12	Sa	10:10pm 1.3		7:32am -0.9	
13	Su	10:55pm 1.1		8:03am -0.7	
14	Mo	11:35pm 0.8		8:18am -0.4	
15	Tu			8:09am -0.2	

APALACHICOLA BAY, WEST PASS

Date	Day	High Tide	High Tide	Low Tide	Low Tide
3	Th	6:32am 0.8	7:33pm 1.0	1:13am 0.4	12:42pm 0.1
4	Fr	7:54am 0.7	8:04pm 1.1	2:22am 0.3	1:17pm 0.3
5	Sa	9:43am 0.6	8:39pm 1.1	3:43am 0.1	1:55pm 0.5
6	Su	12:07pm 0.6	9:20pm 1.1	5:04am -0.1	2:38pm 0.6
7	Mo	10:10pm 1.2		6:15am -0.3	
8	Tu	3:24pm 0.9	11:07pm 1.2	7:16am -0.5	5:50pm 0.9
9	We	4:01pm 1.0		8:11am -0.7	7:10pm 1.0
10	Th	12:08am 1.2	4:33pm 1.0	9:00am -0.8	8:11pm 0.9
11	Fr	1:10am 1.3	5:01pm 1.0	9:45am -0.8	9:04pm 0.8
12	Sa	2:09am 1.3	5:26pm 1.0	10:26am -0.7	9:54pm 0.7
13	Su	3:06am 1.2	5:47pm 1.0	11:03am -0.5	10:43pm 0.6
14	Mo	4:01am 1.1	6:08pm 1.0	11:36am -0.4	11:35pm 0.4
15	Tu	4:57am 1.0	6:28pm 1.0	12:05pm -0.2	

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FISH REPORT SPONSORED BY



Freshwater

Bream and shellcraker, crappie and catfish are all being caught in good numbers in the Jackson and East rivers right now. Some crappie are being reported in Depot Creek using live minnows. With more rain on the way this week, moving water should improve the bite!

Inshore

Trout action has been steady for the past few days in and around the St. Joe area. Good reports are coming from the Sea Wall and out in front of St. Joe Marina. The I.C.W. has produced plenty of black drum, but red fish and trout are hit-and miss right now.

Happy New Year from all of us at Bluewater Outriggers!

Thank you for a Great Year!



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DAVID ADLERSTEIN | The Times

The Franklin County Seahawks edged out the Port St. Joe Tigers with a 54-53 win at home.

Seahawks shock Tiger Sharks

By DAVID ADLERSTEIN
653-8894 | @ApalachTimes
Dadlerstein@starfl.com

Franklin County High School Assistant Coach Jeremy Williams won his first game as a varsity coach after head coach Mike Sweatt was fined and suspended for drawing two fines at South Walton two weeks ago. The Seahawks held off the Tigers held off Port St. Joe 54-53 on Dec. 21.

The Seahawks were up 26-23 at the half against Coach Derek Kurnitsky's Tiger Sharks. The Seahawks kept the pace up in the third quarter, and expanded the lead to six points, 39-33 going in to the final quarter.

Stepped-up Tiger Sharks play led to them knotting the score at 45 with a little more than four minutes

left in the game.

After a loose ball tussle at mid-court, officials called a technical foul on Hawk sophomore guard Kelsey Jones, who had been expressing his disgust with facial expressions.

Port St Joe eighth grader Jacorian Calloway hit a 3-point shot to increase his team's lead to four, but the Hawks sliced it in half when Carza Harvey came back with a bucket.

The Sharks went into a stall, which led to Callaway going to the charity stripe, where he nailed one of two free throws for a 50-47 lead with two minutes left.

"Then we started to foul and it worked out," Williams said. "I had to calm them down. I told them go ahead and foul again but to go for the ball."

Tiger Sharks senior Ramello

Zaccaro missed a pair of free throws and after Jones hit one of his, to move the Hawks within four, Shark freshman Chad Quinn missed both of his from the charity stripe.

"I told them take the threes, I yelled it as loud as I could," Williams said.

And that is what happened, first by Jones, from the corner baseline near the bench.

Port St. Joe managed to pass out of the trap, but the shot was off, and the crowd stormed the floor, lifting Harvey in the air.

Jones led the team with 17 points, including 5 of 8 from the field and 6 of 10 from the free throw line. Harvey was next with 13 points, going 5 of 10 from the field and 1 of 2 from the free throw line.

Gators win three, remain unbeaten in district action

Star Staff Report

The Wewahitchka Gators swept three games in the week prior to Christmas and continued their season in a holiday tournament last week in Franklin County.

On Dec. 14, Wewahitchka played Vernon.

The junior varsity boys lost 53-27 with Jeff Hunter's 11 points leading the Gators.

The varsity girls beat the Lady Yellow Jackets 31-26 with Tara Walding scoring 10 points and Jessica Smith nine. Mallory Peak grabbed 12 rebounds for Wewahitchka.

The Gator varsity beat Vernon 75-72 with Raheem Wright leading the way with 29 points and 19 rebounds.

Clay Sasser added 16 points, Micah Lister 15 points and Javar Hill grabbed 12 rebounds for Wewahitchka.

The Gators hosted Port St. Joe on Dec. 18 and the varsity came away with a 78-63 win over their county rivals.

Wright led Wewahitchka with 27 points and Sasser added 17. Hill led the Gators with 13 rebounds.

The junior varsity lost to Port St. Joe 37-27. Hunter led the Gators with 14 points.

Two days later, the teams traveled to Liberty County.

The junior varsity boys lost 57-27 with Hunter leading Wewahitchka with 11 points.

The Lady Gators beat Liberty County 40-33 with Smith leading the way with 24 points while Peak pulled down 20 rebounds.

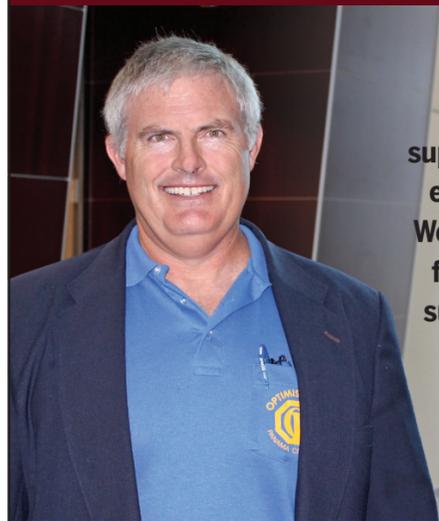
The varsity boys beat Liberty County 66-49.

Wright had 32 points and 17 rebounds to lead the Gators while Sasser added 12 points.

Dixie Youth Baseball to elect officers

The PSJ Dixie Youth Baseball league will be holding its annual election of officers on Thursday, Jan. 10. The meeting will take place at the STAC House located on 8th St. at 6 p.m. Anyone interested in holding an elected position in the league is invited and encouraged to attend.

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"For the past 49 years, the Optimist Club has supported youth by providing educational opportunities. We are proud to invest in the future of young people by supporting scholarships at FSU Panama City."

—Mark Graham
Scholarship Chair,
Optimist Club of the Beaches

The Optimist Club of the Beaches has established an endowed scholarship for students in the Public Safety & Security program within the College of Applied Studies.

THE CAMPAIGN FOR OUR COMMUNITY'S UNIVERSITY Endowment for Tomorrow's Jobs



The new College of Applied Studies at FSU Panama City was approved by the FSU Board of Trustees in June 2010 and allows the campus to more easily respond to workforce needs in our area. We invite you to support *The Campaign for Our Community's University* by helping us build an endowment for tomorrow's jobs. Our goal is to establish a \$5 million endowment for the College of Applied Studies by 2017, which will allow FSU Panama City to establish student scholarships, implement new degree programs and provide new equipment and technology.

To learn how you can support our community's university, contact Mary Beth Lovingood at (850) 770-2108 or mblovingood@pc.fsu.edu.



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Secrets of body language revealed at Lifetree Café

Special to The Star

Practical insights about the meaning of body language will be provided at Lifetree Café 7 p.m. CT on Monday, Jan. 7.

The program, titled "Body Language: What You Say Before You Say a Word," features an exclusive filmed interview with nonverbal communication expert Jan Hargrave, author of "Actions Speak Louder Than Words" and "Let Me See Your Body Talk."

"Fifty-five percent of communication is nonverbal, 38 percent is from voice inflection, and only 7 percent of communication has to do with the words

we say," says Hargrave, who reports that a better understanding of body language provides a key advantage in sales, business, job interviews, and even romance.

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

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 lwlifetreecafe@fairpoint.net.

It's payday America

America's walls have fallen, the hedges have been uprooted too.

Satan has been having a ball watching everything we do.

With alcohol flowing like water, drugs and sex all around.

Hollywood makes it look glamorous, but America is going down.

America has let God down, without His intervention we will not rebound.

America was once the place to be.

Illegal aliens still think this, they can live off you and me.

What the government doesn't spend, they're giving away.

Some to banks, who foreclose on American homes each day.

Leaving Americans with no place to stay.

Many with no job, and getting more bleak each passing day.

It's payday America for taking prayer out of school.

Not teaching our children the golden rule.

Ripping babies from a womb before it sees the light of day.

Get ready America it's on the way.

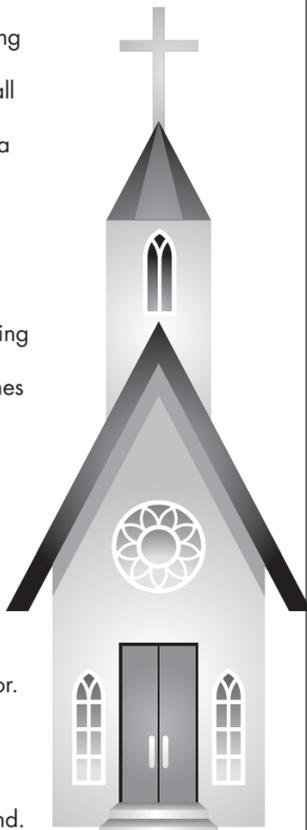
Money hungry politicians getting rich off the poor. God will not forget you for sure.

Alcoholics, lesbians, queers and crooks, Your payday is coming, it's in the book.

There is not but one way you can win.

Give your heart to Jesus, before payday my friend.

Billy Johnson



Obituaries

Bessie Mae Goff



BESSIE MAE GOFF

Bessie Mae Goff, age 89, of Highland View, born June 25, 1923, passed away Saturday night, Dec. 22, 2012.

Bessie was a long time resident of Highland View and was a homemaker.

Bessie was preceded in death by her husband Earnest J. Goff, son, James Floyd "Coopie" Goff; three brothers, Lize, Charlie, and Math Wood;

three sisters, Minnie Stone, Lee Whittington, and Kate Kilbourn.

Bessie is survived by her son Gene Goff of Highland View; her daughter Alice Martin and husband, Gerald

of Port Saint Joe; her grandchildren, Jennifer Michelle Hanlon and husband, Stacy, and Jerry Martin; her great-grandchildren, Justin

Ryan Martin, Kayleah Cheyanne Hanlon, and Levi Hanlon; and her sister, Jewel Dykes of Port Saint Joe.

The funeral service was held at 11 a.m. EST on Thursday, Dec. 27, 2012, at Hope Family Worship Center, conducted by the Rev. Glen Davis. Interment followed in Holly Hill Cemetery.

All services were under the direction of Comforter Funeral Home.

Jimmy James

Jimmy James was born Feb. 27, 1922, and rose to be with the Lord on Dec. 30, 2012, at home with his family. He was born in Apalachicola, Fla., to the late Imanuel and Annie James. He moved from Apalachicola in 1951 to Port St. Joe where he lived the remainder of his life. He retired in 1985 from Basic Chemical Company as an electrician. After his retirement he moved on to one of the loves of his life, shrimp and his bait business where he became known to many as J.J. or Captain J.J.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 60 years, Iris Lovett James and his two grandsons, Brandon James Brogdon and Benjamin Ferrell Whitfield Jr.

He leaves behind to celebrate life and to mourn his passing, three daughters, Dianne Brogdon, Margo Marion (Raymond) and Vickie Whitehead; his grandchildren, Traci Marion, Bryan Brogdon, Brandi Brogdon, Nikki Whitfield and Michael Marion; his great-grandchildren, Bubba Brogdon, Baily Brogdon and Brandon Brogdon; and two sisters, Elaine Fitzgerald of Georgetown, S.C., and Ann

Estes of Crawfordville, Fla.

Jimmy was a much loved man who touched the lives of many and became known to a great many people during his lifetime. He will be missed by many.

Following Jimmy's wishes, Memorialization will be by cremation.

There will be a memorial service on Monday, January 7, 2013 at 3 p.m. ET at Oak Grove Church in Port St. Joe.

Those who wish may make donations to Oak Grove Church in Jimmy's memory.

Cremation services provided by Comforter Funeral Home.

Cards of THANKS

Goff family

The family of Bessie Goff would like to take this time to thank everyone for the phone calls, flowers, visits and texts sent to us during the week our mother was in the hospital and her passing, most of all for the prayers. Special thanks to Brother Glenn and Debbie Davis, Brother Tim and Wanda Bailey, thank you for everything.

Eugene Goff
Alice and Gerald Martin
Michelle and Stacy Hanlon
Jerry Martin
Jewel Dykes

Harper family

In memory of Alfred "Gene" Harper, his family would like to express our thanks to all who served as caregivers, A & A Home Health, Dr. Tom Curry, Emerald Coast Hospice, Sacred Heart Hospital and to all our family and friends who sent cards, food and flowers, called or visited, and prayed during this time of loss.

Gene will be missed yet remembered.

The family of Alfred "Gene" Harper

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WEDNESDAY: WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 5 PM (CST)

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Bobby Alexander, Minister to Students

New Service Schedule for First Baptist Church

Wednesday

Sunday	Dinner.....5:00 - 6:00 pm
Sunday School.....9:00 am	AWANA.....6:00 - 7:30 pm
Worship Service.....10:30 am	Surrender Student Ministry.....6:15 - 7:30 pm
Youth Groups.....5:30 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

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Constitution and Monument Port St. Joe
(850) 227-1724

Sunday:
Contemporary Service 9:00 a.m. ET
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m. ET
Traditional Worship: 11:00 a.m. ET
Wednesday:
Children: 6:15 p.m. ET
Youth: 6:15 p.m. ET
Choir: 7:00 p.m. ET

Bro. Jim Fillingim
Interim Pastor
Ann Comforter
Music Director

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

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

TOUCHING LIVES
WITH THE LOVE
OF JESUS

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

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

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

Sunday School.....10 a.m.	Sunday Evening Worship6 p.m.
Sunday Morning Worship11 a.m.	Wednesday Evening Service 7 p.m.

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

Home of Faith Christian School
www.faithchristianpsj.net

You're Always Welcome at

HIGHLAND VIEW BAPTIST
The Church where the Sun Always Shines

382 Ling Street
Port St. Joe, FL 32456
(850) 227-1506
Pastor Josh Fidler

Service Times

Sunday School.....9:45 am
Worship Service.....11:00 am
Discipleship Training.....5:00 pm
Evening Worship.....6:00 pm
Wednesday Night.....7:00 pm

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

Schedule of Worship Services

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

Nursery provided for all services

St. Peter's Church, ACC
(Traditional Services 1928 BCP)

Morning Prayer & Holy Communion
Sunday.....10:00 A.M.

The Rev. Lou Little, Priest
Services Temporarily at Senior Citizens Center,
120 Library Drive
"An Unchanging Faith In A Changing World"

TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN
Come worship with us!
Rector Father Tommy Dwyer
ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH
800 22ND STREET, PORT ST. JOE
8:00 and 11:00 a.m. (EST) • Sunday School 9:45

www.stjamesepiscopalchurch.org

SOUTHERLAND FAMILY FUNERAL HOME
507 10th Street • Port St. Joe
(850) 229-8111

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

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

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
The people of Mexico Beach United Methodist Church
Nursery Provided
Rev. Jerry Arhelger, Pastor • Church/Office: 648-8820

Progress Energy warns of scam

Special to The Star

ST. PETERSBURG — Progress Energy Florida, a subsidiary of Duke Energy, is urging customers to be on alert for a new utility bill payment scam affecting customers across the country.

Under the scam, customers are receiving a call informing them their electric service is scheduled for immediate disconnection and they should make a payment by purchasing a "money pack" card at a

local drug or convenience store. Progress Energy has received reports of customers who have been contacted about this scam in its Florida service territory, targeting Spanish-speaking customers.

The "money pack" card is a temporary pre-pay credit card that requires a registration process.

After the customer purchases the card, he or she is instructed to call the fraudulent party back to make a payment. The customer is instructed to pro-

vide a receipt number and PIN number. Once that information is obtained, the money on the card is then transferred to the fraudulent party.

Progress Energy does not contact customers to obtain personally identifiable information. In addition, the company encourages anyone who receives a call indicating their electric service is scheduled for immediate disconnection, to contact law enforcement and report the attempted fraud.

Any homeowner in doubt about the identity of someone claiming to be a Progress Energy employee should call Progress Energy's customer service center (800-452-2777 in the Carolinas/800-700-8744 in Florida) to confirm the employee's identity. Customers who are contacted by phone, email, through social media or through other channels, can verify an individual's affiliation with Progress Energy by calling the same number.

Equine Coggins Clinic

Special to The Star

The Gulf County Extension Service will sponsor a Equine Coggins Clinic on Friday, Jan. 4. Visiting veterinarian will be Dr. Carla Hubbard; cost per coggins will be \$25-\$30 per horse. We will start at the Michael Traylor Arena, 8 a.m. CST. After coggins tests are completed at arena, we'll be available to do farm visits.

For more information please contact the Gulf County Extension Service at 639-3200 or Roy Carter at 814-8689.



COVERING MILTON TO APALACHICOLA

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1100-1170 ANNOUNCEMENTS

1100 - Legal Advertising
1110 - Classified Notices
1120 - Public Notices/Announcements
1125 - Carpoils & Rideshare
1130 - Adoptions
1140 - Happy Ads
1150 - Personals
1160 - Lost
1170 - Found

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

89514S 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 January 11th, 2013. PROPERTY IS LOCATED AT 141 COMMERCE DRIVE, PORT ST. JOE, FL. GULF COUNTY.

SALE DATE: January 11, 2013

Pamela L. Goetsch and Allan Goetsch
4920 Fleetwood Drive
Knoxville, TN 37931
Storage Unit B-19
Containing misc. household, furniture and miscellaneous.

89588S

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 14TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION CASE NO. 232012CA 000225CAAXMX

BANK OF AMERICA N.A. Plaintiff,

vs.

TREZIA HUDDLESTON A/K/A TREZIA L. HUDDLESTON; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF TREZIA HUDDLESTON A/K/A TREZIA L. HUDDLESTON; UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY;

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION

To the following Defendant(s):

TREZIA HUDDLESTON A/K/A TREZIA L. HUDDLESTON (RESIDENCE UNKNOWN) 364 JIM RISH ST. WEWAHITCHKA, FL 32465

UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF TREZIA HUDDLESTON A/K/A TREZIA L. HUDDLESTON (RESIDENCE UNKNOWN) 364 JIM RISH ST. WEWAHITCHKA, FL 32465

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

LOT 3, BLOCK "I", RISH SUBDIVISION, BEING AN UNRECORDED SUBDIVISION OF THE NORTH HALF OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTH-EAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 36, TOWNSHIP 4 SOUTH, RANGE 10 WEST, GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE NORTH HALF OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTH-EAST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 36; RUNNING THENCE N 01 DEG. 17'24" E ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION 36 FOR A DISTANCE OF 1090.39 FEET TO THE INTERSECTION OF SAID EAST LINE WITH THE NORTH RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF CORN GRIFFIN STREET (A PRIVATE 60 FOOT R/W); THENCE LEAVING SAID EAST LINE RUN S 89 DEG. 59'26" W ALONG SAID NORTH RIGHT OF WAY LINE FOR A DISTANCE OF 118.31 FEET TO THE POINT ON THE CURVATURE OF A CURVE CONCAVE TO THE SOUTHEAST, HAVING A RADIUS OF 100.00 FEET, A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 90 DEG. 00'00", AND BEING SUBTENDED BY A CHORD BEARING S 44 DEG. 59'26" W FOR 141.42 FEET; THENCE LEAVING SAID NORTH RIGHT OF WAY LINE, RUN N 62 DEG. 20'46" W FOR A DISTANCE OF 247.58 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE N 85 DEG. 19'08" W FOR A

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

DISTANCE OF 264.35 FEET; THENCE N 01 DEG. 06'05" E FOR A DISTANCE OF 429.15 FEET TO THE SOUTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF PRESBYTERIAN STREET (A PRIVATE 60 FOOT R/W); THENCE N 41 DEG. 15'02" E ALONG SAID SOUTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE FOR A DISTANCE OF 136.68 FEET TO THE POINT ON THE CURVATURE OF A CURVE CONCAVE TO THE SOUTHEAST, HAVING A RADIUS OF 145.20 FEET, A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 24 DEG. 20' 59", AND BEING SUBTENDED BY A CHORD BEARING N 53 DEG. 28' 29" E FOR 61.67 FEET; THENCE NORTHEASTERLY ALONG SAID CURVING SOUTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE FOR AN ARC DISTANCE OF 62.13 FEET; THENCE LEAVING SAID CURVING SOUTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE, RUN S 11 DEG. 04' 17" E FOR A DISTANCE OF 601.21 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

a/k/a 364 JIM RISH STREET, WEWAHITCHKA, FLORIDA 32465

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it, on Kahane & Associates, P.A., Attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is 8201 Peters Road, Ste. 3000, Plantation, FLORIDA 33324 on or before January 19th, 2013, a date which is within thirty (30) days after the first publication of this Notice and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiffs attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

This notice is provided pursuant to Administrative Order No. 2.065. In accordance with the Americans 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 provisions 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 im-

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

paired, call 1-800-995-8770 (V) (Via Florida Relay Services).

WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court this 7th day of December, 2012.

DOUGLAS C. BIRMINGHAM
As Clerk of the Court

Cindy Strange
As Deputy Clerk

Submitted by: Kahane & Associates, P.A.
8201 Peters Road, Ste.3000 Plantation, FL 33324
Phone: (954) 382-3486
Fax: (954) 382-5380
Designated service email: notice@kahaneandassociates.com
File No.: 12-04376 BOA
Dec 20, 27, 2012
Jan 3, 10, 2013

89680S

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR GULF COUNTY, NO. 2012-158CA

EMERALD COAST FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, Plaintiff,

vs.

WESLEY B. JONES and BAY MEDICAL CENTER, Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered on December 13, 2012, in Case No. 2009-CA-000520 of the Circuit Court of the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit for Gulf County, Florida, in which Regions Bank d/b/a Regions Mortgage, Plaintiff, and Charles Scott Seymour, et al., are Defendants, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, in the courthouse lobby, 1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Blvd., Port St. Joe, FL 32456, at 11:00AM ET or as soon thereafter as the sale may proceed, on the 17th day of January, 2013, the following described real property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

Begin at Southwest corner of the Southwest quarter of Section 31, Township 4 South, Range 9 West and run East for 630 feet; thence run North 30 feet to the North right of way line of Transfer Landing Road for Point of Beginning; from said Point of Beginning run thence East along the

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

North right of way line of said road for 100 feet; thence run North 145 feet; thence run West 100 feet; thence run South 145 feet to the Point of Beginning. Lying and being in Section 31, Township 4 South, Range 9 West, Gulf County, Florida.

TOGETHER WITH: 2008 Horton EH-4 Mobile Home

DATED this 13th day of December, 2012.

REBECCA NORRIS CIRCUIT COURT CLERK

By: Cindy Strange DEPUTY CLERK
January 3, 2012
January 10, 2013

89682S

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 2009-CA-000520

REGIONS BANK D/B/A REGIONS MORTGAGE, Plaintiff,

VS.

CHARLES SCOTT SEYMOUR, et al., Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE 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 January 18th, 2013. PROPERTY IS LOCATED AT 141 COMMERCE DRIVE, PORT ST. JOE, FL. GULF COUNTY.

SALE DATE: January 18, 2013

Dockside Cafe - Rick Carrie
340 Marina Drive
Port St. Joe, FL 32456
Unit C-3 10x15
Misc. restaurant equipment, household furniture

Simona Beard
191 Barbara Drive
Port St. Joe, FL 32456
Unit C-1 10x15
Household furniture, misc items

Bid on Unit - HIGHEST BID TAKES ALL.

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

January 3, 10, 2013

89720S

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STATE OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR GULF COUNTY GENERAL CIVIL DIVISION Case No.: 2012-CA-000218

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL SYSTEM FLORIDA, INC. Plaintiff,

vs.

DEBRA KAY REEDER; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF DEBRA KAY REEDER; JOSEPH C. REEDER; and UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS, TENANTS, OWNERS, AND OTHER UNKNOWN PARTIES, including, if a named defendant is deceased, the personal representatives, the surviving spouse, heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors, and all other parties claiming by, through, under or against that defendant, and all claimants, persons or parties, natural or corporate, or whose exact legal status is unknown, claiming under any of the above named or described defendants, Defendants.

Dated this 14th day of December, 2012.

REBECCA L. NORRIS Clerk of the Circuit Court

Cindy Strange As Deputy Clerk
December 27, 2012
January 3, 2013

89718S 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 January 18th, 2013. PROPERTY IS LOCATED AT 141 COMMERCE DRIVE, PORT ST. JOE, FL. GULF COUNTY.

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191 Barbara Drive
Port St. Joe, FL 32456
Unit C-1 10x15
Household furniture, misc items

Bid on Unit - HIGHEST BID TAKES ALL.

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

line, along the arc of said curve; having a radius of 11034.28, a central angle of 00°20'15", an arc distance of 64.98 feet; chord to said curve bears North 28°14'36" West, 64.98 feet; thence leaving said East R/W line, North 65°36'13" East, 171.90 feet; thence South 00°17'48" East, 125.24 feet to the Point of Beginning. Containing 0.31 acres, more or less.

has been filed against you, DEBRA KAY REEDER; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF DEBRA KAY REEDER; and UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS, TENANTS, OWNERS, AND OTHER UNKNOWN PARTIES, an you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any to it, on the Plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address is ENRICO G. GONZALEZ, P.A., 6255 East Fowler Avenue, Temple Terrace, Florida 33617, and file the original with the clerk of the above-styled Court on or before January 4th, 2013, otherwise, a judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint or Petition.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of said Court on November 28th, 2012.

Rebecca L. Norris Clerk of Court

BA Baxter Deputy Clerk

NOTICE OF SUIT - PROPERTY

TO: DEBRA KAY REEDER UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF DEBRA KAY REEDER UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS, TENANTS, OWNERS, AND OTHER UNKNOWN PARTIES Residence: Unknown Mailing Address: Unknown

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

A parcel of land located in Section 36, Township 4 South, Range 10 West, Gulf County, Florida; being more particularly described as follows:

Commence at the Southeast corner of the Northeast 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 36, Township 4 South, Range 10 West, thence North 00°17'48" West, 39.40 feet to the Point of Beginning; thence South 88°38'05" West, 126.48 feet to a point on the East R/W line of SR No. 71; said point being on the arc of a non-tangent curve concave to the Southwest; thence Northwesterly along said East R/W

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

line, along the arc of said curve; having a radius of 11034.28, a central angle of 00°20'15", an arc distance of 64.98 feet; chord to said curve bears North 28°14'36" West, 64.98 feet; thence leaving said East R/W line, North 65°36'13" East, 171.90 feet; thence South 00°17'48" East, 125.24 feet to the Point of Beginning. Containing 0.31 acres, more or less.

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PETS 2100

8 week old Pug Puppies, 3 black and 1 fawn First shots included \$200 call 850-720-1117

Extra Mile Pet Sitting

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



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

GARAGE/YARD SALES 3230

Tallahassee 2962 Apalachee Parkway, Friday January 4th 2pm

Automotive Repair Business Liquidation Auction

Entire contents of commercial automotive repair business to be auctioned absolute. 13% Buyers Premium. Office equipment and computers, drink refrigerator, pipe stands, hand tools, air compressor, arc welder, gas welder, wheel balancer, Genisys scan system, Leak Tamer, brake lathes, 25 ton press, refrigerant identifier, parts, tool boxes, saws, tire machine, hydraulic bender, electrical system analyzer, flusher, charger, refrigerant, refrigerant manager, ladders, shelves, and more.



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PROPERTY MANAGEMENT AND RENTALS

RENTALS

- 3 BR 3 BA UNFURNISHED CONDO LONG TERM, POOL.....\$850
- 2 BR 1 BA UNFURNISHED HOUSE FL ROOM, FENCED YARD, GARAGE.....\$800
- 3 BR 2 BA FURNISHED APT W/D, CARPORT, ST PARKING.....\$600
- 2 BR 1 BA UNFURNISHED APT NEW PAINT, SMALL PORCH.....\$375
- 1 BR 1 BA UNFURNISHED APT ST PARKING, REMODELED, INC WATER.....\$425
- 3 BR 1 BA FURNISHED APT WEEKLY OR MONTHLY, INC UTILITIES
- 3 BR 1 BA UNFURNISHED DUPLEX DOWNTOWN CARRABELLE.....\$600
- 2 OFFICE SPACES US 98 CARRABELLE.....\$300 BOTH

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

Mobile Home Reps Statewide. Move in Ready.
Call
850-682-3344

HELP WANTED
4100

Center Managers – North and South Gulf County
NFCD is seeking qualified applicants for 2 positions of Center Managers at their North and South Gulf County Centers. Center Director is responsible for directing and supervising all center activities as they relate to the overall goal of the program. Duties include: supervising the planning and preparation of the learning environment and all center staff; monitoring lesson plans for completion and appropriateness; conducting ongoing monitoring to ensure that licensing regulations are maintained at all times and maintaining a communicative relationship with parents and staff. Requirements include an Associate Degree or higher in Early Childhood Development or related field; five years or more of experience working with infant, toddlers, and preschool children, certificates for state mandated training: Florida Director's Credentials. Submit resumes to NFCD, Human Resource Department, PO Box 38, Wewahitchka FL 32465 or email smcgill@floridachildren.org
Closing Date: January 4, 2013
DFWP/MF/66/EOE

HELP WANTED
4100

Infant/Toddler Teachers – South Gulf County
NFCD is seeking 2 positions of Infant and Toddler Teachers in South Gulf County. The teacher prepares and implements appropriate curriculum and performance standards for individuals and small groups; conducts ongoing observations, assessments and maintains anecdotal records for children. Must have a minimum of a CDA (FC-CPC) or Associate degree or higher in Early Childhood Education; 2 years experiences in an early childhood setting working with infants and toddlers preferred; and certificates for state mandated courses. Submit resumes to NFCD, Human Resource Department, PO Box 38, Wewahitchka FL 32465 or email smcgill@floridachildren.org
Closing Date: January 4, 2013
DFWP/MF/66/EOE

HELP WANTED
4100

Food Service Manager/Head Cook
NFCD is seeking a Food Service Manager/Head Cook for their new center in Port St. Joe. Position will plan and cook nutritious meals and snacks for the children and staff in accordance with established standards of nutrition, health, and sanitation. Must have a minimum of two years' experience in supervision of a large scale food production operation meeting USDA Child Care Food Program (CCFP) standards including sanitation and safety procedures, inventory systems, USDA, and other food service documentation. Submit resumes to NFCD, Human Resource Department, PO Box 38, Wewahitchka FL 32465 or email smcgill@floridachildren.org
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DFWP/MF/66/EOE

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- Lease Warehouse Space
- Lease Office Space
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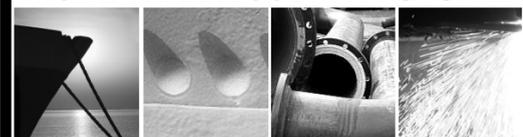
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