BOCC considers revisions to agenda

By TALK CROFT

The Gulf County Board of Commissions should change its agenda for more transparency and accountability, Commissioner Joanna Bryan reiterated during Tuesday’s regular meeting.

Bryan had just returned from commissioner training in Central Florida and said her priding of other commissioners around the state found that counties use far more detailed and explanatory agendas than currently-used by the BOCC.

Bryan, in her first term, found the lack of clarity on county agendas, the need for an agenda to be useful, and to support the effort. Bryan noted that they do not vote on items not on the agenda.

At Bryan’s urging on an earlier meeting, the BOCC regularly debates and votes on issues that do not appear on the agendas released in advance of the meeting.

The most recent example of an important issue receiving no agenda notice was the BOCC decision to move the Gulf County Economic Development Council under the county’s umbrella.

“If we are spending taxpayer money and learning something through training exercises that all commissioners undergo, we should address this,” Bryan said. “It is for the good of the public and the public should know what we are doing.”

Bryan added that many constituents had contacted her on the issue, hoping that a change in how the agenda was handled would be taken on by the BOCC.

Bryan said she had also talked with county staff which, she said, seemed to be supportive. Bryan noted that providing a clear agenda of topics to be voted on was behind, at a minimum, with the keeping of minutes.

Bryan also noted that in some counties when county staff is bringing an issue to the commissioner, a recommended motion is included, also increasing transparency for citizens.

Yeager elected to head county’s Gulf Consortium

By MATTHEW AIGNER

The News Herald

PANAMA CITY — Gulf County Commissioner Warren Yeager has been elected to chair Florida’s Gulf Consortium for the next two years.

The consortium, in addition to electing Yeager, discussed potential governors appointees.

The consortium met Friday in St. Petersburg and voted Escambia County Commissioner Greg Robinson as vice chairman and Yeager as secretary/treasurer.

The consortium, which is working to develop a plan for spending RESTORE Act money, includes 22 of Florida’s 23 counties affected by the BP oil spill.

Bay County’s consortium representative Commissioner Mike Thomlin has said he expects the county will get $15-20 million. Yeager has pegged Gulf County’s potential funding at $12-20 million.

Yeager added that with the settlement with Transocean on fines in the case, Gulf County could realize an additional $50 million.

Yeager has joined the consortium, leaving Panama City to hold the 23rd affected coastal county seat. 参考了
During the past year, the VFW Post has invested tens of thousands of dollars into the community.

- Relay for Life, $100; Camp Gordon Johnson Golf Tournament, $300; Octoberfest, $300; People Helping People, $300; street light for VFW home for children, $221; The Bridge, Christmas gift, $150; Randy Weston Family burial, $200; Gulf County Sheriff’s Office Ranch, $300.

"This list is just a monetary amount," Armstrong said. "The VFW does a lot more behind the scenes."

During the past year, Post 10069 has donated to the following causes and organizations:

- American Cancer Society, $100; Port St. Joe High School, sign, $150; Port McCoy Veterans Retirement Home, $500; cooked and donated food for Semper Fi Fest to benefit Clifford C. Sims Center, $1,000; Shriners’ Circus, $1,000; Wewahitchka gifts softball team for travel to South Carolina, $1,200; Camp Gordon Johnson Golf Tournament, $300; Octoberfest to benefit Cliffs Eddie Sims Veterans Home, $300; cooked and donated food for Semper Fi Sisters, $225; Toys for Tots, $110; Port McCoy Veterans Retirement Home, $350; Tillary family funeral expense, $300; Pensacola USO.

- Local WWII vet’s wife, new floor, $200; American Legion Legacy Run, $150; Port St. Joe High School, opening day t-shirts, $1,000; Port St. Joe High School, $125; Gulf County Sheriff, burial, $1,000; Shriner’s Circus, $1,000; Wewahitchka gifts softball team for travel to South Carolina, $1,200; Camp Gordon Johnson Golf Tournament, $300; Octoberfest to benefit Cliffs Eddie Sims Veterans Home, $300; cooked and donated food for Semper Fi Sisters, $225; Toys for Tots, $110; Port McCoy Veterans Retirement Home, $350; Tillary family funeral expense, $300; Pensacola USO.

- Oak Grove Community Center, $500; Pensacola USO, $421.62; People Helping People, $300; Port St. Joe High School, $500; cooked and donated food for Semper Fi Fest to benefit Clifford C. Sims Center, $1,000; Shriners’ Circus, $1,000; Wewahitchka gifts softball team for travel to South Carolina, $1,200; Camp Gordon Johnson Golf Tournament, $300; Octoberfest to benefit Cliffs Eddie Sims Veterans Home, $300; cooked and donated food for Semper Fi Sisters, $225; Toys for Tots, $110; Port McCoy Veterans Retirement Home, $350; Tillary family funeral expense, $300; Pensacola USO.

- Oak Grove Community Church for Christmas dinners, $500; Port St. Joe Boys Scout, $500; Buck Waldorf, returning from combat dinner, $225; Port St. Joe High School Relay for Life, $500; each quarter; Sims Veteran’s Nursing Home, $500; each quarter.

"In addition, we assist veterans that need help to receive benefits," Armstrong said. "We conduct Memorial Day and Veteran Days ceremonies, place flags on veterans’ graves."

"We also hold Bingo at 5:30 p.m. each Monday and the public is invited. Our Ladies Auxiliary donates and assists different organizations and families in need, especially at the holidays. All veterans and families are urged to visit the VFW Post, which is at 1724 Trevet Ave. in Highland View. The phone number is 228-4821."

If you are a veteran and have or had a family in the military, please stop in and see if you qualify for one of the programs that entitles you to see the Post, Armstrong added.

During the past year, the VFW Post also held a VA Clinic, 807 W. High St., Wewahitchka, is open 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. for those who have requested assistance during this year’s primary and general election should be fee. Hanlon said, and he encouraged any voter with any questions call his office at 229-6117.

This special election will not be by mail, which proved almost twice the cost of holding the election on a signal day, which the Board of County Commissioners approved earlier this month.

The registration book closing for the special election is 5 p.m. ET Feb. 4. All voter registration should be corrected by that date, said Supervisor of Elections John Hanlon, who also emphasized that accuracy was particularly important without early voting, which is not required for this special election. Hanlon said correct voter registration is essential at precincts to keep lines moving in orderly fashion.

As always, he added, voters must show their photo identification and a signature card at the polls.

The last day in early voting by absentee ballot is 5 p.m. ET Feb. 27.

Those who have requested assistance during this year’s primary and general election should be fee, Hanlon said, and he encouraged any voter with any questions call his office at 229-6117.

 onto the Resident of Health in Gulf County would like to welcome the newest member of the Wewahitchka Dental Team, Dr. Danielle D. Grimes, D.D.S.

Grimes is a doctor of dental surgery graduate of the Misericordia Medical College of Dentistry in Nashville, Tenn., and an undergraduate of Truman State University in Kirksville, Mo. She brings experience working in community centers to provide oral health care services to underserved populations.

Grimes said she looks forward to developing a strong partnership with your family and strives to deliver a pleasant and positive dental experience. To schedule an appointment, call 639-4414.

The special election, for the renewal of a additional millage for Gulf District Schools, will take place March 5.
**Mexico Beach readies for 15th annual Gumbo Cook-Off**

By TIM CROFT
237-0727 | tcroft@starfl.com

The time has arrived for pounds of shrimp to be peeled, oysters to be shucked and rice to be cooked during Mexico Beach's annual Gumbo Cook-Off.

Those who attend can choose to participate, sample the gumbo or experience both.

The cook-off will take place Feb. 16. Kimberly Shoaf of the Mexico Beach Community Development Council encourages everyone to "Come on out for this fun and filling event, and enjoy lots of gumbo and Brunswick stew on The Unforgettable Coast."

"Visitors really enjoy coming out not only to sample the many different varieties of gumbo, but also to take in the fun-filled atmosphere," Shoaf said.

The 15th annual Mexico Beach Gumbo Cook-Off will be at Sunset Park next to El Governor Motel with the festivities kicking off at 7 a.m. CST and lasting until all the gumbo and stew runs out.

In the spirit of Mardi Gras, the event also will feature live music and free concessions and music with a touch of Mardi Gras spirit.

"Visitors really enjoy coming out not only to sample the many different varieties of gumbo, but also to take in the fun-filled atmosphere," Shoaf said.

The winners are broken down into three categories: Gumbo Amateurs Division, Gumbo Restaurant Division, and Brunswick Slow Division, where teams will prepare first-, second- and third-place ranging from Friday, Feb. 8, to Sunday, Feb. 10. Panels of food connoisseurs judge the three categories, with a different set of judges for each.

"Being able to witness the friendly competition and team spirit really make this a fun event to attend," Shoaf said. "No team is without some sort of Mardi Gras decor and the more extravagant, the better!"

Entry to the event is free and tickets for sampling gumbo and stews will be available for purchase.

There will be a charge of $1 per ticket where one ticket covers the cost of a taste cup of gumbo/Brunswick stew, four tickets will buy a small (12-ounce) cup, and eight tickets will purchase a large (18-ounce) cup.

Concession items also available for purchase at the event are beer, wine, bottled water, soda, BBQ sandwiches, sausage dogs, hot dogs and desserts.

All proceeds from this event will benefit the Special Events for Mexico Beach’s Best Blast on the Beach July 4th fireworks show.

To locate the application to enter the cook-off, or for more information, please visit Mexico Beach.com and click on the Gumbo Cook-Off link in the Calendar of Events tab. Entry/entry form due no later than Feb. 8.

**Gumbo Cook-Off**

The annual Mexico Beach Gumbo Cook-Off is a mix of good food and music with a touch of Mardi Gras.
As an observer who has watched the effort to save the Cape fliai Lighthouse through the past two decades — not just the past few months but the past decades — the clarion has come to lean a window of hope for the lighthouse. For much of the past decade, the city of Port St. Joe and the Board of County Commissioners have taken charge to save the lighthouse from the ground up.

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Losing lifetime house

Dear editorial board,

I believe you did indeed speak to south Gulf County regarding the Cape San Blas Lighthouse and the preservation of its long history on Cape San Blas in a recent article.

The Cape San Blas Lighthouse is a key element in the life story of the Lighthouse. In the Cape area, the light signal is the heart of the community, a beacon for the seafarers, and the center of their love for the world.

I am writing to you to share the story of my grandmother, a woman named Betty McNeill. Mrs. McNeill passed away in 2012; I write this letter to you a year since Mama passed away in 2012.

The Cape San Blas Lighthouse is the beacon of the history of Cape San Blas and should be preserved by relocating to Salinas Park, not moving it to Port St. Joe.

The Cape San Blas Lighthouse Commissioners should use the recently improved relocation of the Lighthouse as the location for the new light signal and make use of the public monies that have already spent there recently, and allow the city to save all the new monies that are required to move it to Port St. Joe for better use in the city’s development of the downtown.

The Historical Society may have not brought through their agreeing to the move in their desperation to grab the first hand offer to help when it became clear that the Lighthouse was endangered, but we think they should reconsider and ask why the grant was written for a Port St. Joe location and the not easy and less expensive transition to Salinas Park when a Cape location is more accurate in preserving history, and not that they were created.

The Cape San Blas Lighthouse Commissioners need to get busy and work with the Historical Society to fix this wrong, because at this point there is an opportunity for all the people of the city to be elected to remove the Cape San Blas Lighthouse and buildings.

The City is part of Gulf County as well, so the City is part of the County’s expenditures came from the County and not the City. I don’t know where you got your figures but the City has two quotes for just over $200,000 to move the lighthouse and buildings. An additional $75,000-$80,000 would have to be paid to move the lighthouse, which is a small fee for something so historical.

Bonds Stocks and Joan Remally

Indian Pass

Response to lightkeeper debate

Dear Mr. Willis, Ms. Rennick, et al:

I am writing to you concerning the Cape San Blas Lighthouse debate.

As the residents of Cape San Blas/Indian Pass/Simmons Bayou we all will be directly impacted as will all of the other ones. It should be on the Cape peninsula that suffers severe erosion, not the Cape San Blas and the Lighthouse/keepers cottages safes could never remain there.

We are sure there are some people involved in the Lighthouse’s efforts to relocate the Lighthouse that are genuinely concerned about saving it and to those people we say thank you for your help. Would you feel the same

As the residents of Cape San Blas/Indian Pass/Simmons Bayou do at the moment it we moved the Centennial Building to our area; you’ll lose your historical artifact true value and the cornerstone of your history.

The Cape San Blas Lighthouse is the beacon of the history of Cape San Blas and should be preserved by relocating to Salinas Park, not moving it to Port St. Joe.

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The City is part of Gulf County as well, so the City is part of the County’s expenditures came from the County and not the City. I don’t know where you got your figures but the City has two quotes for just over $200,000 to move the lighthouse and buildings. An additional $75,000-$80,000 would have to be paid to move the lighthouse, which is a small fee for something so historical.

Both of you suggested that it could cost $200,000 to move and re-establish all the structures in the Cape. I don’t know where you get your figures but the City has too quotes for just over $200,000 to move the light signal and the lighthouse and the buildings. An additional $75,000-$80,000 would have to be paid to move the lighthouse, which is a small fee for something so historical.

Also, only about $25,000-$25,000 would be needed to re-establish the new site because several businesses have been asked to give us nothing or at a reduced cost. The total cost would be somewhere between $30,000 and $100,000. I have approximately $1.5 million in the bank in our reserve fund and I don’t intend to do anything else; we cannot write a check for that further than we could.

It has been suggested that Salinas Park is the safest location for the Lighthouse. I would remind you that, in 1979 during Hurricane Cake, the Gulf St. Joe Bay washed completely over Salinas Park and cut off the Cape. There is about a 6 foot elevation there other than on the dunes and I don’t believe we could write a check for that further than we could.

You used terms like “armature steal,” “traitor lighthouse,” “suckers.” One thing I’ve learned in my 40 years of dealing with the facts on your side, you belittle and demonize the other side. The City did not steal anything from the County. The Lighthouse belonged to the United States Air Force. We submitted an application as such the city did. I’m sorry that your survey was found more favorable.

Either you were ignorant of the facts or you were just demonizing or belittling the Cape because the facts weren’t on your side.

Either way, it would be fair to all letters to the editor learned the facts and stopped demonizing the City and what the future could hold for us all if we could develop a park that could be developed and where a Lighthouse not the Port St. Joe and Gulf County.

Respectfully,
Mayor Rich Madrigal

Cape San Blas Lighthouse debate

The Mayan calendar to your car’s odometer just rolling over to all zeroes.

That’s just it, all was the odometer rolling over. The day when we will all know when the end of the world will be is by the Lighthouse and the hundreds of visions that it draws to the Cape San Blas/Indian Pass and Simmons Bayou areas each year we all will directly impacted as will all of the other ones.

It should be on the Cape peninsula that suffers severe erosion, not the Cape San Blas and the Lighthouse/keepers cottages safes could never remain there.

We are sure there are some people involved in the Lighthouse’s efforts to relocate the Lighthouse that are genuinely concerned about saving it and to those people we say thank you for your help. Would you feel the same

As the residents of Cape San Blas/Indian Pass/Simmons Bayou do at the moment it we moved the Centennial Building to our area; you’ll lose your historical artifact true value and the cornerstone of your history.

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The street address and phone number are for the address and phone number of the author. We are sure there are some people involved in the Lighthouse’s efforts to relocate the Lighthouse that are genuinely concerned about saving it and to those people we say thank you for your help. Would you feel the same

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The 24th graduation class for the DAWGS in Prison program.

DAWGS from page A1

Dante underwent additional training to become a service dog and constant companion to the man he will be trained with, helping remain healthy.

"It will really be a constant retraining process every day with the dog to make sure he does what he will be trained to do," Pellito said.

That three out of the 14 dogs in the graduating class that day would be moving on to become service dogs represents just another chapter of success for a program that has authored a book.

Dante recently proved his worth, as detailed in a letter to Sandi Christy, co-director of the DAWGS program with the St. Joseph Humane Society, from Pellito’s wife, who had just made a donation to the DAWGS program on behalf of her husband.

Pellito’s wife tells that Dante has become a constant companion, trained as a DAD. And, her wife said, Dante literally saved Pellito’s life recently.

"I had gone to bed early and Bob had fallen asleep at some point in another room," Laurie Pellito wrote. "His blood sugar had dropped so low that he would not have been alive if someone hadn’t intervened.

"At 3 a.m. Dante started barking and would not stop until I got up. Dante led me to Bob and paced the room until I could revive him. After Bob was okay, Dante fell back asleep. He had done his job and we have your program to thank."

That letter was read recently during the 24th graduation of dogs from the DAWGS in Prison program.

"One of our dogs saving someone’s life, that is a first for our program," Christy said.

The dogs in the 24th class are headed to new homes in Florida, Georgia and Connecticut. The program has saved more than 260 dogs and placed them in new homes in 14 states.

Roughly the same number of inmates at the Gulf Forestry Camp has participated in the DAWGS program, working up the ladder from caretaker to team leader.

Dogs are screened for their potential to benefit from the program. Inmates must apply and undergo an interview process. To stay in the program, inmates and dogs alike must get with the program.

And in some cases, they serve to save each other in ways significant and small.

Consider Mandy, a 3-year-old foxhound who arrived at the St. Joseph Bay Humane Society living by a thread.

She had been without food and water for some time, Christy said. By the time she was discovered, other dogs on the property, in pens, had died of starvation. Mandy, on the outside of the pen, survived long enough to attract the attention of neighbors who called Animal Control.

Her owner was arrested and charged with abuse and neglect.

During a period of months, Mandy was nursed back to health, gaining some weight and was able to stand and walk for progressively longer periods of time.

"Initially she would not make eye contact, and her trainers in Class 24 could not get her to do a sit. She was afraid of almost everything," Christy said.

The DAWGS program has a proud tradition of saving shelter dogs. We are especially proud of the job we do with dogs who have been severely neglected or abused.

Mandy’s training team, using the skills of discipline, caring for another being, passion for the task learned in the program for inmates, saved Mandy.

"These men have saved her life and helped her to be a confident dog who performs many of her commands. She is even learned about Christmas," Christy said. "And, Mandy will stay in Class 24 to keep working on her tasks.

"Not all our dogs go on to advanced training, but we believe most of our dogs have the intelligence and temperament to succeed in many endeavors.

Recently we learned that Ryan, from Class 5, is not only a certified therapy dog, he also was asked to work with the Newtown, Conn., tragedy."

So, Christy said, the question is who was able to decide to help one of their clients and their friends?

"Initially she would not make eye contact, and her trainers in Class 24 could not get her to do a sit. She was afraid of almost everything," Christy said. "And, certainly, the dogs here at Gulf Forestry Camp help their trainers become better men.

The DAWGS program has a proud tradition of saving shelter dogs. We are especially proud of the job we do with dogs who have been severely neglected or abused.

Sandi Christy, co-director of the DAWGS program.

The Star Thursday, January 24, 2013
The consortium has nearly finalized an agreement with Gov. Rick Scott to allow him to appoint six members, said Cragin Mosteller, chairwoman. The two additional members have not been named, though the floor was opened for nominations at the meeting.

The consortium’s work this last week has included two additional members, said Greg Libonati, consortium spokesperson, and these will prepare the group to form the executive committee. The two additional members have not been named, though the floor was opened for nominations at the meeting.

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Foliage, swamplands, water make hunt difficult

that rise in small bumps above the knee-deep water into several islands splashed from their airboat through pythons Thursday afternoon. They the native wildlife, and officials worry are known to live.
bobcats, rabbits and other mammals sightings of raccoons, opossums, co-according to a study released last year, their effect is glaringly obvious. Ac-ecosystem they have invaded. them an important advantage in the mese pythons on public lands from Florida’s swamplands are having larly stalk the exotic snake through couldn’t lead a pack of hunters to a at his disposal and knows the habitats has a lifetime of experience in the week.

To find the tides of the following areas, subtract the indicated times from the high tide times shown:

Minus 0:40 Minus 1:17
Cat point
Minus 9:16 Minus 0:03
Inshore

Fishingmen: Table regional management of snapper

By TINA HARBUCK
 harbuck@thedestinlog.com
By TINA HARBUCK

Inshore
With warmer weather and mild air temps, The Forgotten Coast is seeing great fish catches lately. Most action is in the canal with Fishing for spot, trout being the top spot. Most fish are being caught on D.O.A. lures or live shrimp.

The 2013 recreational red snapper season has not yet set. Currently, in federal wa- ters, the Gulf of Mexico Fish-ery Management Council is developing options for the upcoming season which will be examined at their next meet-ing 5 pm 6th in Mobile, Ala.

“Frank Marinelli, a University of Florida professor of wildlife ecolog-ists who is helping the commission with the contest. He continued to low-ball expec-tations for the final tally. “I’m happy with 11. I’m going to be happy with whatever we have. The small number only proves that they’re really hard to find,” he said. The state hopes to use the infor-mation from python necropsies ▫ particularly what is in their stomachs ▫ to improve their attempts at deal-ing with them. “Our list of what pythons eat is not complete yet,” Mangiafico said. The population of Burmese py-thons, an invasive species in Florida, likely developed from pets released into the wild, either intentionally or in the aftermath of Hurricane An-drew in 1992. They can grow to be more than 20 feet long and have no natural enemies in Florida other than very large alligators or cold weather which slow growth and make it harder for snakes to move around smoothly in grass.

They probably devour the snakes, and officials worry the snakes’ voracious appetite will undermine the ongoing, multimillion-dollar effort to restore natural water-flows through the Everglades. Bergeron of U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., into the Everglades to hunt pythons Thursday afternoon. They splashed from their airboat through knee-deep water into several islands that rise in small bumps above the sawgrass, but they always emerged empty-handed.

They didn't flush out any of the mammals. Bergeron thought he would see, other. The only thing they did find signs of feral hogs, another
Pointe, Maya Robbins six, and Shan-

Franklin County entered as the top seed and will host a region playoff game this week. Port St. Joe, the third seed, fell to 4-10-1 overall and visited Wakulla on Tuesday, host East Gads-

The following night, Port St. Joe girls unbeaten for week

The Port St. Joe girls fall in final, head to playoffs

The Lady Tiger Sharks basketball team is likely to be a second or third seed in the coming weeks. The District 1-1A tournament will begin in the coming weeks. The Lady Tiger Sharks will play the win-

The Lady Tiger Sharks traveled to Bay County on Dec. 15, scoring 12 points on 20 victory. The Lady Tiger Sharks pulled out to a 21-13 halftime lead. After Franklin County closed to 18 minutes in the net and had to make only a single save, as Port St. Joe pressed the action.

The Lady Tiger Sharks reached the district title game with a 4-8 victory over second-

The Tiger Sharks re-

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Toiyah Bitchette added 18 points, Maya Robbins six, and Shan-
Tiger Sharks finding the zone

By TIM COOT

Sometimes a coach has to adjust. Port St. Joe High School boys' basketball Coach Drew Lacour on Friday night had to do just that, as he always been about main- taining balance.

But with the talent on this side of 15, a struggle was a struggle with these boys.

So during the holiday break, Lacour began employing more zone coverages and preparing to adjust to the defense, and the Tiger Sharks have won seven of their last eight games.

After three wins last week, Port St. Joe is 12-1 overall and 7-4 in second place in Region 1-4A.

"With young guys some- times it takes awhile to get accustomed to varsity base- ball," Lacour said. "When we want to move a zone on defense, the kids really pick it up. We have really improved."

"As coaches we can be stubborn. But sometimes we have to adjust to the talent at our dis- position. And we have really had good teams stepping up, and playing good basketball!"

Last week included a 93-point victory at Acme, a 49-point victory at Liberty County 74-41, Bimini 66-32 and Franklin County 70-37.

Notable among those two scores are the number of po- ints each of six Port St. Joe players scored in the second quarter and second quarter.

Lake Galloway and Jack Riley each added two points.

Port St. Joe held Bimini to six points in the 16th and second quarter.

"We are playing good defense right now. And we are also starting to get more guys scoring," Lacour said. "The Tiger Sharks had six players score nine or more points in last Thursday's victory over Liberty County."

Cory Calloway led the boys with 10 points, and Javon Smith, who has 31 goals on the year, had 10 points and Ramzi Zarace and Nation Leon had nine apiece.

The Tiger Sharks were up 20-10 after holding Lib- erty County to seven points in the second quarter and quarter.

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Man paddleboards across Florida to raise awareness

By TIM CROFT
227-7827 |@PSJ_Star

Justin Riney was searching for a unique way to raise awareness of the natural beauty found in Florida's waterways. He found it in a man who restored to Florida some 180 years ago—.

Riney is in Port St. Joe for a few days this week as part of his searching quest to paddleboard the state's waterways, spending the first six months navigating the entire perimeter of the state's coastline before embarking on six months of exploration of the state's major waterways.

Riney's travels, called Expedition Florida 500, coincide with the 500th anniversary of Ponce de Leon's landing somewhere on Florida's beaches.

"Locally, hundreds of the conservation aspect and anything we can do to raise that profile," Riney said. "The whole goal of the project is conservation-based.

"We want to drive home the fact that Florida still has some of the most beautiful water we've got in Florida and how precious the natural environment in Florida is."

Riney embarked on his journey from Pensacola on New Year's Day. On Monday, as he arrived in Port St. Joe for three days, he was on Day 21 of a journey he expects to span 365 days.

"I should be finished with the coastline and be in Jacksonville on July 4, and then I will move inland," Riney said.

And though it is true that Riney alone will cover the entire breadth and width of Florida's waterways, he is not alone, and that is part of the allure of the project.

Along the way, Riney and fellow paddlers put on events, particularly at schools, trying to "plant the seeds as early as we can," Riney said.

There are cleanups, such as the one at Frank Pate Park in Port St. Joe on Monday. The goal is to engage the public along the way and create in them the passion that Riney feels about his native state and its waters.

"Riney feels about his native state and its waters.

"So many people have joined me along the way," Riney said.

"The mission of the nonprofit is to create, inspire and empower ocean advocates worldwide. I hope, with the gear's worth of padding, we can raise a mass amount of awareness so people can learn to respect and appreciate these waterways. We want to make sure these waterways are here 500 years from now.

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founder, Mother Ocean

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Justin Riney

founder, Mother Ocean

"I'm wearing both hats," Riney said. "I know the business side. I was fortunate with the 500th anniversary of Ponce de Leon's landing. His project sprouted from a few days this week as part of his searching quest to paddleboard the state's waterways, spending the first six months navigating the entire perimeter of the state's coastline before embarking on six months of exploration of the state's major waterways.

"His project sprouted from his roots.

A native of Vero Beach, Riney said he grew up an outdoorsmen, loving time on the water and in nature. He was raised by entrepreneurial parents, and that diverse background helped create his own nonprofit as well as Expedition Florida 500.

His passion for the water fed his scientific search, and after studying business at the University of Florida, he "cut his teeth" in business before returning to his passion for the water.

Riney said he was in a unique situation — scientists have difficulty with the business end of marine life, those on the business end, creating products from the marine world for example, could not speak expertly to the science. "In wearing both hats," Riney said. "I know the science side, and I know the business side. I'm something of an intermediary."

After spending some time in Spain, Riney traveled to Florida to start the nonprofit. In 2006, he ventured to Florida some 500 years after Ponce de Leon's landing, landing on the Gulf County's barrier islands.

"Riney feels about his native state and its waters.

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Registration for Valentine's Day pageant starts

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Birthday

Celebrate “80”

Happy Birthday
Mother Annie Grace Granger
With Long Life Will I Satisfy Him and Show Him My Salvation—Psalm 91:16

LADIES AUXILIARY VFW POST 10069 DONATES TO SIMS HOME

Several lap blankets and quilts given to the Ladies Auxiliary by member Karen Taylor recently were donated to the Clifford C. Sims Veterans Home. Auxiliary Members Linda Deller, left, and Nancy Calendine delivered the items and received a tour of the facility with their husbands, enjoying some great conversations with the veteran residents.
Port St. Joe Elementary School second week honor roll

Vandertulip, Jackson Vaughn,
Dakota Toisignant, Chase Schweikert, Kelsie Tomes,
Alivia Randall, Kaylee O’Bryan, Luke Pickels,
Makenna Kurnitsky, Lance Owen Grantland, Carson Combow,
Chase Dykes, Wake Fogle, Brandon Heckenlively,
Shauna Flowers, Tanner Childers, Mary Margaret Desirae Causey,
Samantha Barfield, Bella Canington.

Goodwill to offer class in hospitality

Call us for a ‘Day at School’

Calling all parents…Faith Christian School invites you to join your child for a ‘Day at School’. Watch your child embrace the learning process in a PYP classroom and experience the ‘PYP in Action’ in the classroom and during activities.

Stay as long (or as little) as you like.

Join your child for a ‘Day at School’

Star Staff Report

The Goodwill Industry of the Big Bend is sponsoring a lodging guest service class next month in Port St. Joe. The class will meet from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Thursday through Friday, Feb. 18-22 at Goodwill of the Big Bend, 686 Highway 98, Port St. Joe.

The Goodwill Training Center on U.S. Highway 98 in Port St. Joe will train students to hear from guest speakers in the hotel industry, tour local hotels, learn about careers in the field of hospitality, visit multiple hospitality positions, learn how to provide excellent guest services through curriculum provided by the American Hotel and Lodging Educational Institute, create a resume tailored for the hospitality industry, receive a gold seal referral from the instructor and earn a certificate of completion.

Goodwill offers full- and part-time employment for its 576 employees. The recipient of a certificate will be interviewed by the hotel industry.

Enrollment is limited to 12 participants and this class is limited to 12 participants. Those who complete the course will be considered for employment. Interested students must be at least 16 years old.

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Enrollment is limited to 12 participants and this class is limited to 12 participants. Those who complete the course will be considered for employment. Interested students must be at least 16 years old.
Dear friends:

Many thanks,

Billy Johnson

Sunday Morning Prayer & Holy Communion
Sunday School & Worship Service
Sunday School & Worship Service
Sunday Evening Adult Bible Study

Finding security in a turbulent world, you have to know where to look. The only place to find true security, is written in The Book. Many people treat God like a lifeboat, they ignore Him until they need Him. But like a lifeboat when it’s ignored, when needed He might not save them.

God wants us to treat Him like a lifejacket, to wrap-up and buckle ourselves in.

This way we can stay afloat in this stormy sea, and be safer, away from sin.

Casual religion gives you the illusion of security, you show up maybe three times a year. And probably most of that time, you’re wishing you weren’t there.

Some people search for security, through wealth and fame today. Some turn to pleasures, and some just any way.

These just find false security, it matters not where they look.

The only place to find true security is written in The Book. 

Billy Johnson
Randall K. Holmes
Sept. 11, 1921 – Oct. 24, 2012
when he later received his college degree. He worked as the San Dimas manager of a large security company. He was a licensed public accountant and was licensed in death by his father, Randall (Ra) Holmes Sr., his paternal grandparents, Thomas and Lillian Holmes of Wewahitchka; and his maternal grandparents, Alphonse and Keltie Chance of Wewahitchka.

James L. (Capt. Jim) Emerson
at the VFW Post 10698 in Highland View, Fla. All friends and community are invited to attend. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Covenant Hospice of Panama City, Fl., or “Friends of the Choctawhatchee Music Festival” held in Port St Joe the past three years to raise money for local bands and organizations. A memorial service will be at 3 p.m. ET Saturday, Jan. 26, 2013.

William Byron Humphrey
enjoyed fishing and photography. He was a graduate of Port St. Joe High School, class of 1973, and a USAF retired Veteran. Left behind his family are his memory is his mother, Barbara Hanigan Humphrey, and his brothers, Allan Humphrey (Indiana), Patrick Humphrey (Palm Beach at the VFW Post 10698 in Highland View, Fla. All friends and community are invited to attend. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Covenant Hospice of Panama City, Fl., or “Friends of the Choctawhatchee Music Festival” held in Port St Joe the past three years to raise money for local bands and organizations. A memorial service will be at 3 p.m. ET Saturday, Jan. 26, 2013.

John E. Ray
was a member of St. James Episcopal Church of Port St. Joe, Fla. He was a lifelong resident of Port St. Joe and served in the First-Vice Commander of Port St. Joe. Jim was a member of St. James Episcopal Church, the Rev. Dallas Presley. There was no other. She was very involved in the life of her husband, children, eight grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. Mrs. Emerson’s preceded in death by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. R W. Emerson Sr., and brother, Jimmy Wilder. She is survived by her loving husband of 52 years, Bill Fleming of Port St. Joe, Fla.; daughters: Jan Nobles and husband, Treedy, of Panama City Beach, Fla.; brother, Ellen Kyser; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and their friends. Services will be at 2 p.m. ET Friday, Jan. 25, 2013, at Holy Hill Cemetery, Port St. Joe, Fla. Condolences may be submitted or viewed at www.southwestfamily.com.

Mr. “Roctoberfest” for his involvement in the life of her family and many friends.

Bettie Ruth Fleming
was held at 11 a.m. ET Friday, Jan. 18, 2013, at Jehu Cemetery in Wewahitchka.

Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. ET, Friday, Jan. 25, 2013, at Jehu Cemetery in Wewahitchka. The ashes will be buried next to Comforter Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Bettie Ruth Fleming
was born June 3, 1933, in Panama City, Ga. She is survived by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. B W. Caswell and the Rev. Buddy Browning, the Rev. Buddy Caswell and many nieces, nephews, cousins and their friends. The family extends a special acknowledgment to his family at River Valley Rehabilitation Center Graceland funeral services were held at 4:30 pm, CT Friday, Jan. 11, 2013, at Cypress Presbyterian Church of the Rev. Dallas Penny. Patrimony under the direction of the Comforter Funeral Home.

Joseph Coy Tucker
and Chris Bauman; two grandchildren, great-grandchildren; and brothers, Joseph Coy Tucker, 68, of Port St. Joe, Fla.; John, and Cora Adkison; Whitfield and husband, John, and sister, Maybrie Maddox, and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and their friends. Those who wish may make donations to St. James Episcopal Church, 6822 22nd St, Port St. Joe, Fla. and memorials in his honor.


Bettie Ruth Fleming
was a member of St. James Episcopal Church of Port St. Joe, Fla., on June 3, 1963, to the late John E. Ray, and Cora Adkison; and brothers, Joe Tucker, 68, of Port St. Joe, Fla.; Bobby Nobles and wife, Jo; grandchildren: Kim, and Missy Ramsey of Port St. Joe, creek; John, and Cora Adkison; Whitfield and husband, John, and sister, Maybrie Maddox, and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and their friends. The family extends a special acknowledgment to his family at River Valley Rehabilitation Center Graceland funeral services were held at 4:30 pm, CT Friday, Jan. 11, 2013, at Cypress Presbyterian Church of the Rev. Dallas Penny. Patrimony under the direction of the Comforter Funeral Home.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission took custody of a 180 foot long steel barge on state waters in Gulf County. Pursuant to Florida Statute 351.105, the property will be disposed of unless a claim by the rightful owner is made. To flowers, donations can be made to Covenant Hospice of Panama City, Fl., or “Friends of the Choctawhatchee Music Festival” held in Port St Joe the past three years to raise money for local bands and organizations. A memorial service will be at 3 p.m. ET Saturday, Jan. 26, 2013.

Jehu Cemetery is in charge of arrangements.

Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. ET, Friday, Jan. 25, 2013, at Jehu Cemetery in Wewahitchka. The ashes will be buried next to Comforter Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

Bettie Ruth Fleming
was born June 3, 1933, in Sharramore, Fl., to Homes and Myrtle Walker (Moma). Mrs. Betty Ruth Fleming of Port St. Joe, Fla., passed away Jan. 25, 2013, at Jehu Cemetery in Wewahitchka. The ashes will be buried next to Comforter Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

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Justin Riney paddles his way through Bay County. This 2nd Annual Expedition Florida 500 celebration sponsored by the Florida Department of State, and is also receives logistical support from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. “What an amazing platform this is to raise awareness about the waters of Florida and to raise awareness of my nonprofit,” Riney said. Panama City Beach resident Gabriel Gray, owner of Walkin’ on Water Paddle Boards, joined Riney’s conservation movement last year, accompanying him on a number of conservation paddles throughout the state to prepare for the upcoming expedition. Riney completed six conservation paddles to train and raise awareness for the cause, through the St. Johns River, Apalachicola River, Kissimmee River, Indian River Lagoon, Everglades and Florida Keys. They learned the environment and worked out the kinks for the project ahead of time. The second unique element of the project are one thing is happening in real time,” Riney said, noting daily postings to the Expedition Florida 500 Facebook page. “It is tangible; people can connect to it.” The second, we really want people to come out and paddle with us. We welcome paddlers of all shapes and sizes. They can see our passion, feel the passion and take that passion home with them. My goal is to engage as many people as possible.”
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