



Woman celebrates 100th birthday, **B1**

Dodson named Teacher of the Year

By TIM CROFT
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Carmel Dodson wasn't so much surprised when Superintendent of Schools Jim Norton strolled into her third-grade room at Port St. Joe Elementary School.

As Dodson said later, she was a bit frightened.

Any fear was unwarranted, as highlighted by the decorative plant Norton was carrying, as Norton's arrival was to recognize Dodson as Gulf District Schools Teacher of the Year for 2013.

Dodson, a reading teacher at the elementary school, was selected from fellow finalists T.C. Brewer, a science teacher from Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High School; Jay Bidwell, who teaches Spanish at Wewahitchka Jr./Sr. High School; and language arts teacher Misty Harper from Wewahitchka Elementary School.

All four were voted their respective school's teacher of the year by their peers. All were evaluated by an out-of-county group last week.

"This is more scary than the evaluation," Dodson said after composing herself and

wiping away a few tears. "I really just can't believe this; that is about all I can say. I give everything, my heart, every day. There are a lot of deserving teachers who do the same thing.

"The kids teach me, my co-teachers teach me as I teach them. It is a team effort every day, 24 hours a day."

That team effort was on full display as Norton arrived.

Third-grade teachers had their students huddled and waiting in the third-grade pod and the kids poured in to cheer for Dodson.

Dodson is known as a

caring and devoted teacher, one who goes the extra mile for students, from writing grants to the Gulf Education Foundation to bring innovative programs into the classroom to spearheading the creation of the school's butterfly garden.

She is particularly involved in assisting those who struggle, Port St. Joe Elementary School Principal Sue Gannon said.

"Carmel is a great teacher, very innovative," Gannon said. "She is always looking

See **TEACHER A3**



TIM CROFT | The Star

Superintendent of Schools surprised Carmel Dodson with a plant and recognition as Gulf County Teacher of the Year.

PORT ST. JOE NJROTC PROGRAM UNDERGOES INSPECTIONS



PHOTOS BY TIM CROFT | The Star

Under the watchful eyes of Commander Michael Egan, unit commander Javarri Beachum begins the drill segment of the inspection.

NJROTC RANKS THRIVING

By TIM CROFT
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Four years ago the NJROTC program at Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High School was almost a casualty of district budget woes.

Four years later, the ranks are bulging.

The NJROTC program had its annual inspection last week as the cadets demonstrated their skills and military manners and put on display the rapid growth of the program over the past four years under Lt. Commander Marty Jarosz (Ret.).

"We are growing steadily," Jarosz said. "In four years, we have more than doubled our numbers and we have kids that want to do this but who can't fit it into their class schedule.

"We can't do the NJROTC program without a lot of support. Support from parents, from teachers, from other students. They accept NJROTC as part of the fabric of the high school and part of the fabric of the community. And that community is what this county stands for."

See **NJROTC A7**



With unit commander Javarri Beachum (left) leading, Commander Michael Egan inspects the troops, asking questions about the NJROTC program while examining uniforms and appearance.

PSJRA workshop eyes park plans

By TIM CROFT
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Plans for a bayfront park in Port St. Joe were examined during a public workshop again last week, but the Cape San Blas Lighthouse remained a primary focus for opponents of the park plans.

The Port St. Joe Redevelopment Agency held a second public workshop as part of the due diligence phase, aimed at securing public input, for a new park to be constructed along the bay front.

The meeting took on more import recently when city commissioners named a focus group of 14 to serve as a "sounding board" for ideas for the park. However, barely half of the focus group members attended the workshop.

The public workshops, Eric Davidson of the planning team explained, were aimed at continuing the conversation about what would and would not work with a proposed new park, with a planning label of BayPark, but one which will incorporate much of George Core Park.

"The objective with a master plan like this is to achieve some sort of strategic objective," Davidson said. "This is just the start. This is just part of the conversation."

The goal of the park is to get locals and tourists alike to the waterfront and to connect with the Reid Avenue business district, Gail Alsobrook, director of the PSJRA said.

The opportunity was there, she added, to create a unique destination along the coast.

"We want people to stop," Alsobrook said. "We want them to find out who we are, what this town is, what it offers."

"This is the best part of the process."

See **WORKSHOP A10**

Humane society saves neglected dog

By TIM CROFT
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Orson arrived at the St. Joseph Bay Humane Society is less than idyllic condition.

The chocolate lab, pure-bred by all indications, had been picked up by county Animal Control officer Roland Jones in the Stone Mill Creek area when Orson stumbled into a stranger's yard in the first week of January. Orson's future was bleak.

He could only use three legs, he was emaciated and lethargic, and he had broken teeth, said Melody Townsend, director of the Humane Society.

"We had our vet do an assessment, and he said he had one dislocated hip, likely from being hit by a car, and the other hip was injured, sad to say, by a gunshot," Townsend said, noting that in the past couple of months the Humane Society has taken in at least six dogs that have been shot.

The shame of it all, Townsend noted, was that Orson once had belonged to somebody.

The fur on his neck showed a line where Orson had worn a collar.

"That he indicates he belonged to somebody for a long time," Townsend said.

To top it off, Orson tested positive for heartworms.

See **DOG A6**



PHOTO COURTESY OF MELODY TOWNSEND

March honors fallen comrades

By LAUREN SAGE REINLIE
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HURLBURT FIELD — This past Sunday, 15 airmen lined along the sidewalk in the morning sun.

They read the names of their five fallen comrades, hoisted their 40-pound rucksacks onto their backs and took their first brisk steps.

More than 450 miles of winding road lay before them.

The men are marching day and night to Tampa in remembrance of the five special operations airmen from Hurlburt Field who were killed in action last year. They expect to arrive Friday.

They were in Mexico Beach and Port St. Joe on Monday, staying overnight at the Port Inn in Port St. Joe.

"We're honoring our heroes step by step," said Sgt. Deon McGowen, who organized the rucksack march. "It's great today, tomorrow is going to be tough, Tuesday is going to be even harder."

The men who were killed were the marchers' friends, roommates and brothers-in-arms.

Mitch Sherman is marching for his best friend, Capt. Ryan Hall, who was killed at age 30 when his U-28A plane went down near Djibouti, Africa, on Feb. 18, 2012. Sherman said he has

WANT TO HELP?

To donate, find out more information and track the group's march visit their Facebook page "Air Commando Ruckers" or their page at firstgiving.com under "Air Commando Ruck & Climb."

his two daughters were there Sunday to see the marchers off.

"It means a lot to us that they would do this," Holley said. "They have taken the time and taken the effort to remember the people who gave their lives for our country."

The marchers are also raising money for the Special Operations Warrior Foundation, which provides scholarships for the children of Special Ops servicemen who are killed in action.

Two Hurlburt airmen are en route to Tanzania to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro as part of the effort.

By Sunday afternoon, they had raised over \$8,000. They hope to reach \$50,000 by the end of the march, McGowen said.

The men will march in a relay to Tampa; at least two will be on the road at all times. Each will likely cover at least 100 miles over the next five days.

They began training in October, walking six miles every Wednesday and eight to 12 every weekend.

Most have never done anything like it before.

"I'm not built for it really. I'm a pilot," joked Tom Leyden, one of the marchers who is also a U-28 pilot and served with the men that died in the plane crash. "It's going to be grueling, but it's a great sacrifice to dedicate this to those five fallen."

This is the second march Hurlburt airmen have made to Tampa. Last year, McGowen organized a similar event to honor his friends who died in a helicopter crash in 2011.

He is the only one returning for the march this year.

The marchers will end their journey at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, headquarters for all Special Operations forces.

They will march to a wall etched with the names of all the special operations servicemen who have been killed in action.

"You can rub your hand along the wall, for these guys who have fallen, and you know they gave the ultimate sacrifice," McGowen said, choking back tears before the marchers took off Sunday. "That's what's going to get you through this."

Chaplain Jonathan Hurt, of the 1st Special Operations Wing, said it was going to be a tough few days, but the men who are participating will never forget the miles they gave to those who were lost.

"With every step, with every strained muscle and every drop of sweat, we honor their sacrifices," he said.



COURTESY OF BILL FAUTH

One team of Special Ops airmen on their way from to Mexico Beach and Port St. Joe, where they stayed Monday night.

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TEACHER from page A1

for ways to help her students, whether working on their weaknesses or playing to their strengths.

"She is very much concerned about those students with special needs, who might not come from a great home life, who struggle in the classroom, who might not be our top students."

Or, as her former principal Melissa Ramsey, now the district supervisor for curriculum and testing said, Dodson's heart always is evident.

Whether donating money for a child's lunch or class supplies, or allowing a child in a tough home situation the safety of her home, Dodson is present when her students need her, Ramsey said.

"She is a nurturer, that is a good word to describe her," Ramsey said. "She donates her time, energy and money to her students."

"She wholeheartedly cares about her students. She is totally dedicated and

gives above and beyond every single day. I put her wherever there was a need, she is that good and caring with her students."

Dodson will go on to represent the district in state Teacher of the Year competition, the winner to be announced in the spring during a convention in Orlando.

As Gulf County's Teacher of the Year, Dodson will attend the convention and participate in a series of workshops.

"This is an 'A' school, and I can't think of a better honor," Norton said after hugging Dodson. "We are honored to honor her."



Third-grade students from Port St. Joe Elementary crowd around their reading teacher Carmel Dodson after she was named Gulf County Teacher of the Year in a surprise classroom celebration Tuesday.

TIM CROFT | The Star



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‘Hoping for change’

While sitting in my den chair the other night, I heard the jingling of change hitting the floor. I looked down and saw that the change from my pockets was of course falling out and hitting the floor. It wasn't enough to buy a gallon of gas or even a cup of coffee, but it was mine so I picked it up.

It brought back wonderful memories of going to my Papa's house on weekends when I was a little boy. My older brother and I would flip the cushions on Grandmama's worn out green sofa knowing we would find change that had fallen from Papa's pockets.

Papa owned a coin operated car wash and was a "change hound." He was always rolling quarters, dimes, nickels and pennies to take to the bank.

It was not uncommon to find \$5 worth of change in Grandmama's sofa, and that was a lot of money.

In 1970, gas was 36 cents a gallon, bread was 24 cents a loaf, eggs were 51 cents a dozen and a postage stamp was 6 cents. Doing the math, \$5 would have almost bought me 14 gallons of gas back then.

I didn't need that much gas, the most I ever needed was about a gallon for the mini-bike that had a Briggs & Stratton lawnmower engine running it (when it would run). Papa usually supplied the gas for it also, so times were good.

Sometimes I wonder if Papa planted that money in the sofa or if it actually came out of his pockets. He lived frugally, but well. He seemed to always wear the same couple of shirts and pairs of pants. I don't even remember him wearing the new flannel shirts we would give him at Christmas.

Most of our grandparents grew up in a time where frugality did not mean "doing without," but rather being thankful for what they had worked for.

Times have changed. Many folks are struggling to just get by, seeing that what they work for just doesn't seem to be enough. There are others who seem to be a little

lazy, expecting someone else to dump money in their sofas for them to find.

What do I mean?



CRANKS MY TRACTOR
BN Heard

Take for example, rolling coins to take to the bank. There are machines now in grocery stores where you can take your coins and dump them in; the machine will give you paper money back. Great idea isn't it? Not really. The machine takes 8% as a fee. In other words, if you put \$10 worth of quarters in the machine, it will give you \$9.20 back.

Want to talk about a stupid tax? I think that borders on it. Folks justify this by saying, "It's more convenient." If you have that much money to spend on "convenience," I understand. Let me note here, if you have \$10,000 in quarters, I will roll them for you for \$800. The other option if you don't want to roll them yourself, is to take them to the bank. The teller may look at you kind of funny, and might even complain, but money is money.

We take clothes that the children have outgrown and other things that we no longer need to the local thrift store operated by the Disabled American Veterans. If they are still useable, we would like to think that someone could get some use out of them. The thrift store sells these items to fund various charities, most importantly helping disabled veterans.

I enjoy going to the thrift store, not only to donate things, but to find odds and ends that I find interesting. I look for cast iron skillet that folks have given up on, golf clubs and things that remind me of when I was young (and flipping sofa cushions).

Recently, I was reading a story about folks who go to thrift stores to find money. This was not a story about finding treasures at the thrift store to sell to someone else at a profit, but literally going to the thrift store and looking for money.

This concerned me, because at first sight, it seemed a lot like stealing. The more I read, I

See **CRANKS A5**

Keyboard KLATTERINGS

Case closed?

I know my "Law and Order." As most any family member will attest I have likely seen every episode over the 20-year reign of that cops and lawyers procedural – at least 10 times apiece.



TIM CROFT
Star news editor

There are some episodes I could probably recite on the spot, line for line. I can give you the timeline for every detective, every assistant district attorney and every district attorney on that show – from the original pilot episode.

I can pick out actors and, in a heartbeat, click off the general plotline and possibly year that they appeared in other episodes and what character they played and how many people they killed.

I have seen Jack McCoy's eyebrows arch more times than I could count and watched Ben Stone – there is a time warp – hold his glasses while trapping some defendant with sheer indignation.

And I have heard plenty of speeches about the jobs of the police and the district attorneys and serving the public and holding that ideal up as paramount – what serves the people.

Dick Wolf, the creator of that show and its many spinoffs, is a spinner of myths.

Because if there is any way to explain how the public was served by a recently closed state attorney investigation into the 2012 election campaign it sure hasn't been speechified.

Where are you Jack when we need you?

The latest development arrived in the past couple of weeks as the matter of removing the president of Citizens Improving Gulf County, a political action committee established last year and with support throughout the county, was stopped.

Turned out that the Supervisor of Elections Office was not comfortable just taking the word of the state attorney that Jim Garth should be removed from the voter rolls without

any evidence.

And the state Division of Elections could not find a trail of a felony conviction – that according to Garth did not involve a court, jury, judge, jail or booking and could only date to more than four decades ago – or the need to restore civil, voting, rights.

The State Attorney's Office communicated that the process of removing a voter from the rolls could stop at this time.

So either Garth did or did not have a felony conviction. Either he voted illegally for years or not. Either Garth was able to pass every background check, but one, over the span of 40 years or not.

This is the conclusion of an investigation into the alleged extortion of a county commission candidate?

I have seen enough "Law and Order" to wonder about that one.

This I do know and what is known should provide pause for every citizen of this county, every taxpayer.

What is known about this case should enrage all the Second Amendment stalwarts worried about gun control from Washington because this is about the amendment that came first and the threat is much closer to home.

What is known is that public money was used in this investigation.

That public money helped drive an investigation that started, based on the file released to the public, on a passel of hearsay – I know my "Law and Order" as I said – that could fairly classified as the recitation of a sandbox schoolyard spat.

What is the old adage about sticks and stones and words?

This is all about words communicated through a phone chain that would rival any backroom game of Post Office.

Public money went into investigating and interviewing and putting a recording device on a sitting county commissioner in order to gather "evidence."

Public money was devoted to investigating an organization and its president that had committed the crime, by all indications from the

public file, of simply using politics to battle politics in a county election.

A group that dared to question leadership by, again, according to the final investigative file, sending a letter to said commissioner raising an issue that remains the core of an ongoing investigation by the Florida Commission on Ethics.

A group that exercised that fundamental right spelled out in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution to assemble and protest government.

And public money was also used to gather less than flattering information on others, to even threaten them with possible indictment, as was spelled out in the letter that originally closed the case in October and did not reference Garth.

Finally, public money was expended in initially recommending the removal of a voter from the voter rolls and then when the rubber hit the road and evidence had to be provided, recommending stopping the process.

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the State Attorney's Office are so rolling in public money they have sufficient resources to devote to this, what could be fairly described as an investigation into critics of Gulf County government?

This investigation merits expending those resources instead of, say, solving the murder of Mary Thomas which remains unsolved more than six years after she was found brutally murdered in woods off Avenue A?

Now, if Commissioner Tan Smiley wants to grind an axe about investment in the white and minority communities, as he did at the end of the last Board of County Commissioners meeting, there is some genuine fuel.

So the real question I have, given my extensive background of viewing "Law and Order," is how exactly did this investigation and devotion of public resources (read: other people's money) serve the public?

From what is known, Jack McCoy's eyebrows would be knitting a sweater by now.

A tad more than a pound of flesh

It is well documented that the United States of America is something



HUNKER DOWN
Kesley Colbert

a'kin to \$17 trillion dollars in debt. I'm not even going to get into here how much money that is 'cause I don't know. I care, of course, we all do! But \$17 trillion of anything is light years beyond my comprehension.

Here's what I'd like someone to explain to me this morning. Who, exactly, do we owe that money to?

It can't be France. We've done bailed them out twice. We "lend leased" every thing we had to England back in 1940. I don't think they've paid us back yet. It can't be Germany. After we flattened them in World War II, we immediately paid for most of the rebuilding. Germany, more than any country on earth, has proved that old Will Rogers' adage, "The best thing a country can do is to get into a war with America ... and lose."

It obviously isn't Greece, Spain or Italy. They are all three broke ... and I don't think even they could spend \$17 trillion that fast! I'm running out of countries! Americans have bought enough Toyotas to make Japan rich ... but that enterprising nation had rather sell us electronic devices and Godzilla movies than loan us money. The oil-rich Middle East nations don't trust us enough to

loan us anything. Plus, we'd have to "turn over" Israel in any deal with them.

We all know it is not GM, Chrysler or Fannie Mae. Those folks seem to have some kind of "open account" with Washington. You would think a United States of America "note holder" would naturally be one of the big banks ... but that can't be the case. Our government has been giving them money just to keep them open. If somehow we were indebted to them to the tune of \$17 trillion, it would be the other way around!

Questions abound here. How do you get seventeen trillion dollars in debt?

That, in itself, is near 'bout unfathomable! You'd have to have government officials spending around the clock, or just giving it away, to unload that kind of dough. Someone must be laying awake at night, scheming up ways to reach such debt heights! I've heard of "pork barreling," "expense accounts" "sinkholes," "foreign reparations" and "the cost of doing business" but something here has gotten way out of hand. And please, don't give us the ole "best interest of the country" speech!

I read recently that our government spent right at \$18 million dollars on a test project to create an inflatable home for astronauts in space. Well there you go! Why didn't they just borrow a pup tent from the nearest Boy Scout? Don't tell me we've got people in charge of our money that have "eyes

that are bigger than their stomachs!"

What kind of interest do you pay on \$17 trillion? I bought a house once for \$24,000. I spent the first 15 years (of a 25 year note) just paying on the interest. How long do you suppose we are going to be working off this debt? I've heard talk of grandchildren and great-grandchildren being saddled with this liability. What kind of legacy is that for goodness sakes!

It's a dilemma that has caused more finger pointing than who shot J.R.

What did America put up as collateral on this deal? Could it have been the Washington Monument, Congress ... or maybe Pennsylvania? Would someone "hold" the Grand Canyon until they were repaid in full? There's nothing in this country worth \$17 trillion ... except its people. Do you reckon we're being leveraged here?

It stands to reason that we owe this money to someone or some entity. You'd think a Donald Trump or a Warren Buffett would be way too smart to loan money to what might be a sinking ship. I keep thinking who, or what, has got \$17 trillion to loan?

You don't reckon Wall Street is behind any of this, do you?

I am as puzzled as all get out over this thing. Doc Bell was the president of the McKenzie Banking Company when I was a boy. He was an outstanding Christian. He sang in the choir and would occasionally provide a solo

as the "special" music. He was a super fair man with a big heart ... but sooner or later, no matter what you owed him, no matter who owed him, he'd be around to collect! Am I the only person here wondering what's going to happen to our nation when whoever we owe this money to shows up to collect?

Someone said we are borrowing it from ourselves. If that is the case, I'd say let's give it back! Some have suggested that we just take it out of the National Treasury "on paper" or, if needed, we simply print more money. That sounds like voodoo economics to me.

I don't think you can voodoo yourself into a \$17 trillion dollar hole.

I borrowed \$2 once from my older brother to take Charlotte Melton to hear Bo Diddley over at the Bethel College auditorium. I figured he'd forget about it in a few weeks. He didn't. When I couldn't come up with the money, I countered with "We didn't sign no papers." He beat the living daylight out of me for 14 days hand running. I reckon he was exacting his pound of flesh. When it became apparent to me he wasn't satisfied with the flesh, I stole two dollars from my little brother and paid him back!

\$17 trillion is too much to steal ... and I'm not sure America has got that much flesh left.

Respectfully,
Kes

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

Stealing from the needy

Dear Editor:
Recently my wife and I went through all our clothing and decided to contribute our unneeded excess clothing to The Care Closet on Fourth Street in Port St. Joe. My wife delivered our contribution to the bin in front of the Care Closet building on Sunday afternoon at approximately 2:30 p.m. We knew the Care Closet folks would receive and sort our clothing in the next day or two. We didn't expect that someone would steal that clothing the same afternoon and pass them off to someone who would start posting pictures of them for sale on a Facebook Yard Sale website that very night and the next day.

Fortunately, our daughter spotted them online and advised us on Monday afternoon. That evening, we contacted the Port St. Joe Police, and the investigating officer was able to retrieve the stolen property that very evening, explaining that the person who posted the items for sale advised that

she was not aware that the property was stolen and gladly gave them up.

What we have learned from this experience is that nothing is sacred to some people who are even willing to steal items intended for the truly needy. Secondly, we will deliver any future contributions in person to representatives of the chosen charity to make sure they are received and not stolen. Other charitable organizations have had similar problems, including the Faith's Thrift Shop at the Human Society here in town and Goodwill.

So, let's all continue to contribute needed goods to these fine charities, but let's do it as outlined above so they reach the right people.

Dan & Barb Van Treese
Port St. Joe

No more school taxes

Dear Editor:
The world is going crazy, and sometimes I think I am the only sane person left. Why would anybody vote to raise their own taxes? Oh, I forgot, everyone is allowed to vote, including those who

do not own property, so to them it doesn't matter how much homeowners have to pay. It's just like with federal income taxes with almost 50 percent of Americans paying zero taxes. For those who do not pay, why should they care how much the others have to pay? I remember the last time we voted to temporarily raise the mil rate to help fund the schools, and a conversation I had with a particular young man. This young man, who was in favor of raising the rate, made the statement that he did not want his young son attending an inferior school system, which I could not argue with. However, I did mention he did own a home so he would be unaffected by any new tax. Since he was not married to the mother of his child I seriously doubt he even contributed to the support of his child.

In case the school board hasn't noticed the demographics are changing. More and more of our homeowners are seniors and are on fixed incomes and do not have children in the public schools. Yet these same

folks are bearing the lion's share of the financial responsibility for funding our schools. I fear things are going to get a lot worse before they start getting better. Starting in January my health care premiums jumped a whopping 13.5 percent. Both my wife and I are on Medicare yet I still must pay almost \$700 per month for my secondary health care insurance. God only knows what the cost will be when Obamacare is fully implemented next year. I might be stupid, but I think the school board could do a much better job of living with the reality of the economic situation of today. The school system needs to do more with less instead of asking the citizens of Gulf County to do more with less.

It seems to me a better solution would be to go to the state legislature for a statewide solution to the problem. I personally think the real estate tax system in Florida is in need of some serious fixing. The system, as it now is, makes it difficult for young couples just starting out to purchase their first homes. The current system needs to be scrapped and

replaced with one that has everyone paying a more balanced amount. I don't mind doing my fair share, but I also think those parents who have children in school but do not own property should also pay as well. Yes, I understand the landlord pays taxes and those taxes come from the rent; however, most renters do not consider this when they vote to raise someone else's taxes. To me the sales tax is the best tax because it touches everyone and it doesn't matter where the money comes from. Honest and dishonest alike pay the same tax when they choose to purchase something and the added bonus is we get the help of those visiting our state as well.

Marcus Sturdivant
Port St. Joe

Explanation owed

Dear Editor:
This is in response to the recent article titled "PAC President Voting Rights Removal Stopped." As Supervisor of Elections John Hanlon stated, stripping a

person of the right to vote is a major thing to happen without evidence. Any citizen should, regardless of their political persuasion, be incensed that an attempt was made to prevent a citizen from voting without evidence.

State Attorney Mr. Glenn Hess in a letter to Mr. Hanlon stated that he found evidence of a conviction in Jim Garth's past and "apparently" his voting rights had not been restored. Then in a phone call, Mr. Hess recommended the removal process be stopped. Why stop the removal process, Mr. Hess, if you have evidence of a felony? Why?

You either have evidence or you don't. Mr. Garth stated that your office would "be in touch," and the news media has also asked for clarification, and your office remains silent. Mr. Hess, you are an elected official and you owe the people of Gulf County an explanation or you should consider removing the word "Honorable" from your name.

Al Whitfield
Wewahitchka

COLUMN

Sinful people, not guns, are the problem

By ED MCATEER
Contributing Writer

Like most of America, I am saddened with the recent school shootings across America. Loss of life is never good, and we can only wonder how those who commit such atrocities can do so.

Tragic as the shootings are, do we, as a people need to heed President Obama's gun control concerns? As a believer in Christ, is it right to own a gun? Debates over whether to control guns or how much to control them depend largely on political and philosophical arguments, not moral ones. This is not to say there is no moral component to the issue. The gun itself is amoral, an object that can be used for good or for evil.

More important is the morality of the person wielding the gun, and that is often the missing consideration in the gun-control argument. The fact that someone may use guns to commit a crime does not mean guns are the problem. Sin is the problem, and that is a moral and spiritual issue. Since the beginning of humanity, people have been killing other people, with and without weapons. Taking a weapon out of circulation

might make murder more difficult but not impossible.

The recent shootings across the United States have caused much heartache. The senseless and tragic incidents also renewed the intensity of discussion about American gun laws. Politicians, athletes, and theologians have all weighed in on the issue of gun control. Guns are readily available in America, and ownership is protected by the Constitution. So, how should a Christian view gun control? Does the Bible have anything to say that applies?

Written before the invention of any gun, the phrase "gun control" is not found in Scripture. However, the Bible records many accounts of wars, battles, and the use of weapons. Warfare is presented as an unavoidable part of living in a fallen world, and weaponry is a necessary part of warfare.

Weapons in the Bible were also used for personal protection. In parts of Israel, robbers were common and people carried weapons when they traveled. Carrying a weapon for self-defense is never condemned in the Bible. In fact, Luke 22:35-38 mentions it in a positive light by Jesus Himself.

The Bible does not forbid possessing weapons, and neither does it command such possession. Laws may come and go, but the goal of the believer in Jesus Christ remains the same: to glorify the Lord.

Christians are called to submit to governing authorities, and they are to obey the laws of the land. This would have to apply to gun laws, too. If American gun laws change, Christians should submit to these changes and work through democratic means toward any desired alternatives.

The Bible does not forbid possessing weapons, and neither does it command such possession. Laws may come and go, but the goal of the believer in Jesus Christ remains the same: to glorify the Lord.

Another biblical principle to consider is that "all who draw the sword will die by the sword." Jesus said this to Peter when Peter tried to mount a reckless "defense" of Jesus against the mob that had come to arrest Him. Peter's actions were not

only useless against such a "large crowd armed with swords and clubs," but his foolish behavior also refuted Jesus' submissive attitude and worked against fulfilling Scripture. There is "a time for war and a time for peace," and Peter confused the two.

Christianity supports personal freedom. When Scripture does not clearly address a particular issue, there is freedom for individual choice. America has historically embraced personal freedom that resonates with this principle, and the founding documents guarantee wide freedoms regarding firearms.

Some may point to Matthew 5:9 in which Jesus pronounces a blessing on the peacemakers, and apply it to the issue of gun control. The idea is that guns are opposing to peace. This may be more

of a philosophical or political idea than a theological one. There is nothing theologically, or even logically, that links guns to a lack of peace; sometimes, guns help keep civil peace.

As I see it, the use of guns is a matter of personal conviction. I believe the Bible supports this train of thought. There is nothing unspiritual about owning a gun or knowing how to use one. There is nothing wrong with protecting oneself or loved ones, even if it involves the use of weapons. We need not pretend there is never a need for guns, but pointing a gun at a person should always be a last resort. We should seek to defuse threats without violence whenever possible.

With the authority God has entrusted to it, the government has the right to allow or disallow gun ownership to whatever degree it considers right. We, as citizens, are called to submit to whatever gun control laws the government institutes. This is not, however, a statement on the wisdom of gun control. There are good reasons to allow law-abiding citizens to own guns. Ultimately, guns are not the problem. Sinful people are the problem.

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

Send your letters to :

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
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Port St. Joe, FL 32457

Fax: 850-227-7212
Email: tcroft@starfl.com

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CRANKS from page A4

determined that it wasn't "like stealing," it was stealing.

These folks gave instructions on where to look to find money while "shopping" in a thrift store. Reading through the ideas, they all seemed like something a kid would do. However, this article was meant for adults.

It was noted that you should climb under desks and tables, pulling out drawers and looking under shelves. The article said that many older people will tape envelopes of cash in these places and forget about them. It is important to note here that the article did not suggest that you buy the item first, it noted to just take the money.

Other places the folks suggested to look included men's suit pockets,

pants pockets, luggage compartments, book pages and also of course, under seat cushions of sofas and chairs. Again, they did not note that you should buy the item; they just noted that you could find money there.

If that's not stealing from the folks at the thrift store, I'm not sure what it is.

The way I see it, it's the same as going over to somebody's house and ransacking it, looking for money. Perhaps these same folks go to a restaurant and steal the servers' tips to pay for their own meals.

It is bothersome. Times are hard; it seems we have to make enough for our families and somebody else's. If it's for folks that can't work, I'm ok with that. If it's for folks who spend

their time not working and going through other folks sofa cushions, I'm not ok with that.

I'm sure this wasn't the change you were expecting.

It seldom is. Always hope for the best and prepare for the worst.

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DOG from page A1

"With local surgery and rehabilitation, the vet said he had about a 60 percent chance of surviving," Townsend said.

The cost, including treatment for heart worm, would be about \$3,000, precious funds for a small humane society.

But there was more to Orson, estimated at about 6 years old, than the injuries, Townsend and her staff soon discovered.

Orson had the friendly nature of a lab, wagging his tail incessantly around people and navigating the compound among other dogs, apparently happily,

with his three good legs. "We put him out for a temperament evaluation, and they fell in love with him," Townsend said. "He does his sits. He'll walk up to anybody."

"We had to do something." The options were to perform the surgery or euthanize Orson.

Townsend began reaching out to rescue groups that specialize in assisting with difficult animal cases.

A rescue shelter in Tampa responded to the call. The shelter will undertake the heart worm regimen and perform the surgeries.

"They have even lined

up a foster home for him," Townsend said.

With a light at the end of the tunnel, Townsend and her staff set out to build Orson's strength for the trip to Tampa and the looming surgeries.

"We treated his pain, gave him antibiotics and steroids for the cough he got from the heartworms," Townsend said. "We fed him, kept him comfortable and prepared him for the trip to Tampa."

Last week, Orson finally made the trip, transported to his new home in Central Florida, a fatter, happier dog, on his way to recovery

and a new home.

"As many animals as we get, this was just a special case," Townsend said. "In these kinds of cases, you have to tell yourself you are a humane society."

Spay/neuter grant
The St. Joseph Humane Society was recently awarded a \$20,000 grant from Pet Smart Charities targeting spay and neutering of dogs in the 32456 ZIP code.

"The purpose of the grant is to make the biggest impact," Townsend said. "The purpose is to make a large dent in a targeted area."

The grant will pay for the surgeries to spay and neuter dogs and to come up with a plan to address animal over-population in that zip code, Townsend said.

The vets on board for the effort are Dr. Hobson

Fulmer and Dr. Albert Biaz.

"We've got a year to spend it and we are really focused on the areas of Oak Grove, Highland View and North Port St. Joe," Townsend said.

Townsend said the grant was important because rural communities rarely have the resources to undertake such a program. Most of similar grants target more urban or heavily populated areas, but "they were impressed with our pitch to them."

As for a long-term address of spay and neuter needs, Townsend said the grant provides the ability for the humane society to get out in the community to educate people on the need to spay and neuter pets.

"We are hoping to go into churches," Townsend said. "We want to just

educate people."

Giving an unwanted or surprise litter away, Townsend said, does not address the problem as there is no telling where those dogs will end up and whether those offspring will be spayed or neutered. Passing on the problem, Townsend noted, does not address the problem.

"What happens to their offspring?" she said.

To download an application form to spay or neuter a dog in the 32456 ZIP code, visit sjbhuanesociety.org or fax the SJBHS at 227-1191. Application forms can also be picked up at the Humane Society shelter on 10th Street in Port St. Joe or at Bow Wow Beach downtown.

For additional information, call the SJBHS at 227-1103.

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WCTV
EYEWITNESS NEWS

NJROTC from page A1

The growth of the program was at full attention much of last Tuesday morning under the watchful eyes of inspector Commander Michael Egan from the Naval Salvage and Diving Station in Panama City Beach.

As the school district considered cutting the program four years ago, there were 21 cadets enrolled in the program, slightly under the 10 percent threshold required of the U.S. Navy in sponsoring the program.

The Navy agreed to waive that requirement for one year; the school board maintained the program and today the ranks include 51 cadets, almost 20 percent of the school's enrollment.

"I've watched them for months; they are here early and stay late, working on drills and around the school," Principal Jeremy Knapp said. "They are out in the community."

The annual inspection is part of a points-earning process that every NJROTC program undertakes each year. Points are earned for participating in drill competitions, community and school outreach projects and other activities.

The goal: to earn recognition as a "Distinguished Unit" or a



TIM CROFT | The Star

A platoon of female cadets undertake drills while demonstrating the program's diversity.

"Unit Achievement Award," the two highest honors for a NJROTC program.

"We are too small to earn enough points to be a 'Distinguished Unit' but we'd like that 'Unit Achievement,'" Jarosz said. "We came up just a couple of points short last year."

"We are actually ahead of where we were last year. This is something you need to take seriously and they do. We've worked long and hard for this."

The inspection had several phases.

Egan, led by unit commander Javarri Beachum, reviewed the

ranks, examining uniform and appearance and also asking cadets questions about the NJROTC program and their aspirations.

Cadets earning outstanding marks were recognized and congratulated personally by Egan.

"They did a great job today," Egan said. "The program, quite

honestly, is one of the strongest I've seen. I know they are doing something right."

After individual and platoon inspections, the cadets broke into groups for drills.

Marching, parade formation, rifle drills, a platoon comprised entirely of females, one-by-one they marched in front of local dignitaries, parents, students, teachers and audience members.

The female platoon is another testament to the growth of the Port St. Joe program.

"We have all kinds in our program, from honors students to ESE students, male, female, minorities, they all have to do the same things," Jarosz said. "During the inspection there is an emphasis on the new cadets to show what they have learned and the seniors for their leadership."

After an hour, Egan pronounced the inspection a rousing success, praised Jarosz and the support the district has provided and marveled at the picture of the future standing at attention in front of him.

"This is our future," Port St. Joe Mayor Mel Magidson said. "I feel more confident about the future just looking at them."

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

More than \$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. Almost \$15,000 was raised at 2011's banquet for community service programs in the panhandle.

WEEKLY ALMANAC

Date	High	Low	% Precip
Thu, Feb. 07	72°	62°	50 %
Fri, Feb. 08	73°	57°	20 %
Sat, Feb. 09	72°	59°	0 %
Sun, Feb. 10	73°	61°	20 %
Mon, Feb. 11	71°	56°	10 %
Tues, Feb. 12	67°	56°	30 %
Wed, Feb. 13	65°	47°	60 %

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
1	Fr	1:54am	0.2	2:14pm	0.7
2	Sa	2:43pm	0.9		
3	Su	3:30pm	1.0	10:1am	-0.3
4	Mo	4:28pm	1.2	2:12am	-0.6
5	Tu	5:31pm	1.3	3:15am	-0.7
6	We	6:36pm	1.4	4:11am	-0.8
7	Th	7:37pm	1.4	5:02am	-0.9
8	Fr	8:34pm	1.3	5:46am	-0.8
9	Sa	9:29pm	1.1	6:21am	-0.7
10	Su	10:22pm	0.9	6:45am	-0.4
11	Mo	11:17pm	0.7	6:50am	-0.2
12	Tu	10:5pm	0.3	6:29am	0.0
13	We	12:21am	0.4	12:44pm	0.6
				5:37am	0.2
				7:42pm	0.1

APALACHICOLA BAY, WEST PASS

Date	Day	High Tide	High Tide	Low Tide	Low Tide
1	Fr	6:44am	0.8	6:32pm	1.1
2	Sa	8:08am	0.7	7:05pm	1.1
3	Su	10:05am	0.6	7:45pm	1.2
4	Mo	8:36pm	1.2	4:42am	-0.2
5	Tu	9:41pm	1.2	6:02am	-0.4
6	We	3:11pm	0.9	10:57pm	1.2
7	Th	3:31pm	1.0	8:02am	-0.6
8	Fr	12:14am	1.2	3:54pm	1.0
9	Sa	1:23am	1.2	4:14pm	1.0
10	Su	2:24am	1.2	4:31pm	1.0
11	Mo	3:19am	1.1	4:47pm	1.0
12	Tu	4:12am	1.1	5:03pm	1.0
13	We	5:03am	1.0	5:21pm	1.0
				11:25am	0.1

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A New Year on St. Vincent Island

Special to The Star

The new year looks like it will be another busy one on St. Vincent Island. February brings the annual meeting for the Supporters Group of the refuge and then in March the open house on the island takes place. The winter hunts are over, and the focus shifts to turtle monitoring, wolf tracking and island maintenance. This year we hope to have more local faces joining the activities on St. Vincent Island.

The St. Vincent Island Supporters Group will welcome visitors to the island March 22 to explore and learn more about this island wildlife refuge. Free transportation to and from the island will be provided. More about this special event will be released next month.

The three hunts that took place on St. Vincent Island this winter had mild weather and dry conditions, which produced three very successful hunts. The white-tailed Deer Archery Hunt was Nov. 15-17 and had 57 hunters participate. Thirteen deer were harvested, including four bucks and nine does. Five feral hogs also were harvested, four females and one male that weighed 103 pounds, the heaviest animal harvested in that hunt.

The Sambar Deer Hunt took place Nov. 29 to Dec. 1. The Sambar deer, an elk from India, was brought to the island in the early 1900s by Dr. Pierce, who was using the island as a private exotic hunting preserve. This imported deer was the only non-native animal permitted to remain on the island after the island became part of the National Wildlife Refuge system. The Sambar deer, which can measure up to 6 feet tall weigh up to 700 pounds, acclimated to the island terrain and does not interfere with the natural habitat of the island. The harvest drew 128 hunters, who harvested 12 Sambar deer.

The deer included eight stags and four hinds with



COURTESY OF TRISH PETRIE

The Sambar deer, an elk from India, was brought to the island in the early 1900s.

dressed weight ranging from 191 to 368 pounds and two to six points. Three feral hogs also were harvested weighing 30-60 pounds.

The Primitive Weapon Hunt took place Jan. 24-26. One hundred and eighteen hunters harvested 28 white-tailed deer, seven feral hogs and one raccoon during this hunt. The January hunt concluded the 2012-13 winter hunting season on St. Vincent Island.

Volunteers are needed by the St. Vincent Island NWR. Both outdoor and office-based volunteer work is available. At the Apalachicola office, volunteers help with visitor services, assist with administrative tasks or help write grant proposals. On the island you can help track the red

wolves, join the sea turtle patrol, participate in bird counts, clean up trash on the island's beautiful beaches, remove invasive plants or assist with maintenance projects. To volunteer or learn more about how you can help, email supportstvin@hotmail.com.

The monthly island tours have several more months before the summer heat and bugs arrive. All tours are on the second Wednesdays, Feb. 13, March 13, April 10 and May 8. The group's enhanced website will give you details about the tours plus a convenient place to sign up. Just click on "Island Tour Sign Up."

The tour is free, but participants must make a reservation at www.stvincentfriends.com. Seats are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. There is a small charge for boat transportation to and from the island. You also can visit the island on your own. Do remember the island is primitive — bring everything you need, including drinking water, and leave only your footprints behind.

This monthly column is provided by the Supporters of St. Vincent Island National Wildlife Refuge. Visit www.stvincentfriends.com for more information and volunteer opportunities, and never miss an opportunity to visit St. Vincent Island.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Supporters of St. Vincent Island National Wildlife Refuge will hold its sixth annual meeting 1-4 p.m. ET Feb. 17.

The meeting will take place at the St. Joseph Bay Buffer Preserve Center at 3915 State 30A. The Center is 4.5 miles south of the intersection of U.S. Highway 98 and County 30A in Port St. Joe and 5 miles north of the Indian Pass Raw Bar.

The guest speaker for the meeting will be Erik Lovestrand, the Education Coordinator at the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve. The topic of his talk is "The Snakes of Florida."

Food will be catered by Paul Gant's Bar-B-Q.

Memberships will be sold at the door and you must be a member to attend.

Annual memberships are \$15 for individuals and \$20 per family. For more information, call 229-6735.

FISH REPORT SPONSORED BY



Pier/Surf

Unusually warm weather has the fish confused again in our area this week. With a cold front predicted to be moving our way, now is the time to be out on the water. Lake Wimico and parts of the Apalachicola River are seeing good sheephead and a few striped bass still this week.

Inshore

Most action around town is still in the ICW canal in St. Joe. Try starting out under the powerlines and moving your way up toward the T. Live shrimp has been the bait of choice, however, Gulp shrimp and DOA are good alternatives this week.

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Quinn named Phillies No. 4 prospect

Star staff report

Philly.com Sports, the on-line edition of the Philadelphia Inquirer newspaper, this week provided its rundown of the top prospects in the Philadelphia Phillies organization.

Written by staff writers Bob Brookover and Matt Gelb, the list is, as the writers noted, like trying to predict the new president four years from now.

"I don't remember anybody having Darin Ruf on their list

last year," said Joe Jordan, the Phillies' director of player development, mentioning a prospect shooting up lists.

But with less than 10 days left before pitchers and catchers report to Phillies' camp in Clearwater for spring training, the writers compiled their list. Jordan was not part of compiling the list, but agreed to provide comment on the players listed, the writers wrote.

And coming at No. 4 on the list was Port St. Joe's Roman

Quinn, coming off a record performance in his first season of pro ball at short-season Class A Williamsport (PA).

The writers wrote, "As a shortstop, a switch-hitter and a second-round pick, Quinn is bound to be compared to Jimmy Rollins, a 1996 second-round pick, as he climbs the minor-league ladder. His 30 stolen bases were six more than any player in the New York-Penn League and his 11 triples were five more than any player."

Jordan's comments: "There is not a higher-ceiling player in our system if everything comes together and clicks. Roman has a lot of work to do, but what he brings to the table is really exciting. Last year was his first as a full-time shortstop and his first as a full-time switch hitter. We need to take our time with him, but he has a chance to impact the game in a lot of ways."



At right, Roman Quinn had a record-setting year in his first year of pro ball. Philly.com Sports selected him this week the Philadelphia Phillies' No. 4 prospect.

Lady Tiger Sharks reach regional for 12th year

Star staff report

They did not take away a district crown, but the Lady Tiger Sharks of Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High School reached the district championship game and the first round of the regional playoffs during last week's District 4-1A tournament at South Walton.

This is the 12th consecutive year the Port St. Joe girls have reached regional play, the ninth-straight under Coach Kenny Parker.

Port St. Joe played West Gadsden in the opening round of the tournament last Tuesday 49-19.

The Lady Tiger Sharks never trailed, taking an 18-6 lead after one quarter, building the lead to 31-10 at halftime and finishing the third period up 44-15.

Brooklyn Quinn scored 10 points to lead Port St. Joe. Callie Fleshren, Alyssa Parker and Hallie Jasinski each had eight, Shannon Pridgeon and Maya Robbins added five each, Teiyahna Hutchinson four and Da'Vida Tschudi with one.

The Lady Tiger Sharks faced Blountstown, a winner over Bozeman in the opening round, in last Friday's semifinals.

The two split during the regular season, each winning on its own court.

Port St. Joe jumped to a 10-4 first quarter lead and was up 17-14 at halftime. Blountstown pulled to within 28-26 after three periods and took a 30-28 lead halfway through the final quarter.

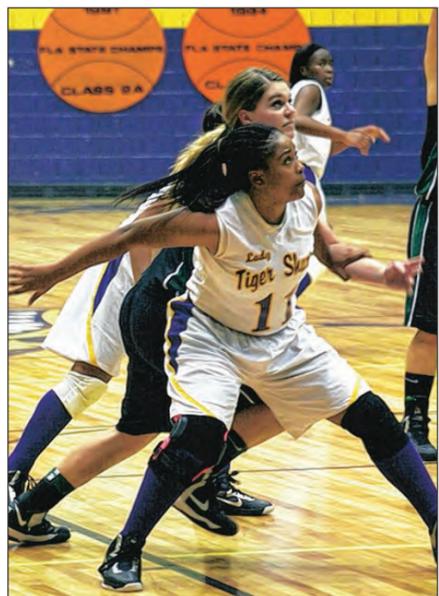
The Lady Tiger Sharks outscored Blountstown 9-2 over the final minutes to win 37-30.

Quinn led the way with 14 points. Hutchison added nine, Fleshren six, Robbins three and Parker and Jasinski each had 2.

The following night the title game was no contest as top-seeded South Walton, starting five seniors with two more seniors coming off the bench, breezed to a 50-20 win.

Robbins led Port St. Joe with eight points, Hutchinson added six and Quinn and Jasinski three.

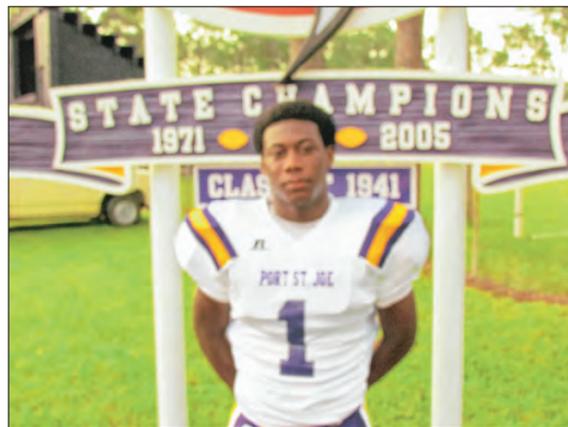
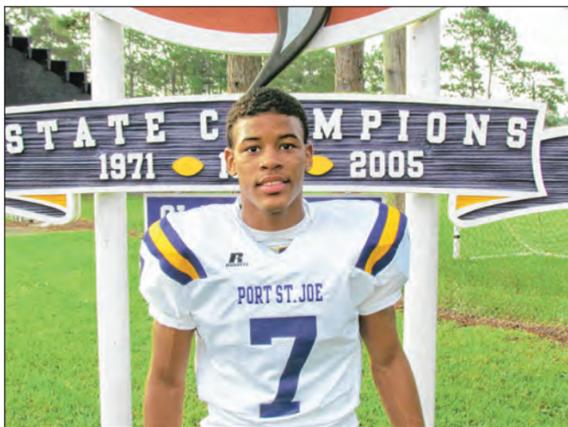
Port St. Joe plays at Ponce de Leon in the Regional 1-1A quarterfinals at 8 p.m. ET Tuesday.



SPECIAL TO THE STAR

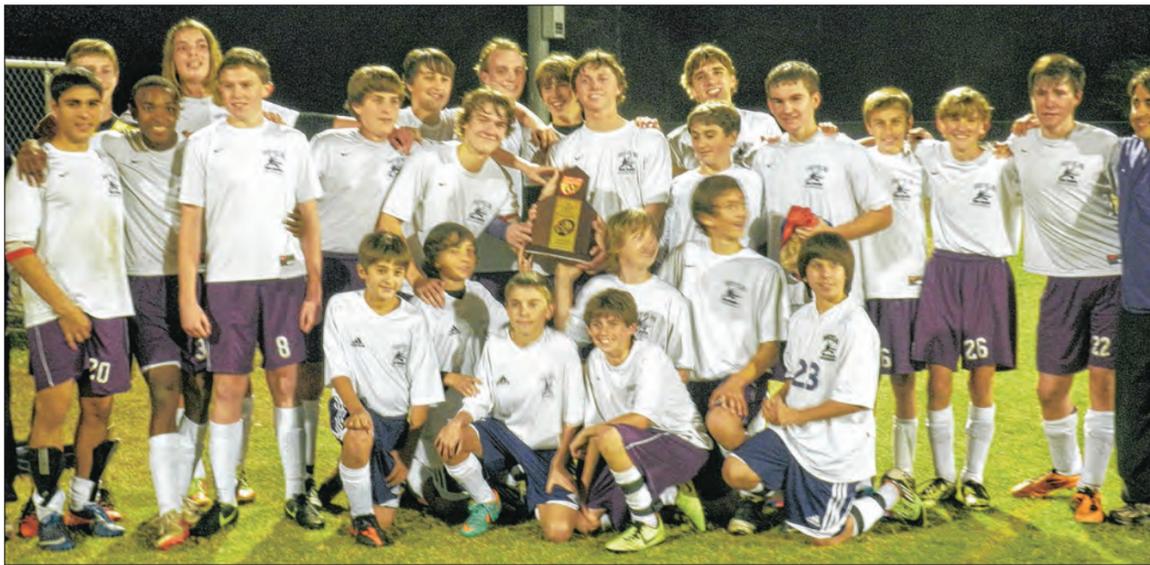
Alyssa Parker recently was recognized during Senior Night. She is the lone graduating player on this year's Lady Tiger Shark basketball team.

2012 TIGER SHARK FOOTBALL HONORS



STAR STAFF REPORT

Two players honored during the banquet for the 2012 Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High School football team were not pictured two weeks ago. Ramello Zacarro, No. 7, earned a Captain's Pick award and Jarkeice Davis, No. 1, was named Offensive Player of the Year.



The boys celebrated a second-straight, and third in four years, District 1-1A title the week before region playoffs.

Port St. Joe falls to Maclay in soccer

Star staff report

Last Thursday night was déjà vu for the Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High School soccer program.

Tallahassee Maclay, which ended the Lady Tiger Sharks' season the prior week, ended the boys' season Thursday night when an early goal held up for a 1-0 victory in a Region 1-1A quarterfinal match

at Sam Cox Field.

The Tiger Sharks, District 1-1A champs, finish the season 13-3-1. Maclay posted only the third shutout of Port St. Joe this season.

The only goal in the hard-fought match came in the 10th minute and was the result, Port St. Joe coach Gary Hindley said, of miscommunication between two Port St. Joe defenders and goalkeeper

Tucker Smith.

Hindley noted that Smith, a senior, played a "fine game" and kept the score line at one as the Marauders outshot Port St. Joe 10-2. Smith had six saves.

Smith, in his first year as a soccer goalkeeper, finished with a 13-3-1 record and a 1.125 Goals Against Average.

Maclay advanced to the regional semifinal on Saturday.

"Maclay is a fine club and is probably, as a program, still ahead of us, but we are closing the gap tremendously," Hindley said. "We had a very successful season and the participation numbers continue to grow in both numbers and athleticism. We will miss our five graduating seniors, but will still welcome back 19 returnees."

Dixie Youth Baseball registration

Star staff report

The Port St. Joe Dixie Youth Baseball League will hold registration for the upcoming season Saturday, Feb. 12 and Feb. 16 at the STAC house on Eighth Street. Times are from 9 a.m. until noon ET Saturday and 5-7 p.m. Tuesday. The league is open to all children ages 5-12 (cannot turn 13 on or before April 30).

First-time players in the league must provide a copy of their birth certificates and turn it in to the league.

The cost of registration is \$60.

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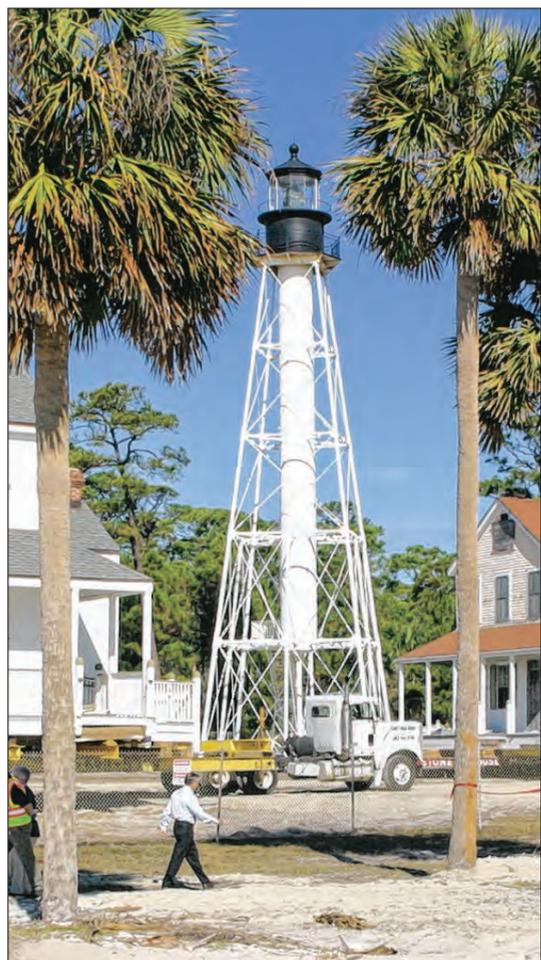
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THE STAR

The Cape San Blas Lighthouse continued to be a major point of contention regarding plans for a bayfront park in Port St. Joe.

WORKSHOP from page A1

What followed those introductory remarks was just over an hour of discussion pertaining to various aspects of the proposed park plans, which include three distinct portions: a promenade connecting to recreational opportunities, a marine center and the lighthouse.

The lighthouse continued to be a major point of contention. Although there were some pointed questions about various proposals for the park, the most controversial is the relocation of the lighthouse to the city.

As Davidson noted, the potential for the lighthouse landing at the park came after planning of the park had already begun. Finding a suitable location, particularly after the city was awarded the lighthouse by the U.S. Department of Interior in December, only then became a priority.

"I like the concept (of the park)," said Jimmy McNeill of Indian Pass, whose mother has been among the most outspoken critics of the relocation of the lighthouse into the city. "It will draw people. In another forum, I have a problem with the lighthouse."

That could have been a

theme for the night as Alsobrook deflected repeated questions about the relocation of the lighthouse, particularly the costs of that move, as an issue for city commissioners, not the PSJRA.

The agency, she noted, was doing what it was charged by commissioners to do: use a \$20,000 grant for the planning of the new park. The lighthouse, she said repeatedly, was not an issue for the PSJRA.

"Those are questions we are aware of and are considering," Alsobrook said after several questioned whether the city could fund the relocation and ongoing maintenance of the lighthouse. "It is not anticipated it is going to be funded by tax dollars."

As was noted during the workshop, the city has a pre-proposal before the county RESTORE Act committee to secure just less than \$1 million for the relocation.

Alsobrook said during the workshop that she envisioned public/private partnerships funding much of the cost of construction of the new park, including potentially the relocation of the lighthouse.

Davidson said the lighthouse move was an opportunity under the RESTORE Act, but was not dependent on receiving any RESTORE funds.

One critic of the move of the lighthouse, Julia Cunningham, said she did not see how the relocation of the lighthouse to the city would increase bed tax revenue from tourists. Cunningham noted the number of beds in Port St. Joe was not what it was on the cape and wondered how much the economic impact would be.

"Culture is a business, a big business," Alsobrook said. "And it brings dollars into the community."

Alsobrook noted one study that showed that for every \$1 invested in a community to increase cultural activities, the economic impact equaled \$5.

"It's going to benefit everybody," Davidson said. "It's a benefit for the city, for the county and (St. Joseph Bay) ... As the mayor (Mayor Mel Magidson) says, this is a once in a lifetime opportunity."

Davidson also noted that although the planning documents are available for public review, the process was fluid and public input was a positive.

"Let's keep the ideas coming," Davidson said. "We are very carefully considering a lot of stuff to get the conversation going. People are talking back to us with great ideas."

One came from Eugene

Raffield. Raffield suggested a shipwreck replica intended for the recreational area could instead be an authentic shrimp boat converted into a museum of the community's maritime history, with a gang plank extending out over the bay waters.

Tim Nelson suggested a landscaping focus that would create a "green" corridor along Third Street as it crosses U.S. Highway 98 into the general park area.

Dewey Blaylock has suggested ideas for transforming at least a section of the proposed Marine Resource Center into a turtle rescue operation.

"We want to celebrate what we have had, what we have and what we are going to have," Alsobrook said.

One Reid Avenue business owner said the proposed park was a win-win from the standpoint that by investing in the town and its history, businesses will also be interested in investing in the community and interest in living in Gulf County will increase.

Davidson said the area for the recreational area/promenade was a redeveloping area and said the Florida Department of Environmental Protection was "very collaborative" with the PSJRA planning team on the park plans.

"It's a good idea; it looks good on paper," Port St. Joe resident Dusty May said. "It's a win-win if it's done right."

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Library offers Winter Program Series

Star Staff Report

The Corinne Costin Gibson/Gulf County Library has announced its Winter Program Series.

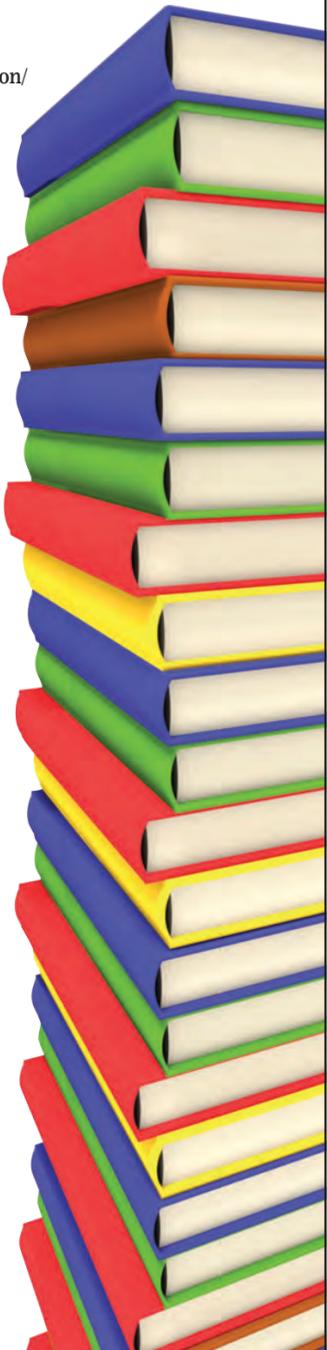
All three programs are free and will be in the Alfred I/DuPont Florida History-Genealogy Center at the Corrine Costin Gibson/Gulf County Library in Port St. Joe.

The series kicks off at 2 p.m. ET Feb. 14 with "Courting and Marriage in the Olden Days." Presented by Ann Robbins, head of circulation and literacy at the Bay County Public Library, this program explains how love and courting has changed in America from the 1600s to modern times. A display of antiques will make excellent discussion pieces.

The second program, at 2 p.m. Feb. 21, will be "Genealogy: How to Get Started using your Library." Presented by Rebecca Saunders, head of genealogy and local history with the Bay County Public Library, this program will explain how to use Ancestry.com and Heritage Quest databases and other resources to research family history.

The final program, at 2 p.m. March 7, is "Bone Mizell: Florida Cracker Cowhunter." Presented by Robbins, the life of Bone Mizell described the typical life of the men of Florida during the late 1880s.

For more information about the Winter Program Series, call 229-8879.



Potassium deficiency hard to spot

As with nitrogen, Florida's sandy soils are naturally low in potassium. But unlike nitrogen, potassium deficiency can be kind of tricky to diagnose and treat. One reason is because plants seem to be able to tolerate a wide range of potassium levels without showing signs of deficiency. Also, high levels of certain elements in the soil will prevent plants from using potassium. But applying potassium where a deficiency doesn't exist might lead to a deficiency in some other elements.

My information in this article was provided by Professor Emeritus Dr. Robert Black of the University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

Potassium must be carefully balanced with other nutrients, so you have to be very sure you're diagnosing any deficiencies correctly. One general symptom of potassium deficiency is interveinal chlorosis of the leaves. Interveinal chlorosis is a yellowing of leaf tissue between the veins of the leaf. You might notice leaf drop occurring later in the season. If potassium deficiency persists, growth is slowed down, and limbs and

branches of the plants might die.

These symptoms, however, don't always mean potassium deficiency. Magnesium deficiency, for example, shows almost exactly the same symptoms. Yet treating one deficiency when the problem is really the other will only make matters worse. If you suspect potassium deficiency, take a sample of soil to your local county extension office, which can send it to the IFAS Soil Testing Laboratory and have it analyzed to determine exactly what the problem is.

After you have determined your soil needs more potassium, you can correct the problem with fertilizer treatments. You can use commercial garden fertilizer, such as 8-8-8; high analysis fertilizers, such as 16-4-8; or you can supply just the potassium by using a compound such as potassium sulfate.

If you decide to use a basic gardening fertilizer, apply it four times a year at the rate of two or four pounds for every 100 square feet of soil. You might decide to use a high analysis fertilizer. Theoretically,

the high nitrogen content in the high analysis fertilizer could aggravate potassium deficiency symptoms. But in the landscape, this is rarely, if ever, a problem.

Most soils could benefit from the increase in nitrogen, so it's OK to use a high analysis fertilizer to treat potassium deficiency. Apply it four times a year, but only use one to two pounds for a 100-square-foot area.

If you want to use a single potassium compound, such as potassium sulfate, apply enough of the compound so that it supplies the same amount of potassium that's found in the 8-8-8 fertilizer. This will come out to about a half a pound of the mixture for a 100 square foot area.

In summary, potassium deficiency is common in Florida soils, but the deficiency isn't easy to identify. Treating a soil for potassium deficiency when something else is really the problem will only aggravate the situation. Have a reputable soil specialist test your soil, and if a potassium deficiency exists, apply the appropriate fertilizer.

For more information contact the Gulf County Extension Service at 639-3200, 229-2909 or <http://gulf.ifas.ufl.edu>.



ROY LEE CARTER
County extension director

New physician joins Sacred Heart



DR. KIRK GARCIA-RIOS

Special to The Star

Dr. Kirk Garcia-Rios, a family medicine practitioner, has joined Sacred Heart Medical Group and is seeing patients in the medical office building on the Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf campus.

"It is great to come back home and be near the water," said Dr. Garcia-Rios, originally from Valparaiso.

Garcia-Rios joined Sacred Heart after completing his residency at Bay Regional Medical Center in Michigan. He received his medical degree from Kansas City University and Biosciences College of Osteopathic Medicine in Missouri.

Office hours will be 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday. For more information or to set up an appointment, call 229-5661.

2013 2nd Annual BEST PET CONTEST

Vote for the Top 50!

Voting Rules

Vote Between: Feb. 4th at 9 a.m.- Feb 25th, at 4 p.m.
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Round 1 Voting: Narrows to 50 Entrants: **Feb. 4th-Feb.11th**
Round 2 Voting: Narrows to 25 Entrants: **Feb. 11th-18th**
Round 3 Voting: Narrows to 10 Entrants and Winner: **Feb. 18th-25th**

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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 townsendsdirector@gmail.com or adoptbaystjoe@gmail.com or call the St. Joseph Bay Humane Society at 850-227-1103 and ask for Melody or Debbie! Online applications are available at www.sjbhumanesociety.org and will be emailed to our office or you can print and fax to 850-227-1191. SJHHS is a proud member of www.petsforpatriots.org

We require all potential adopters to complete an application form. Adoption fees include our cost of spay/neuter and current vaccinations. In some cases donations may be requested to offset cost of pets requiring any additional medical care.

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

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Community BRIEFS

From 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. Saturday, Feb. 9, at the Gulf County EOC building behind the Gulf County Courthouse in Port St. Joe.

Those interested in obtaining a ham license or upgrading a present license should call C.H. Tillis at 648-8251 for information and exam registration.

Ham it up — get your license today, and become part of amateur radio!

Beekeeping in the Panhandle

The University of Florida/IFAS will sponsor Beekeeping in the Panhandle, an interactive video class to be held at the Gulf County Extension Office, 232 Lake Ave. in Wewahatchka.

The deadline for registration is Feb. 8, and the fee, \$25 per person, \$40 for a family, covers course materials and refreshments.

The schedule of classes, which will be 6-8 p.m. CT, 7-9 p.m. ET on Mondays: **Feb. 18:** Queen and Package Bee Production; **Feb. 25:** Nutrition/Immunity in Honey Bees **March 4:** IPM for Disease/Pest Control **March 11:** History and Theory of Honey Production.

The cost of the Field Day and Trade Show is \$15 per person, \$10 for additional family members.

For more information or to register call the Gulf County Extension Office at 639-3200.

DAZZLING DOLPHINS



SPECIAL TO THE STAR

PreK, Raegan Mathews; Kindergarten, Gregory Dean; first grade, Chase Dykes; second grade, Macie Burrows; third grade, Gage Medina; fourth grade, Bradley Lewis; fifth grade, Rainey Nobles; and sixth grade, Cole Haddock.

HANNAH ANDERSON WINS SCIENCE FAIR AWARD



SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Port St. Joe Elementary School would like to congratulate Hannah Elizabeth Anderson for her recent participation in the Three Rivers Science Fair. This event was sponsored by the U.S. Army, and Hannah received an award for Outstanding Science Project in her division. Hard work and perseverance pays off. Way to go, Hannah! We are proud of you!



SPECIAL TO THE STAR

These students earned all A's during the first semester.

FCS students earn academic honors

Congratulations to the honor students of Faith Christian School.

ALL A'S FOR THE FIRST SEMESTER

Kindergarten: Austin Ramsey, Torren Smith, Kole Street and Karis Whicker
 First grade: Taylor Burkett, Carter Costin and

Alex Taylor
 Second grade: Magnolia Sarmiento and Halee Whicker
 Third grade: Kristen Bouington

ALL A'S AND B'S FOR THE FIRST SEMESTER

First grade: Riley McGuffin
 Third grade: Theron



Smith
 Fourth grade: Riley Noah
 Fifth grade: Catherine Bouington



These students earned all A's and B's during the first semester.

Port St. Joe summer program gets a boost

Special to The Star

Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High School Principal Jeremy Knapp presented \$250 to the Gulf Coast Workforce Board during the halftime at the Sharks basketball game Jan. 18. Gulf Coast Workforce Board representatives Tamlyn Smith, Melvin Martin and Mike Harris were on hand to accept the donation, which will be used to purchase new equipment for the Port St. Joe Summer Leadership Program coming up this summer at the Washington Recreation Center.



SPECIAL TO THE STAR

From left are Port St. Joe High School Basketball Coach "K" (Derek Kurnitsky), Tamlyn Smith, Melvin Martin of the Gulf Coast Workforce Board, and Port St. Joe High School Principal Jeremy Knapp.



Special to The Star

Senior info

Cap and gown photos: Cap and gown photos will be taken at the school at 9 a.m. Feb. 13. There is a \$25 sitting fee. See Coach Taylor to sign up for a time slot.

Yearbook news: The final date to pre-order your 2012-2013 yearbook is Feb. 28. No extra books are ordered. Please don't miss out on this opportunity to purchase your yearbook. You can order online at www.jostens.com or from the link provided at the school's main page on the web. You may also order at the school in Coach Taylor's room. Remember, Feb. 28 is the last day to order.

Senior recognition: The final date to order a yearbook recognition ad for your senior is Feb. 28. Ad forms and templates may be picked up in Coach Taylor's class. All

forms and pictures need to be turned in no later than Feb. 28.

FAFSA seminar: Guidance will be holding a Financial Aid Workshop from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 16 in Computer Lab 103. Senior parents are encouraged to attend this important training session. Please bring a copy of your current IRS Tax Form and Social Security Numbers for parents and students.

Parent info

FCAT Write: FCAT Write 2.0 for eighth- and 10th-graders will be Feb. 26.

Shark Bites: Any parent or guardian interested in receiving "Shark Bites," our weekly schedule of events, please email LCDR Marty Jarosz at mjarosz@gulf.k12.fl.us, and we will put you on the list.

Black History Celebration: Our Black History Month celebration will be at 9 a.m. Feb. 28 in the gym. All are invited to attend.

Football: Spring football begins May 1. All interested students need to have a completed or updated sports physical to be eligible to practice. See Coach Gannon for more details. Physical forms may be picked up in the main office.

WE SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY'S UNIVERSITY



"We support FSU Panama City as a tier one research university available locally, which will promote knowledge and bring jobs to our community. Excellence in education will be a key factor in attracting new industry to Bay County. We are proud to contribute and encourage each of you to join us in this campaign."

- Jim & Jan Cook

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

Obituaries

Jimmie Vernon Lester

Jimmie Vernon Lester, 64, of Honeyville passed away Tuesday, January 29, 2013. A lifelong resident of Gulf County, he served in the United States Air Force, worked for Premier Chemical and he loved to fish and hunt.

He is preceded in death by his father, John Vance Lester;

his mother, Trudie Harrison; and three sisters, Valeare Gliem, Verna Cannon, and Shirley Mederak.

He is survived by his wife, Jeanie Lester of Wewahitchka; his children, Christie Quick and husband Danny of Anchorage, AK, Michelle Pitts and husband Cliff of Kinard, and Mark Lester

and wife Dede, of Panama City; two brothers, Bo John Lester and Bobby Lester and wife Jeter of Wewahitchka; three sisters, Linda Hale and husband Phillip of Greensboro, NC, Juanita Martel of Jacksonville, and Odell Guerino and husband Sully of Panama City; and three grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Saturday, Feb. 2, 2013, at 2 p.m. CT at Glad Tidings Church in Wewahitchka with Rev. Joey Smith and Rev. Jerry Arhelger officiating. Interment followed in Roberts Cemetery.

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

Lucille (Sowell) Nelson

Lucille (Sowell) Nelson, aged 96, died peacefully on Feb. 4, 2013, at The Bridge at Bay St. Joe Nursing Home in Port St. Joe. Lucille was born August 24, 1916, in Washington County, Florida, the daughter of Bunyon and Bobbie Sowell.

May 8, 1942 Lucille married F. F. Nelson, and upon his completion of military duty they attended Beauty and Barber School in Jacksonville before moving to Port St. Joe in 1948.

F. F. went to work at Coopers Barber Shop and Lucille opened the first beauty shop in Port St. Joe named "My Fair Lady."

Lucille quit work to raise a family and after the children where older she opened a second beauty shop in their home where she could continue to raise her family while working. Lucille was an active member of First Baptist Church of Port St. Joe where

she taught Sunday school and volunteered her time in the nursery and children's programs.

Lucille is survived by her sons Glen Nelson of Port St. Joe and Marshall Nelson and wife Tracie of Port St. Joe; grandson Reis Nelson of Port St. Joe; and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her mother and father, Bunyon and Bobbie Sowell of Chipley, FL; two sisters, Beatrice

Nichols of Birmingham, AL and Thelma Nichols of Chipley, FL; one brother Buster Sowell of Pensacola, FL; and one grandson Bryce Nelson of Port St. Joe.

Viewing will be at 2 p.m. and service is at 3 p.m. ET on Friday, Feb. 8, 2013, at the First Baptist Church of Port St. Joe with Bro. Buddy Caswell officiating. Friends are invited to visit with the family in the sanctuary after the service.

Albert J. (Al) Fleischmann

Albert J. (Al) Fleischmann, 64, of St. Joe Beach, passed away Jan. 31, 2013, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was owner and operator of A & R Fencing of St. Joe Beach and a member of the body of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Port St. Joe. He served as an usher at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church of Mexico Beach for many years

until its closure.

Al was predeceased by his parents, Albert and Eva Fleischmann and his wife Rose Jeanette (Jenny) Fleischmann.

He is survived by his sister, Pat Johnson of Keansburg, New Jersey; a nephew, T.J. and nieces, Cindy and Tricia; children Ronni Bedell (Al), Lisa Bryke (Roger), Nikola (Brian), Celeste, Jeanette

(Warren), Dana (Richie Bowes), Steven and Matthew; 17 grandchildren, five from Gulf County, Patricia Rose, Addison, Xavier and Xavier's father, Jamie Bateman, Albert John (A.J.) and Tyler Fleischmann; three great-grandchildren; plus his four canine buddies, Cheetz his little buddy, Peanut, Mena and Raven.

Al's wish was to be cremated and buried with Jenny. A memorial Mass of Celebration of Life will be held at 10:15 a.m. ET on Tuesday, February 12, 2013 at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Keansburg, New Jersey.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be made to St. Joseph Humane Society or your favorite charity.

Memorie Porter Sundin

Memorie Porter Sundin, age 81, passed away suddenly Friday, Feb 1, 2013. She was born October 7, 1931 in Apalachicola to parents Ned S. Porter and Louise Messina Porter. She graduated from Port St. Joe High School, Class of '49 and attended Barry University in Miami, after which she worked as a medical technologist in Panama City. It was here she met a dashing young Air Force pilot from Minnesota, Charles Sundin. They were married at St. Patrick's Church in Apalachicola in 1955 and

were soon on their way to Rantoul, IL, Sacramento, CA and Taiwan. In 1960, she and Chuck returned stateside to Nellis AFB Las Vegas and soon after, son one and two came along. After USAF retirement in 1965, she and Chuck moved the family to Harlingen, Texas to start an aviation business and the family grew by adding a daughter. In 1982 with kids off and running and a second retirement, she moved to Port Charlotte, FL

where her and Chuck enjoyed sailing and traveling and seeing grandkids. In 1999, she moved back to Port St. Joe where she enjoyed family and friends. She will be missed by her sons Michael Porter Sundin, Dallas TX, Christopher Ned Sundin and daughter-in-law Michelle, Bradenton; and daughter, Laurie Louise Sundin, Irving TX. She adored and was adored by her grandchildren Christian, Catherine, and Dulaney.



MEMORIE PORTER SUNDIN

Funeral services will be held 11 a.m. EST Thursday, February 7, 2013 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Port St. Joe with Father Philip Fortin and Father Janus Jancarz officiating. Interment will immediately follow in Magnolia Gardens in Apalachicola. The family will receive friends from 10 a.m. EST until service time at the church. Condolences may be submitted or viewed at www.southerlandfamily.com.

Southerland Family Funeral Home
100 East 19th Street
Panama City, FL 32405

Cards of THANKS

Clements Card of Thanks

Webb and Jo Clements would like to personally thank all their extended family in Port St. Joe for remembering us during the death of my mother, JoAnne Rehberg. It is great to know the support we have here in Gulf County. We will never forget all the cards, flowers, food and most of all the care and concern you have shown our family. God is God all the time.....and all the time He is Good!

Thanks again, Webb, Jo, Laura-Leigh and Carley Clements

Tillery family Card of Thanks

As you all know I lost my oldest son Wallace Wade Tillery on Dec. 6, 2012 due to a massive heart attack. He had no insurance so the burden fell upon our family. In our time of need so many generous people in my hometown gave what they could from the bottom of their hearts.

During our time of sorrow we received food, money, donations, cards, phone calls, support and love and prayers. Words are no enough. But I want to say thank you to some that I know personally that helped make the burden a little easy on myself and my wife and family. Some of these people I have known for years, Gracie Smith, George and Hilda Duren for their food, support and donations. On Jan. 5 we held a benefit dinner fish fry to raise money to help pay the funeral expenses.

I would like to thank Harold Raffield for donating the fish, Gracie Smith for organizing the dinner, George Boyer, Tony Harrison for cooking, Becky Wood, Diana King, Ewell Harrison for their help. Also, Harry Paul and VFW Post 10069 and VFW Post 8205 in Parker also donated. There are so many good people who do care and give what they can and I want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart.

I have always heard the saying "shop at home." Well, I can see how that pays off. I shop at our local stores and I find that that saying pays off. There are good people in this county that I live in. Again, thanks very much.

From the Tillery family

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All vendors receive a FREE quarter-page ad in the official 2013 Home & Garden Expo special section, reaching more than 80,000 adults in Bay and seven surrounding counties.

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For sponsorship information call: 850-763-6587

For additional advertising information in the official program of the 2013 Home & Garden Expo, contact The News Herald at 850-747-5000



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Saturday: 9 AM - 5 PM
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- To enter go online at the **Panama City News Herald website at www.newsherald.com** or by mail or enter in-person
- To enter by mail or in person, complete an Official Entry Form printed in The Panama City News Herald, and return or mail to:

Beautiful Baby Contest, 501 W. 11th St., Panama City, FL 32401.

Enter Between:

Jan. 28th at 9 a.m. - March 17th, at 4 p.m.

Rules

- \$5 entry fee shall accompany each entry.
- Categories. The contest shall consist of four categories: 0-6 months, 6-12 months, 13-24 months, and 25-36 months.
- Photographs must be submitted by the parents or guardians entrant. No third-party entries will be accepted.
- Hardcopy photos must be at least 3 inches on one side and no more than 10 inches. Poor quality photos will not be accepted.
- All photos featured in a special section in the newspaper

FOR QUESTIONS CALL MISHA 747-5047.

For a complete set of rules, go to www.newsherald.com

Entry Form

Child's Name: _____
Age: _____
Your Name: _____
Street Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Telephone: _____
Email: _____
CC Number: _____ **exp:** _____ **cvv:** _____

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



www.newsherald.com

HISTORY from page B1

recorded for posterity as the committee builds a history book that will be posted online and will be captured later in a printed form.

"It is about them; it is about history," said Danny Raffield, also a member of the committee.

At some point, a DVD will be available for purchase, and the archive, once finished will be available within the Florida Genealogy Room at the Port St. Joe Public Library.

There will be ice cream and pie served during the "Scan Day" as refreshments for those who come out, and donations for the Centennial Celebration also will be accepted.

The Centennial Committee is hoping the folks who comprise this community will help them tell the tale of the city of Port St. Joe over the past 100 years, since the founding of the modern city. "Help us tell the story of Port St. Joe," Boyer said.



The Reid Avenue Bunco Babes, some of whom are pictured during a check presentation to the Friends of the Port St. Joe Library, have raised almost \$20,000 since their first Bunco for Books 18 months ago.

SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Trivia ANSWER

Doodlebug was the common name for a self-propelled railcar. In 1938, the ANR bought the gas-electric EMC Doodlebug



No. 24 to use for passenger runs, replacing the less efficient steam passenger trains.

BUNCO from page B1

By donating all proceeds to the Friends of the Library, a nonprofit established to sustain the library mission, the Bunco Babes ensure plenty of flexibility in how those funds are spent, generally toward items that have become out of reach for the library.

"We are just trying to increase the library's ability to educate, entertain and inform," Garmon said.

In addition to the games of Bunco, there also will be raffles for items donated by the Reid Avenue Bunco Babes and others in the community.

"That is the request to our members, everybody has got something stuffed away in their homes they can donate," Garmon said.

The cost of entry to the Bunco for

Books is \$30, with \$20 going to the Friends of the Port St. Joe Library and \$10 for covering the night's meal of gumbo, a salad and dessert.

Tickets are available in advance at the following locations: The Fish House, No Name Café, Boyer's Signs, Coast2Coast Printing and the Port St. Joe Public Library.

Tickets also can be purchased at the door.

PUBLIC NOTICE

A Public Hearing will be held at the Planning and Development Review Board (PDRB) meeting on Monday, February 18, 2013 at 8:45 a.m. EST, and at the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) meeting on Tuesday, February 26, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. EST. Both public hearings will be held in the BOCC Meeting Room at the Robert M. Moore Administration Building, 1000 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd., Port St. Joe, Florida. The public hearings will be to discuss and act on the following:

1. Variance Application - Ellis C. Smith - Parcel ID # 03806-085R - Located in Section 31, Township 6 South, Range 11 West, Gulf County, Florida - encroachment into road setback to within 10' of ROW.
2. Variance Application - Sprit of Holiness Church - Parcel ID #02892-000R - Located in Section 11, Township 7 South, Range 10 West, Gulf County, Florida, encroachment into road setback.
3. Variance Application - Mars Real Estate Ventures, LLC - Parcel ID #06345-810R - Located in Section 25, Township 8 South, Range 12 West, Gulf County, Florida, encroachment into road setback.
4. Variance Application - Rubye G. Griffin - Parcel ID #03806-005R - Located in Section 31, Township 6 South, Range 11 West, Gulf County, Florida, encroachment into road setback.
5. County Development Regulations and Policies
6. Staff, Public and Open Discussion

The public is encouraged to attend and be heard on these matters. Information prior to the meeting can be viewed at the Planning Department at 1000 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd., Room 311.

Ad #2013-07



TIM CROFT | The Star

Daughters Ruth, left, and Joy, right, and granddaughter Donna McCroan flank Clark as she celebrates her birthday. Joy is holding a bound scrapbook of memories created by Clark's family in celebration of her 100th birthday. The scrapbook is more than 100 pages of memories and photos marking the milestones of Clark's life.

100 YEARS from page B1

She bore and raised six daughters. She was the heart of the household while her husband sold insurance and worked with fishermen in the community.

Beulah was an early carrier for the Panama City News Herald and toted her daughters with her on her paper route.

She returned to college, balancing studies with the work of raising her girls.

Beulah went on to teach special education in Gulf County, the first special education teacher in the history of the county's public schools. She devoted her life to her faith, studying the Bible daily and teaching other women in Sunday School.

She was known for her helping hands to the needy.

As a daughter wrote in her book of memories, "She is a woman of strength and dignity and has no fear of old age. When she speaks her words are wise, and kindness is the rule for everything she says. She prays faithfully for her children's

families; she does not interfere or give advice.

"Charm is deceptive and beauty doesn't last, but a woman who reverences and fears God shall be greatly praised. Praise her for the many fine things she does. These good deeds of her shall bring her honor and recognition."

Much of that honor and recognition can be found in the tribute book, the dedication of which spells out the impact Beulah Clark had on her family and the community around her.

Vacation trips, passings and births, family photos, remembrances of the day her husband graduated college, details about a daughter's contraction of and return to good health from polio, the highlights of a hog kill, anniversaries, memories of summer, weddings and reunions abound in the book.

The book was put together by children, grandchildren and other relatives and friends.

"So many memories, so little time, to remember and relive in

our minds all the many ways she has molded and influenced our lives," the book dedication reads in part. "Happy birthday Mama, Grandmama Clark, Aunt Beulah, Mrs. Clark. We have all been blessed to have your gracious influence in our lives. Thank you for being a role model for so many; for holding forth Godly principles and examples for us to follow; showing us, by your faith in God, that we, too, can live a victorious life in Christ ... right on until he calls us home to be with him."

The Clark family wishes to thank all who contributed to last week's celebration, especially Covenant Hospice (Darwin Barwick created the celebratory banner), Parthenon Prints (which printed the memories book), Duren's Piggly Wiggly (which provided the cake), Bayside Florist and Gifts (which sent flowers) and Bay Breeze Antiques (which donated a bird feeder). The family also thanks all who brought or sent cards, flowers, gifts, prayers and thoughts and other blessings.

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LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

89996S
IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF THE FOUR-
TEENTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT IN AND FOR
GULF COUNTY, FLOR-
IDA
CIVIL DIVISION
Case No.: 12-201CA

CAPITAL CITY BANK,
Plaintiff,
vs.

JAMES A. GUFFEY and
JENNIFER A. BARNES,
f/k/a JENNIFER A.
GUFFEY,
Defendants.

**CLERK'S NOTICE OF
SALE UNDER F.S.
CHAPTER 45**

NOTICE IS GIVEN that, in accordance with the Final Judgment of foreclosure entered December 13, 2012 in the above-styled cause, the Clerk of Court for Gulf County, Florida will sell to the highest and best bidder at the Gulf County Courthouse Lobby, 1000 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd., Port St. Joe, FL, 32456, on February 21,

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

2013 at 11:00 a.m. EST the following described property:

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

Parcel ID: 02624-460R (the "Property").

ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE US PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.

Dated this 18th day of January 2013.

Rebecca Norris
As Clerk of the Court

By: BA Baxter
As Deputy Clerk
Jan 31, Feb 7, 2013

**92087S
PUBLIC NOTICE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners will hold a public hearing to consider adoption of the following amendments and Ordinances with the following titles:

AN ORDINANCE OF GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA; WHEREBY AMENDING ORIGINAL GULF COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE NUMBER 2005-24 AND THERE-

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

AFTER ITS AMENDMENT THROUGH ORDINANCE NUMBER 2008-20 AND HEREIN AMENDING BY ADOPTION OF "GULF COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE" WHEREBY PROVIDING FOR DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORITY AND ENFORCEMENT; PROVIDING FOR ADOPTION BY REFERENCE: FLORIDA STATUTES RELATING TO ANIMAL CONTROL, ANIMAL WELFARE AND ANIMAL CRUELTY; PROHIBITION AGAINST NUISANCE ANIMALS; PROVIDING FOR HUMAN CARE GUIDELINES; PROHIBITION AGAINST ANIMALS FROM RUNNING-AT-LARGE; PROVIDING FOR PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS; PROVIDING FOR MULTIPLE PET PERMITS AND KENNELING; PROHIBITION ON FEEDING FERAL ANIMALS; REGULATING SALE OF ANIMALS; PROVIDING FOR PROPER REDEMPTION AND DISPOSITION OF UNWANTED AND IMPOUNDED ANIMALS; PROVIDING FOR RABIES CONTROL; PROVIDING FOR PROPER HANDLING OF DANGEROUS AND AGGRESSIVE ANIMALS; PROVIDING FOR SPAY AND NEUTERING REQUIREMENTS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Complete Ordinance on file in the Clerk's Office

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

A first public reading and introduction will be held during the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners' Regular Meeting on Tuesday, February 12th at 9:00 a.m. est. in the County Commissioner's meeting room in the Robert M. Moore Administration Building, Gulf County Courthouse Complex, Port St. Joe, Florida.

A second reading in addition to a public hearing and consideration will be held during the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners' Regular Meeting on Tuesday, February 26th, at 9:00 a.m. est. in the County Commissioner's meeting room in the Robert M. Moore Administration Building, Gulf County Courthouse Complex, Port St. Joe, Florida.

All interested persons may appear and be heard with respect to the proposed Ordinance and referenced amendments. If a person decides to appeal any decisions made by the Gulf County Commission with respect to any matter considered at this hearing, he/she will need a record of the proceedings and that for such purpose he/she may need to ensure a verbatim record of the proceedings made and which would include any evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

A copy of the proposed Ordinance and amendments are available for inspection on week-

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

days between the hours of 9:00 a.m. est. and 5:00 p.m. est. at the Office of the Clerk of Court, Gulf County Courthouse, 1000 C.G. Costin, Sr., Blvd., Port St. Joe, Florida, 32456.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY: TYNALIN SMILEY,
CHAIRMAN
Jan. 31, Feb. 7, 2013

**90060S
PUBLIC NOTICE**

Hwy 22 Storage
1249 Hwy 22,
Wewahitchka, FL

#41 Karen Chancey
#52 Keresa Roberts
#66 Kathie Sarliento

Will be up for sale on February 22, 2013, 8:30 A.M. if payments are not brought up to date. February 7, 14, 2013

**91923S
PUBLIC NOTICE**

NOTICE OF INTENT

Pursuant to Section 121.055, Florida Statutes, the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners intends to designate the position of Emergency Management Director, Public Works Director, and Maintenance Superintendent as Senior Management Class Positions under the Florida Retirement System, effective October 1, 2012.

/s/ Tynalin, Chairman
Attest: /s/ Rebecca L. Norris, Clerk
January 31, 2013

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

92191S
PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF LOGIC AND ACCURACY TEST SCHOOL BOARD REFERENDUM ELECTION MARCH 5, 2013 GULF COUNTY, FL

The Logic and Accuracy test for the M100 Tabulation System and the Ivotronic Touch Screen System to be used for the March 5, 2013 School Board Referendum Election will be held at the Gulf County Supervisor of Elections Office, 401 Long Ave, Port St Joe on February 13, 2013 - 9:00 AM EST. This test is open to the public.

John M. Hanlon
Supervisor of Elections
Gulf County, Florida
February 7, 2013

ADOPTIONS 1130

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PETS 2100

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

GARAGE/YARD SALES 3230

Port St. Joe, St. Joseph Catholic Church on 20th St. Sat Feb. 9th, 8am-1pm
Yard & Bake Sale
Everything from furniture to play things to clothing to yard & kitchen items.
Text FL40438 to 56654

HELP WANTED 4100

Port St. Joe:
1405 Constitution Drive. (Hwy 98) 02/08, 02/09 Fri. & Sat.9a-3p
Huge Yard Sale
Furniture, antiques, columns, and Lots of good stuff!
Come Rain or Shine
Text FL40605 to 56654

MISCELLANEOUS 3300

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

Cash Management System

Royal Alpha 710 ML Exc cond. Barely used. \$150. 850-229-8072
Text FL40365 to 56654

FREEZER

22 cubit foot Upright freezer, in excellent condition. \$125. (850) 229-8072

EMPLOYMENT 4100-4130

HELP WANTED 4100

Housekeeping
Part Time weekend help needed for all positions, apply in person, 4693 Cape San Blas Rd or 1200 Hwy 98 Mexico Beach

HELP WANTED 4100

Church Secretary
Methodist Church Port St. Joe, approx. 30 hrs a week, to manage office, Mon-Fri, Send resume to Dr Lentz at goffreyrentz@me.com

Janitorial Services

Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, Inc. is soliciting perspective bidders from qualified firms/person for janitorial services for its Wewahitchka Office located at 722 W. Hwy. 22 Wewahitchka, Florida 32465 and its Tyndall Office located at 6243 East Hwy. 98 Panama City, FL 32404. Any qualified applicants must contact Lacy Pettis at 850.265.3631 by 4:00 pm Monday, February 11, 2013 to be eligible to receive a RFP. The Cooperative will then send perspective bidders a RFP packet that will include scope of work, insurance requirements, site visit information, selection process, etc. GCEC reserves the right to reject any potential bidder. Equal Opportunity Employer.
Web ID# 34240252
Text FL40252 to 56654

HELP WANTED 4100 **HELP WANTED 4100**



GULF COAST STATE COLLEGE
SINCE 1957

MUSIC FACULTY
Teach music courses including but not limited to Music Theory, Sight Singing/Ear Training, direct performing groups, and maintain office hours & recruit students. Requires MS degree in Music with 18 graduate hours outside of music education, ability to drive 15-passenger van & valid FL driver's license. Position Open Until Filled with a review starting 3/22/13. Salary commensurate with education & experience. Only those who provide all requested items, GCSC Application (must be completed), legible transcripts & resume will be considered. Additional info: www.gulfcoast.edu/hr. Women & minorities are strongly encouraged to apply.

GCSC is an EA/EO/DFWP/Net employer. GCSC Equity Office 850.873.3516

HELP WANTED 4100 **HELP WANTED 4100** **HELP WANTED 4100**

NORTH FLORIDA CHILD DEVELOPMENT, INC. JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

Substitute Teachers – Gulf County
Seeking qualified applicants for Substitute Teacher positions at their Gulf County Centers. Assist teaching staff with schedules, routines, and activities. Requirements include an High School Diploma; some experience teaching in early childhood setting, and training courses and certifications mandated by DCF. Submit resumes to NFCD, Human Resource Department, PO Box 38, Wewahitchka FL 32465 or email smcgill@floridachildren.org.
Closing Date: February 15, 2013 • DFWP/MF/6-6/EOE • C14GU0134 • C14GU0624

Infant/Toddler Teachers – North Gulf County
Seeking 2 positions of Infant and Toddler Teachers in North Gulf County. The teacher prepares and implements appropriate curriculum for individuals and small groups. Must have a minimum of a CDA (FCCPC) or Associates degree or higher in Early Childhood Education; 2 years experiences in an early childhood setting working with infants and toddlers preferred and certificates for state mandated courses. Submit resumes to NFCD, Human Resource Department, PO Box 38, Wewahitchka FL 32465 or email smcgill@floridachildren.org.
Closing Date: February 15, 2013 • DFWP/MF/6-6/EOE • C14GU0134

Family Case Manager – North Gulf County
Seeking qualified applicant for Family Case Manager in North Gulf County. Works with families to enhance the quality of their lives and support them in their efforts to reach established goals. Must have a minimum of a Bachelor's degree in Social Work or related field; 2 years experiences in social work field. Submit resumes to NFCD, Human Resource Department, PO Box 38, Wewahitchka FL 32465 or email smcgill@floridachildren.org.
Closing Date: February 15, 2013 • DFWP/MF/6-6/EOE • C14GU0134

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APARTMENT RENTALS 6110

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HOUSE RENTALS 6140

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HOUSE RENTALS 6140

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HOME FOR SALE 7100

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE 7100-7200

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2001 Fleetwood 14' x 68' mobile home for sale to be moved by buyer, Asking \$9,500, NADA appraisal OBO; Call 850-247-9450 to set up appointment

HOME FOR SALE 7100

HELP WANTED 4100 **HELP WANTED 4100**

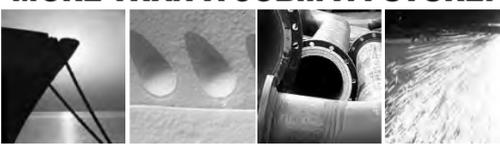


GULF COAST STATE COLLEGE
SINCE 1957

TECHNICAL COORDINATOR
Serve as the technical coordinator for all events in the Amelia Tapper Center for the Arts, and supervise set, sound and lighting construction for the theatre program. Requires BS degree (MS preferred) in technical theatre field; minimum two years' experience working in a technical theatre capacity; ability to drive 15-passenger van + trailer and valid FL driver's license. Open Until Filled with review starting 3/22/13. Salary range starts at \$30,600/yr. Only those who provide all requested items, GCSC Application (must be completed), legible transcripts & resume will be considered. Additional info: www.gulfcoast.edu/hr. Women & minorities are strongly encouraged to apply.

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3 BR 1 BA UNFURNISHED DUPLEX DOWNTOWN CARRABELLE.....\$600
3 BR 2 BA CONDO W/ 10X15 STORAGE AND POOL.....\$950
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NOW HIRING

Scallop Cove,
4310 Cape San Blas Road, is looking for Full Time Permanent Positions as well as Summer Help.

Must be dependable, honest and have the ability to get to and from work.

Starting pay is \$8.00/hour with increased pay for work performance after 90 day period.

Responsibilities include retail sales, cashier, stocking, customer service, deli food prep, among other things.

Must be able to work well with others and have a great attitude with the general public.

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Help seniors in your community:

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