



Man paddleboards to raise conservation awareness, **B1**

BOCC considers revisions to agenda

By TIM CROFT
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The Gulf County Board of Commissioners should consider changes to 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 polling 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, ran with the lack of clarity on county agendas as part of her platform, was renewing a call she made last month to put a stop to the lack of information contained on county agendas.

"I could not locate a county that used a minimal agenda like we do," Bryan said. "They also testified that

they do not vote on items not on the agenda."

As Bryan noted during an earlier meeting, the BOCC regularly debates and votes on issues that do not appear on the agenda released in advance of the meeting.

The most recent example of an important issue receiving no advance 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 (from these 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.

She said she had also talked with county staff which, she said, seemed to support the effort. Bryan noted that providing a clear agenda of topics to be taken up would help, at minimum, with the keeping of minutes.

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

See **BOCC A7**

Yeager elected to state's Gulf Consortium

By MATTHEW BEATON
The News Herald

PANAMA CITY— Gulf County Commissioner Warren Yeager has been elected as one of the officers for Florida's Gulf Consortium.

The consortium, in addition to electing officers, discussed potential governor appointments.

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.

The consortium met Friday in St. Petersburg and voted Escambia County Commissioner Grover Robinson as chairman, Pinellas County Commissioner Susan Latvala as vice chairwoman 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. Collier County has joined the consortium, leaving Franklin County as the only holdout of the 23 affected coastal counties.

Bay County's consortium representative Commissioner Mike Thomas has said he expects the county will get \$30-50 million.

Yeager has pegged Gulf County's potential funding at \$15-\$20 million.

Yeager added that with the settlement with Transocean on fines in the case, Gulf County could realize an initial payment of \$2.8 million in the next 60-90 days.

See **CONSORTIUM A7**

Becoming better

Graduate from DAWGS in Prison saves owner's life

By TIM CROFT
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In late July 2011 Bob Pellito made the trip for the DAWGS in Prison graduation No. 14 in search of a lifesaver.

He found one. A resident of Spring Hill near Tampa, Pellito was one of two diabetics that day — the other from Sarasota — who sought out DAWGS in Prison for a Diabetic Alert Dog, or DAD.

Pellito happened upon the DAWGS (Developing Adoptable Dogs with Good Sociability) in Prison program after making what he estimated to be at least 40 inquiries about potential service dogs, his contacts coming up empty again and again for varying reasons.

Cost was one factor, but there was another side of the leash for Pellito.

"We were looking to hopefully find a shelter dog," he said.

And ultimately those seemingly endless days on the Internet proved successful when he stumbled upon the DAWGS in Prison program at Gulf Forestry Camp.

"I found this program after an intensive online search," Pellito said. "I was looking for a dog that had some training. I thought if the dog was somewhat trained, it would be easier to train to be a DAD."

"I've been unstable lately. I have been having problems with my blood sugar dropping."

Pellito identified a lab/hound mix named Sean as his choice, though he soon was making a rather unique request — could he change the dog's name to Dante.

That request addressed, Dante graduated with his class July 2011. Pellito believed he had found the perfect choice as Labradors and hound dogs make the best DAD due to their acute sense of smell.

"All alert dogs will smell, sense, that the body chemistry has changed and alert me to test my blood sugar or eat something," Pellito said. "I was looking for a lab for both their excellent sense of smell but also for their loyalty."

See **DAWGS A6**



PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Bob Pellito's Diabetic Alert Dog Dante saved his life by alerting Pellito's wife to a dangerously low blood sugar count.

Left: Mandy arrived at the Humane Society an abused and neglected dog, hanging to life. She is now being prepped for her permanent home.



Health Department earns national kudos

Star Staff Report

The Gulf County Health Department has been recognized by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) for its ability to respond to public health emergencies. NACCHO,

the voice of the 2,800 local health departments across the country, provides resources to help local health department leaders develop public health policies and programs to ensure that communities have access to vital programs and services that

people need to keep them protected from disease and disaster.

The Gulf County Health Department met the comprehensive preparedness benchmarks required by Project Public Health Ready (PPHR), a unique partnership between NAC-

CHO and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. PPHR is a criteria-based public health preparedness program that assesses local health department capacity to plan for, respond to, and recover from public health emergencies. The Gulf County

Health Department joins a cohort of nearly 300 local health departments across the country that have been distinguished for their agencies' preparedness efforts through PPHR.

"We are proud to have been recognized by Project Public Health Ready

for our high level of preparedness," said Marsha Lindeman, Administrator of the Gulf County Health Department and Interim Administrator of the Franklin County Health Department.

See **HEALTH A7**

VFW Post gives back to community

By TIM CROFT
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During the past year, the VFW Post has invested tens of thousands of dollars into the community.

VFW Post 10069 is far more than a place for veterans to gather and share their experiences.

During the past year, the VFW Post has invested tens of thousands of dollars into the community, providing funding for a host of projects from Semper Fi Sisters to the Gene Raffield Football League.

Commander Rick Armstrong this week released the community donations made by members of the Post since August 2011 and continuing through the end of 2012.

"This information is to let the community know that their local VFW is here," Armstrong said.

From August to December 2011, the VFW Post made the following contributions:

Wewahitchka VFW Post, \$1,000; American Legion Legacy Run, \$500; Covenant Hospice, \$5,000; Semper Fi Sisters, \$1,500; Gulf County Sheriff's Office Halloween, \$500; Gene Raffield Football, \$500;

Relay for Life, \$100; Camp Gordon Johnston Golf Tournament, \$500; Octoberfest, \$500; People Helping People, \$500; street lights for VFW home for children, \$225; The Bridge, Christmas gifts, \$100; Randy Weston Family, burial, \$500; Gulf County Sheriff's Boys Ranch, \$800.

"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, \$100; Fort McCoy Veterans Retirement Home, \$720; Gulf County Sheriff's Boys Ranch, \$100; St. Joseph Humane Society, \$550; Wounded Warriors, \$3,000; David Kelly, Veterans Service School, \$500; Port St. Joe High School, Odyssey of the Mind, \$1,000; a

local WWII vet's wife, new floor, \$300; American Legion Legacy Run, \$950; Gulf County Sheriff, Florida Sheriff Explorers Association, \$1,000; Covenant Hospice, \$500; Briann Sigman, educational trip to Greece, \$800; Dixie Youth for state tournament trip, \$1,000; Port St. Joe High School, opening day T-shirts, \$1,000; Gulf County veteran's wife, pay for gas and electric, \$421.62; People Helping People, \$200; Port St. Joe High School, banners, \$150; Semper Fi Sisters, \$1,000; Shriner's Circus, \$140; Wewahitchka girls softball team for travel to South Carolina, \$1,200; Camp Gordon Johnston Golf Tournament, \$500; Octoberfest to benefit Clifford C. Sims Veterans Home, \$500; cooked and donated food for Semper Fi Sisters, \$200; Toys for Tots, \$150; Fort McCoy Veterans Retirement Home, \$500; Tillary family, burial expense, \$500; Pensacola USO,

\$100; Oak Grove Community Church for Christmas dinners, \$500; Port St. Joe Boys Scouts, \$500; Buck Watford, returning from combat dinner, \$125; Port St. Joe High School NJROTC, \$500 each quarter; Sims Veterans Nursing Home, \$500 each quarter.

"In addition, we assist veterans that need help to receive benefits they are due," Armstrong said. "We conduct Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies, place flags on veterans' graves."

"We also hold Bingo at 5:30 p.m. each Monday and the public is welcome. 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 1774 Trout Ave. in Highland View. The phone number is 229-6826.

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 use the Post, Armstrong added.

Special election books to close

By TIM CROFT
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County voters should ensure their registration information is correct as a special levy election for Gulf District Schools approaches.

The special election, for which voters will be asked one question, whether they support a four-year renewal of an additional mill operating levy for the public schools, will take place March 5.

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 correct by that day, said Supervisor of Elections John Hanlon, who also emphasized that accuracy was particularly important with no early voting, which is not required for this special election.

Hanlon said correct voter registration is essential at precincts to keep lines moving in an orderly fashion.

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

The last day to request voting by absentee ballot is 5 p.m. ET Feb. 27.

Those who have requested absentee during this year's primary and general election should be fine, Hanlon said, but he encouraged any voter with any question to call his office at 229-6117.

New dentist joins health department in Wewahitchka

Star staff report

The Florida Department

of Health in Gulf County would like to welcome their newest member of

the Wewahitchka Dental Team, Dr. Danielle D. Grimes, D.D.S.

Grimes is a doctor of dental surgery graduate of the Meharry Medical College, School of Dentistry in Nashville, Tenn., and an undergraduate of the Truman State Univer-

sity in Kirksville, Mo. She brings experience working in community health 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.

Wewahitchka Dental Clinic, 807 W. Highway 22, Wewahitchka, is open 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. CST Monday through Thursday.

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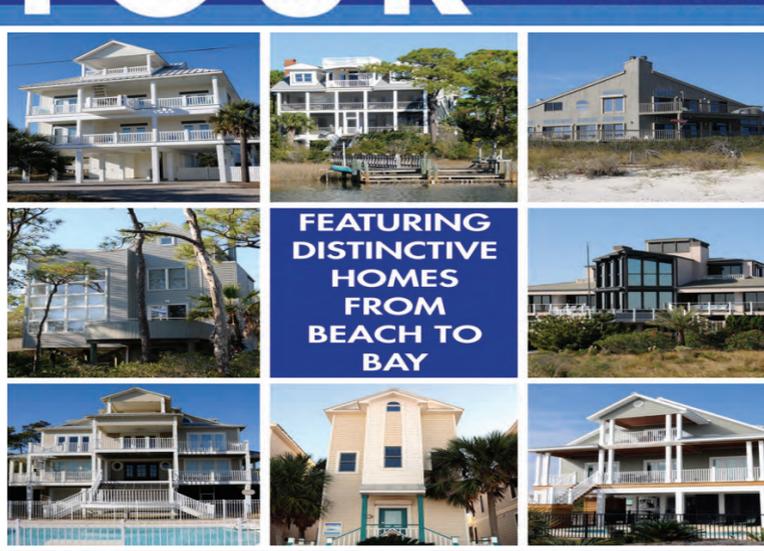
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850-927-7745 • Benefits the St. George Lighthouse Association

Relay for Life to host recruitment meeting

Star staff report

Relay for Life is looking for individuals and teams in Wewahitchka to participate in this year's Relay for Life in April.

A team recruitment meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. CT Monday at the Fellowship Hall at First United Methodist Church of Wewahitchka.

All those interested in participating in this year's fun-filled event to support cancer research and the fight against cancer is encouraged to attend.

Expanding Orthopedic Care in Port St. Joe



Alfred H. Cardet
Orthopedic Surgeon

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Alfred H. Cardet, will now be seeing patients in the Port St. Joe area every Thursday. Dr. Cardet specializes in orthopedic care and surgical treatment for shoulders, hips and knees. He also offers surgical treatment for Carpal Tunnel Syndrome. He completed his medical degree from, and residency at, the University of Miami and is board certified by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery.

Dr. Cardet will have office hours on Thursday mornings and provide treatment at Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf on Thursday afternoons. **For more information on Dr. Cardet, or to make an appointment call 850-914-7060.**

Bay Orthopedics
3871 E. Hwy 98, Suite 202
Port St. Joe, FL 3245
850-914-7060

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Mexico Beach readies for 15th annual Gumbo Cook-Off

By TIM CROFT
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The time has arrived for pounds of shrimp to be peeled, oysters to be shucked and rice and roux 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 loads 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 Governador Motel, with the festivities kicking off at 10 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 beads for attendees. With a limit of 30 chefs competing for the title of Gumbo King, this event is perfect for anyone wanting to indulge in blue-ribbon cuisine.

Those competing may set up 7:30-8:45 a.m. Judging will begin at 9 a.m. and you must have your item(s) hot and ready to go. This is one cook-off that is sure to spark the Mardi Gras spirit.

Cooking teams are made up of both men and

women, young and old, from such states as Louisiana, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama and Florida.

The winners are broken down into three categories: Gumbo Amateur Division, Gumbo Restaurant Division, and Brunswick Stew Division, with prizes for first-, second- and third-place ranging from \$75 to \$200. 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 (six-ounce) cup, and eight tickets will purchase a large (12-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 raised at 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 in the Calendar of Events under the News & Events tab. Entry forms are due no later than Feb. 8.



FILE PHOTO

The annual Mexico Beach Gumbo Cook-Off is a mix of good food and music with a touch of Mardi Gras.

Dentist offers heart-felt service

Star staff report

Dr. Frank D. May of Port St. Joe has a unique Valentine's Day present for the needy of this area.

For the past 12 years, May has provided free dental treatment for Valentine's Day at his office.

This year, his office will schedule appointments with those in need of treatment Feb. 13.

To schedule an appointment, send or deliver a letter to May's office with a brief description of your dental needs and the situation that makes you a good candidate for this benefit. Send the letter to May's office at 319 Williams Ave., Port St. Joe, FL 32456. Please no phone calls.

Be sure to include your telephone number.

May will see 20 patients in need of dental treatment, and the hygienists Anealia Bush and Linda Wright will see eight to 10 patients each who wish to have their teeth cleaned. The office hopes to serve as many as 40 patients.

Patients must be at least 12 years of age, and accompanied by a parent or guardian if under the age of 18. Treatments provided will include cleaning, x-rays, fillings, extractions, diagnostics and pain control.

May said he and his staff participate in "Dentist With a Heart" because they "wish to impact people who otherwise could not afford to see a dentist, and help those people save their teeth, as well as relieve them of any discomfort they may be having. Our office cares about this community and would like to give those in need of our services, their smiles back!"

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Produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc. Funded in part by the Franklin Tourist Development Council.

Lost & Found in 2012

We look back into the past and try to remember the year that things happened. Some dates are easy to remember. You remember the year you graduated from high school or college. You remember the year you started work. Most of the time you remember the years your children were born.

As you get older, dates and times seem to blur and all run together.

2012 will definitely be a year that I will always remember.

We all have our priorities, likes, dislikes, fears and loves. Things that are important to me are not necessarily important to others; I understand that. We seem to be drawn to people who have similar interests or those who make an attempt to understand those little things that make us who we are.

When you look back at what news people think was important, it may or may not be important to you. The magazines think we are all interested in which movie stars got married, divorced, had children and died. Most of them don't interest me.

One fellow who I always liked was the gentleman who played "John Coffey" in the movie, "The Green Mile." His name was Michael Duncan. He had a heart attack and died two months later at age 54.

Duncan was raised by a single mother on Chicago's South Side and dropped out of college when his mother became ill. Before making it in Hollywood, Duncan was a ditch digger for several years for the gas company in Chicago. I always heard about "ditch diggers," but never really heard of one making it big. "Big Mike," as they called him, did make it kind of big. They say every time someone on the street knew him by his real name, "Michael Clarke Duncan," he would give them five dollars.

He had a beautiful deep voice, and I particularly liked the line in the movie where he said, "You can't hide what's in your heart."

It is true.

Others died including Davy Jones, Earl Scruggs, Dick Clark and Andy Williams. Davy



CRANKS MY TRACTOR
BN Heard

Jones of the Monkees always brought back memories of the comedy show by the same name that I watched on Saturday mornings in the late 1960's. He also made me think of Marsha

Brady, who was a bit of a "tractor cranker" on "The Brady Bunch."

Earl Scruggs was a bluegrass musician who picked the banjo and played with Lester Flatt. Together they were, "Flatt & Scruggs," the fellows who sang the theme song for the television show, "The Beverly Hillbillies."

Dick Clark came to see me on Saturday mornings also, with "American Bandstand." In later years, we all watched "the ball drop" in Times Square with Mr. Clark.

Andy Williams sung "Moon River," like nobody's business. When I think of the song, I think of Holly Golightly, Audrey Hepburn and "Breakfast at Tiffany's," but I will also think of Andy Williams' version of the song. He seemed to be a good man. Of his talent, Williams said, "I never tried to sing like anybody else, fortunately I didn't sound like anybody else. It just happened."

We are fortunate it did (just happen).

Having spent almost exactly half of my life in the "space business," I have to say that Neil Armstrong, who passed away in 2012, was definitely an American Hero. He was to me. He was the first man to walk on the moon and it signified a great victory for our country.

It was a victory that we needed. It wasn't a Hollywood set, it was the Moon and it was Neil Armstrong.

The world was supposed to end in 2012. I didn't concern myself with the "End of the World" school of thought that some folks said the Mayans predicted. One NASA fellow explained it best when he compared

See **CRANKS A5**

Keyboard KLATTERINGS Shining Light

As an observer who has watched the effort to save the Cape San Blas Lighthouse play out over the past decade – not the past few months as some would assert – the recent wrangling has an echo of humor.

For much of the past decade the city of Port St. Joe and the Board of County Commissioners paid scant attention to the lighthouse and grounds.



TIM CROFT
Star news editor

The folks at the St. Joseph Historical Society put the shoulder to the wheel and did all the heavy lifting to restore a keeper's quarters and the lighthouse and create a tour and gift shop.

That is their hard work; there is little other credit, at least locally, to spread around despite efforts otherwise.

But the effort to save the lighthouse has created just another rub between the city and county and no matter the efforts of citizens to disengage from that concept, the reality is there is little respect lost between the BOCC and city commissioners.

The BOCC has pretty much dictated that, as occurred Tuesday when BOCC meeting time was again wasted on axe-grinding having nothing to do with county business, with a racial tinge for effect.

Some clarifications are required, however.

The city is not stealing the lighthouse — the ocean is. If nobody locally lifts a finger the grounds will be under water within a year or two, at most.

The application process for taking possession of the lighthouse may be, like so much of government, deeply flawed, but it is what it is, the process. The process has produced a decision.

It was stated by the BOCC that it would live with that decision. Apparently with fingers crossed

There is no clarity on what the potential costs of moving the lighthouse could be and therefore a comparison between county-

proposed Salinas Park and city-proposed BayFront Park, a new creation, are moot, despite common sense that Salinas would be cheaper.

Until the process gets down to qualifications and specs on the job, until there is a certified quote and not guess work or an estimate, the exact cost is an unknown.

And, bluntly, neither city nor county can afford to pull off the move on the backs of taxpayers, if pleas of poverty the last few years are to have credibility.

There is also the simple truth that there are compelling arguments on both sides of the equation for where the lighthouse should be relocated with passionate people providing those arguments.

At the most fundamental this is a debate about the economy, about creating a revenue stream and potentially jobs as well as a ripple effect throughout the county.

This is in significant measure about economic development and in this rare instance, when the city has, shall we say, a bit of the upper hand, there is a path for the city to make this work far beyond a lighthouse and museum and park.

The city could decide to back away and alert the U.S. Department of the Interior that it will defer to the county on the lighthouse.

This may very well not be the city's call; the federal government tends to do what it cares to and that is why no one should be holding their breath on any RESTORE Act money.

But the city could back away with the same stipulation the county put in its letter of appeal to the feds' decision to award the lighthouse to the city – make it contingent on the county relocating the lighthouse within a certain period of time or the city moves ahead in line.

In return the city should demand, through interlocal agreements, two things that are in BOCC hands but could prove far more fruitful for economic development.

One, force an agreement in writing on the Economic Development Council, living to the original parameters agreed when the current

director was hired more than a year ago.

In effect, compel the BOCC to live, for once when it comes to economic development, to its agreement with Barry Sellers on length of contract and level of funding with the city also contributing its agreed portion.

In other words, go back to the beginning before the spite train roared through the BOCC meeting room. Let Sellers do his job.

Get out of the way. If, after the finite period of his contract, work remains, a decision can be fairly reached.

At this point, Sellers has been hired to develop the economy of the county with one hand and one leg tied behind his back.

Second, force a written agreement that any RESTORE funds coming to the county are first earmarked to pay off the mortgage on port land along the Intracoastal Canal.

If there is going to be real economic development, real job creation that benefits the entire county, it is likely to come from that port, which is within the city limits, with St. Joe as a partner and the state invested.

The significant stumbling block for the port is that mortgage with Capital City Bank. Facilitate paying it off with the RESTORE windfall.

The lighthouse is surely not worth continued bad blood — even within the Historical Society — that seems part of the local government DNA.

And it is a shame that saving the lighthouse has become a competition to begin with — particularly when the competition results only in wounds.

The argument could be fairly made that a replica lighthouse, using the original as a model, would fit the Bayfront Park concept just fine.

But the award of the lighthouse to the city has positioned the City Commission for the opportunity to use foresight and long-term vision that the BOCC can never seem to get its hands around to the benefit of the entire county.

Shine the light a little farther than Salinas Park or Bayfront Park.

We ain't talking JACK Armstrong here!

Let me give you the inside dope on Lance Armstrong. He rode a bicycle six hours a day for years and years..... practicing!!! I'm not one to criticize, condemn or point the fingers. But folks, I don't care about Olympics, touring up and down some hills in France or a hundred yellow shirts! Six hours a day and you're not going anywhere seems a bit extreme to me. You'd have to be taking something to fall for the old "let's take a few practice laps around Dallas, Fort Worth and Houston."

David Mark and I each got a brand new Western Flyer one Christmas and you bet we did a little practicing. We drove to the mailbox and back to make sure we wouldn't fall off and then we made a beeline down to Terry Kennon's house to show off our new rides! We wanted those bikes above everything else. We'd cut out pictures of Flyers from the Sears and Roebuck Catalogue and accidentally let them fall on the kitchen table. It was the only thing I listed in my letter to Santa. I prayed for a bike in spite of Mom's teachings against beseeching God with selfish request.

It never entered our minds to "practice" riding a bicycle. We weren't riding to build up leg muscles, enlarge our breathing capacity or sculpt our waistline. Shoot, we lived

out at the end of the road. We surmised early in life that the purpose of any bicycle was to get you from point A to point B as judiciously as possible.

You cannot imagine the freedom built into that Western Flyer! The thirty minute walk to Carter's Log Cabin Store for a cold NuGrape Soda could be "wheeled out" in a few minutes. It was the same going to the Saturday afternoon matinee



HUNKER DOWN
Kelsey Colbert

at the Park Theatre; or hustling out to Junior's J & J to pick up a loaf of bread for Mom. The biggest gain might have been the baseball games. We could get to them quicker. And stay later. We would measure off the sundown curfew and play until the last possible second—and hop on our bikes and pedal like madmen for the house!

That iconic picture of the kid on his bike with a baseball glove hung on the handle bars and a bat slung causally over one shoulder wasn't some kind of Norman Rockwell painting for us.

We'd build ramps out of barnyard lumber and attempt to jump that big ditch behind George Sextons's house. We took clothespins and clamped baseball cards on the fender guard so the spinning spokes would sound like a motor rocketing us toward town. We learned to pedal with "no hands". We could get

going pretty fast and step up on the seat with one foot and wave at Mary Hadley or Cynthia Wheat.

There is a lot more to riding a bike than a yellow shirt at the end of the day.

I certainly don't want to sell Lance Armstrong short here. Maybe the six hours a day practices were his ride to town. His baseball game! He certainly pedaled into fame and fortune that was way beyond anything we could have imagined or accomplished with our Western Flyers.

We did race some. You couldn't have a bicycle in McKenzie, Tennessee, in those days without "testing it out" from time to time. Dave and I would start at the top of the hill in front of Paul David Campbell's house and race the half of mile or so to where the blacktop ended as Stonewall Street turned into Moore Avenue. I was older and stronger. He was lighter and had the faster bike. The playing field was pretty equal for us. Joe and Richard Gooch would wheel out from their driveway and it would be a four man dash to the finish!

There were, of course, no prizes for winning, unless you count the thrill of victory. We would not have accepted a yellow shirt back then even if they were handing them out. We would however, if we got the chance, cheat to win. I have let a little air out of David's back tire on occasion. I have "leaned in" on Richard a few times to throw his stride off. John

Ingram beat me most every time we hooked up between his house and the railroad tracks up beside the City Café. I didn't find out till we were seniors that he would tank up on a couple of Root Beers before the race to add a little sugar high to his metabolism. No wonder I would race off to the lead only to have him fly past me as I engineered the last small incline as the tracks appeared in sight!

It would be hypocritical of me to jump on the "let's get Lance Armstrong" bandwagon. I don't know the man. I can't imagine the pressure of racing for real money. Or having to impress sponsors every time out! Or fighting for endorsements to keep the riding hopes alive. I'd say stripping him of his titles is a pretty fierce punishment in its own right. Bobby Bonds, Mark McGwire and Roger Clemens are feeling some of the same pains in another sport.

I hope we're not heading toward a mandatory point where all your sins must be aired on CNN or Sportscenter. This could get a little more serious than just some idle sports mucky-t muck. I don't want anyone showing up with a microphone and a camera asking me or Bobby Brewer who painted the water tower in 1964..... or stopped up the main city drain behind Broadway Street.....isn't there a stature of limitations.....

Respectfully,
Kes

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Cape San Blas Lighthouse debate

Losing lighthouse history

Dear Editor:

Betty McNeill did indeed speak for south Gulf County regarding the Cape San Blas Lighthouse and the preservation of its long history on Cape San Blas in a recent article in The Star.

The Cape San Blas Lighthouse is just that; The Cape San Blas Lighthouse not the Port St. Joe cornerstone for the city's newest tourist marketing efforts. The current plans to develop a tourist destination on the waterfront sounds good enough to stand alone. To move the lighthouse that far, would look like insanity to anybody outside of the area, when a site in a developed beautiful park with a prehistoric dune structure on the Gulf of Mexico is located a stones throw from the present location, in an area of the beach that has pretty well accreted for over 100 years

As one of the many business owners in south Gulf County that will be directly impacted by removing the lighthouse and the hundreds of visitors that it draws to the Cape San Blas/Indian Pass and Simmons Bayou areas each year, we all will be directly impacted as will all of the other ones. It should remain on the Cape; it is the peninsula that suffers severe erosion not the Cape of San Blas and the lighthouse/keepers cottages could survive in that location.

We are sure there are some people involved in the city'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 if we moved your Centennial Building to our area; you'd lose your historical artifact/tourist draw 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. Gulf County Commissioners should use the recently improved Salinas Park as the Lighthouse location and make good use of the public monies already spent there recently, and allow the city to save all the new monies required to move it to Port St. Joe for better use in the city's development of its waterfront.

The Historical Society may have not thought through their agreeing to the move in their desperation to grab the first hand offered 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 not the easy and less expensive transition to Salinas Park when a Cape location is more accurate in preserving history; and isn't that why they were created.

The Gulf County Commissioners need to get busy and work with the Historical Society to fix this wrong, because at this point commissioners have only complicated the situation and failed to represent the best interests of the people they were elected to represent, as Mrs. McNeill made so abundantly clear.

Marie Steele and Joey Romanelli
Indian Pass

Response to lighthouse criticism

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

In reviewing your letters to the Star last week I noted a number of misstatements and inaccuracies. I would like to set the record straight before those misstatements are accepted as facts.

When the lighthouse and the keeper's quarters were about to be lost to the Gulf of Mexico, the St. Joseph Historical Society wrote and presented grants for over \$750,000 to restore the structures. Since the restoration, the St. Joseph Historical Society has maintained the property and operated the gift shop and tours.

The county has occasionally cut the grass. County tax dollars have been used to insure the structures for liability to the tune of about \$3,500 per year, not \$35,000-\$40,000 per year that has been suggested. Also, might I remind you that City of Port St. Joe residents pay county taxes and the City is part of Gulf County as well, so some of the county expenditures came from City residents.

Both of you suggested that it could cost over \$600,000 to move and re-establish all the structures in 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 power lines.

Also, only about \$25,000-\$35,000 would be needed to re-establish the structures at their new site because several businesses have offered their services for nothing or at a reduced cost. The total cost would

be somewhere between \$300,000 and \$315,000. We have approximately \$1.5 million in the bank in our reserve fund. We don't intend to do so, but we could write a check for that tomorrow if we had to. Could the county?

It has been suggested that Salinas Park is the safest location for the lighthouse. Might I remind you that, in 1985 during Hurricane Kate, the Gulf and 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 the structures could be placed on the dunes. St. Joe Bay is much less affected by hurricanes because it is a shallow tidal bay and the city has never flooded.

You used terms like "amusement park", "steal the lighthouse", "satisfy egos." One thing I've learned in my 66 years is that when you don't have 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 just as the county did. I'm sorry that ours was found more worthy.

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

Either way, it would be fair to all concerned if you learned the facts, stopped demonizing the City and focus on what the future could hold for us all if we could develop a park that would bring tourists and their dollars to Port St. Joe and Gulf County.

Respectfully,
Mayor Mel Magidson

CRANKS from page A4

the Mayan calendar to your car's odometer just rolling over to all zeroes again.

That's all it was, just the odometer rolling over.

There's only One who knows when the end of the world will be and He's not a Mayan calendar maker or Skeeter Davis. However, Skeeter did a good job singing "The End of the World" song in 1963 and she had nice "helmetish" hair, but she was talking about love.

Skeeter sang, "I can't understand. No, I can't understand, How life goes on the way it does."

Life does go on, but it hurts when you lose people and their love for you.

I'm not talking about the movie stars, crooners and astronauts, I'm talking about the people I really knew and loved.

January 4th was exactly one year since Mama passed away in 2012; I will never be the same. If you've lost your mother, you understand. You think of all the things you want to say and all the things you need to hear.

You know what I mean. It may be only an hour, a day, a few months or 30

years, but for the time I have left, I will remember Mama and continue to write about and to her in a different sort of way.

Folks that knew my Mama, knew her as a sweet simple lady. She was, but she was smart. I'm not sure when, but Mama realized how to "break my code." She either just figured it out or perhaps I showed it to her when I was young.

I enjoy writing, teaching and also the work I do for a living, but when I was young, I dreamed of being a cryptographer.

The words and the math, kind of fit together, she understood. Mothers figure these things out. You may think you have a secret, but mothers know.

One day while visiting her, I fell asleep on the sofa. Mama was reading some stories I had written and printed out for her. When I woke up, one of the little paper napkins she seemed to enjoy collecting was on the table in front of the sofa where I'd been sleeping. We were at the assisted living home where Mama spent her last months.

The napkin had

something written on it. I read it, and then I looked at her.

I looked at her and then I put my face in my hand, holding it up and rubbing my temples with my thumb and middle finger, the way I always do when I'm trying to deal with something for which I'm unprepared.

With my face still down, I asked her, "How did you figure that out?"

Mama said something similar to what mathematician, Arne Beurling said when asked how he broke the Nazis' code, something having

to do with magicians not revealing their secrets.

I was too shaken at the time to remember.

Anyway, my mother knew I enjoyed writing and playing a little game when I did.

We never talked about it again; however I did understand that she understood "my other story." She would read my eight or nine hundred words to pull a simple sentence or two out.

She taught school for over forty years, was a Baptist Missionary, a 4-H Club fanatic and breaker of her middle son's codes.

She loved all of us, she forgave everyone, and she will be missed, but not forgotten.

Every story is just a story, but there will always be a message that I now know, Mama could figure out. She just won't be here to write it on a napkin.

2012 did have some high points.

Mama loved that I took such an interest in Vernon, Florida. I'm sure it was because the fellow who took me there so many times was her Daddy. He was a bit peculiar; I guess you could say that about me.

She would have been incredibly proud of me getting to be an "Honorary Citizen" of Vernon and even more that I had the honor of being The Grand Marshal of the 2012 Christmas Parade.

I lost so much love in 2012 that it is hard to understand "how life goes on the way it does," as Skeeter Davis' sang.

It has to, because there are those who depend on me.

And don't bother to get a napkin and try...

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PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE STAR

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 charged 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, his 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 by the inmates, saved Mandy.

"These men have saved her life and helped her to be a confident dog who performs many of her commands. She even learned about Christmas," Christy said. "And, Mandy will stay in Class 25 to keep working on her confidence and until her forever home is found."

"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 assist with the Newtown, Conn., tragedy."

So, Christy said, the question is who saves who?

"We give of ourselves to help man's best friend, and he in turn gives all he has to help us, whether we are an inmate, an adopter or a volunteer. We all help each other," 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



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CONSORTIUM from page A1

Gulf County's RESTORE committee has been meeting and screening pre-proposals for potential projects for funding.

With the settlement with Transocean beginning the funneling of fine money into the RESTORE process, the federal rules are what the states and counties are waiting on. Those rules were due at the first of the year.

"All we are waiting for is the rules from (the U.S. Department of Treasury)," Yeager said Tuesday. "We may see money sooner than later."

The consortium officers elected last week will appoint two additional members, said Cragin Mosteller, consortium spokeswoman, and the five will combine to form the executive committee. The two additional members have not been named, though the floor was opened for nominations at the meeting.

The consortium has nearly finalized an agreement with Gov. Rick Scott to allow him to appoint six non-voting members to the consortium, Mosteller said. The agreement has been reached, but the consortium must draw up a "memorandum of understanding" and vote on it, she said.

"Until the consortium votes on it, this is all tentative," Mosteller said.

Mosteller said Scott's six picks would be "citizen members" and would only give their opinions on consortium discussions and projects.

Thomas said getting the agreement with the governor settled will make everything a lot "smoother" and the appointments would serve in an advisory capacity. He added he was pleased with who was elected.

"It's a good slate," he said. "I think those guys have been involved in it the entire time. They're more familiar with it than any of the rest of us."

Thomas said Latvala's husband is state Sen. Jack Latvala, R-Clearwater, so she should be well-informed on what's going on with RESTORE Act money.

"I'm optimistic about the group getting together, trying to do things and working good together, but it's still just a very cumbersome process," he said. "It's going to take a lot of time."

There has been little communication recently between Washington and the consortium, Mosteller said. At the meeting, the full consortium approved a formula adjustment for divvying up RESTORE Act funds, which U. S. Rep. Steve Southerland, R-Panama City, requested.

"We're also watching and monitoring very closely the plan that's being developed by the federal council," Mosteller said.

Star News Editor Tim Croft contributed to this report

BOCC from page A1

commissioners and public.

Commissioner Carmen McLemore said he "was not 100 percent against" Bryan's goal, but said county staff and others fail to make current deadlines.

"Make them," Bryan said. Commissioner Warren Yeager said he supported making the agenda more clear, but said he was leery of tying commissioners' hands should an issue arise that requires immediate action is brought to the podium by a member of the public.

"We use common sense," Bryan said. "I don't think something like that will happen that often. But people with a special interest can come up and have an advantage that others in the public do not and do not necessarily agree with that person. They do not have the opportunity to provide input."

At the suggestion of her fellow commissioners, Bryan was asked to work with county attorney Jeremy Novak and county administrator Don Butler on a process and guidelines to bring more clarity and transparency to the county agenda.

Indian Pass Boat Ramp

Butler said he would continue discussions with the landowner of the Indian Pass Campground concerning a land swap with the county by which the county would relocate its boat ramp to the

lagoon side.

Erosion has been an issue on either side of the current Indian Pass Boat Ramp almost since its construction and as the problem has increased, the county has seen parking and amenities around the boat ramp decrease.

Butler said GIS would work on a suitable location for the boat ramp on the lagoon side and said the owners of the campground were open to discussions.

A move to the lagoon side would also open up more parking around the boat ramp. The Friends of St. Vincent Island already maintain a launch in the general area.

"It's a problem at certain times and certain tides," Yeager said. "I think it would be a win-win for the county and the landowners."

Sheriff budget shortfall

Due to changes in the Gulf County Sheriff's Office since he was sworn in as sheriff earlier this month, Sheriff Mike Harrison came before the BOCC requesting \$51,000.

The money shortfall came about due to the departures of five former employees of the GCSO, two of whom were not retained, three of whom were offered jobs; two chose

to retire, another went to work elsewhere.

The five were due \$56,000 in payout for comp and leave time, with \$5,000 in the GCSO budget for that purpose.

Harrison said the budget shortfall would mean at least two positions would lapse — possibly as many as five — until the new fiscal year arrives in June, meaning a potential impact to services.

Commissioners approved an "advance" on next year's funding to fill in the shortfall and offered Harrison a chance to come back in a month or so once he gets a handle on his workforce situation.

HEALTH from page A1

"I believe that this honor is exceedingly well-deserved because it reflects tremendous effort, dedication, creativity, and cooperation on the part of our entire team of experts. We will continue to improve our ability to quickly and effectively respond to any public health crisis in Gulf County."

Robert Pestronk, executive director of NACCHO, emphasized the importance of local health departments in addressing local emergencies.

"All disasters strike locally, and local health departments are a critical part of any community's first response to disease outbreaks, emergencies, and acts of terrorism," Pestronk said. "NACCHO commends the Gulf County Health Department for being a model of public health emergency preparedness."

Local health departments recognized by PPHR undergo a rigorous evaluation by peer review. PPHR required the Gulf CHD to meet a set of national standards for public health preparedness in three key areas: preparedness planning, workforce competency, and demonstration of all-hazards readiness through exercises or a response to a real event.

The Gulf County Health Department has taken part in several such exercises — a mock traffic accident involving a school bus; emergency planning for a pandemic flu outbreak — and PPHR recognition confirms that the Gulf County Health Department has a thorough and coordinated emergency response plan in place, that agency staff members are trained, and that the agency exercises the plan and uses it during public health emergencies.

The mission of the Gulf County Health Department is to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county, and community efforts. For more information on Project Public Health Ready, including recognized sites, project tools, and resources, visit <http://www.naccho.org/PPHR>.



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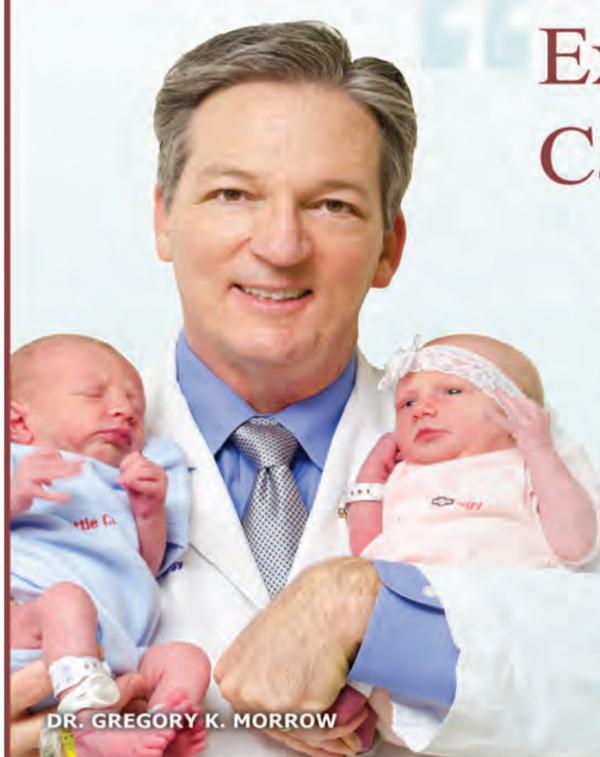
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PYTHON CHALLENGE

Foliage, swamplands, water make hunt difficult

IN THE FLORIDA EVERGLADES (AP) — The man known as “Alligator Ron” has a lifetime of experience in the Florida Everglades, a fleet of airboats at his disposal and knows the habitats of furry prey for large reptiles. He still couldn’t lead a pack of hunters to a single Burmese python.

That’s the catch in Florida’s “Python Challenge”: Even experienced hunters with special permits to regularly stalk the exotic snake through Florida’s swamplands are having trouble finding them for a state-sponsored competition.

“When these snakes are in the water, in the vegetation, they blend in naturally to where you can’t hardly see them,” said state wildlife commissioner Ron Bergeron, whose nickname is emblazoned on the rudder of his black airboat, over the image of him riding an alligator.

The vast majority of roughly 1,000 people who signed up to hunt Burmese pythons on public lands from Jan. 12 through Feb. 10 are amateurs when it comes to pythons. Only about 30 hold permits for harvesting pythons throughout the year.

The permit holders might have a slight edge when it comes to handling snakes, but the tan, splotchy pythons have natural camouflage that gives them an important advantage in the ecosystem they have invaded.

As of Thursday, 21 pythons had been killed for the contest, according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

It is difficult to pin down how many Burmese pythons slither through Florida’s Everglades, but officials say their effect is glaringly obvious. According to a study released last year, sightings of raccoons, opossums, bobcats, rabbits and other mammals in the Everglades are down as much as 99 percent in areas where pythons are known to live.

It’s believed the pythons devour the native wildlife, and officials worry the snakes’ voracious appetite will undermine the ongoing, multimillion-dollar effort to restore natural water flow through the Everglades.

Bergeron led 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, either. The only thing they did find: signs of feral hogs, another



PHOTOS BY AP

TV crews pet and take photos as Capt. Jeff Fobb from the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue’s Venom Response Unit, holds a python Jan. 12, during the kick-off ceremonies for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s month-long “Python Challenge” in Davie. The 13-foot reptile was captured in a backyard swimming pool in 2012. **Below**, Jim Howard, of Cooper City, examines a piece of a large snake skin he found under some foliage in the Florida Everglades during his search of pythons. **At top**, Howard searches under the dense foliage.

problematic invasive species.

“Rabbits were like rats. Growing up, you saw them everywhere,” said Jim Howard, a Miami native and a python permit holder participating in the contest. “I haven’t seen a rabbit in 20 years. I don’t see foxes. I hardly see anything.”

He has caught a python in the Everglades in each of the last two years, though. Each was more than 12 feet long and contained more than 50 eggs.

He returned to those locations Wednesday, poking under ferns and discarded wooden boards with a hook at the end of a 3-foot-long stick. All he found were the shavings of some large snake — each transparent scale was the size of a fingertip.

After spending hours steering his boat along 14 miles of canals to levees and embankments where pythons might lurk, Howard extended the hook toward the dense, impenetrable grass that stretched all the way to the horizon, with no landmarks or vantage points.

Millions of acres in any direction in the Everglades are exactly the same. From that perspective, the hunt for well-hidden pythons seems futile.

“We’re looking at inches,” Howard said.

Officials say the number of pythons caught during the contest isn’t as important as the data they provide.

“I’m going to be ecstatic if we see

100,” said Frank Mazzotti, a University of Florida professor of wildlife ecology who is helping the commission with the contest.

He continued to low-ball expectations 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 information from python necropsies — particularly what’s in their stomachs — to improve their attempts at dealing with the snakes.

“Our list of what pythons eat is not complete yet,” Mazzotti said.

The population of Burmese pythons, an invasive species in Florida, likely developed from pets released into the wild, either intentionally or in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew 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 drives heat-seeking snakes onto sunny roads and levees.

Florida prohibits owning or selling pythons for use as pets, and federal law bans importation and interstate sale of the species.

Mazzotti had one tip for hunters frustrated by the pythons’ near-invisibility: Stop and listen for a dry, rustling sound in the grass.

“It sounds like something large,” he said.

Fishermen: Table regional management of snapper

By **TINA HARBUCK**
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When it comes to drawing lines in the Gulf of Mexico to help manage red snapper, area fishermen are not ready.

“Not now,” was the sentiment of the majority of the 104 fishermen in attendance at a Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council scoping meeting at the Destin Community Center Thursday night, a gathering to discuss Reef Fish Amendment 39 - Regional Management of Recreational Red Snapper.

The two-and-a-half hour scoping meeting, which was to report and take comments, was one of about a half dozen to take place throughout the Gulf Coast in the last couple of weeks.

Ryan Rindone, Southeast Data, Assessment and Review Coordinator, with the Gulf of Mexico FMC, presented a power-point on how regional management of red snapper would look in federal waters in the Gulf of Mexico.

“Regional management would encourage more flexibility in how the recreational quota is managed, and it would enable areas of the Gulf to propose management measures tailored to

specific regions,” according to the scoping guide. “However, red snapper would remain a federally managed species and federal conservation goals and annual quotas would apply.”

There was also discussion as to how the regions would be decided and divided in the Gulf from Texas to Florida. They could be divided into an east and west region; or an east, central and west region; or each state could have its own region.

Once regions were decided, the council would need to allocate the red snapper quota among the regions.

But the biggest question mark from the scoping meeting for the majority of the anglers was what kind of accountability measures would there be?

According to the report, “recreational red snapper will remain under federal control and is subject to seasonal closure when the Gulf-wide quota is reached.”

The 2013 recreational red snapper in state and federal waters has not yet been set.

Currently, in federal waters, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is developing options for the upcoming year which will be examined at their next meeting Feb. 5-8 in Mobile, Ala.

WEEKLY ALMANAC

Date	High	Low	% Precip
Thu, Jan. 24	66°	54°	0 %
Fri, Jan. 25	70°	44°	30 %
Sat, Jan. 26	58°	39°	0 %
Sun, Jan. 27	61°	53°	0 %
Mon, Jan. 28	69°	57°	10 %
Tues, Jan. 29	69°	60°	10 %
Wed, Jan. 30	68°	53°	10 %

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
24	Th	7:56pm 1.2		5:40am -0.7	
25	Fr	8:35pm 1.2		6:09am -0.7	
26	Sa	9:12pm 1.1		6:33am -0.7	
27	Su	9:50pm 1.0		6:52am -0.6	
28	Mo	10:31pm 0.9		7:04am -0.4	
29	Tu	11:18pm 0.7		7:10am -0.2	
30	We	2:59pm 0.2	7:04am -0.1	5:35pm 0.1	
31	Th	12:16am 0.4	2:11pm 0.4	6:37am 0.0	8:47pm 0.1
1	Fr	1:54am 0.2	2:14pm 0.7	5:19am 0.1	11:22pm -0.1
2	Sa	2:43pm 0.9			
3	Su	3:30pm 1.0		1:01am -0.3	
4	Mo	4:28pm 1.2		2:12am -0.6	
5	Tu	5:31pm 1.3		3:15am -0.7	

APALACHICOLA BAY, WEST PASS

Date	Day	High Tide	High Tide	Low Tide	Low Tide
24	Th	3:50pm 0.9		8:37am -0.5	7:55pm 0.8
25	Fr	12:45am 1.0	4:12pm 1.0	9:12am -0.5	8:39pm 0.7
26	Sa	1:34am 1.1	4:32pm 1.0	9:42am -0.5	9:17pm 0.7
27	Su	2:21am 1.1	4:49pm 1.0	10:08am -0.4	9:53pm 0.6
28	Mo	3:06am 1.0	5:05pm 1.0	10:30am -0.3	10:28pm 0.5
29	Tu	3:52am 1.0	5:22pm 1.0	10:52am -0.2	11:06pm 0.4
30	We	4:42am 1.0	5:42pm 1.0	11:15am -0.1	11:49pm 0.2
31	Th	5:38am 0.9	6:05pm 1.0	11:41am 0.1	
1	Fr	6:44am 0.8	6:32pm 1.1	12:40am 0.1	12:09pm 0.3
2	Sa	8:08am 0.7	7:05pm 1.1	1:44am 0.0	12:37pm 0.5
3	Su	10:05am 0.6	7:45pm 1.2	3:08am -0.1	1:01pm 0.6
4	Mo	8:36pm 1.2		4:42am -0.2	
5	Tu	9:41pm 1.2		6:02am -0.4	

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FISH REPORT SPONSORED BY



Inshore

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

Freshwater

Lake Wimico and under the White City Bridge, a few luck anglers are reporting on stripped bass and hybrid bass this week. White grubs and jig heads will entice them, but a live shrimp will work well also.



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

Star Staff Report

In what Port St. Joe coach Gary Hindley called a "hotly-contested back-and-forth battle" the visiting Franklin County Lady Seahawks came away with a 2-1 victory in last week's District 1-1A title game.

Franklin County entered as the top seed and will host a region playoff game this week. Port St. Joe, the third seed, fell to 10-5-1 overall and visited Tallahassee John Paul II on Wednesday in a region opener.

Franklin scored the first two goals, taking a 2-0 lead in the first 32 minutes of the opening half.

The Lady Tiger Sharks mounted a second half assault on the Franklin County goal but could only score an unassisted goal by junior forward Allie Stripling, her fourth of the year.

Port St. Joe outshot Franklin 12-6.

Goalie Christian Laine, a junior, played 62 minutes in goal and made four saves before she was inserted at forward. Seventh-grader Celeste Childs finished the final 18 minutes in the net and had to make only a single save, as Port St. Joe pressed the attack.

The Lady Tiger Sharks reached the district title game with a 1-0 victory over second-seeded Rocky Bayou. Franklin County was a 6-1 winner over Baker, the fourth seed.

Freshman Kathleen Rish, Port St. Joe's leading scorer, connected on the lone goal (her 13th on the season) in the 65th minute from 10 yards out, Hindley said Laine and a stout defensive effort held off several good scoring chances by Rocky Bayou in the final 15 minutes. Port St. Joe outshot Rocky Bayou 12-9.

Laine was forced to make six saves. Her record in goal is now 7-3-1 and her goals against average was lowered to .756. It was the ninth shut-out of the year for the Port St. Joe Lady Tiger Sharks.

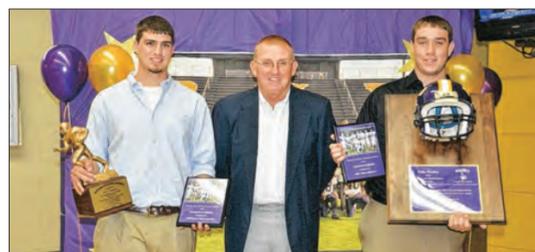
THE TIGER SHARKS

The Port St. Joe boys (11-2-1 overall) enter this week's District 1-1A tournament at Freeport as the top seed. The Tiger Sharks will play the winner of a play-in game pitting No. 4 Freeport versus No. 5 Baker, played on Monday. Port St. Joe played 6 p.m. CT on Tuesday at Freeport. The other semifinal pits Rocky Bayou, the second seed, against Franklin County, the third seed, at 4 p.m. CT. The District 1-1A final game is 6 p.m. CT Friday at Freeport.



PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE STAR | Anealia Bush

Top: Kathleen Rish, a freshman, scored her team-leading 13th goal in a district semifinal win over Rocky Bayou. **Middle:** The district final between Port St. Joe and Franklin County was a "hotly-contested back-and-forth battle" according to Port St. Joe Coach Gary Hindley. **Above:** After falling behind 2-0 early, the Lady Tiger Sharks could not quite knot the score despite a second-half assault on the Franklin County goal.



PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE STAR | Sissy Worley
Ricky Pennington, Coach Chuck Gannon and Tyler Worley.

PSJ teams hold football banquet

Star Staff Report

The Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High School football team celebrated a successful 2012 season last week during the annual football program's banquet.

The Tiger Sharks rebounded from two losing seasons to finish 7-3 and less than two touchdowns removed from a playoff spot.

Among those receiving awards:

- Ricky Pennington won the Broadcaster's Award;
- Tyler Worley was given

the award presented by the Nobles family for the player demonstrating the most desire and dedication;

• Captains Award were awarded to Ricky Pennington, Dallas Burke, Dusty Richter, Tyler Worley, Joe Love and Josh Cabiniss. Not pictured are Ramello Zaccarro and Corey North.

• Pride of the Sharks Award to Dusty Richter;

• Dallas Burke was the defensive player of the year, Jarkeice Davis (not pictured) the offensive player of the year.



Tyler Worley flanked by Teedy and Bobby Nobles. Worley was given the Desire and Dedication Award sponsored by the Nobles family.



From left, Ricky Pennington, Dallas Burke, Dusty Richter, Tyler Worley, Joe Love and Josh Cabiniss all received Captain's Awards.



Dusty Richter, who won the Pride of the Sharks Award, Coach Chuck Gannon and Dallas Burke, named defensive player of the year.

Port St. Joe girls unbeaten for week

Star Staff Report

Port St. Joe won three district games over the past week to improve to 11-9 overall and 8-4 in district play.

The Lady Tiger Sharks basketball team is likely to be a second or third seed when the District 2-1A playoffs begin in the coming weeks.

Senior Alyssa Parker led the Lady Tiger Sharks to a win over Liberty County on Dec. 15, scoring 12 points while dishing out five assists and pulling down seven rebounds in a 32-20 victory.

Port St. Joe jumped out early to a 11-4 lead at the half and stretched the lead to 23-9 after three periods.

Teiyahna Hutchinsin added 10 points, Maya Robbins six, and Shan-

non Pridgeon and Hallie Jasinski each chipped in two.

Port St. Joe hosted Blountstown at the Washington Recreation Center gym on Dec. 18 and romped to a 22-point win.

The Lady Tiger Sharks never trailed and jump out to 16-4 lead in the opening quarter and continued into halftime with a 34-10 lead. The final was 45-23. The win avenged a loss to Blountstown earlier in the season.

Port St. Joe was led by two seventh-graders Brooklyn Quinn with 17 points and Hutchison with 15. Parker added four, Callie Fleshren four and Maya Robbins had three points.

The following night, Port St. Joe greeted the Lady Seahawks of Franklin County.

Franklin County led 12-11 after one quarter, but the Lady Tiger Sharks pulled out to a 21-13 halftime lead. After Franklin County closed to 24-21 in the third quarter, the Lady Tiger Sharks got hot and pulled away for a 38-26 win.

The Lady Tiger Sharks were led Hutchison with 13 points, nine in the fourth quarter alone. Quinn added nine, Robbins six, Fleshren four, Claudia Gref had a 3-pointer and Parker and Maliayah McNair each had three points and Davida Tshudi.

The Lady Tiger Sharks traveled to Wakulla on Tuesday, host East Gadsden at 5 p.m. tonight, host Mosley at 5 p.m. on Friday and finish the regular season at Bay High on Saturday, with tipoff at 6 p.m. ET.

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Sixth annual Sportsman's banquet Feb. 21

Special to The Star

What better way to wish fall away and usher in spring than to spend the evening at the 6th annual Panhandle Sportsman's Banquet sharing with friends your outdoor adventures of the fall and planning new ones for the spring. One of the area's most anticipated sportsmen's events is soon to occur.

The date of the annual Panhandle Sportsman's Banquet has been set for Thursday evening, Feb. 21. Port St. Joe Lions Club members are busy working to make this year's event not only one of the biggest and best ever, but another special moment to remember.

Attendees will enjoy the historic surroundings of the Port St. Joe Centennial Building while socializing with numerous area sportsmen



FILE PHOTO

The Sportsman's Banquet annually draws huge crowds with good food and an array of auction items.

and friends, and enjoying appetizers of Apalachicola oysters, boiled shrimp and all the trimmings beginning at 5:00 p.m. The beverage bar will also open at that time.

At 6:30 p.m. the serious eating begins. Chef Charlie Norton's "famous, no-man-left-hungry" ribeye steaks will take up a goodly portion of the dinner plate, leaving just

enough room for the salad, potato and rolls. Don't forget to save room for Sister's "almost equally famous" banana pudding.

The Centennial Building will remove the threat of inclement weather impacting the evening and provide the backdrop of the historic building, erected in recognition of the signing site of Florida's First Constitution.

At 7:30 p.m., it's time to let a few notches out of your belt and get ready for the real excitement.

Over \$20,000 worth of contributions and prizes will be distributed to the guests through live auctions and raffles. A few of the items offered will include over 24 shotguns, hunting rifles and pistols, along with numerous other outdoor products. There will also be items available for women and children. This will

mark the third year of the \$8,000 cash drawing held during the event. The lucky winner could win up to \$8,000 if his ticket is drawn last from the box, but each ticket holder will have a one in 25 chance of at least doubling their money.

Tickets for the event are \$50 in advance and \$60 at the door. They can be purchased at Hannon Insurance and Ramsey's Printing and Office Products in Port St. Joe and from any Lions Club member. Additional information or ticket purchases can be made by calling 227-1133, 227-7767 or 527-1338.

The real winners at this year's banquet will be the beneficiaries of the community service projects supported by the Lions Club. Nearly \$15,000 was raised at 2011's banquet for community service programs in the panhandle.

Tiger Sharks finding the zone

By TIM CROFT
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tcroft@starfl.com

Sometimes a coach has to adjust.

Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High School boys' basketball Coach Derek Kurnitsky has always been about man-to-man defense.

But with the talent on this roster, he said, there was a struggle with those principles.

So during the holiday break, Kurnitsky began employing more zone press and zone trap concepts into the defense, and the Tiger Sharks have won seven of their last eight games.

After three wins last week, Port St. Joe is 12-9 overall and 7-4, in second place, in District 4-1A.

"With young guys sometimes it takes awhile to get

accustomed to varsity basketball," Kurnitsky said. "When we went to more of a zone on defense, the kids really picked it up. We have really improved.

"As coaches we can be stubborn. But sometimes you have to adjust to your talent. And we have really had some guys stepping up and playing good basketball."

Last week included a streak of district victories, as Port St. Joe took down Liberty County 71-41, Blountstown 50-36 and Franklin County 70-37.

Notable among those box scores are the number of periods - six out of 12 - during which the Tiger Sharks held opponents to single digits.

"Since Christmas we have been playing zone and it has really shown," Kurnitsky said. "We are playing good defense right now. And

we are also starting to get more guys scoring."

The Tiger Sharks had six players score nine or more points in last Tuesday's blowout of Liberty County.

Cory Calloway led the way with 19 but Chad Quinn, Marcel Johnson and Marquez Johnson each had 10 points and Ramello Zaccaro and Natron Lee had nine apiece.

The Tiger Sharks were up 32-20 after holding Liberty County to seven points in the second quarter and coasted.

Luke Galloway and Jak Riley each added two points.

Port St. Joe held Blountstown to single digits in each of the first three periods while building a 42-23 lead before the Tigers made some inroads in the final period.

Again, balance defined the offense as Calloway had 19, Lee 12, Marcel Johnson 10, Zaccaro six, Quinn three and Galloway three.

The game was played in front of a packed raucous crowd at the historic Washington Recreational Center gym.

"It was awesome," Kurnitsky said. "People were standing everywhere, we had to put chairs on the stage. It was just a fun night, a great day."

Franklin County, which beat Port St. Joe before Christmas, was blown out by a first quarter in which the Seahawks managed just six points and more crucially a third quarter during which they scored just five points.

Calloway led Port St. Joe with 24 points and Quinn (12), Marcel Johnson (11) and Lee (10) were also in double figures. Zaccaro had six, Riley four, Marquez Johnson and Luke Galloway two apiece.

The Tiger Sharks are at Bozeman on Friday and Bay High on Saturday.

PSJ wins semifinal

Star Staff Report

The Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High School boys' soccer team on Tuesday breezed into the District 1-1A title match with an 8-0 thrashing of Freeport, the host school for the tournament.

Port St. Joe will face Franklin County, a 2-1 winner over Rocky Bayou Tuesday, in the championship game on Friday night.

The Tiger Sharks, 12-2-1, have swept Franklin County this year; 5-1 at home Nov. 27 and 3-1 at Franklin County Dec. 13.

With their wins Tuesday, both teams clinched berths in the regional playoffs next week.

Port St. Joe scored early as ninth-grader and first-time starter Jake Dickinson notched his first goal of the season, unassisted, three minutes into the game.

Marcel Duarte, who notched his sixth hat trick of the season, scored in the 11th minute on an assist from midfielder Drew Lacour. It was Lacour's 13th assist of the year; a team high.

Jacob Lacour and Kaleb Odum assisted to set up Du-

arte again in the 13th minute mark and Duarte scored his third-straight goal four minutes later, with Drew Lacour and Daniel Jones assisting.

Duarte, a sophomore, has 31 goals on the year shattering the previous single-season record of 19.

Jacob Lacour scored his third goal of the year on an assist from Duarte and Jones added his eighth, unassisted, as Port St. Joe took a 7-0 lead into halftime after Javarri Beachum scored in the 26th minute with Jones on the assist.

With Coach Gary Hindley liberally substituting in the second half, Drew Lacour converted a penalty kick in the 51st minute to make it 8-0 and ending the game on the mercy rule.

Tucker Smith played 52 minutes in goal, faced two shots and made one save. Beachum, took over and logged nine minutes with one save. Beachum shared the shutout with Smith, who got credit for the win, making him 12-2-1 with a goals against average of 1.29. Beachum's GAA is 2.162.

Port St. Joe outshot Freeport 23-3.

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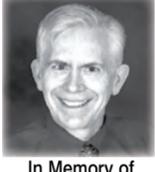
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Agenda for Winter Meeting

DATE:
Sat., January 26, 2013

TIME:
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM EST

PLACE OF MEETING:
St. Joseph's Bay Golf Club

GUESTS:
Gulf County Elected Officials and TDC & SGCFD

- Call to Order
- Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
- Treasurer's Report

Official Updates & Reports

- Taxes & Appraisals
- Tourist Development Council
- Gulf County Schools - New Tax
- Gulf County Courts
- Cape San Blas Light House
- Beach Restoration - FEMA
- CBRA Progress
- Story Telling Event - March 8 & 9
- Fire Department
- Sheriff's Report
- Widening of SR 30A - DOT
- Deep Water Horizon Settlements
- Buffer Preserve
- Membership in CCA
- Other Business

• Adjournment



TIM CROFT | The Star

While in Port St. Joe, Justin Riney, some Boy Scouts and local residents helped cleaned the beaches at Frank Pate Park. Events are integral to Riney's Expedition Florida 500.

Conservation made fun

Man paddleboards across Florida to raise awareness

By TIM CROFT
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tcroft@starfl.com

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 ventured to Florida some 500 years ago.

Riney was in Port St. Joe for a few days this week as part of his yearlong quest to paddleboard the state's waters, 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 interior waterways.

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

"We are focused on 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 point how beautiful we have it 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.

"Literally, hundreds of people have joined me along the way,"



COURTESY OF JUSTIN RINEY

One perk of Justin Riney's project to paddleboard the state's waters: postcard sunsets and sunrises.

"The mission of the nonprofit is to create, inspire and empower ocean advocates worldwide. 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. We want to make sure these waterways are here 500 years from now."

Justin Riney
founder, Mother Ocean

Riney said. "We've had a lot of events, a lot of interaction along the way."

"Everywhere we go, we do cleanups. One of the unique aspects is we do engage the community to come out."

Riney's project sprouted from his roots.

A native of Vero Beach, Riney said he grew up an outdoorsman, loving time on the water and in nature. He also 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.

"I'm wearing both hats," Riney said. "I know the science side, and I know the business side. I was something of an intermediary."

After spending some time in

See **CONSERVATION B6**



FILE PHOTO

The Gulf County Health and Safety Fair, sponsored by the Port St. Joe Rotary Club and the Gulf County Tourism Development Council, offers patrons more than 60 booths and 20 health screenings.

Free Health and Safety Fair today

Star Staff Report

Who doesn't want to feel better? The Gulf County Health and Safety Fair, hosted by the Port St. Joe Rotary Club and the Gulf County Senior Citizens Centers, will provide an exhibition of area health and safety services and a variety of free health screenings at the Centennial Building in Port St. Joe from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. ET today. The single goal of the Health Fair is to foster a healthier and safer Gulf County.

The fair will offer free health screenings, such as blood pressure, body mass index, blood oxygen, depression, Medicare basics and more. Organizers said screening results should not be mistaken for a diagnosis. The Gulf County Health Department will raise awareness on healthy eating and living to prevent and manage chronic disease.

"If somebody doesn't have health insurance, for instance, it's a great opportunity for free screenings," said Rotary member Lorinda Gingell. "You don't have to be a senior citizen to start having some of these health problems." Gingell said the organization of the health and safety fair directly reflects the Rotary club's motto, "Service above Self."

The fair also will feature booths from area law enforcement and the Tourist Development Council. Vendors also

will be offering prizes and giveaways at the fair as patrons make their way through a maze of booths from both private and governmental health providers. The St. Joe Bay Humane Society will provide applications for its new free spay/neuter program.

A unique stop will come at the end of the maze at the Bridge at Bay St. Joe booth, where patrons can step into the shoes of a dementia patient through a simulated "Virtual Dementia Tour." The Bridge will transform the Centennial Building's upstairs room into a "dementia room" where subjects, with their senses skewed, will be asked to perform a series of simple tasks. The results are eye-opening, as participants learned last year.

Marsha Lindeman, director of the Gulf County Health Department, said during "snowbird season," the health department sees an increase in its patient population. "These are fairs where people can come, not only people from Gulf County, but our visitors from the north who may be here for three months or more," Lindeman said. "This is a way for us to raise their awareness about the health care services we offer and remind our own citizens about the services. I'm really pleased with how we're strengthening our health promotion and awareness (in Gulf County)."



Centennial TRIVIA

Pelican Pete has a Centennial Stumper for You!



If the photographer of this early Port St. Joe scene was suddenly transported 100 years into the future, what would he see?



ANSWER ON PAGE B6

Society BRIEFS

Star staff reports

Gulf Amateur Radio Society to provide license exams

The Gulf Amateur Radio Society will provide ham radio license exams at 10 a.m. Feb. 9 at the Gulf County EOC building located behind the Gulf County Courthouse in Port St. Joe.

Those interested in obtaining a ham license or upgrading a present license should

contact C.H. Tillis at 648-8251 for information and exam registration.

Anyone who would like to become involved in amateur radio and needs information as to what is needed and how to obtain a license should contact the above number. Ham it up; get your license today and become part of amateur radio.

American Legion Post 116 regular meeting

There will be a regular

general meeting of American Legion Post 116 at 4 p.m. ET today at VFW Post 10069, Trout Avenue in Highland View. This will be a meeting to elect a new first vice commander, general business with discussion of future fundraising events and rehearsal for the upcoming memorial service.

Eligibility for membership and benefits can be found at www.legion.org.

All eligible veterans are invited to join.
For God and country.

Fifth annual Chili Cookoff

The Fifth Annual St. Joseph Catholic Church Men's Club Chili Cook-off will be from 5-7 p.m. Feb. 23 at the Church Hall.

The nominal ticket fee is \$6 for adults, \$3 for children age 4 to 12, and free for children 4 and younger.

Start off with sampling as many chilies as you wish, vote for your favorite and then go back for a full bowl of your choice. Soft drinks, coffee, tea or water is included, along

with dessert and ice cream. A donation bar offering beer and wine also will be available.

Tickets are available from any Men's Club member, at The No Name Café on Reid Avenue, at the Church Hall office (227-1417) or from Dan Van Treese (227-9837).

If you would like to compete (number of contestants limited to nine), or more information on the event or other St. Joseph Catholic Church Men's Club activities, call Van Treese at the above number.

Birthday



Celebrate "80"

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

Registration for Valentine's Day pageant starts

Star Staff Report

Gulf County Senior Citizens is proud to sponsor along with Wewahitchka Elementary School the 2013 Valentine's Day Pageant. The pageant will begin 6 p.m. CT Saturday, Feb. 9 at the WES auditorium. Registration packets are available at all local schools and at the Port St.

Joe and Wewahitchka Senior Centers and Wewahitchka City Hall.

Registration is \$20 and the deadline for registration is Friday, Feb. 1. No late registrations will be allowed.

The competitions are open to Pre-Kindergarten through 12th-grade girls in Gulf County (public or private) schools. Children

younger than school age will not be judged but will receive a trophy. For the 10th through 12th grade division a \$500 scholarship will be awarded.

Tickets for the event will be sold at the door the night of the pageant.

There are six divisions: Baby Valentine Princesses (presentation only); Little Miss Sweetheart, pre-K

through first grade; Little Miss Valentine, grades second and third; Miss Valentine Sweetheart, grades four through six; Miss Teen Queen, seventh through ninth grades; and Miss Gulf County Valentine Queen, 10th through 12th grades.

For more information contact Gulf County Senior Citizens at 229-8466.

LADIES AUXILIARY VFW POST 10069 DONATES TO SIMS HOME



SPECIAL TO THE STAR

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.

PET OF THE WEEK

St. Joseph Bay Humane Society
SLOAN!



Meet Sloan a 35# 1yr Terrier Mix. He walks well on his leash and knows the command of sit with some coaxing. Sloan loves the attention of kids and adults alike. He gets along well with like-minded dogs and even tolerates kitties. This great guy would make a wonderful family pet. He promises to be on his best behavior and love you forever if you give him a home.

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

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. 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.

LOOKOUT LOUNGE & DISCOUNT PACKAGE

THUR. JANUARY 24TH, 5 PM ET
SPECIAL HAPPY HOUR ENTERTAINMENT
RANDY & ART ON THE POOP DECK!

FRIDAY @ 9:00 PM EST
RANDY STARK ON THE POOP DECK

SATURDAY @ 9:00 PM EST
RANDY STARK WITH ART LONG ON SAX
ON THE POOP DECK

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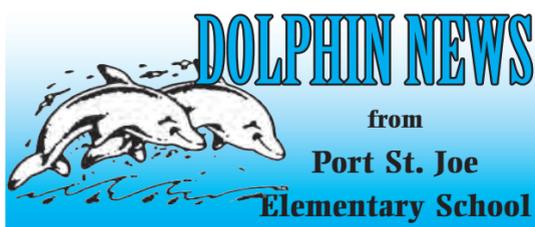
CALL 215-3264

Port St. Joe Elementary School second week honor roll

Special to The Star

1st Grade all A's: Estevan Angel, Jenna Barfield, Bella Canington, Desirae Causey, Samantha Childers, Mary Margaret Farrell, Dawson Fisher, Shauna Flowers, Tanner Fogle, Brandon Heckenlively, Danica Kelly, Madison Othic, Zhyon Quinn, Elyse Williams.

1st Grade A's and B's: Garrett Acree, Sha'myra Beachum, Aiden Black, Cody Combaw, Chase Dykes, Wake Giffen, Arlena Gleichner, Owen Grantland, Carson Hendricks, Kylie Ingalls, Makenna Kurnitsky, Lance Larry, Landon Lee, Austin O'Bryan, Luke Pickels, Alivia Randall, Kaylee Schweikert, Kelsie Tomes, Dakota Tousignant, Chase Vandertulip, Jackson Vaughn, Brookelyn White.



2nd Grade all A's: Isa Barwick, Cheon Beachum, Maelynn Butler, Walker Chumney, Skylar Clayton, Kaylin Conn, Kira Conn, Charles Davis, Eli Fidler, Jaydon Gant, Chauntia Gathers, Kaydan Haisten, Celeste Hamm, Chase Lanford, Karys Linton, Dane Mallon, Gabriella Price, Hannah Riley, Sha'nevia Sims, Saylor Tull, Ja'nasia Walker.

2nd Grade A's & B's: Shinah Addison, Austen Bales, Jacob Bibeault, Cameron Brown, Samuel

Brown, Jackson Buckner, Madison Burkett, Zachary Burkett, Emily Butler, Alexis Causey, Donovan Cumbie, Marcus Cumbie, Desirae Dew, Nathan Duong, Ian Finch, Alexandria Fountain, Gunner Grogan, Gavin Haddock, Levi Hanlon, Raelynn Hardy, Alex Harper, Damari Johnson, Prince Jones, Jacob Justice, Trinten Lee, Bladen Levins, Precious Longmire, Cole Moore, Lexi Parrish, Kaiden Pitts, Alexis Price, Cedric Rey, Alyson Sheppard, Ricky

Sherrill, Kaydence Thomas, Sayla Wade, Addison Watts, Britt White, Caitlin White, Terry Whitlock, Dane Wright, Lajuan Zaccaro.

3rd Grade all A's: Ellianna Burkett, Shelby Causey, Halston Fulk, Ava Ryan, Megan Saleh.

3rd Grade A's & B's: Trent Antley, Aiden Bolton, Paloma Burgos-Harris, Santana Causey, Chasity Finch, Ricky Forbes-Rosado, Zoe Gerlach, Madelyn Gortemoller, Laura Beth Hill, Porter Hodges, Emily Lacour, Donovan Miniat, Erica Ramsey, Alexandria Thomason, Sarah Beth Thompson, Lily Wockenfuss.

4th Grade all A's: Leanna Baumgardner, Allie Godwin, Tyler Guthrie, Mattison Mills Tyrell Patterson, Jack Randall, Caleb Wright.

4th Grade all A's and B's: Austin Ard, Henry Balogh, Savannah Burkett, Lyndsey Butler, Laci Conley, Parker Cornwell, Jacob Davis, Sarah Fidler, Clay Fox, Hailey Harriman, Corbin Ingalls, Lauren Jenkins, Reese Johnston, Kaylee Jones, Ashlen Kyle, Kevin Lacivita, Lanecia Larry, Bryson Lee, Loren Martin, Gabrielle Nicodemus, Terri Rae Phillips, Philip Riley, Alex Strickland, Hannah Tomlinson, Analisa Treglown, Gabi Wood, Tyler Young.

5th Grade all A's: Jade Cothran, Sean Farnsley, Colton Jones, Bailey Lake, Malena Ramsey, Sara Whitfield.

5th Grade all A's & B's: Brandon Barnes, Adison Burkett, Max Cargill, Cheyenne Cole, Patrick

Cullen, Tristan Doran, John Austin Gee, Madi Gingell, Kelvin Griffin, Gregory Julius, Zoey Lumley, Caroline Sapp, Rachel Sherman, Hannah Smith, Aaliyah Strickland, Dawson Wood.

6th Grade all A's: Hannah Anderson, Caleb Butts, Josh Butts, Hannah Fulk, Chandler Godwin, Hannah Graziano, Cole Haddock, Delaney Ingalls, Jacob Kennedy, Ana Lacivita.

6th Grade all A's & B's: Trey Barfield, Joel Bogaert, Trey Bowles, Jarrett Browning, Tyler Cornwell, Devin Crews, Jacob Curcie, Cameron Dorman, Victoria Fountain, Jaden Grantland, Angel Heckenlively, Lexi Holland, Isabella Johnston, Katelyn Jones, J.J. Laine, Erin Sinor, Bryce Thomas, Lauren Tomlinson, Jonnolan Treglown.



Join us for a 'Day at School'

Special to The Star

Calling all parents... Faith Christian School invites you to join your star student for a "Day at School."

Watch your child embrace the learning process as FCS teachers engage him or her through inspiring lessons and classroom activities.

Check in at the office and join your child in his or her daily routine.

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

Join your child for lessons, lunch and/or recess.

Studies have shown that when parents participate in the educational process of their children, the students' success rate is much higher. Jan. 28 through Feb. 1 is your chance to make a difference.

If you are interested in enrolling your child at Faith Christian School, this is a great time to evaluate your child's prospective classroom, get to know the staff, and tour the campus.

Call 229-6707 or talk to your child's teacher if you would like more information.

Dazzling Dolphins



Front Row: Stratton Levins, Ashleigh Causey, Rylan Fortune
Back Row: Jonah Davis, Malena Ramsey, JaNasia Walker, Laura Beth Hill



Gator Roundup

Special to the "Star"

On Thursday, Jan. 17, WHS Senior Jessica Smith celebrated another milestone in her high school athletic career. At a ceremony in the WHS Commons, Jessica signed a letter of intent to play softball for the College of Central Florida in Ocala. Jessica received a full scholarship to CCF for two years.

The following students will represent Wewahitchka High School in the regional science fair at the FSU-PC campus on Jan. 28-29: Shelby Wood, Cordale Green, McKenna Waters, Kara Zucci and Hunter Bailey.

Wewahitchka High School will be administering end-of-course exams as required by the Department of Education in Tallahassee on the following dates: U.S. History—April 23; Biology—April 30; Algebra I—May 7; and Geometry—May 14.

The end-of-course assessments are computer-based tests designed to measure student achievement of the "Next Generation Sunshine State Standards" for specific middle and high school level courses.

Goodwill to offer class in hospitality

Star Staff Report

Goodwill Industries of the Big Bend is sponsoring a lodging guest service class next month in Port St. Joe.

The class will be 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, Feb. 18-22 at

the Goodwill Training Center on U.S. Highway 98 in Port St. Joe. Participants will hear from guest speakers in the hotel industry, tour local hotels, learn about careers in the field of hospitality, study and practice multiple hospitality positions, learn

how to provide excellent guest service 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. If interested in enrolling in the class, contact Employment Specialist Tandra Burns to reserve a seat by calling 229-1273 or emailing psjctc@goodwillbigbend.com. Class size is limited to

folks are encouraged to call or visit online now.



Who Will Win YOUR Vote?
go to www.NewsHerald.com to see our current entries!
Voting Begins Jan 29th!

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"YOUR OTHER FAMILY DOCTOR"

Faith BRIEFS

Special to The Star

Seasoned Women anniversary at Victory Temple

Victory Temple First Born Holiness Church Seasoned Women Department will celebrate their anniversary at 7:30 p.m. ET Jan. 25-26. There will be a Saturday Prayer Breakfast at 9 a.m. Jan. 26. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.

Philadelphia Primitive to honor pastor

The Philadelphia Primitive Baptist Church family will honor their pastor, Elder Jessie Hawkins, on his annual appreciation on Jan. 27 with Victory Temple F.B.C. Church at 11 a.m. and at 4 p.m. with Zion Hope Primitive Baptist Church from Gretna. Everyone is invited to share this blessed celebration with

Card of THANKS

Magidson family

Dear friends:
We would like to express our deepest gratitude for the many acts of kindness shown us after the death of Mel Magidson Sr. The cards, phone calls and food prepared meant more than words can express. Your genuine acts of kindness touched us all.

Many thanks,
The Magidson Family

Lifetree Café to feature Schindler survivor

Special to The Star

The story of Oskar Schindler's youngest Holocaust survivor will be presented at 7 p.m. CT Monday, Jan. 28, at Lifetree Café.

The program features a Lifetree exclusive: a film of Leon Leyson, who was 13 years old when Schindler put him to work in his enamelware factory near Krakow, Poland. Because of his short stature, Leyson stood on a wooden box so he could reach the handles on the machinery.

In the Lifetree film, Leyson describes how the Nazis captured his family members, confined them in the Jewish ghetto area of Krakow and herded them onto trains bound for concentration camps.

"Suddenly, I lost my most basic rights," Leyson said. "I was hungry all the time and frightened all the time."

Leyson describes how Schindler pulled him out of a line bound for the death camps. Schindler named him "Little Leyson" and showed him favor with extra food rations.

After the war, Leyson moved to the United States. He remained quiet about his wartime experience until the release of the Oscar-winning Stephen Spielberg film "Schindler's List." Then Leyson gradually began to tell his story.

Lifetree's Thom Schultz, who conducted the exclusive interview, said Leyson revealed portions of his story he had not shared before.

"Leyson's story and his colorful characterization of Oskar Schindler provide a

riveting peek into a horrific chapter of history," Schultz said.

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

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



The Book

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

FUMC of Port St. Joe welcomes new pastor

Star Staff Report

First United Methodist Church of Port St. Joe welcomes the Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Lentz as its new pastor.

Bishop Paul Leeland of the Alabama-West Florida Conference appointed Lentz as pastor on Jan. 1. He moves here from Pensacola, his hometown, with his wife, Elizabeth (Liz), of Tarpon Springs and their two young children.

With an undergraduate degree in psychology from the University of West Florida, a Master's in Divinity from Duke University and a Doctorate of Ministry from Drew University, he is excited to teach Bible studies and get involved in the local community. Lentz said he is thrilled to share the love of Christ in this beautiful area.

"The only thing more beautiful than sitting on the parsonage front porch looking out at the bay is standing in the pulpit looking out at such a wonderful congregation," he said.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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(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

Dr. Geoffrey Lentz
Pastor

Ann Comforter
Music Director

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

New Service Schedule for First Baptist Church

Wednesday

Sunday

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

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

www.fbcpsj.org

living water
church at the beach

**SUNDAY : WORSHIP AT SUNSET PARK 8 AM (CST)
10:30 AM (CST) ON THE 2ND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH**
SUNDAY: BIBLE CLASS 9:30 AM (CST)
MONDAY : LIFE TREE CAFÉ 7 PM (CST)
TUESDAY: MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 6:30 PM (CST)
WEDNESDAY: WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 5 PM (CST)

1602 Hwy 98, Mexico Beach, FL
(850) 648.1151 www.livingwateratthebeach.com

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

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

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

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

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Schedule of Worship Services

Sunday

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

Wednesday

Mid Week Bible Study	6:00 PM
Elective Adult Classes	6:00 PM
Children & Youth Ministry	6:00 PM

Nursery provided for all services

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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

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

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

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www.stjamesepiscopalchurch.org

Obituaries

Randall K. Holmes

Sept. 12, 1971 - Oct. 24, 2012

Randall K. Holmes Jr., 41, of San Diego, Calif., passed away in his home on Oct. 24, 2012.

He was born at Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Miss., and had lived in various places in the United States, as his father was in the Air Force. He graduated from Bay High School, Panama City, in 1990. He subsequently moved to San Diego,

where he later received his college degree. He worked as the San Diego manager of a large security company.

He was preceded in death by his father, Randall (Randy) Holmes Sr.; his paternal grandparents, Troy and Willie Glen Holmes of Wewahitchka; and his maternal grandparents, Athan and Estelle Chason of Wewahitchka.

Survivors include his mother, Brenda Chason Holmes of Wauchula, Fla., and sister, Heather Holmes of Savannah, Ga.

Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 25, 2013, at Jehu Cemetery in Wewahitchka.

His ashes will be buried next to his father.

Comforter Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

James L. (Capt. Jim) Emerson

James L. Emerson (Capt. Jim) of Port St. Joe, Fla., passed away peacefully Tuesday, Dec. 25, 2012, after a brief illness. Jim was born Dec. 31, 1955. Jim served in the U.S. Army and was the owner of Emerson's Heating and Cooling Inc. of Port St. Joe. Jim was an active member of the American Legion Post 116 and served as the First-Vice Commander for 2012. Jim was also

an avid supporter of many American Legion fundraisers for the Covenant Hospice and "Friends of the Chester C. Sims Veterans Home." In particular he was the main organizer of the "Roctoberfest Music Festival" held in Port St. Joe the past three years to raise funds for these organizations.

A memorial service will be at 1:30 p.m. ET Saturday, Jan. 26, 2013,

at the VFW Post 10069 in Highland View, Fla. All friends and family are invited to attend. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Covenant Hospice of Panama City, Fla., or "Friends of the Chester C. Sims Veterans Home" in Calloway, Fla., in Jim Emerson's name. Jim will always be remembered as Mr. "Roctoberfest" for his charitable contributions and will be greatly missed by family and many friends.

Willie Byron Humphrey

Willie Byron Humphrey, age 59, passed away Monday, Jan. 14, 2013, at his home in Palm Harbor, Fla.

Born in Port St. Joe, Fla., on June 11, 1953, to the late Bill and Norma Humphrey, formerly of Port St. Joe, Fla., Byron had a spark for life and never met a stranger. He was retired and had



WILLIE BYRON HUMPHREY

enjoyed fishing and photography. He was a graduate of Port St. Joe High School, class of 1971, and a USAF retired Veteran.

Left behind to cherish his memories are his loving wife, Erin

Hannigan Humphrey; sons Joseph Humphrey (Indiana), Patrick Humphrey (Palm Harbor)

and Shawn Brining (Ohio); four grandchildren, Adaline, Zachary, Jessica and Dylan; brother Allen Humphrey (deceased); and sister Sheila Humphrey Pickett and her husband, Ricky (Georgia). He leaves behind many nieces, nephews, cousins and dear friends.

Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. ET Friday, Jan. 25, 2013, at Holly Hill Cemetery in Port St. Joe, Fla.

John E. Ray

Mr. John E. Ray of Port St. Joe passed away Sunday, Jan. 13, 2013, in a local hospital. He was a lifelong resident of Port St. Joe and served in the Army during Viet Nam, where he was awarded received a Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts. After his discharge from the service, he worked for St. Joe Telephone & Telegraph and later Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative. John

was a member of St. James Episcopal Church.

He is survived by his wife, "Maggie" Ray, of Port St. Joe; two sons, John "JJ" Ray and wife, Shannan, and Travis Ray; two grandchildren, Arabella and Evelyn Ray, all of Port St. Joe; sisters and brothers, Ellen Kyser, Zola Taylor, Minneola Duray, Albert Ray, Vivian Thompson, Richard Ray, Lola Mondy and Don Ray;

and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Those who wish may make donations to St. James Episcopal Church, 800 22nd St., Port St. Joe, FL 32456 in John's memory.

A memorial services was held at 11 a.m. ET Saturday, Jan. 18, 2013, at St. James Episcopal Church. There was visitation from 10 to 11 a.m. at the church before the service.

Betty Ruth Fleming

Mrs. Betty Ruth Fleming of Port St. Joe went to be with the Lord on Saturday, Jan. 19, 2013, at the age of 79. Betty Ruth was born June 3, 1933, in Shamrock, Fla., to B.W. (Hoss) and Mrytice Wilder (Mema).

Betty Ruth, "Grandma" to many, was an active member of First Baptist Church of Port St. Joe, Fla., a homemaker like no other. She was very involved in the life of her husband, three children, eight grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Fleming is preceded in death by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. B.W. Wilder Sr., and brother, Jimmy Wilder.

She is survived by her loving husband of 63 years, Bill Fleming of Port St. Joe, Fla.; daughters: Jan Nobles and husband, Teedy, of

Port St. Joe, and Ruth Mathews and husband, Tad, of Palmetto, Fla.; a son, Jay Fleming and wife, Diane, of Murfreesboro, Tenn.; brother, Walter Wilder; sisters, Louis Parker and husband, Tom, Irene Ramsey and Patsy Hidalgo; sister-in-law, Donna Lee and husband, Bobby, Jadine Ellis and husband, Cliff, and Susan Wilder; brother-in-law Dewey Fleming and, wife Jo; grandchildren: Bobby Nobles and wife, Kim, and Missy Ramsey and husband, Eric, of Port St. Joe, Fla.; Sunny Mathews of Orlando, Fla., Matt Mathews and wife, Megan, and Micah and wife, Stephanie, of Palmetto, Fla., Andrew Fleming and wife, Trena, Amanda Fleming and Alex Fleming of Murfeesboro; great-grandchildren Katie, Austin Rainey Nobles and

Erica Ramsey of Port St. Joe, and Lee, Mattison, Maddox, Maybrie and Easton Mathews of Palmetto, Fla.

Funeral services were at 2 p.m. ET Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2013, at First Baptist Church of Port St. Joe with the Rev. Howard Browning, the Rev. Buddy Caswell and the Rev. Tad Mathews officiating. Interment followed at Holly Hill Cemetery. The family received friends at the church one hour before the service. The pallbearers are the grandsons. Honorable pallbearers are the deacons of First Baptist Church of Port St. Joe, Fla. Condolences may be submitted or viewed at www.southerlandfamily.com.

Southerland Family Funeral Home
100 E. 19th St.
Panama City, FL 32405

Joseph Coy Tucker

Joseph Coy Tucker, 68, of Wewahitchka, passed away Monday, Jan. 14, 2013, in Blountstown. He was a lifelong resident of this area and worked as a carpenter.

Survivors include his daughter, Ladonna Whitfield and husband, Mike, Joe Tucker

and Chris Batson; 10 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; his brother and sisters, Freddie Tucker, Mariea Whitfield and husband, John, and Cora Adkison; and numerous nieces, nephews and friends. The family extends a special acknowledgment to his

family at River Valley Rehabilitation Center.

Graveside funeral services were held at 4:30 p.m. CT Friday, Jan. 18, 2013, at Cypress Creek Cemetery, conducted by the Rev. Dallas Presley.

All services are under the direction of the Comforter Funeral Home.



FIND IT ONLINE

View obituaries and leave a message in the guest book at www.starfl.com.

WE SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY'S UNIVERSITY



"Centennial Bank is proud to support our community's tier one university that not only offers exceptional educational opportunities but also serves as a catalyst for economic development in Bay County."

—Joey Ginn
Market President,
Centennial Bank

Centennial Bank has donated more than \$10,000 toward The Campaign for Our Community's University, and will serve as Tournament Sponsor of the upcoming FSU Panama City 23rd Annual Golf Classic on March 15.

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.



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
PANAMA CITY

LOST/ABANDONED PROPERTY NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission took custody of a **180 foot long steel barge** displaying number ATM1003B. The vessel was found lost/abandoned on 12/21/2012 FOUND, next to **The White City Bridge** on state waters in Gulf County. Pursuant to Florida Statute 705, the property will be disposed of unless a claim by the rightful owner or the lien holder is received by **90 DAYS AFTER FOUND DATE**. Send claims in writing to: FWC, Division of Law Enforcement, P.O. Box 32040, Panama City, FL 32407. **Attention: Officer Matt Webb, FWC-12-OFF-13897.**

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CONSERVATION from page B1

the Bahamas, his love of the water once again became his mistress.

He moved back to Vero Beach, sold his belonging and, as he put it, "jumped off the cliff" and established his nonprofit Mother Ocean.

"The mission of the nonprofit is to create, inspire and empower ocean advocates worldwide," Riney said. "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. We want to make sure these waterways are here 500 years from now."

Riney, though, said he is one among many. A greater goal is to use the latest technology and social media to create a network of ocean advocates around the globe, both engaging a younger generation and broadening awareness.

In bringing awareness to his nonprofit and its goal, Expedition Florida 500 was a perfect fit. Riney's project is a signature project for the



COURTESY OF JUSTIN RINEY

Justin Riney paddleboards his way through Bay County.

celebration sponsored by the Florida Department of State, and it 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

"We want to drive home the point how beautiful we have it in Florida and how precious the natural environment in Florida is."

Justin Riney
founder, Mother Ocean

(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 two unique elements of the project are one this 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."

Enter Now To win \$500!

To Enter

- To enter go online at www.newsherald.com
- To enter by mail or in person, complete an Official Entry Form printed in The Panama City News Herald, and return or mail to:
The News Herald, 501 W. 11th St., Panama City, FL 32401.

Enter Between:
Jan. 8th at 9 a.m. - Jan 28th, at 4 p.m.

Rules

- \$5 entry fee shall accompany each entry.
- Photos must be submitted by the entrant. No third-party entries will be accepted.
- Photos must have been taken in the past 12 months. Pets must be living.
- Hardcopy photos must be at least 3 inches on one side and no more than 10 inches. Poor quality photos will not be accepted.

FOR QUESTIONS CALL MISHA 747-5047.
For a complete set of rules, go to www.newsherald.com

FIRST PLACE WINS \$500!
Second Place :\$250, Third Place: \$100 all contestants will be in the Panama City News Herald Special Section.

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Telephone: _____

Email: _____

CC Number: _____ **exp:** _____ **cvv:** _____

Return hand written forms to the **Panama City News Herald**
501 W. 11th St., Panama City, FL or go to www.newsherald.com

PROCEEDS BENEFIT

Trivia ANSWER

Hungry Howie's on Highway 98

St. George Island February 5TH, 2013

Snowbird Appreciation Day!

Raffle Run

Education Center

State Park Nature Walk

Lighthouse Climb

Lighthouse Museum

Info Sessions

Happy Hour & Dinner

Bingo

Register at any St. George Island vacation rental company.
For more information, contact Sometimes it's Hotter at (850)927-5039 or visit www.sgisnowbirds.com

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LEGAL ADVERTISING
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2012 is pending in the Circuit Court for Gulf County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Gulf County Courthouse, 1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Blvd., Port St. Joe, Florida 32456. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against the decedent's estate must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this Notice is January 24, 2013.

Personal Representative: Maureen Holyfield 2815 CR 381 Wewahitchka, FL 32465

Attorney for Personal Representative: Charles A. Costin FL Bar No. 699070 P O Box 98 Port St. Joe, FL 32457 (850)-227-1159 January 24, 31, 2013

LEGAL ADVERTISING
1100

919895 PUBLIC NOTICE
The Port St. Joe Redevelopment Agency is seeking proposals from qualified companies to manufacture 75 vinyl banners using owner-provided art. Sealed bids must be received, hard copy only, by 1 PM on Friday, February 8, 2013. Bids may be mailed or delivered in person to Gail Alsobrook, Executive Director, Port St. Joe Redevelopment Agency, 150 Captain Fred's Place Port St. Joe, FL 32456. The complete RFP and bid form are available at www.psjra.com. 850-229-6899. January 24, 2013

920195 PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA NOTICE TO RECEIVE SEALED BIDS RFP 2013-01

The City of Port St. Joe will receive sealed bids from any qualified and properly licensed company or corporation interested in providing construction services for the following project:

US-98 LANDSCAPING - North Port St. Joe Gateway

Project is located in the City of Port St. Joe, Florida and consists of NEW LANDSCAPING AND IRRIGATION on US-98.

Bids will be received at City Hall, 305 Cecil G. Costin, Sr., Blvd., Port St. Joe, Florida 32456 until 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time, on Friday, February 8, 2013. Bids will be publicly opened and acknowledged, February 8, 2013 at 3:05 PM EST, in the City Commission Chambers.

Bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope, plainly marked with bidder's name, address, date and time of opening, and bid number for US-98 Landscaping - North Port St. Joe Gateway.

The complete Bid So-

LEGAL ADVERTISING
1100

licitation. Plans and Specifications can be downloaded from the Port St. Joe Redevelopment website at www.PSJRA.com. January 24, 31, 2013

920215 PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF PORT ST. JOE NOTICE OF SOLICITATION REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) for Professional-Quality Film Documentary of the Rescue and Relocation of the Cape San Blas Lighthouse RFQ 2013-01

Notice is hereby given that the City of Port St. Joe, FL is seeking Proposals of Qualification for qualified entities to produce a professional-quality video documentary of the rescue and relocation of the Cape San Blas Lighthouse. Experience in all phases of motion picture production, television and/or movies is preferred. Submissions should include the following:

1. Resume
2. Membership in Professional Organizations
3. Description of Approach: Up to two pages describing the typical approach to projects similar to this one.
4. Team Expertise: Brief description of general qualifications, the multi-disciplinary nature of the team assembled for this project, specific evidence of relevant experience, and a listing of key personnel that would be available to work on this project.
5. Work Sample: Provide a sample reel.

RFQ details are on file at the Port St. Joe City Hall located at 305 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd., Port St. Joe, FL 32456, and on the City's website at www.cityofportstjoe.com.

Proposals of Qualification will be evaluated by the Port St. Joe City Manager and the City Commission. The City

LEGAL ADVERTISING
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retains the right to reject any or all proposals.

Please submit Three (3) copies to: Charlotte Pierce, City Clerk The City of Port St. Joe P.O. Box 278 Port St. Joe, FL 32457

All Submissions must be clearly marked Film Documentary of the Rescue and Relocation of the Cape San Blas Lighthouse City Auditor/ Clerk at City Hall by 3:00 pm EST on Friday, February 8, 2013. January 24, 31, 2013

ADOPTIONS
1130

***Adopt*:**
Doting dad, stay at home mom (&puppies) excited to give your baby everything!
Expenses Paid
Bob & Maria
FKBar42311
1800-522-0045



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

PETS
2100

Extra Mile Pet Sitting

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

Found: Small dog in Kinard Area Please contact 850-227-4321 to identify and claim.



HELP WANTED
4100

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

HELP WANTED
4100

Hospitality
RESORT VACATION PROPERTIES
Accepting applications for a
FT Check-In Clerk
Experience handling money helpful. Must have reliable transportation. Quick learner
FT Reservationist
Prior sales exp preferred. Attentive to details & follow-up.
Maint Office Asst
4 days/wk. Team player, attentive to detail & good follow-up skills. These great jobs on SGI require excellent customer service & computer skills, good spelling & grammar, and weekend work. Prior office exp preferred. Great benefits pkg. Apply in person 9-5 weekdays at 123 W Gulf Beach Dr St. George Island

FURNITURE
3220
Cue's Furniture NEW queen size mattresses. \$189, Twin Size \$89 New 6 Peice Bedroom set. \$799 Open Mon - Sat, 10am - 5pm (850) 639-2343 or (850) 639-3512. Text FL37495 to 56654

GARAGE/YARD SALES
3230

Port Saint Joe 1017 Marvin Ave, Thursday - Saturday, January 24-26, 8 am to 3 pm.

MISCELLANEOUS
3300

Bargain's
New Merchandise Liquidation Store, In Hickory Plaza, Prices 25-75% Below Retail! Mention Ad for Additional 10% OFF! 414 S. Tyndall Pkwy 850-215-2755

HELP WANTED
4100

4100 - Help Wanted
4130 - Employment Information

HELP WANTED
4100

Bldg Const/Skill Trade
Project Manager/Estimator
Experienced Commercial Construction PM /Estimator in Tallahassee area. Salary & benefits. Submit resume or application to tallahassee-construction.opportunity@hotmail.com or mail to: OP. PORTUNITY 1400 Village Square Blvd. Ste 3-179 Tallahassee, FL 32312 Web ID# 34238895 Text FL38895 to 56654

HELP WANTED
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Job Duties Include:
•Sweep & Mop floor
•Clean Bathroom
•Empty & Take out Trash
•Light Dusting

For The Star, Call Kari: 227.7847
For The Times, Call Gail: 653.6853

THE STAR **THE TIMES**

Apalachicola/Carrabelle Times Newspaper.

OFFICE CLEANER NEEDED

for The Star & Apalachicola/Carrabelle Times Newspaper. Every other week after 5:00 p.m.

Job Duties Include:
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Install/Maint/Repair
Line Technician
Gulf Coast Electric Co-operative is accepting applications for two positions of Line Technician at Workforce Center of Florida, 625 Highway 231, Panama City, Florida through Friday, February 1, 2013. For more information visit our website at www.gcec.com
Equal Opportunity Employer.
Web ID#: 34238868 Text FL38868 to 56654

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HELP WANTED
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Install/Maint/Repair
Bailey's Crab House is NOW HIRING
Cooks
Servers
Dishwashers
Shuckers
Buss Boy
Call: Toye Roberts (850) 258.4691 or Email: toye6158@yahoo.com

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

HOME FOR SALE
7100

3 BR 3 BA UNFURNISHED CONDO
LONG TERM, POOL.....\$850

2 BR 1 BA UNFURNISHED HOUSE
FL ROOM, FENCED YARD, GARAGE ...\$775

2 BR 1 BA UNFURNISHED APT
NEW PAINT, SMALL PORCH\$375

3 BR 1 BA FURNISHED APT
WEEKLY OR MONTHLY, INC UTILITIES

3 BR 1 BA UNFURNISHED DUPLEX
DOWNTOWN CARRABELLE\$600

HOME FOR SALE
7100

FDIC AUCTIONS

RESIDENTIAL - COMMERCIAL DEVELOPER LOTS - LAND
Many Selling ABSOLUTE!
AuctionFDIC.com
February 23 - March 2
AL - GA - FL - SC

No Buyer's Premium | 5% Down Payment
\$2,500 Cashier's Check to Bid
Brokers Protected
HUDSON & MARSHALL
866.509.4473

TRUCKS
8130

TRUCKS
8130

FOR SALE BY OWNER

1997 Dodge 3500
Weather Guard, Tool Boxes, Ladder Rack, Fifth Wheel Hitch, Heavy Duty Front Bumper With Brush Guard. Needs Minor Work.
\$3000.00 OBO

850-258-4691

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Need a helping hand?
Advertise in the Help Wanted Section in the Classifieds!
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HOUSE RENTALS
6140

Cape San Blas. 2 BR/2BA, \$1,400.00 mo., unfurn., 1 yr. lease. 850-370-6007

NEW TODAY

St George Island
Beach Front 3 Br, 2 Ba \$1500 mo + \$1500 deposit. Call Pets upon approval 816-698-2405