

THE STAR

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The year in sports, A7

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50¢



2013 in rewind

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

The past 12 months have been marked by celebration and controversy.

Promise at the port was coun-

terbalanced by continued upheaval within economic development in the county.

The Board of County Commissioners and the city of Port St. Joe spent much time jabbing at and among each other — not to mention commissioners and staff.

Tourism roared back, but the chronic lack of jobs continued as well as eroding of school enrollment.

DAWGS in Prison reached 300 dogs saved, and the city of Port St. Joe celebrated its centennial.

Add it all together, and 2013

had plenty of news and by year's end held out hope that the news in 2014 would be of a more positive nature.

Here, in photos and words, is our wrap-up of 2013, not only the events but the themes that characterized the year.

◀ PORT OF CALL

The Port of Port St. Joe has been a staple of this roundup for several years.

2014 should have a lot to say about whether the port remains prominent on the list into the future.

Almost everything that occurred over the past year is foundation for the coming year and the belief it will be a tipping point for the port.

While the Port Authority of Port St. Joe wrestled with a lack of funds for operations and a lawsuit that threatens possession of the port's barge terminal and uplands, much of what has happened the past year was setting the table for 2014.

The case for dredging the federally authorized shipping channel took shape as the St. Joe Company, the Port Authority's formal collaborators in developing the port, entered into a pair of Letters of Intent with energy companies to ship wood pellets through the Port of Port St. Joe.

Eastern Shipbuilding still is paying a lease for bulkhead and land on the old mill site and is expected to expand to Gulf County at some point.

One other customer

provided the Port Authority with a letter of interest to ship aggregate and sand through the port.

In turn, the Port Authority received the grant funds and embarked on the formal work to submit a dredge permit application to state and federal agencies by early summer.

And a study to analyze a potential return on investment from a developed and operational port was underway to put before state legislators during the 2014 session of the Florida Legislature.

The timeline is critical for the Port of Port St. Joe.

Those LOIs hinge on a path that will bring dredging of the ship channel by the end of 2014.

That path in significant measure hinges on the approval of the dredge permit application this year and, most importantly, an appropriation of public dollars to dredge.

As positive as the developments of 2013 were for the Port of Port St. Joe, 2014 looms large in the future of job creation and economic development of an entire region.

See REWIND A3



◀ A BEACON OF DEBATE

Based on reader response and interest, no story stirred more pointed debate than the proposed relocation of the Cape San Blas Lighthouse.

One year after the city of Port St. Joe was awarded deed to the lighthouse and ancillary buildings by the federal government, a year into a Save the Cape San Blas Lighthouse fundraising campaign, six months after the Florida Legislature bequeathed the city over \$300,000 for the effort, not much has changed.

Save the shoreline, the steady disappearance of which began this saga.

By year's end, city commissioners were awaiting a new round of bids, after tossing initial bids, for a phased approach to taking down the lighthouse and moving it into the city — while facing a mid-January deadline on the second extension the feds

provided to move the complex.

The plans brought by the Port St. Joe Redevelopment Agency for a new Bay Park, the centerpiece of which would be the lighthouse, were put on the backburner after the plans became a flashpoint in the broader lighthouse debate.

And a group dedicated to keeping the lighthouse on the cape through relocation to Salinas Park was lobbying the Board of County Commissioners to re-engage and provide a lifeline to Port St. Joe officials should they choose to walk away.

The machinations took place against a background of spirited debate on how the lighthouse should be saved — by becoming a draw for tourists or as a historical relic that has watched over the cape for almost two centuries.

TOP LEFT: Gulf World Marine Institute released two rehabilitated sea turtles into the Gulf. The first, released in July, was an endangered juvenile green sea turtle rescued by a local fisherman in Apalachicola Bay and treated for pneumonia. In October, a sub adult loggerhead sea turtle named Taylor was set free. The turtle was found tangled in fishing monofilaments by boaters in Perry. **TOP CENTER:** The Curry Brothers band used the crowd funding website Kickstarter.com to raise money for their first full-length album. Over the months of July and August, they raised more than \$19,000, and they are currently recording. The group also performed at the annual Scallop Fest. **TOP RIGHT:** In March, Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf celebrated its third anniversary. The hospital is currently ranked No. 4 in the country and No. 1 in Florida in patient satisfaction, according to Becker's Hospital Review. More than 124 volunteer workers have donated more than 31,500 hours and saved the facility \$700,000. **ABOVE:** The Semper Fi Sisters celebrated their fifth Beach Blast and had their annual Boxes of Love packing party, which sends care packages to military units abroad, shipping out more than 1,000 packages.

PHOTOS BY DEBBIE HOOPER AT JOEBAY.COM, TIM CROFT | The Star, Wes Locher | The Star and Special to The Star

PSJ commissioners back to square one on affordable housing

By WES LOCHER
227-7827 | @PSJ_Star
wlocher@starfl.com

So close, yet so far.

During last week's regular meeting of the Port St. Joe City Commission, city manager Jim Anderson told the board the Paces Foundation, which operates out of Smyrna, Ga., had failed to se-

cure federal housing tax credits it would use to leverage funds for an affordable housing complex that would bring about 70 single-family homes to Port St. Joe's north side.

"The property is still viable for affordable housing, just not with Paces right now," Mayor Mel Magidson said. "We have the property, we just need someone to come and develop it."

In August, Paces President Mark du Mas presented his plans to commissioners, saying he would apply for a tax credit program that would require the foundation to go to Tallahassee to compete for housing credits.

Once awarded, Paces planned to sell the credits to banks in order to fund the structures.

Though Paces did not receive

the housing credits, they would be able to reapply next year.

During the meeting's Fair Housing Workshop held by Bruce Ballister of the Apalachee Regional Planning Council, Ballister commiserated with commissioners over the setback. Ballister said he knew of other foundations that might be able to help get affordable housing into Port St. Joe if

Paces was unable to do so.

"Florida coastal affordable housing is notoriously difficult," Ballister said. "It's to be commended if you can make it happen."

Though Magidson welcomed the recommendations, Anderson said Paces was exploring other ways of funding the project.

See HOUSING A2

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Real Estate Ad deadline is Thursday 11 a.m. ET

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Display ad deadline is Friday 11 a.m. ET **227-1278**

Classified deadline is Monday 5 p.m. ET **747-5020**

Celebrate twice on New Year's Eve

By WES LOCHER
227-7827 | @PSJ_Star
wlocher@starfl.com

With the New Year almost upon us, it's time to celebrate ... twice!

Before making any personal resolutions, the Gulf County Tourist Development Council and Mexico Beach Community Development Council have asked that you make a resolution to stay safe.

But because the area spans two time zones, safety and celebrating twice intertwine.

To help, a series of complimentary trolleys will be provided for those who want to celebrate the countdown in the Eastern time zone and then again in Central time on the night of Tuesday, Dec. 31.

See CELEBRATE A2

Key port study moves forward

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

A study characterized as "imperative" to the future of the port has taken a turn but continues forward.

The study, to analyze the Return on Investment that could be realized with a developed and operational Port of Port St. Joe, has been undertaken by a private consulting firm but is still on track to be completed by next month.

Originally, a representative of the Haas Center at the University of West Florida, which studies economic trends in Northwest Florida, verbally agreed the center would undertake the study.

A preliminary approval was given by the Port St. Joe Port Authority.

However, a contract could not be completed because of various factors, and with the

See PORT A2



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PORT THEATRE FOUNDATION HAS FIRST CHARTER MEETING



SPECIAL TO THE STAR

The founding charter members of the Port Theatre Foundation met last Friday for a tour of the facility and to begin discussing plans that will ultimately lead to the building becoming a central location for movies, live theater, weddings and graduation ceremonies. Founding members include Jimbo Collins, Dolores Windolf, Anna Duren and Phillip Croton. Additional members will be added in the months to come.

CELEBRATE from page A1

"It's a free way to enjoy the night's festivities safely," said CDC executive director Kimberly Shoaf. "You can trolley-hop all over Port St. Joe and Mexico Beach, enjoy two great fireworks shows and get to ring in the New Year twice."

The annual Celebrate Twice event will ensure revelers safe passage to Port St. Joe watering holes that include The Thirsty Goat, Regan's Oyster Bar, Reid Avenue, Lookout Lounge and Marina Cove, home of Dockside Sea Food and Raw Bar; Ronnie B's and Haughty Heron.

Once the clock has struck midnight and 2014 has received a warm welcome in Port St. Joe, the celebration can start all over in Mexico Beach at the El Governor Motel, Toucan's Restaurant, Mango Marleys, Fish House Restaurant and Rustic Sands Campground.

"Celebrate Twice allows our visitors and residents to enjoy such a unique New Year's Eve event," Shoaf said. "There are only four other places in the world where you can walk across time zones."

"It's a wonderful event, it's safe and we usually have great weather," added TDC executive director Jennifer Jenkins.

Two fireworks displays

CELEBRATE TWICE

Celebrate Twice scheduled trolley stops run from 8 p.m. to 3 a.m. ET (7 p.m. to 2 a.m. CT).

MEXICO BEACH

- El Governor Motel
- Toucan's Restaurant
- Mango Marleys & Fish House Restaurant
- Lookout Lounge
- Rustic Sands

PORT ST. JOE

- Marina Cove (Dockside Seafood and Raw Bar, Haughty Heron, Ronnie B's)
- The Thirsty Goat
- Regan's Oyster Bar
- Reid Avenue
- Lookout Lounge

will light up the night, the first in Port St. Joe at 10 p.m. ET and the second in Mexico Beach at midnight CT.

Mexico Beach began the "Celebrate Safe, Celebrate Twice" event in 1999 and shuttled partygoers from Regan's and the Lookout Lounge back to Bay County in time for the second ball drop.

Port St. Joe was incorporated into the event seven years ago, and the transportation expanded to cover both cities.

This year, six vehicles will be providing transportation.

In Mexico Beach, one trolley will stay within the city limits and systematically hit each participating venue. One trolley will be dedicated to do the same in

Port St. Joe.

Three charter buses will hit every stop while an express bus will run between the El Governor Motel and the Thirsty Goat. Each bus will be clearly marked, and drivers will regularly announce their next destination.

"Once the event is over, we hope that people will stay the night at the El Governor Motel, the Port Inn or be within walking distance of their homes," Shoaf said. "Historically, we've had very few drunken driving incidents during New Year's."

"The trolleys keep those drivers off the roads and help keep everyone safe."

To ride the trolleys or buses after 10 p.m. ET, patrons will need to be 21 or older.

FREE HEALTH SEMINARS IN JANUARY!

Jan. 9 Senior Vaccinations

William Woolery, DO, Family Medicine

Jan. 15 Causes and Treatments of Sleep Apnea

James Oenbrink, MD, Ear Nose and Throat

Jan. 21 Plastic Surgery Reconstruction in Cancer Cases

Tong Duong, MD, Plastic Surgery

Each will begin at 10:30 a.m.

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HOUSING from page A1

Also making news was the Golden Arches of David Costa's McDonald's at First Street and U.S. Highway 98. The sign is still in violation of the city's sign ordinance and must be replaced with one much smaller.

Commissioner William Thursbay led off what has been an ongoing discussion with a motion to extend

Costa's deadline from Dec. 31 until the following year.

Magidson countered Thursbay's motion, asking why they should give Costa another year when he'd already had years to fix the sign.

Costa was in the crowd and took the podium to provide his side of the story.

Costa said he had pur-

chased the McDonald's in January 2011 and was not told by the corporation that the sign was in violation.

According to Costa, a corporate representative had been sent to previous commission meetings, and the information was never passed along.

"We've tried to be good neighbors, making this building something you'd be proud of," Costa said.

A regular sponsor of the

annual Scallop Festival, Costa said he was donating \$50,000 to help remodel four kindergarten buildings in Gulf County.

The original deadline for the sign to be brought into compliance was Oct. 1, but a previous extension gave Costa until the end of the year. The business owner said if he knew the sign was an issue, he would have replaced it during a large remodel.

"We'll do what we need to do to comply, but consider the time period," Costa said. "We'd prefer to use the money to put it into the schools."

Magidson read Costa the meeting minutes from two years ago when commissioners first began talks with McDonald's corporate about the sign.

"I resent that you can give to schools, but you can't follow the rules," Magidson said to Costa. "I think you need to go to McDonald's and get your money back."

"I just don't think another year is appropriate."

Thursbay changed his motion to a six-month extension for Costa, and Commissioner Rex Buzzett agreed that it was reasonable.

"I appreciate your contributions to the city, but it takes all of us working together to make the city what it is," Buzzett said.

After conversation ended, a 3-2 (Magidson, Buzzett dissenting) vote awarded Costa a six-month extension.

PORT from page A1

guidance of staff at the Haas Center, the Port Authority was put in contact with the Washington Economic Group out of Coral Gables.

That consultant will perform the study along the same timeline and at the same cost the Haas Center staff had agreed upon, roughly \$20,000, which is being paid from the Florida Department of Transportation grant funding work on an application to dredge the shipping channel.

"It is critical we move forward with this study," Port Authority Chairman Leonard Costin said. "Time is of the essence. That document is key to funding for dredging."

The ROI study would present the case for the Port Authority to the Florida Legislature in the effort to secure funding for dredging of the federally authorized ship channel.

Jorge Gonzalez, senior vice president of the St. Joe Company, collaborators with the Port Authority on port development, said the company is focusing its lobbying efforts on that case.

The case begins with two Letters of Intent between St. Joe and two energy companies, one located in Northwest Florida, to ship wood pellets through the Port of Port St. Joe.

Those agreements hinge on dredging occurring by the end of 2014 or early in 2015.

Further, Costin recently announced a letter of interest from the Holland M. Ware Foundation to ship aggregate and sand through the port and over the Apalachicola Northern Railroad.

The state budget contains a \$5 million appropriation for the AN rail line, and the Ware Foundation letter expresses the interest provided dredging of the shipping channel is completed.

Gonzalez said the \$5 million rail improvement appropriation is pending distribution as state officials look for a "path ahead to dredging" of the Port of Port St. Joe.

"We are optimistic with the progress," Gonzalez said of that path. "As long as the trend is positive, the feedback from companies is encouraging."

"That is our focus right now. We have two live companies that want to invest in the community. We are actively working with those companies."

As four engineering companies work to complete the dredge application, funding for the dredging, which has been estimated in the tens of millions of dollars, during this legislative session is critical.

"That ROI study is imperative," said board member Eugene Raffield, who has suggested any ROI study include the costs of not developing the port given the millions in infrastructure already in place.

"This is not our port, it's everybody's port," Raffield said. "This is a regional concept. We finally have some traction. That ROI study is so important."

Operations

While the long view becomes brighter for the Port of Port St. Joe, the short-term continues to be vexing.

Once again, the Port Authority

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FROM LEFT: In October, the Board of County Commissioners approved a lease agreement with Sharon Gaskin and her company North Florida Child Development Inc. for the historic County Courthouse in Wewahitchka. The county would provide a 10 year lease at \$1 per year, with an annual renewal while NFCD remains headquartered there, helping to maintain the building listed on the National Registry of Historic Places. • Javarri Beachum, a cadet lieutenant for the Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High School NJROTC program, received an appointment to the Naval Academy Prep School in Newport, R.I. The equivalent of a four-year college scholarship, the prep school is a stepping stone to the Naval Academy in Annapolis in four years. • The eighth annual Bow Wow Bash masquerade party, held in October, raised more than \$40,000 to cover expenses for the St. Joseph Bay Humane Society. Almost 300 attendees enjoyed live music, costume contests and silent auctions. • U.S. Army Reserve Major and Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High School teacher Buck Watford arrived home in May after roughly a year in Afghanistan. Watford has spent just shy of four full years in Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan since the events of 9/11 more than 11 years ago. Students threw Watford a surprise "welcome home" ceremony.

REWIND from page A1

CLOSURE?

After more than a year of waiting, the family of Everett Gant heard a verdict.

But not their son, brother, nephew or grandson.

Walt Butler was convicted of second-degree murder and sentenced to 28 years in prison more than a year after slaying Gant.

In July 2012, Butler shot Gant with a .22 rifle at the Pine Ridge Apartments. Gant died six weeks later from his injuries.

The jury handed down the decision after a three-day trial, which

was held only after Butler's attorney made a motion to invoke the state's controversial Stand Your Ground, only to later withdraw the motion.

Butler, in turn, was not convicted of the hate-crime charge given Butler's use of racial epithets to describe a black child in the community, the spark that ignited the eventual slaying, as well as his comments to deputies after his arrest.

In the first airing of the evidence and eyewitness accounts of the night, the public also learned that Butler had been drinking heavily the

day of the incident and heard conflicting testimony on who opened a sliding glass door, through which Gant either entered or was shot, and by whom.

After the sentence was read by Circuit Judge John Fishel, Butler asked if he could address the court.

The only time he spoke during the course of the trial, Butler apologized to the Gant family. He said that he liked Everett a lot and didn't mean to kill him.

Butler intends to appeal the sentence.

SIGNS OF LIFE

After seven years of desultory news on property values and real estate activity in the county, a light appeared at the end of the tunnel.

After several years of double-digit drops and seven years of decline, property values remained relatively stable, falling by less than 1 percent county-wide.

That was far below last year's 7 percent decline and indicated though prices might not be on full rebound, interest in property is picking up.

That also was reflected in build-

ing numbers. According to numbers provided by the Gulf County Building Department and local realtors, family home building permits have doubled from 2012 with values nearly doubling.

Lot sales were up by large percentages in St. Joe Beach and Wind-Mark Beach and Port St. Joe realized a marked increase in commercial development, particularly with the opening of the Dollar Market General.

One local realtor said they were looking at the most home purchase

closings since 2005.

While the number of sales increased, prices were remaining below the spike seen in the middle of the previous decade.

In South Gulf County, there was a slight drop in sales balanced by an increase in average prices per sale.

Wewahitchka real estate was up in sales and prices.

After too many years of bad news on the property-value front, many had reason to exhale at least lightly this year.

REBRANDING THE TDC

With a year under her busy feet, Tourist Development Council executive director Jennifer Jenkins put more of a stamp on her tenure.

And in doing so, her team has done miracles in erasing the debacle that was the TDC before her arrival, an agency rife with scandal after an audit exposed operations and spending that were not in keeping with county rules and regulations.

Jenkins brought renewed energy to the agency, bulked up staff, moved marketing work in-house and altered "brand" strategies at every turn.

Informational kiosks, a beach ambassador program that will take effect in 2014, enhanced use of new media, and in-depth research that fed more focused marketing strategies were all part of the program implemented by Jenkins and her advisory board, which had been

reconstituted.

Though the TDC no longer created events, its marketing strategies enhanced and grew existing events.

The results were impressive as the TDC almost reached Jenkins' optimistic goal of a 15 percent increase in bed tax revenue, the fiscal year's revenues exceeding \$1 million for the first time.

Three months brought increases of more than 20 percent over the previous year, and in only one month did the TDC fail to reach the previous year's revenue.

Visits to the TDC Welcome Center, the TDC web page and Facebook page all spiked upward.

Jenkins and her team have grand plans for 2014 — and it starts with a 20 percent increase in bed tax revenue.

In a county badly in need of good economic news, Jenkins and the TDC provided it in 2013.

See REWIND A5

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—Roger Klungle

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Public Notice

A Public Hearing will be held at the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) meeting on Tuesday, January 14, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. ET and on Tuesday, January 28, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. ET. The 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:

AN ORDINANCE PER THE REQUIREMENTS OF FLORIDA STATUE 163.3177(3)(b) TO YEARLY REVIEW AND UPDATE THE GULF COUNTY FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE; INCORPORATING THE GULF COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 2013/2014 WORK PLAN; INCORPORATING BY REFERENCE THE UPDATED CONCURRENCY TRACKING DATA; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ORDINANCE IN CONFLICT THEREWITH, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The public is encouraged to attend and be heard on this matter. The ordinance and contents are on file with the Clerk of Court and at the Planning Department, Room 311 in the Robert M. Moore Administration Building, 1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Blvd., Port St. Joe, FL.

Letter to the EDITOR

Who's Really Serious?

Dear Editor,
As of Dec. 20, there are nine candidates running for Lanny Howell's vacant Mexico Beach city council seat. That's excellent – amazing, in fact - given the apathy that has gripped our town in the last four years. And this upcoming April election is an unexpected second opportunity to change the face of politics in our town in one day. Here's how: In the last election this past April, three city council seats were up for re-election: Lanny Howell's; Jack Mullen's; Al Cathey's. The first two seats had contests between the incumbents and one opponent each. However, no one challenged Mr. Cathey for the mayor's position, and, while very close, the incumbents retained control, keeping the current balance of viewpoints and alliances on the city council intact.

However, suddenly there are three, not the expected two seats, up for grabs, and the number of candidates alone promises a free-for-all at the ballot box. It's also a serendipitous chance to tilt the power of the council in another direction, meaning it is possible to get a new 3-2 majority seated that holds different views than the prevailing "that's the way it's always been done" majority. Of course, the election could go either way, just as easily keeping the current philosophies in place - but the opportunity has presented itself, which is more than was expected.

But as we ponder this unexpected opportunity within our governing body, here's what we have to ask: who's really serious about running for the Group 2 (Mr. Howell's) post on the Mexico Beach city council?

One more reason the Jan. 8 special meeting to vote to fill the vacant position should be postponed until the end of January is that the person who is appointed will only serve until May 31 – only four months. That person, if she/he wants to remain in the seat, will have to run for "re-election" in the upcoming April 22 municipal super-

Tuesday election, as a regular candidate for a city council post. If the candidates are really serious about wanting to fill the vacancy, they should all file for the April election before the Mexico Beach city council chooses one for four months. That is the only way Mexico Beach residents can ascertain that the candidates are truly serious about serving on the city council. Why would anyone want to sit at that table for just four months?

Now, according to the Bay County Supervisor of Elections office, the deadline for candidate qualifying is noon Feb. 14. Our city council should wait until Jan. 30 to vote on the four-month appointment (they have 30 days from the resignation's effective date of Jan. 1) to see who has filed for candidacy in the April 22 election, and then choose from among those. And all of you candidates who plan to run for the seat in the April election should have filed by Jan. 30. That's how we, the residents of Mexico Beach, will know you are serious about serving on the city council.

It's not at all too much to ask of someone who wants to be an elected official, because it's not about you, and your possible 15 minutes of fame, it's about the people who live here, and pay taxes here, and depend on all of our city council members to act in our best interests, now and in the future.

So, prove to us that you are serious, and file by Jan. 30. And current city council members – Jack Mullen, Al Cathey, Tanya Castro, Bobby Pollock – show some common sense, some understanding of what the residents of Mexico Beach want and deserve, some sign that you actually are working for our interests, and postpone your scheduled "vote" of Jan. 8 until a much more reasonable date of Jan. 30. That's one way to prove you are serious about working for the good of Mexico Beach.

Lisa Logan
Mexico Beach resident

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Talking Didn't Change Hog Prices

I have the same thought every year at this time.

Maybe it's ESPN's fault. You turn over there and they are doing the "10 best plays of the past year". Or the "10 worst". Time Magazine picks its Man of the Year. The Golf Channel will show you the "10 best shots of 2013". Every news network is awash with their picks for the most noteworthy stories of the "old" year.

At the same time.... and often on the same channel.....someone is boldly predicting what the stock market is going to do in 2014. How much will a U. S. postal stamp go up in the next twelve months? Which foreign nation will be the "hot spot" in the upcoming year? Someone right now is on Good Morning America pontificating on what fashion craze or new reality show is about to take the nation by storm. And, as you are so aware, New Year's predictions are in full bloom.

My head is about to swivel off my neck! I can't figure out if we are looking back.....or projecting forward in the waning days of yet, another year.

This confusion started in grade school. We'd come back from a wonderful two week holiday and Miss Carolyn would immediately go around the room with the



HUNKER DOWN
Kesley Colbert

obligatory "What did you do during the Christmas break"? I'd listen to Anne tell about her trip to Memphis or Suzie's puppy knocking over the Christmas tree or Ricky's uncle driving all the way from Paducah to bring him a gift.

They are moving down the row toward me and I can't think of one interesting thing I did over the break! No one

wants to hear about the fight me and David Mark had over the Chinese checkers. Sliding down that hill beside George Sexton's house on a piece of cardboard isn't exactly scintillating news. And watching Leon do something utterly flabbergasting had become so common place that I didn't even think about writing them down (much less getting up in class and talking about them) until just a few years ago.

I would be sweating in January by the time Miss Carolyn called on me!

She would usually finish up the past year's "confessions" about lunch time. After we ate our peanut butter and banana sandwich and had the perfunctory twenty minute rest period she'd start back around the room with "What is your favorite prediction for the new year"? Are you kidding me? She said "favorite" like she expected we all had more

than one!

Here we'd go in the other direction! This time Jane would be talking about taking her dog on long walks in the new year, Diana would pledge to study harder and Yogi would have some hair brain scheme that involved gunpowder, bottle rockets and the slow moving L&N freight train that rolled through town on its way to Jackson. By the time she got down to Pam, right in front of me, I'd have my eyes closed praying for some great vision to leap into my mind. I didn't, of course, see nothing!

Apparently, I wasn't looking in any direction.

I was just trying to have the most fun I could each day without hurting myself, or someone else. I wasn't too prone to studying on the past.

And I reckon I wasn't smart enough to gaze too far into the future. I was interested in where the ballgame was THAT DAY. I was pedaling that Western Flyer as hard as I could to get somewhere RIGHT NOW. We didn't think about breakfast at noon.....we thought about lunch! We didn't dwell all day Friday on the Saturday matinee. We chased Indians and fought mountain lions on Friday.....we caught up with Roy, Hoppy or Gene the next day!

In January of 1957, we reconvened for the second half of the fourth grade in Miss Mildred's top floor room. Didn't one

person in the whole class predict those Russians were going to send up that Sputnik thing. We didn't have a TV so I don't know if Good Morning America called that shot or not. Nobody was picking the Milwaukee Braves to beat the Yankees in the World Series. Everybody liked Ike but he didn't do one thing in the whole year to help keep hog prices at a livable level.

We got to talk about all those things when we were looking back at the end of 1957 in Miss Cox's class. Of course, by then, it was too late to do anything about them!

We could have played six innings or jumped the big ditch across from where Luther Purvis lived while we were discussing it!

I'm not saying grown-ups have gotten this "looking backwards/predicting forward" thing wrong. But it sure seems we give it a lot of space and air time today. Maybe we've got too many TV channels! Or too much free time. If you want to lose weight or quit smoking, why wait until next year?

And don't tell me you are still dwelling on some misunderstanding that happened last February!

You don't need Diane Sawyer or Sigmund Freud here. Get up with me and Yogi. We'll put together some gunpowder and see if that L&N train is still running through McKenzie.

Happy New Year,

Kes

The Tractor, The Convertible and The Toothbrush

We all have had similar experiences.

We think we find the perfect gift for a child – only to find that the child prefers playing with, on or in the box the gift came in. My Papa sold Motorola televisions and he knew it. As a matter of fact, he saved boxes for us.

It was not uncommon for us to have a 6-10 television box fort/house/castle out in Papa's yard.

After getting this many cardboard television boxes all hooked together at the same time, it was truly a mansion and living in extravagance. I didn't realize it at the time. However, I did realize times were good.

How many grandparents would hand a child a butcher knife and tell them to "Have a good time"? You needed the butcher knife to cut holes in the cardboard boxes for windows, doors and light in general.

It gets dark inside of a television box.

My Papa was truly a brilliant man in so many ways. So many folks don't understand the importance of what they truly do give children. With so many electronic games and phones and music devices, the imagination part



CRANKS MY TRACTOR
BN Heard

sometimes gets forgotten.

Then again, I think about what my son "does" to music and still calls it music and I must say it is pretty imaginative. Oh well.

The other day I was in one of these places that sell farm goods, feed and stuff for horses. I saw this little red tractor that caught my eye. It wasn't a fancy tractor that you pedal or anything; it was one that you "scoot" around on using your feet.

It was appropriate for a very small child. My nephew's daughter needed it in my opinion. Girls need tractors, dogs and BB guns just as much or more than little boys.

Your nephew's daughter is one of those relationships that they have invented a name for. They say she is your "great-niece." It does not make sense to me. A great grandchild is "three levels" down. "Grand-niece" would make a lot more sense.

Anyway, she needed that tractor.

A few days before Christmas, my nephew's wife shared some pictures of another gathering they had been to with her family. You know how the holidays are; you divide the weekends up and celebrate for two or three

The feeling of competition is something that we could face every day if we let ourselves. Competition is good for some instances and not to be worried about in others.

weeks.

Well, right in the middle of all of those pictures was my great-niece in a little red convertible. Oh goodness, little red convertibles really do get to little girls. At least they seem to get to my girls, who both can drive real cars now.

So I thought about the little red tractor and how it was going to feel going up against a red convertible that probably had a horn, lights and maybe even a radio.

The feeling of competition is something that we could face every day if we let ourselves. Competition is good for some instances and not to be worried about in others. Did I worry about it?

No, not at all...

Why?

I got word that my great-niece, who is about one and a half years old announced what her favorite gift was from the gathering where she got the red convertible.

She said it was a toothbrush. Now granted it was a Mickey or Minnie

Mouse toothbrush, but it was still a toothbrush.

We will see what she thinks about the little red tractor; but a girl who prefers a toothbrush over a red convertible is one I want to watch grow up.

Rodney Atkins, a fellow who sings country music, has a wonderful song about "A Man on a Tractor." In the lyrics, Atkins notes that his wife says, "It's not about living another man's life, it's about seeing your own differently."

The song is based on seeing a fellow on a tractor and his dog out in the middle of a field and realizing how happy they were.

Before I give this little red tractor away, I'm going to take it out in the yard with my two dogs and see what kind of feeling I get. If I can find a cardboard box big enough, I also might make myself a fort (if someone around here will let me use a butcher knife).

Find more stories at www.CrankMyTractor.com.

starfl.com





PHOTOS BY DEBBIE HOOPER AT JOEBAY.COM, TIM CROFT | The Star, Wes Locher | The Star and Special to The Star

FROM LEFT: The 13th annual Ghosts on the Coast celebration flooded Reid Avenue with costumes, games, candy and contests. Reid Avenue businesses handed out more than \$2,000 of donated candy. • The Developing Adoptable Dogs with Good Sociability (DAWGS) in Prison program, based at the Gulf Forestry Camp, graduated its 30th class in December. Through the program, which works in tandem with the St. Joseph Bay Humane Society, more than 317 dogs have been trained and adopted to good homes across 17 states. • Christmas on the Coast brought the holiday cheer to Port St. Joe in early December with horse-drawn carriage rides, a parade and the arrival of Santa Claus. • Local Christian rock group Thirty-Three released its first single, "Jesus Loves You and I Love You Too," on radio and iTunes in June. The band is made up of 11- and 12-year-olds vocalist Brianna Butler, guitarist Zack McFarland, bassist Cole Haddock, drummer Joel Bogaert and keyboardist Shad Tracy. The band came together through the St. Joe Music and Performance Program, developed by Tom McEniry and Phil Densmore.

REWIND from page A3

◀ BP DOLLARS COME TO COUNTY

Three years after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill soiled the Gulf of Mexico and left lasting impacts not fully understood, some of the money from BP fines trickled into Gulf County.

None of the dollars traveled through the RESTORE Act, federal legislation aimed at distributing monies to impacted states.

The county's RESTORE Committee was well ahead of the game in considering projects to be funded, when and if funding actually arrived, but still faced examination of projects costing more than \$60 million without a clue how much the county could receive under RESTORE.

Other forms paid off.

The city of Port St. Joe and the Gulf County School Board each settled with BP on individual lawsuits — the city received almost \$600,000 — but the Board of County Commissioners declined an offer from BP and is currently litigating

against BP.

Port St. Joe city commissioners intend to conduct a public workshop to consider how to spend its funds, with \$10,000 already donated to the Port of Port St. Joe.

Through the Natural Resource Damage Assessment, the county received several million dollars for projects including construction of a fishing pier at WindMark Beach and improvements to boat ramps at Frank Pate Park, Highland View and Indian Pass.

County Commissioner Warren Yeager continues as an officer for the Gulf Consortium, a lobbying arm of the impacted states seeking redress of impacts, and working toward tying up U.S. Treasury rules for RESTORE distribution.

The dollars intended to make the Gulf states whole from the cataclysm of 2010, however, are arriving far less briskly than the oil that gushed into the Gulf of Mexico.

◀ BOARD DYNAMICS

Rarely do elections have an immediate effect on governing boards, but there were two notable exceptions this year.

The first was certainly County Commissioner Joanna Bryan, whose arrival as the new representative of District 3 could be fairly considered to be a real conversation starter.

It certainly was for the BOCC and county staff, which seemed to be often at odds with the efforts of Bryan to even address district-centric — the point of a single-member district form of governance — issues.

Americus Ditch and the old Beacon Villa sign at Beacon Hill were just two of

the issues pertaining only to her district that seemed to have Bryan swimming against a current generated by staff and her fellow commissioners.

When Bryan attempted to address issues such as the budget and lack of current inspection of the county jail or wished to examine the history of road bond spending as part of the budget process, she found as much if not more opposition.

She verbally sparred, during public meetings, with the county administrator, jail warden and Commissioner Carmen McLemore, in particular, and was on the losing end of more than a dozen 4-1 votes on issues ranging

from the dissemination of public records to bringing down the Beacon Hill sign.

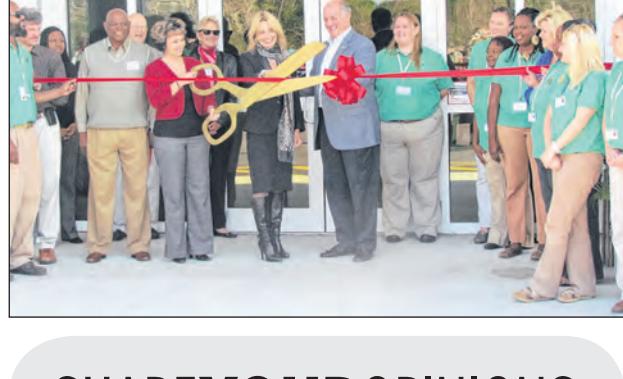
In short, the BOCC claims to be moving to a more civil discourse in public meetings repeatedly proved wrong.

The Port St. Joe City Commission also saw the tenor of meetings altered as Commissioner William Thursbay joined the board.

Thursbay and Mayor Mel Magidson vocally clashed on several occasions, and with Commissioners Phil McCroan and Bo Patterson joining in what became over the course of the year a consistent voting bloc, city governance realized a shift in focus, priorities and decision-making.



FROM LEFT: The 17th annual Scallop Festival brought five days of fun to George Core Park with live music, food, games and vendors. The fest kicked off with the "Race for the Scallops," in which contestants bicycled, ran and paddleboarded their way through picturesque locales. More than 1,500 pounds of scallops were consumed during the event. • The founding charter members of the Port Theatre Foundation met for the first time in December. Georgia businessman Jimbo Collins is under contract to be the next owner of the building and plans for it to be a community hotspot for movies, live theatre, weddings and graduation ceremonies. • In February, Port St. Joe Elementary School's third-grade teacher Carmel Dodson was named Teacher of the Year 2013. The award, a decorative plant, was delivered by Superintendent of Schools Jim Norton in the middle of class. **BELLOW:** The new North Florida Child Development Inc. Early Child Development and Family Resource Center opened in February in Port St. Joe on Field of Dreams Avenue. U.S. Rep. Steve Southerland joined NFCID President and CEO Sharon Gaskin and a crowd of supporters during a ribbon cutting ceremony.



SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

Send your letters to Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 308, Port St. Joe, FL 32457. Fax: 850-227-7212. Email: croft@starfl.com.

Comments from our readers in the form of letters to the editor or a guest column are solicited and encouraged. A newspaper's editorial page should be a forum where differing ideas and opinions are exchanged. All letters and guest columns must be signed and should include the address and phone number of the author. The street address and phone number are for verification and will not be published. Letters must be in good taste and The Star reserves the right to edit letters for correctness and style.

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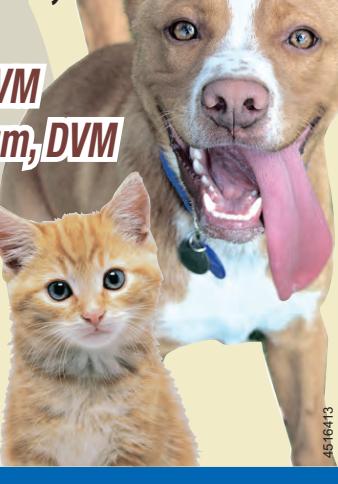
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Winter birds of the Bay

By TOM BAIRD
Special to The Star

With winter we have the opportunity to see new visitors on St. Joseph Bay – both feathered and otherwise. Flotillas of ducks can be seen resting and feeding in the bay, wintering loons arrive; various shore birds like avocets make an appearance, and large flocks of white pelicans move in. Whether you are a birder or not, you don't need expensive binoculars, spotting scopes, or a telephoto lens to appreciate the white pelicans. These are really big birds and their groups on the bay are easily seen.

The white pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) differs from our familiar brown pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) in several ways. For one, they do not make aerial dives on their food like our brown pelicans. White pelicans feed while on the water surface, often in large cooperative groups to corral fish. They breed inland far to the north and migrate to the Pacific coast or the Gulf of Mexico or as far south as Panama. They do not rest on the open ocean, but prefer bays and estuaries. They also build nests on the ground,

as opposed to our brown pelicans that build two foot nests of sticks and grass in mangroves or other offshore island vegetation. The white pelican is also bigger than the brown having a wingspan second only to the California Condor, and a body measuring 50–70 inches long compared to 42–54 inches long for the brown.

In late spring and summer white pelicans breed in large colonies on islands in remote freshwater lakes in Canada, although some breeding colonies can be found as far south as Wyoming and northeastern California. During the breeding season, the normally yellow bill turns bright orange and a flattened "horn" is grown on the upper bill. Of the eight species of pelicans worldwide, this is the only species to grow a "horn". After mating and the eggs are laid, these pelicans loose the horn and the bill returns to its normal color. They gather to begin their migration south in September and October.

We can easily see these colonies in winter not only on St. Joseph Bay, but also in St. Vincent Sound and on the artificially maintained freshwater ponds in St.

Marks National Wildlife Refuge to our east.

Past use of DDT affected the reproduction of both white and brown pelicans. Despite improvements in recent decades, nevertheless, the brown pelican has disappeared in parts of its former range. Pesticides washing into coastal waters still threaten these birds, as well as habitat destruction. Both species are killed by entanglement in discarded fishing gear, especially monofilament fishing line. Boating disturbances and starvation during unusually cold winters add to population reduction of both species while in our bays. Nevertheless, both species are stable and slightly increasing in recent years following the drastic declines in mid-twentieth century from agricultural use of DDT.

Recently an avocet was spotted in the marsh. Even if you are not a birder – and this writer is not – the avocet will get your attention. (This elicited a whispered "Holy Cow!" by this observer.) This is the long-legged shorebird with the long, thin upturned bill. In profile this bird has a Bob Hope ski nose aspect.

Although not related at all – other than being birds – the American avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*) has a lot of life strategies similar to white pelicans. They breed well to the north in Saskatchewan, Minnesota, and interior Washington State, although some breeding colonies can be found as far south as California and Texas. They migrate in winter to the California coast, the Gulf coast, and around Florida. They are a rare visitor to Atlantic coast marshes as well. Here similarities end, because avocets are

waders when looking for a meal.

When feeding, they go along the marsh shore sweeping the bill from side to side stirring up small crustaceans. On bays and estuaries, they will also feed on exposed mudflats at low tide. This is a fairly tall bird – up to 20 inches – with blue legs. We do not get to see this bird with its pleasing rust colored spring and summer plumage on its head and neck. But in its winter plumage of light grey head and black on white body it is hard to miss. However, it is that slender, black, upturned bill that makes it immediately eye catching.

Avocet eggs were once harvested on their breeding colonies and they were hunted to near extinction in parts of their former range along the Atlantic coast. Nevertheless, habitat destruction, especially the loss of wetlands in the western U.S., has most hurt the avocet population.

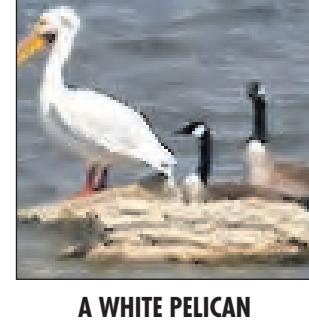
Even if you are not an avid birder, and like me, prefer to just observe those birds with the good manners to stand or feed out in the open where they can be seen, winter is the time to see some truly remarkable visitors. If you are a birder, this area of the Florida coast is a birder's paradise in winter, with excellent viewing opportunities on St. Joseph Bay, St. Vincent Sound, St. Vincent Island and Apalachicola. St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge is only a short drive to the east, with its fresh and saltwater habitats and viewing platforms. Birders visit there from all over the country in winter. Audubon Christmas Bird Counts in this area record impressive totals of migrating birds – both in number and variety.



THE BROWN PELICAN



AMERICAN AVOCET



A WHITE PELICAN

WEEKLY ALMANAC

Date	High	Low	% Precip
Thu, Jan. 2	63°	42°	- %
Fri, Jan. 3	63°	42°	- %
Sat, Jan. 4	63°	42°	- %
Sun, Jan. 5	63°	42°	- %
Mon, Jan. 6	63°	42°	- %
Tues, Jan. 7	63°	42°	- %
Wed, Jan. 8	63°	42°	- %

TIDE TABLES MONTHLY AVERAGES

To find the tides of the following areas, subtract the indicated times from those given for APALACHICOLA:

HIGH	LOW
Minus 0:40	Minus 1:17
Cat Point	
East Pass	Minus 0:27

To find the tides of the following areas, subtract the indicated times from those given for CARRABELLE:

HIGH	LOW
Minus 9:16	Minus 0:03
Bald Point	

ST.JOSEPH BAY

Date	Day	High Tide	High Tide	Low Tide	Low Tide
2	Th	1017pm	1.4		740am -0.9
3	Fr	1110pm	1.2		822am -0.7
4	Sa			855am	-0.4
5	Su	1202am	0.9		910am -0.2
6	Mo	1250am	0.7	516pm	0.3
7	Tu	114am	0.3	432pm	0.6
8	We	442pm	0.8		254am 0.0
9	Th	511pm	1.0		306am -0.2
10	Fr	547pm	1.1		345am -0.4
11	Sa	625pm	1.2		424am -0.6

APALACHICOLA BAY, WEST PASS

Date	Day	High Tide	High Tide	Low Tide	Low Tide
2	Th	218am	1.3	547pm	1.0
3	Fr	315am	1.3	615pm	1.0
4	Sa	413am	1.2	641pm	1.0
5	Su	514am	1.0	707pm	1.0
6	Mo	621am	0.9	734pm	1.0
7	Tu	739am	0.8	805pm	1.0
8	We	918am	0.6	839pm	1.0
9	Th	1134am	0.6	919pm	1.0
10	Fr	149pm	0.7	1003pm	1.0
11	Sa	252pm	0.8	1052pm	1.1

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FISH REPORT SPONSORED BY



Local

Local area waters are chilly as the winter weather finally sets in. Good reports from the Sea wall at St. Joe Marina are coming in daily of trout, red fish, and even some pompano. Most anglers are using artificial baits such as gulp or D.O.A. shrimp in a pink or measles color. Some bigger trout have been caught in the ICW canal in St. Joe as well this week and this should hold true for the next few weeks as long as the weather holds.

beautiful and interesting areas, the Maritime Hammock Nature Trail. This trail traverses through depression marsh, sand scrub and encircles the maritime hammock.

The one-hour hike will start at the parking area just inside the park gates. There are inclines, roots and soft sand on the trail; biting insects may be present. Con-

tact the park for special ADA accommodations.

Inclement weather may cancel the hike.

The park is located at 8899 Cape San Blas Road.

For more information visit www.floridastateparks.org/stjoseph.

Tram tours at the St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve

Special to The Star

There's a new program — just announced — at St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve.

Beginning in January

on the First Friday of each

month (except July and October) Buffer Staff will host

Tram Tours for the public.

The tour lets you explore the

uplands with an experienced

guide and provides opportu-

nities to observe the diverse

communities present at the

Buffer. Tour time is 9-11 a.m.

ET departing from the Wel-

come Center parking lot.

Join us to learn about the

history and importance of

the Buffer Preserve to St.

Joseph Bay.

Bring your binoculars,

camera and water bottle!

Twenty-eight lucky people

will have the chance to explore the diversity of native plants and wildlife while enjoying a comfortable platform for photography.

In order to participate in this program, one must:

* have the ability to follow verbal and/or visual instructions independently or with the assistance of a companion.

* have the ability to enter and exit ADA accessible tram independently or with the assistance of a companion.

* have the ability to withstand exposure to the outdoors and insects for a period of 1.5 hours.

* have the ability to sit in an open trailer with wooden seats; hat and sunscreen recommended.

PORT ST. JOE WEWAHITCHKA SPORTS

A
Section

Thursday, January 2, 2014

www.starfl.com

Page 7

2013 in sports



◀ A GRIDIRON REBOUND

The Tiger Sharks of Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High School continued to revive on the football field after a downturn that ceased when Coach Chuck Gannon took the reins of the program before the 2012 season.

Gannon led the Tiger Sharks to a district title and the playoffs for the first time in four seasons.

Port St. Joe reached the Region 2-1A championship game before being beaten at Blountstown, which eventually finished as state runner-up, and finished 8-4 after going 7-3 the prior year.

The Tiger Sharks were young, they were undersized and not as strong as Gannon would have liked, but a laser focus on each individual opponent, never looking ahead or getting too high or too low, allowed Port St. Joe to topple the likes of Jefferson County, Liberty County, West Gadsden and Bozeman.

The team placed five players on the Florida Athletic Coaches Association all-district team, and Dewayne Griggs, who finished third in district MVP voting, was named to the FACA North-South All-Star Game, where he made five tackles in the secondary.

Gannon coached the defensive backs in the All-Star game before retiring as Port St. Joe's head coach, righting a program heading in the wrong direction for several years before his arrival.



◀ KAYLA PARKER BLAZES

After two frustrating years, Kayla Parker's collegiate track and field career took off in 2013.

A coaching change at the University of Kentucky brought Parker, who had been working in the heptathlon her sophomore year, back to her specialty, the 100 meter hurdles. Both indoors and outdoors, the former Port St. Joe athlete burned bright.

After posting the top 60-meter mark in the country early in the 2012 indoor season, Parker posted the 11th best 100 meter hurdle time outdoors in the spring.

She qualified for the NCAA East Prelims and ultimately the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Oregon.

She was one of just four Lady Wildcats to qualify for the national championships.

Parker finished in the top 15 and is ranked No. 2 all-time in school history in the event.

Earlier this month, Parker, now a senior, opened the 2013-14 indoor season as she did the year before, smashing the 14-year old University of Kentucky record for the 60 meter dash with a time of 8.24, the fastest in the country so far this season.

For the second-straight season, the University of Louisville Cardinals finished with double-digit wins, 11 last season and 12 this season.

For the second consecutive year, they played in a bowl game, this season's blowout of the Miami Hurricanes last Saturday night.

A major ingredient of that rise to national prominence — the Cardinals at one time this season were a top-10 team — is Calvin Pryor, the former standout at Port St. Joe High School, part of an infusion of Florida talent by Louisville coach Charlie Strong.

For the second season in a row, Pryor, a junior safety, ranked second on the team in total tackles with 69, including 48 solo tackles.

Pryor, a free safety who plays well off the line of scrimmage in order to assess the offensive play, also had 5.5 tackles for loss and

four quarterback hurries and blended that in-the-trenches effort with three interceptions, two forced fumbles and two fumbles recovered.

Pryor, who was second-team all-Big East last year, was first-team all-American Athletic Conference this season and named second

team All-America by Athlon Sports.

Pryor also will have a decision to make during the winter. As a junior, he is eligible to move on to the professional ranks should he choose, or he could return as Louisville moves to the Atlantic Coast Conference.

◀ RUNNING ON FULL

The Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High School girls' track team and the WeWAHITCHKA Jr./Sr. High School girls' cross country team paced the area in meters.

The Port St. Joe girls won the district track and field meet, finished fourth in the Region 1-A meet and had five athletes earn medals at the state track and field championships.

Maya Robbins established herself as the heir-apparent to Kayla Parker, the Port St. Joe alum burning up Southeastern Conference tracks in her senior year the University of Kentucky.

Robbins, who skipped basketball this winter to concentrate on her senior season of track, won district titles in the sprints, placed at region and medaled at state.

Pole vaulter Nicole Endres and



Michell Pryor in the shot put and discus also stood out as did three middle-schoolers, Brooklyn Quinn, Maliah McNair and Damari Cutler.

The Lady Gators team of Kris-

ten Nichols, Tara Walding, Ashleigh Price, McKenna Waters, Rylee Waters and Sha'Mario Cole won the District 3-1A cross country and also competed at regional.

◀ PONYING UP A STATE TITLE



The year in sports was not without at least one state title, this one courtesy of the Wewahitchka Ponytails 12-U softball team.

After winning a district title, the team traveled to Brooksville in early July and won the Florida title over Paxton.

The team did not lose in state or district play.

The team competed in the Dixie Softball World Series.

The team had pedigree: five of the 12 players won a 10-U state title in 2012.

Team members were Kristen

Nichols, Breanna Weathers, Gracie Price, Sha'Mario Cole, Savannah Lister, Alidiea Odom, Aleah Wooten and Mariah Brown, Shiloh Jamerson, Brianna Bailey, Ashton Lolley and Savannah Harrison.

They were coached by Michael Bailey, Tony Price and Dayton Lister.

◀ GETTING KICKS ON THE PITCH

The Port St. Jr./Sr. High School soccer program continued its growth spurt under Coach Gary Hindley, who entered his fifth season at the school in the fall.

Earlier in the year, the Lady Tiger Sharks finished 10-6-1 and made their deepest foray into the playoffs, losing to powerhouse Maclay in the region quarterfinals after finishing second in the district.

The Tiger Sharks went 13-2-1 but ran into Maclay in the region quarterfinals, bringing their season to a close early after reaching the regional finals each of the previous two years.

The boys were led by sophomore Marcel Duarte, who was set the school single-season goal-scoring record and was on pace to shatter the school career record before being sidelined during the current season with a hamstring injury.

With Duarte out, the boys have struggled, but the girls are on track to take a third seed in the upcoming district tournament.

Maybe most notable is the growth

in numbers of athletes participating

in the program and the number of underclassmen — for example, the Lady Tiger Sharks' are led by the

scoring of a sophomore while an

eighth-grader mans the goal — play-

ing major roles in both programs.

As Hindley put it in the spring after the twin losses to Maclay, Maclay is probably a better overall program than Port St. Joe, but the distance is narrowing.

◀ PRYOR LEADS LOUISVILLE



For the second-straight season, the University of Louisville Cardinals finished with double-digit wins, 11 last season and 12 this season.

For the second consecutive year, they played in a bowl game, this season's blowout of the Miami Hurricanes last Saturday night.

A major ingredient of that rise to national prominence — the Cardinals at one time this season were a top-10 team — is Calvin Pryor, the former standout at Port St. Joe High School, part of an infusion of Florida talent by Louisville coach Charlie Strong.

For the second season in a row, Pryor, a junior safety, ranked second on the team in total tackles with 69, including 48 solo tackles.

Pryor, a free safety who plays well off the line of scrimmage in order to assess the offensive play, also had 5.5 tackles for loss and

four quarterback hurries and blended that in-the-trenches effort with three interceptions, two forced fumbles and two fumbles recovered.

Pryor, who was second-team all-Big East last year, was first-team all-American Athletic Conference this season and named second

team All-America by Athlon Sports.

Pryor also will have a decision to make during the winter. As a junior, he is eligible to move on to the professional ranks should he choose, or he could return as Louisville moves to the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Knights of Pythias Big Prize Winners

Special to The Star

Rachael Crews was the first place winner of a \$100 Piggly Wiggly Gift Card.

Ann Granger, second prize of \$50 and Emily Lacour, third prize of \$25. The drawing was held at Duren's Piggly Wiggly with the winning tickets drawn by employee Donna Bickers. A special thanks to Mr. George Duren for the Gift Cards and all who participated in the drawing by purchasing tickets.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CLARENCE MONETTE

Kenneth Monette presents Rachael Crews with the first-place \$100 gift card as members Bonnie Bell and David Lewis look on.

Volunteers prepare, pack 807 Christmas dinners

Special to The Star

Thanks to the volunteers listed who worked so tirelessly and so well together to prepare, heat, assemble, pack and deliver Christmas dinners. The volunteers started at day break and a steady stream of men women and children continued until all 807 dinners were out the door and the building was thoroughly cleaned.

Jim and Bunnie Gainey, Jerry and Lyd Stokoe, Matt and Morgan Mills, Shawn Johnson, Ben Welch, Deanne Williams, Megan Hubbard, Mary Bealin, Rich and Liz Brenner, Boyd and Mitzi and Gretchen Bulger, Bo and

Lyn Williams, Ann Ballard, Curtis and Mae Brown, Sharon Johnson, Chaz Wright, Cheryl Howell, Mary Kelly, Larry Chism, Shawn Terry Schaever, Sam James, Abby Cozine, Bill Van der Tulip, Fisher Van Der Tulip, Hunter Van Der Tulip, Patricia Watson, Amy Keith, Nancy Blake, Gretchen Balogh, Denny Hughes, Paul and Bonnie Durham, Stacy, Anelisa and Dianne Pierett, Grace and Lee Lawton, Tim and Debbie Croft, Phil Dodson, Corey Phelps, Donna Masseo, Joe and Sylvia Whaley, Joel Rogers and Suzi Kelly, Dana Kelly, Danica Kelly, Mareu Johnson, Ruby Hodge, Carol Dow, Jimmy Johnson,

Tim and Crystal DuPuy, Fred Willis, Bob Lyles, Donna Masseo, Sandie, Jacob and Reid Kennedy, Noah, Ryenne and Ellie Wich, Kylie Skoda, Joseph Kerigan and Christian Pickett, Erick and Sharon Asher, Charlie Black, Ann Ballard, Mr. and Mrs. Bill McGee, Linda Bailey, Deanne Williams, Megan Hubbard, David and Trish, Dave and Amelia Warriner, Linda Huie, David and Kimberly Embry, Joy and Dale Smith, Sandie Yarbrough, Mike Guthrie, Guy Sweazy, Nick Sweazy, Jim and Courtney Cummings, Eddie and Gretchen Martin, Chase Harper, Janice Adkinson, Ken Haley, Doug and Nancy Calen-

dine, Nancy Swider, Ken Haley, Esther Stuart, Mike Guthrie, Joe and Sylvia Whaley, Kay Medley, Joyce Burkett, Joyce Moore, Bill and Shirley Sanders, Maya Robbins, Kiara Monette and Barbara Yeagley.

The Washington Improvement Group co-partnered with the Oak Grove Church as volunteers served 30 food plates that had been prepared by the Oak Grove Church volunteers. Tamlyn Smith, Don and Regina Washabaugh and Joanna White volunteered to serve as hosts and hostesses.

The building was cleaned by a great crew Rich Brenner and Larry Chism.

MB sponsoring Biloxi trips for winter visitors

Special to The Star

The Mexico Beach Welcome Center is arranging winter visitors the opportunity to win some extra cash not once, but twice, in Biloxi, MS. "Snowbirds" will be flocking to the casinos to win big and enjoy the scenery. Travelers will be transported on charter busses for an overnight trip in January and in February. The first casino trip departs Jan. 21 and

returns on the 22nd. The second casino trip departs Feb. 18 and returns on the 19th. Each trip package includes transportation, free play vouchers, a lunch buffet voucher, room and entertainment. Rates for each casino trip are \$100 for double occupancy and \$140 for single occupancy. You can go in January or February, or do both!

These trips are open to anyone, whether they be a part time Floridian or

live here year round, we want you to join us on one or both of these wonderful excursions. There will be exciting games on the bus, wonderful friendships made, casino tips swapped and tons of fun. The buses will depart from the El Governor at 5:30 a.m. CST and the first stop will be at the Boomtown Casino for some playing time and a lunch buffet. After that, it's off to the Beau Rivage where we'll stop for the

night. The next morning will start off with a trip to the IP casino where there will be five hours of playing time and then it's time to head home. We hope this trip will be a great getaway and enjoyable for all.

If anyone has any questions or would like more information, please contact the Mexico Beach Welcome center by calling 648-8196 or visit our website at www.mexicobeach.com.

Celebrating Howard Rogers' birthday

Special to The Star

Come join the celebration as Howard Rogers' 90th birthday is honored 2-4 p.m. ET Saturday, Jan.

4, 2014 at the Senior Citizens Center adjacent to the Public Library and County Courthouse in Port St. Joe.

No gifts are necessary. Just join the celebration.

MB HOLIDAY SANITATION SCHEDULE

Star Staff Report

The City of Mexico Beach will observe the following schedule for garbage pickup:

Thursday, Jan. 2: Regular garbage pick-up

Friday, Jan. 3: Regular garbage pick-up

PET OF THE WEEK
St. Joseph Bay Humane Society



Teri is a 45lb 10mo Pointer/ Am Bulldog mix. She is very playful and energetic. Teri loves kids and adults alike. She walks well on a leash and will sit with a treat. Teri would make a great pet for an active family. Teri is a little intimidated by kitties and would do best in a home without them.

If you are unable to adopt at this time, perhaps you could foster or make a donation. All pets adopted from SJBHS will be current on vaccinations and spayed/neutered. Please do not hesitate to email townsend.hsdirector@gmail.com or adoptbaystjoe@gmail.com or call the St. Joseph Bay Humane Society at 850-227-1103 and ask for Melody or Debbie! Applications are available at www.sjbhumane.org. We require all potential adopters to complete an application form. Adoption fees include our cost of spay/neuter and current vaccinations.

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

Faith's Thrift Hut is always in need of donations also, and all the proceeds go directly to support the animals in our care! The hours for the store are Thursday-Saturday from 10 am-3 pm. Volunteers are always welcome at both our store and our shelter! Our store and shelter location is 1007 Tenth Street in Port St. Joe! Hope to see you all there on Sat Dec 14th for our annual Christmas Sale.

www.sjbhumane.org

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

Follow us on Facebook: St. Joseph Bay Humane Society
If you are missing a pet or want to adopt a new pet, please check with your local Humane Society or Shelter. Follow us on Facebook: St. Joseph Bay Humane Society

www.sjbhumane.org

See Your Business Name and Info Here
for ONLY \$15 per week
\$60 per month

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Marcia Knapke 227-7847

Real Estate Picks

Best Values on the Forgotten Coast

Our local real estate experts have identified what they feel are the best values around and are offering them to you in Real Estate Picks! (In this section), Discover the best real estate values in Mexico Beach, Port St. Joe, Apalachicola, Cape San Blas, St. George Island, Carrabelle and surrounding areas.



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- Only \$35 per week per listing
- Minimum 2 ads per week or 1 ad for 2 weeks

Contact Marcia Knapke for details:

(850)227-7847 | mknape@starfl.com

WANTED
Your stories and photos
Of
Historic Wewahitchka

Please drop by the Wewahitchka Branch Library on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month, beginning January 2014 From 1:00 pm (CST) until closing.

Beverly will interview you and scan your pictures. Your photos will NOT be harmed and will immediately be returned to you.

Beverly's local history books feature vintage images of small towns. Each book celebrates the unique cultures and traditions through historical images and descriptive captions. And now, with your help, she will be publishing Images of America Wewahitchka

Apalachicola **Gulf County** **Wewahitchka**

Beverly Mount-Douds 850-229-1151 csblighthouselady2008@gmail.com

New Wewahitchka book coming soon

Special to The Star

Author Beverly Mount-Douds will be starting work on her fourth book this coming January. She

would love to have help from any local residence of Gulf County. This book will be based in Wewahitchka and will be another Arcadia book from their series of "Images of American." This book will be called "Wewahitchka".

A schedule has been set up at the Wewahitchka Branch Library.

The first and third Monday of each month, starting in January, Beverly will be at the library from 1 p.m. CT until closing.

Bring your photos and stories, she will interview and scan copies from your pictures on the spot, your photos will not be harmed in any way.

Let's make this the best book that the Gators ever had or seen!

For more information call 639-2419 or 229-1094 or email csblighthouselady2008@gmail.com

Volunteers deliver 807 dinners on Christmas Day

Special to The Star

Thanks to the following volunteers who delivered the 807 delicious Christmas dinners throughout of Gulf County and Mexico Beach on Christmas Day morning:

Billy Dixson, Joel Rogers, Bob Sutton, Rick Norrell, Rob Greenland and Renee, Leonard and Loretta Costin and Tyler, Jamie Mayhann, Tim and Crystal Dupuy, Ron and Mary Kelly, Suzie, Danica and Dana Kelly and family, Shirley Williams, Tommy and Ruth Sauls, Fred Willis, Ruby Hodge, Jerry Before, Roy and Fran Smith, and Ann, Carol Dow, Scott Gainey and Denny, Erica Bruckner and Denise Querburg,

Charles Givens, Troy White and the gang (Getting to a New Generation members), Marquez Johnson, Marcell Johnson, Lauren, Tyson, Davis, Lauren, Caitlin, Criston and Branden Givens and the Port St. Joe High School students from the Student Government Association and their faculty advisor Mrs. Sissy Godwin and Scott Godwin.

Drivers, thanks for delivering love and kindness all over Gulf County and the Mexico Beach area. Everyone enjoyed the dinner and the thoughtfulness of our committee members who planned this wonderful dinner and the compassion shown to all of the people receiving these dinners.

MLS 247955 • \$284,900 • St. Joe Bay

Bay front townhome on Scenic Hwy 30-A. Stunning sunsets right out your back door overlooking St. Joe Bay. Located on 4 acres of land covered with large pristine oak trees and palm trees, this townhome has spacious living and kitchen areas. There are 3 bedrooms each with their own private balcony.

Coastal Realty Group Preston Russ 850-227-8890 / 850-227-7770 www.coastalrealtyinfo.com



PHOTOS BY CLARENCE MONETTE | Special to The Star

Nijah Quinn and Donnell Henry receive early Christmas presents from Sir Knights Raymond Rogers and David Lewis.

Bikes for Boys and Girls

Special to The Star

Almost 20 youth between the ages of 5 and 14 were presented bicycles, helmets and toys for Christmas thanks to R.A. Driesbach, Sr. Lodge #77, Knights of Pythias.

Presentation of the bikes was part of a comprehensive program of collecting new and used bikes for

restoration and distribution and a bicycle safety and maintenance program for community youth.

"We have way more children than we have bicycles," said Clarence Monette, Chancellor Commander of Driesbach Lodge #77. "Next year our goal is to have 50 or more bicycles with helmets."



Pythian members David Lewis, John Crosby and Chancellor Commander Clarence Monette present several youth with new bicycles and helmets.

GCSC celebrates health sciences graduates

Special to The Star

The Division of Health Sciences at Gulf Coast State College held multiple graduation and pinning ceremonies Dec. 12, including the LPN to ADN graduation at the Gulf/Franklin Campus, and the Nursing and Surgical Technology graduations at the Panama City Campus.

Fall 2013 LPN to ADN Graduates:

Janell Armstrong, Brenda Bellinger, Fe Carlisle, Kimberly Clark, Stephanie DePaul, Richard Green, Erin Hallahan, Amy Jackson, Cathy Shuping, Kristin Small, Dorothy Snodgrass, Diane Stratton,

Anne-Laure Verill, Derek Waldron, Faye Wenzel and Rebecca Williams.

Fall 2013 Nursing Graduates:

Heather Barron, Regina Biggs, Sam Burt, Laura Callahan, Randi Clark, Tonya Claussen, Kimberly Cox, Bruce Ferris, Faith Fischer, Danielle Gagnon, Colin Gallien, Holly Gay, Michael Hollis, Brantley Jezak,

Lindsey Kafonek, Stacey Kintner, Monica Largespada, Trinh Luong, Johnathon Martin, Christina Maynard, Kowany McCutcheon, Steven Moos, Miranda Morgan, Xiomara Morris;

Kayla Myers, Cynthia Naegle, Andrea Ortega, Stephanie Plummer, Jolanta Potkaj, James Prudhome,

Sara Ramer, Tracy Raven, Justin Redmond, April Rivera, Christian Rodriguez, Bryan Shea, Sarah Smith,

Aurelia Stone, Kyle Studer, Lindsey Thweatt, Nicholas Tuno, Jane Vasquez and Thomasina Waldera.

Fall 2013 Surgical Technology Graduates:

Bree Allen, Jacie Ball, Jonna Ball, Tonya Green, Victoria Holland, Katie Pepin, Jennifer Person, Samantha Plumadore, Amanda Porcelli, Candice Potter, Shelli Simmons and Janet Valiente.

Equine Coggins Clinic

Special to The Star

The Gulf County Extension Service will sponsor an Equine Coggins Clinic on Friday. Visiting veterinarian

ian will be Dr. Carla Hubbard; cost per coggins will be \$30-\$35 per horse. The clinic starts at the Michael Traylor Arena at 8 a.m. CT. After coggins tests are

completed at arena, we'll be available to do farm visits.

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

Correctional officer training program

Special to The Star

A new correctional officer training program will be starting at the Gulf/Franklin Campus of Gulf Coast State College in Port St. Joe Jan. 22. This program is designed to prepare students for the State Officer Certification Exam. Individuals who pass this exam are eli-

gible for employment in any state, county or privately run correctional facility in Florida. The program will be conducted using the new shorter curriculum and will last approximately three months. The program will be offered during the day and will run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET daily, Monday through Thursday.

Spring into Vegetable Gardening

Special to The Star

The Gulf County Extension Service will sponsor an Interactive Video Series on Vegetable Gardening for Homeowners

TIME: 6 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

COST: \$30 per person or \$45/Couple

LOCATION: Gulf County Extension Office, 232 East Lake Ave., Wewahitchka, FL

Dates and Topics to be discussed are as follows:

JAN. 14: What to Grow and Seasonal Information, Site Selection and Improving Soils.

JAN. 21: Specific on Toma-

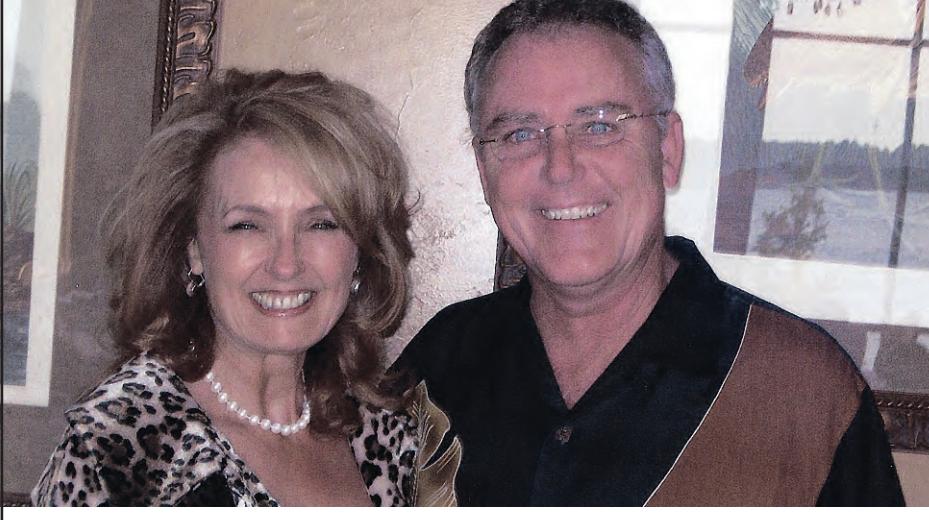
toes, Peppers, Squash, and Cucumbers;

Seeding and Transplanting Basics.

JAN. 28: Harvesting, Troubleshooting Vegetable Garden Problems.

For more information contact the Gulf County Extension Service at 639-3200 or email r1cater@ufl.edu.

WE SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY'S UNIVERSITY



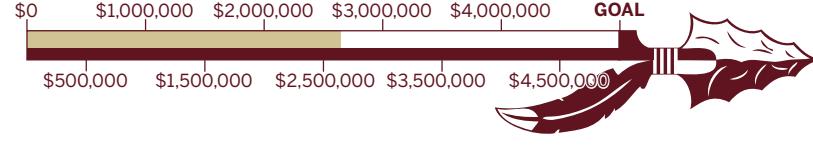
Gail and Wayne Lindsey

The impact that FSU Panama City has on our students and our community far outweighs any collegiate loyalty this old Gator may have. I am truly proud to support FSU Panama City. Please consider joining me with your support.

— Wayne Lindsey
Owner, Sonny's Real Pit Bar-B-Q

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FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
PANAMA CITY

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

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.

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ST. JOE STAR

FAITH

Thursday, January 2, 2014

www.starfl.com

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to visit the church of
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4510130

Page A10

Obituary

Jean J. Lamberson

Jean J. Lamberson, 84, of Port St. Joe went to be with her Lord and Savior on Saturday, Dec. 21. "Miss Jean" was born in Jacksonville on March 27, 1929 and lived in Port St. Joe since 1956. For many years, she was dedicated to teaching Sunday school classes and Vacation Bible Schools, helping to establish and teach Joy Clubs in the Port St. Joe area and served as a member of the Gideons International Auxiliary.

Jean was preceded in death by her sister, Betty Ann Jones Spencer of Milton, FL. She is survived by her husband of more than 63 years, C.R. Dick Lamberson of Port St. Joe; her children Carole Donner and husband Bob of Apple Valley, MN, Rick Lamberson and wife, Connie, Mark Lamberson and wife, Sarah, and Scott Lamberson and wife, Sandra, all of Port St. Joe. She is also survived by

her brother, William O. Bill Jones, Jr. of Milton, six grandchildren and their spouses and seven great-grandchildren, three step-grandchildren and eight step-great-grandchildren, along with six nieces and two nephews.

Visitation with the family was held at 10 a.m. ET on Monday, Dec. 23, at Long Avenue Baptist Church in Port St. Joe, followed by the celebration and committal service at Holly Hill Cemetery. Pall Bearers were Jeff Davidson, Todd Doss, Dennis Geoghanan, Johnny Mize, Glenn Morgan, Aaron Paul and Tommy Pitts. Honorary Pall Bearers were all members of the MnG Small Group of Long Avenue Baptist Church.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions in Jean's memory to the Gideons International, P.O. Box 422, Port St. Joe FL 32457.

GOD'S GREATEST GIFT

The greatest birth in the world,
Born in the lowliest place.
He was born the poorest of poor,
But would save the world by God's Grace.
They had no room for them at the Inn,
And many still don't today.
It seems as though not much has changed,
It's about the same old way.
He left heaven to come to Earth,
And pay a debt we owe.
We seem so caught up in our own life,
We tend to forget this though.
Those who are lost have no reason to care,
But we as Christians have a lot to share.
Why do we wait until Christmas to share?
It should be done all through the year.
Start telling everyone about Jesus
And what He's done for you.
When you've told everyone you know,
Find somebody new.
The greatest gift you could give to Jesus,
Is a lost soul in repentance of sin.
The should not be a problem if you're saved,
Just tell what happened back then.

Billy Johnson



The Lion's Tale

Special to The Star

On Thursday, Dec. 19, Faith Christian School students celebrated the ceremonial Hanging of the Greens service as their annual Christmas program.

This traditional ceremony tells the history of Christian church and family traditions. Students explained the origin and symbolism of the Christmas tree, the Advent candle, poinsettias, sanctuary evergreens, gift giving at Christmastime, and even Christmas carols.

As always, the true meaning of Christmas, Jesus Christ, was at the center of the entire program. Many of our students gave eloquent recitations while Farren Newman sang a beautiful rendition of O Holy Night, and Carter Costin and Taylor Burkett played piano solos.

The gracious and generous FCS PTO provided an amazing and beautiful brunch after the program for all who attended.

From the hearts of all the students, faculty, staff, and administration of Faith Christian School, Merry Christmas!



MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Long Avenue
BAPTIST CHURCH

SUNDAY:
Sunday School - 9:15
Morning Worship - 10:30
Evening Worship - 5:00
1601 Long Ave Port St Joe, FL 32456
(850) 229-8691

WEDNESDAY:
Family Dinner - 5:30
Prayer Meeting - 6:30
Student Ministry - 6:30
Children's Ministry / Choir - 6:30
Adult Choir - 7:30

4516651

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PORT ST. JOE
1001 Constitution Dr.
850.227.1724
www.psjumc.org

Sunday Schedule

9:00AM EST - Worship on the Water, "under the sails" on St. Joseph Bay.
11:00AM EST - Sanctuary Service with Special Children's time.

Dr. Geoffrey Lentz
Pastor
Bobbi Lassiter
Minister to Families
Ann Comforter
Director of Music

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

New Service Schedule for First Baptist Church

Sunday	Wednesday
Sunday School 9:00 am	Dinner 5:00 - 6:00 pm
Worship Service 10:30 am	AWANA 6:00 - 7:30 pm
Choir 6:00 pm	Surrender Student Ministry 6:15 - 7:30 pm
	Prayer/Bible Study 6:15 - 7:30 pm
	Nursery 6:00 - 7:30 pm

www.fbcpkj.org

4516983

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

9:45 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM

10:30 AM Fellowship Breakfast

10:45 AM Worship

6:00 PM Worship

4510131

Home of Faith Christian School
www.faithchristianpsj.net

First Church of the Nazarene
2420 Long Avenue • Port St. Joe, Florida 32456
(850) 229-9596

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

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

Family Life Church
A Spirit Filled Outreach Oriented Word of Faith Church
Pastors Andrew & Cathy Rutherford
Welcome you to worship with us:
Sunday 10:30am
Sunday Night Prayer 6pm
Wednesday 6pm
www.familylifechurch.net
TOUCHING LIVES WITH THE LOVE OF JESUS
323 Reid Ave ~ Downtown Port St. Joe, FL ~ 850-229-5433

451033

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

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

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

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

Schedule of Worship Services

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

Nursery provided for all services

You're Always Welcome at

HIGHLAND VIEW BAPTIST
The Church where the Son Always Shines

Service Times

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

582 Ling Street
Port St. Joe, FL 32456
(850) 227-1306
Pastor Josh Fidler

451028

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

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

Open Hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
The people of Mexico Beach United Methodist Church

Rev. Jerry Arhelger, Pastor • Church/Office: 648-8820

4510121

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

4510122

TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN
Come worship with us!
Rector Father Tommy Dwyer

ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH
800 22ND STREET, PORT ST. JOE
8:00 and 11:00 a.m. (EST) • Sunday School 9:45

www.stjamesepiscopalchurch.org

451023



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE HOOPER AT JOEBAY.COM, TIM CROFT | The Star, Wes Locher | The Star and Special to The Star

FROM LEFT: During Marina Day in June, the historic schooner The Governor Stone docked at Port St. Joe for the first time, brought to town by the TDC. Harry Dennard, president of the Friends of the Governor Stone, took area supporters, and those who helped bring the ship to Gulf County, for a sunset cruise on the floating national historic landmark. During the Marina Day festivities, families boarded the vessel for a guided tour and history lesson. • In July, Port St. Joe celebrated the 100th anniversary of the signing of the constitution and founding of the city with a week-long celebration of the city's rich history. Though hampered by torrential summer downpours, residents and visitors seized every dry moment as an opportunity to participate in numerous patriotic events. • In May, 23 professional artists from around the globe visited the Forgotten Coast for 10 days of culture during the eighth annual Plein Air Paint-Out. Reaching from Mexico Beach to Alligator Point, the artists taught workshops, painted with area high school students and participated in numerous events that included exhibitions, competitions and festivities enabling the painters to explain their process to spectators. • Because of the efforts of Commissioner Joanna Bryan, a rusted and dilapidated sign that stood in Beacon Hill Park for years was removed in December.

REWIND from page A5

◀ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STALLS

Economic development, as it pertains to that created by government, took another step backward this year.

In significant measure, that was because of the residue of politics after the Board of County Commissioners spent the final months of 2012 taking control of the Economic Development Council, and then, in early 2013, handing duties to a newly formed Gulf County Economic Development Alliance Inc.

The latter decision by the BOCC was hotly debated and ended in a sharply divided vote that was hardly a mandate for the EDA or executive director Barry Sellers, who spent the holidays in 2012 not knowing what and where his job was.

By the end of 2013, Sellers was back in Arkansas with a new employer after resigning citing health and family reasons.

The EDA has a volunteer board and no staff or executive director.

The Chamber of Commerce had a new director and staff, and the consolidated economic development model the BOCC forced among the agencies less than two years ago disappeared, replaced largely by the status quo — or at least what has been the status quo the five previous times in a dozen years that the BOCC has upended the operations of the EDC.

And though there were inroads made — Sellers brought more involvement from the north end of the county and inquiries increased — the tangible result was primarily that the county continues to tread water when it comes to job creation and boosting the local economy.

Even one of the county's top private-sector employers, Health Check, announced a planned expansion would take place in Mississippi and not in Gulf County because of the economic climate created by local government.

The Board of County Commissioners and Port St. Joe City Commission spent another year spinning in conflicting orbits.

The two bodies began the year much as they had in 2012, with a renewed call for collaboration and cooperation, which lasted about as long as it took to type this sentence.

Commissioners spent much of the year in spirited debate on several topics, beginning with a BOCC proposal to move the Port St. Joe Redevelopment Agency out of the Tourist Development Council Welcome Center.

That request led to a broader discussion, spanning months and which actually had started more than a year prior, over a fire tax the city paid for WindMark Beach.

That led to discussions about the lease between city and county over the

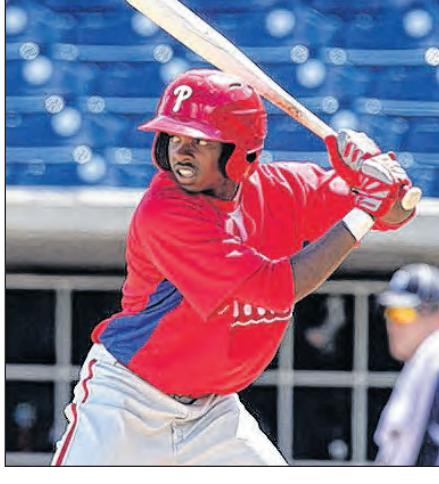
Welcome Center land and the details of an interlocal agreement signed in the wake of the development of WindMark.

Months were required to amend that interlocal agreement to the satisfaction of all commissioners even though almost all acknowledged that the majority of the provisions of the agreement had been met.

In time, commissioners sparred from a distance over solid waste and tipping fees, the future of the Economic Development Council, contributions to the EDC/Gulf County Economic Development Alliance Inc. and the pace of a project to bring water and sewer line replacement to North Port St. Joe.

The ongoing debate on the Cape San Blas Lighthouse, and the lack of progress by city commissioners in the relocation of the lighthouse into the city, looms as a major jostling point in 2014.

SPORTS from page A7



◀ INJURY SLOWS QUINN

The first professional baseball season of Roman Quinn's career was as successful as his second year was frustrating.

After a record-breaking year in short-season Class A ball in 2012, Quinn, the former multi-sport standout out of Port St. Joe High School, was ranked as the No. 4 prospect in the Philadelphia Phillies' farm system by the online version of the Philadelphia Inquirer newspaper.

Quinn set Williamsport club records for stolen bases and triples his first professional season, and anticipation was high as he headed into this second season.

But at full-season Class A Lakewood, Quinn was challenged before his season ended with a broken wrist in June.

Quinn struggled early, at the plate and in the field.

While he continued to steal bases almost at will, his batting average was below .250 most of the season.

He hit an early inside-the-park home run and then struggled with power, particularly from the left side of the plate as he continued to learn to switch-hit on the fly.

In the field, habits that showed in high school, especially throwing, plagued the second-round draft pick also learning shortstop in the crucible of everyday action.

The season ended in late June with a broken wrist, and Quinn finished with a .231 batting average, .669 on-base plus slugging percentage and 31 errors.

Former Port St. Joe standout Heather Brinkmeier, who was selected to play on a softball all-star team touring Australia this past summer, was not the only county product of that era in county softball finding success.

Former Wewahitchka High School star Samantha Rich completed her first year as a junior transfer at Southeastern University in Lakeland.

Rich was named the team's Most Valuable Player, was first-team All-Sun Conference and was named a first team All-American by the National Christian College Association.

Rich also was named second team All-American by the

◀ A RICH ALL-AMERICAN



National Fastpitch Coaches Association.

In her first year at Southeastern, Rich led the team with a .450 batting average, 21

doubles, 68 hits and 105 total bases.

She also hit four home runs and stole 15 bases.

She won 15 of 21 pitching

starts and ranked second in the Sun Conference in wins.

She helped lead Southeastern, fielding a softball team for the first time in school history, to a 26-19 record overall, 9-7 in conference play, good for third place.

Rich initially signed with Jacksonville State University in Alabama, but a slow recovery from shoulder surgery and other injuries hampered her.

She transferred to Chipola State College in Marianna and was named third-team All-American as an outfielder.

Rich sat out a year to fully recover from her shoulder injury before signing with Southeastern University.

◀ BRINKMEIER PLAYS DOWN UNDER



Heather Brinkmeier, a 2009 graduate of Port St. Joe High School, was invited to Sydney, Australia, in July to compete in the Down Under Cup Challenge as part of the Australia International Softball Challenge.

Each year, the challenge, hosted by USA Athletes International, brings together the nation's best athletes to compete against players from Australia, Italy and Prague.

The daughter of Steve and Christine, Brinkmeier was recommended to the team by her former coaches as well as those from opposing teams. Candidates also had to be in good academic standing.

After high school, Brinkmeier continued to play softball through college with Team North Florida, the Panama City Lightning, Lurleen B. Wallace Community College and Florida Southern College.

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◀ SEARCHING FOR COACHES

2014 will bring to the Gulf County School Board consideration on the directions for the county's football programs.

Both head coaching jobs are becoming vacant come the end of the current school year.

Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High School

coach Chuck Gannon is in the last of his five years in the DROP program and cannot return to a paid instructional or coaching position after his retirement in the spring.

Dennis Kizziah, head coach at Wewahitchka Jr./Sr. High School,

will be in his final year in the

DROP program during the 2014-2015 school year.

He has notified Superintendent Schools Jim Norton that he is stepping down as head coach but would certainly be available

to ease the transition to a new

coach next season or to serve as

an assistant.

Because Gannon will not be around in the fall, Norton said he would like to have a new coach in place by the start of spring football in May.

Time is less of an issue in We-

wahitchka, Norton said, because

Kizziah will be in place through the next school year.

Norton said he would hope to post the job opening and undertake the interviewing with the goal of having a new coach in place this summer and ready to start practice in the fall.



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93498S

IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF THE FOUR-
TEENTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT IN AND FOR
GULF COUNTY, FLOR-
IDA
CASE NO.: 2009-491CARESIDENTIAL FUND-
ING COMPANY LLC,
Plaintiff,vs.
TAMMY JEAN OWENS
A/K/A TAMMY J. OW-
ENS; et al.,
Defendant(s).NOTICE OF
FORECLOSURE SALE
PURSUANT TO
CHAPTER 45NOTICE IS HEREBY
GIVEN that sale will be
made pursuant to an
Order or Final Sum-
mary Judgment. Final
Judgment wasawarded on September
25, 2013, in Civil Case
No. 2009-491CA, of theFOURTEENTH Judicial
Circuit in and for GULF
County, Florida, wherein,RESIDENTIAL FUND-
ING COMPANY LLC is the Plaintiff;and TAMMY JEAN OWENS
A/K/A TAMMY J. OW-
ENS; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF TAMMY
JEAN OWENS A/K/A
TAMMY J. OWENS;UNKNOWN TENANT
N/K/A DAVID
MCGHEE; JOHN WAL-
TER OWENS A/K/A
JOHN W. OWENS;GULF AIRE PROPERTY
OWNERS ASSOCIA-
TION, INC. are Defendants.The clerk of the court,
Rebecca L. Norris willsell to the highest bidder
for cash at THE FRONT
LOBBY OF THE COURTHOUSEat 11:00 A.M. ET on the
23rd day January, 2014the following described
real property as set
forth in said Final Sum-
mary Judgment, to wit:LOT 39, BLOCK C,
GULF AIRE SUBDIVI-
SION, PHASE II, AC-
CORDING TO THE
PLAT THEREOF, AS
RECORDED IN PLAT
BOOK 3, PAGES 30
AND 31, OF THE PUBLIC
RECORDS OF GULF
COUNTY, FLORIDA.

ANY PERSON CLAIM-

ING AN INTEREST IN
THE SURPLUS FROM
THE SALE, IF ANY.OTHER THAN THE
PROPERTY OWNER AS
OF THE DATE OF
THE LIS PENDENSMUST FILE A CLAIM
WITHIN 60 DAYS AF-
TER THE SALE.WITNESS my hand and
the seal of the court on

December 18, 2013.

Rebecca L. Norris
Clerk, Gulf County,
Florida, Clerk of the
CourtBy: Wyvonne Pickett
Deputy ClerkIMPORTANT PERSONS WITH A
DISABILITY NEEDING
SPECIAL ACCOMMO-
DATION IN ORDER TO
ACCESS COURTFACILITIES OR PAR-
TICIPATE IN A COURT
PROCEEDING AT ANY COURT-
HOUSE OR COURT
PROGRAM, SHOULDWITHIN TWO (2)
DAYS OF RECEIPT OF
NOTICE, CONTACT
COURT ADMINISTRA-
TION, P.O. BOX 826,
MARIANNA, FLORIDA
32447; PHONE:
850-718-0026; HEAR-
ING & VOICE IM-
PAIRMENT: 1-800-955-
8771; EMAIL: ADA
REQUEST@JUD14.FLC
OURTS.ORG

File No. 1271-580B

January 3, 2014

January 9, 2014

93530S

IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF THE FOUR-
TEENTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR
GULF COUNTY, FLOR-
IDA.

CASE No. 11000313CA

WELLS FARGO BANK
NA, AS TRUSTEE,FOR CARRINGTON
MORTGAGE LOAN
TRUST, SERIES 2006-
NC1 ASSET-BACKED
PASS-THROUGH CER-
TIFICATES, PLAINTIFF,

vs.

SCOTT R. BAKER,
ET AL.
DEFENDANT(S).NOTICE OF
FORECLOSURE SALENOTICE IS HEREBY
GIVEN pursuant to the
Final Judgment of
Foreclosure dated Au-
gust 14, 2013 in the
above action, I will sell
to the highest bidder
for cash at Gulf, Flor-
ida, on January 9, 2014,
at 11:00 A.M. ET at
Courthouse steps, lobby-1000 Cecil G
Costin Sr. Blvd., Port
St. Joe, FL 32456 for
the following described
property:ALL THAT CERTAIN
LAND SITUATE IN
GULF COUNTY, FLOR-
IDA, VIZ: LOT SIXTEEN
(16) AND THE NORTH-
EAST ONE-HALF OF
LOT FIFTEEN (15) OF
BLOCK EIGHTY-FOUR
(84) OF UNIT ONE OF
ST. JOSEPH'S ADDI-
TION OF THE CITY OF
PORT ST. JOE, FLOR-
IDA, ACCORDING TO
THE OFFICIAL MAP
ON FILE IN THE OF-
FICE OF THE CLERK
OF THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF GULF
COUNTY, FLORIDA IN
PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE
28.Any person claiming an
interest in the surplus
from the sale, if any,
other than the property
owner as of the date of
the lis pendens must
file a claim within sixty
(60) days after the sale.The Court, in its discre-
tion, may enlarge the
time of the sale. Notice
of the changed time of
sale shall be published
as provided herein.DATED: December 20,
2013.Rebecca Norris
Clerk of CourtPrepared by:
Gladstone Law Group,
P.A.1499 W. Palmetto Park
Road, Suite 300 Boca
Raton, FL 33486If you are a person
with a disability who
needs any accom-
modation in order to
participate in this pro-
ceeding, you are enti-
tled, at no cost to you,
to the provision of certain
assistance. Please contact ADA
Coordinator at 850-
747-5338, fax 850-747-
5717 or e-mail ADA
Request@JUD14.FLCourts.org,
P. O. Box 1089.To apply: Send resume to igrimes@ponch.com
EOE, Drug Free WorkplaceWeb ID#: 34266362
Text FL66340 to 56654

Sales

NEW TODAY!

The News Herald is seeking an innovative and experienced

Sales Manager

Who will be responsible for leading and creating integrated multi-media sales strategies to drive revenue across multiple platforms. We are seeking a passionate, highly organized team player who will effectively train and motivate the sales team, using sales planners, the 5-step sales process and consistent accountability to drive their success. The Sales Manager will be creative, yet analytical.

Responsibilities:

- Meets or exceeds sales and revenue goals.
- Advocates the methodical & standardized 5-step sales approach to buyers. This approach includes planning & preparing for the call, needs analysis, building a compelling solution, developing and closing an effective sales presentation, and following up to ensure client satisfaction.

• Communicates and advocates the company's vision for a world class sales team, excelling at building active accounts with solutions from a diverse product and services portfolio. Develops and consistently supports staff development by providing clear expectations, tools and training, sales goals, accountability and frequent feedback.

- Collaborates with other managers to generate new sales ideas and stays abreast of product and platform changes.
- Develops sales team, striving for world class execution and results. This includes training/coaching, use of data in sales presentations, creating a vision and integrated sales campaigns for the client, producing sales presentations, and using analytics to measure the solution's ROI for the client.

Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree or comparable experience.
- Proven record of successful leadership in a goal-oriented, highly accountable environment.
- Successful record of team building and leadership.
- Excellent organizational and analytical skills. The ability to multi-task and manage competing priorities is essential.
- Digital sales experience. Proven digital sales management experiences.
- A deep and broad understanding of the market and competition
- Strong communication, negotiation and influencing skills.
- Proficient PC skills including Microsoft applications Excel and Word. In addition, must be well versed in digital sales tools, including job boards, search, email, social marketing and analytics.
- Demonstrated innovation, leadership, communication, and staff development skills. Possesses ability to coach and be coached.
- Strong ethical standards and integrity are a must.
- Understanding of research tools is a huge plus.
- Ensures that the business unit meets and/or exceeds revenue expectations
- Proven sales management experience

All full-time employees are eligible for health & dental insurance, Life/AD&D/Long-term disability Insurance, 401k plan, and paid time off.

In addition, we offer:
Performance/Incentive Based Pay Scale
Friendly Team Environment
Supportive & Motivating Staff to help you succeed
Positive, Professional, and Upbeat work environment
We promote from within!

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Web ID#: 34266362

Text FL66340 to 56654

Sales

**Sales Reps**

Halifax Media Group is currently looking for outside sales representatives. If you are in sales and are confident in your sales abilities, then this opportunity may be for you. We are looking for energetic Sales Executives with 2+ years of B2B outside sales and business development experience.

Territories Available In:

- ◆ Panama City
- ◆ Chipley
- ◆ Port St. Joe

We are only seeking passionate, positive, driven outside sales professionals.

Responsibilities:

- Prepare for appointments. All travel is local and typically within a 50 mile radius of your office.
- Meet daily with owners of small to medium sized businesses with the goal of marketing and securing business
- Conducting our "solutions based" approach to qualifying potential business for new sales leads in between appointments and during networking opportunities
- Contacting Sales Coordinator with feedback from appointments and sharing new business lead opportunities.
- Reviewing the day's successes and challenges with your Sales Manager, gaining sales support as appropriate — all administrative support people have a vested interest in your success

In our organization, we offer the following to our outside sales -

Account Executives:Fantastic Benefits and Compensation Program
Commissions and Bonus
New hire and ongoing training and development**Requirements:**

- At least two years of face-to-face direct sales, outside sales, B2B, Business Development experience
- Bachelor's degree preferred but not necessary. We will consider the right experience over a degree
- Highly self-motivated and self-disciplined with ability to work effectively with little or no supervision
- Outgoing personality with expertise at developing relationships, particularly with business owners, presidents and CEO's
- Good communicator-excellent listening skills and ability to offer solutions.

To apply: Send resume to igrimes@ponch.com
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Text FL69124 to 56654

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THE SURPLUS FROM
THE SALE, IF ANY.
OTHER THAN THE
PROPERTY OWNER AS
OF THE DATE OF
THE LIS PENDENSMUST FILE A CLAIM
WITHIN 60 DAYS AF-
TER THE SALE.WITNESS my hand and
the seal of the court on

December 18, 2013.

Rebecca L. Norris
Clerk, Gulf County, Florida, Clerk of the CourtBy: Wyvonne Pickett
Deputy ClerkIMPORTANT PERSONS WITH A
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SPECIAL ACCOMMO-
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ACCESS COURTFACILITIES OR PAR-
TICIPATE IN A COURT
PROCEEDING AT ANY COURT-
HOUSE OR COURT
PROGRAM, SHOULDWITHIN TWO (2)
DAYS OF RECEIPT OF
NOTICE, CONTACT
COURT ADMINISTRA-
TION, P.O. BOX 826,MARIANNA, FLORIDA
32447; PHONE:850-718-0026; HEAR-
ING & VOICE IM-
PAIRMENT: 1-800-955-
8771; EMAIL: ADA
REQUEST@JUD14.FLC
OURTS.ORG

File No. 1271-580B

January 3, 2014

January 9, 2014

93530S

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COURT OF THE FOUR-
TEENTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR
GULF COUNTY, FLOR-
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