



Bay Day promotes preserves, **B1**

Port dredge case 'positive'

By **TIM CROFT**
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A consultant told the Port St. Joe Port Authority board last week that the case for state investment in dredging the Port of Port St. Joe shipping channel was "positive."

Rod Lewis, working with the Washington Economic Group,

said a Return On Investment study commissioned by the Port Authority had resulted in numbers even more positive than he had estimated before undertaking the study.

The ROI study is considered critical for the second path — permitting is the first — the Port Authority is pursuing for dredging.

The ROI, once finalized after

input from board members, would be offered in Tallahassee as state lawmakers consider this spring making the estimated \$25 million investment in dredging.

"Is there some return on investment? That is what the state is interested in," Lewis said.

At the bottom line, the study estimates the modernization and expansion of the Port of Port St.

Joe would carry nearly \$941 million in economic impacts over a decade, a return of \$4.66 for every \$1 of state investment.

Lewis noted that the study only factored in the two energy companies, Green Circle and Enova Energy, with signed Letters of Intent with the St. Joe Company to ship wood pellets through the port for overseas markets.

"It's a positive number," Lewis said of the ROI estimates. "This is actually a very positive number. The state is looking at about \$5 for every \$1 of investment, so this is right there."

The ROI aimed to quantify the output and revenue from an operational port and to do so, Lewis said, researchers looked

See **PORT A5**

'A God-given gift'



WES LOCHER | The Star

Tracy Bowers, a fourth grade teacher at Wewahitchka Elementary School, was named Gulf County's Teacher of the Year.

School district names 4th-grade teacher Tracy Bowers Teacher of the year

By **WES LOCHER**
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The school district has a winner:

Tracy Bowers, a fourth-grade teacher at Wewahitchka Elementary School, was chosen as this year's recipient of the Teacher of the Year award for Gulf County.

Bowers' class ground to a halt as school Principal Jay Bidwell, Superintendent of Schools Jim Norton and other members of the school board briefly interrupted to bestow the honor and presented her with a bouquet of flowers.

"There are so many deserving teachers," said Bowers. "I see so many teachers of the year every day

at the school."

Teachers up for the award are nominated by their peers and evaluated by an out-of-county group.

Bowers' gave a shy smile as she accepted the good news from the superintendent.

"You're very humble, and very deserving," said Norton.

See **TEACHER A3**



WES LOCHER | The Star

Employee – Paraprofessional Julie Carr was chosen as Employee of the Year for the Gulf County district.

Carr is employee of the year for Gulf County schools

By **WES LOCHER**
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Each year awards are handed out to recognize the hard work of both teachers and employees throughout the Gulf County school system.

These awards are extra special because all winners were nominated on their performance by their peers.

The Gulf County Employee of the Year went to

Julie Carr at Wewahitchka Jr./Sr. High School.

Carr is a paraprofessional educator who assists with the Bridges students, two-way interactive classes between Wewahitchka and Port St. Joe, even Spanish classes when needed.

"We are so honored to have you represent the whole district," said Superintendent of Schools Jim Norton as he handed

See **EMPLOYEE A3**

Economic development pilot gets underway

By **TIM CROFT**
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The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity believes the community that plans will be the more competitive community when it comes to economic development.

Last week, representatives of the DEO and the city of Port St. Joe began that planning process as part of a pilot project called Competitive Florida.

The city is one of four areas — three other Florida cities as well as DeSoto County — to be included in the pilot project, which aims to provide local

officials with a foundation for assessing community assets and, tailored to those assets, a plan for future economic development.

The DEO is providing technical assistance and \$40,000 in grant funds to boost the planning process, a central goal to begin to build a statewide repository of case studies in economic development from which other communities can learn.

"You are the pilots for us," said Julie Dennis, DEO coordinator for Competitive Florida. "We want to know what has worked and what hasn't. This is

See **PILOT A5**

BOCC approves MOU for Americus Ditch repairs

By **TIM CROFT**
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After talking about it for months, county commissioners finally acted to address chronic problems with the Americus Ditch in St. Joe Beach.

Commissioners, by a 3-1 vote, approved a memorandum of understanding with Preble Rish Engineers to undertake repairs

in selected areas to create a methodology for fixing the entire length of the project.

Commissioner Warren Yeager, an employee of Preble Rish abstained, and Commissioner Joanna Bryan, saying she would like to see public input on the MOU and raising questions about fixing only select sections, voted no.

The Americus Ditch has been a headache for

the county almost since installation of the \$1 million project more than five years ago.

County employees — and, Bryan noted, county taxpayers — have completed more than 120 fixes of the pipe since installation and there are at least 25 remaining areas that require attention, Bryan said.

Preble Rish is agreeing to address five of those

areas almost as a pilot project to understand what will be needed to fix the entire project.

A section of a letter from Rish that was codified as the MOU, which would have released the engineering firm of record from future responsibility, was removed, Rish noted.

"We have no problem with that," Rish said. "We

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Cape San Blas Lighthouse lens removed

By WES LOCHER
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There is always a starting line.

Last week progress began on the Cape San Blas Lighthouse relocation project with the removal of the large lens at the top of the tower.

Professional Lampist Joe Cocking, the only certified lampist in Florida, set up a pulley system last Wednesday and successfully removed the lens by Thursday afternoon.

Special air-tight boxes were constructed for the lens.

They were fabricated with materials provided by the city and there was a slight delay in operations when another box had to be constructed at the last minute.

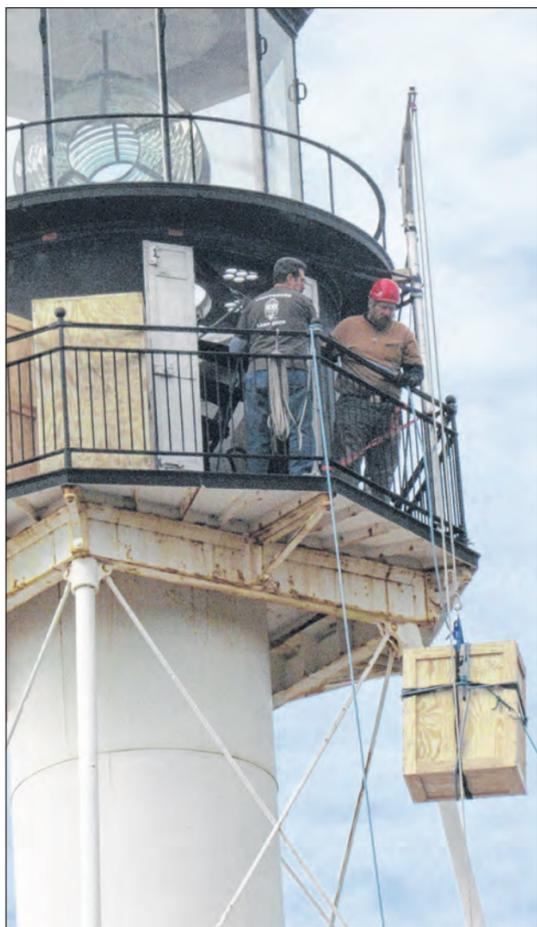
Cocking dismantled the lens and packed each piece of glass into the boxes, wrapping them in a copper paper to keep any moisture out.

Cocking pointed out that a major obstacle to the removal process was that the lighthouse lacked a center well. Common procedure is to lower the boxes down the middle of the interior.

"You always need to be flexible," said Cocking. "There's always something unexpected."

"You have to be Gumby." According to the lampist, the danger of using the pulley system, or "old school physics," as he called it, was that the boxes stood a greater chance of being blown around by winds coming off the water.

Luckily, the wind was busy elsewhere and the lens made a safe journey to



The lens parts, packed in airtight boxes were lowered to the ground using a pulley system.

ground level.

Arlyn Danielson, curator for the U.S. Coast Guard was on hand to oversee the process.

"The Coast Guard owns all lighthouse lenses," said Danielson. "For preservation reasons decommissioned lenses often go to a museum or are borrowed by lighthouse groups to interpret maritime history."

The lens will be restored and ready to reinstall if and when the

lighthouse is relocated to Port St. Joe.

While the additional box was being crafted down below, up in the lighthouse tower Kathleen McCormick, the director of collections in St. Augustine, was hard at work dismantling the clockwork mechanism which regulates the weights which ascend and descend, rotating the tower's lens, and controlling the rate at which it flashes.

McCormick has a



Lampist Joe Cocking disassembles the clockwork mechanism which rotates the lighthouse's lenses.

The lens and parts is property of the United States Coast Guard and will be restored.

WES LOCHER | The Star



museum conservation background and has been visiting lighthouses with Cocking for more than eight years, helping with adjustments, repairs, dismantling or even just appreciating the technology.

"I have a fascination with 19th Century machinery," said McCormick. "Railroad technology, music machines, clockwork gears and lighthouses...it's all very similar."

McCormick pointed out

that a unique feature of the lighthouse is that it's constructed of steel. Most lighthouses constructed around the same time were made of brick, stone, wood or iron.

When lighthouses were built at the turn of the 21st Century, they were constructed with whatever materials were most readily available and designed to fit the local geographic and climatic conditions.

Cocking said that the hardest part of the

job wasn't lowering the lens, but rather clearing out the wasps that had made the lighthouse their home. During their first visit several weeks ago, Cocking and McCormick had to ascend through more than 100 stairs of stinging terror.

Bids have been received for the relocation of the lighthouse though they have not been presented to the public. Bids for moving the keepers' quarters and oil house were due this week.

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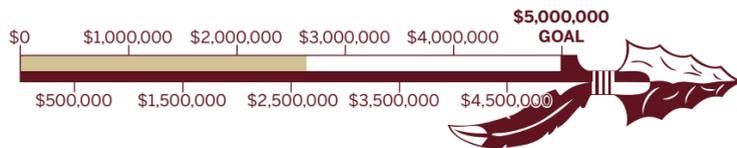
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FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
PANAMA CITY

TEACHER from page A1

"We're so proud of you."

Bowers' win comes with some added perks that include a monetary bonus and dinner with Florida Governor Rick Scott in Tallahassee.

Bowers has been at Wewahitchka Elementary for 21 years.

She graduated from Wewahitchka High School in 1987.

"Although I have been the principal at Wewahitchka Elementary for only a couple of weeks, I have long known about the almost legendary status of Ms. Tracy Bowers," Bidwell said.

"She taught my youngest two sons and even though they are 18 and 14 now, they still speak fondly of their time with Ms. Tracy."

"After seeing Ms. Bowers in action firsthand, I can honestly say that her true abilities as a teacher outweigh even her lofty reputation."

Melissa Ramsey, district supervisor for curriculum and testing, gave Bowers a big hug and told her that she had a "God-given gift."

"It's always a surprise because the other people here work as hard as you do," Bowers said. "It's such an honor to be nominated and that's what touched me the most."

"I'm grateful, thankful and humbled."

District 2 school board member George Cox said that Bowers had once been a student of his, and in his 23 years of teaching, he had always remembered her.

"As a student, she knocked my socks off," said Cox. "Even back then I knew that I was in the presence of super talent."

In order for a teacher to be eligible for the award, they must demonstrate a superior ability to foster excellence in education, contribute to the continuous improvement of student learning and the school

environment.

They must utilize original and innovative instructional materials, methods, curriculum or tools, maintain a record of superior teaching performance, actively engage in collaborative and sustained professional development and demonstrate leadership in educational activities at the school and district.

"The first lesson I observed in Tracy's class absolutely knocked my socks off and I have continued to be impressed every time I visit her classroom," Bidwell said. "I have seen many teachers during my 24 years in education and I can honestly say that Ms. Tracy Bowers is that rare instructor who I place in the category of 'Teaching Royalty.'"

"We are both lucky and honored to have such a wonderful lady and incredible teacher here at Wewahitchka Elementary School and we hope to be blessed with her gifts for many years to come."

At Port St. Joe Elementary, the Teacher of the Year award nominee was Cindy Phillips, who teaches science and reading at the fifth-grade level. Phillips has more than 24 years of teaching experience; seven of those have been in Port St. Joe.

"Cindy has taught various grade levels throughout her career but I believe her true passion is teaching science," said elementary Principal Sue Gannon. "She comes early and stays late and even comes on weekends to take care of the snakes!"

At Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High School, Julie Hodges, who teaches art education for grades 8-12, was the nominee. Hodges has worked at the high school for just under two years.

"I was in complete shock," said Hodges. "I love what I do and I hope

that my students leave my room with a sense of pride and enjoyment from being in a visual art class.

"The quality of art that the students are creating is only possible because of the support from the

faculty here at PSJHS and the county office."

At Wewahitchka Jr./Sr. High School the award was delivered to guidance counselor Karen Turner, who has served in the role for eight years.

I am truly humbled," said Turner. "As a guidance counselor I never expected to be voted on for this great honor."

"I love working at Wewahitchka High School

and want to thank all for the opportunity to serve as their Teacher of the Year."

Turner was the first and last guidance counselor at Wewahitchka Middle School before moving to the high school.

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This is not an emergency, If it had been you would have been notified within 24 hours. Total coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. Coli forms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coli forms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems. Usually, coli forms are a sign that there could be a problem with the treatment or distribution system (pipes). Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample, we do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or E.coli, are present. We did not find any of these bacteria in our subsequent testing. If we had, we would have notified you immediately. Also, further follow-up test results were absent for total coliform bacteria (none were present).

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Further testing showed no coliforms present.

For information, please contact:

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EMPLOYEE from page A1

a bouquet of flowers to the winner.

Carr was surprised in the middle of class by Norton, Principal Lori Price, members of the school board and Carr's husband, Bill.

"I work with the best team," said Carr as her colleagues and students clapped. "It's nice to be recognized."

"I'm very proud...This is an honor."

Norton called Carr the school's "utility player," and praised her work ethic and for saving the

taxpayers money.

"She's the most solid and versatile person I know," Price said. "The award is well deserved."

"Julie never says, 'I can't.'"

Other employees of the year included Jewell Hopper at Port St. Joe Elementary; Karen Taylor at Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High School; Mary Ann Peak at Wewahitchka Elementary; Susie White at the district office; and Mary Lou "Cookie" White with maintenance/transportation.

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Could you please be more felicific?

We live in a time where we are always learning about new ways to do things and new technologies that supposedly make life easier. To be honest, I sometimes have a hard time operating a cell phone and I'm supposed to be some sort of scientist. It's just that things often move so fast that we can't keep up.

Having teenagers in the house is a nice way to learn how to operate your cell phone or about how to fix your computer.

I'm still needed though. It's a nice feeling. I gave one of children a yoyo for Christmas and I had to show them how to operate it. I'm not kidding.

It seems like some things move so fast that we take for granted the things that we already had that we didn't even use. Perhaps we didn't "need" them.

Think about the stuff in the back of the kitchen cabinets and hidden in the pantry, attic or garage - I bet you have things that you are "saving" to use later.

What about a word? We all run across words that we either have never heard of or think we would never use.

I found a word the other day that was much better than the plastic thing in the back of the cabinet that was supposed to remove the skin, seeds and muck from tomatoes so that I could make all kinds of scrumptious tomato sauces, salsa and soups.

The word is "felicific." Webster gives the definition as "causing or intended to cause happiness."

Don't we all need a little more happiness? Doesn't our country and the world need a little more happiness?

It is not a common word; some spell-checking software doesn't even know it exists. To be honest, I'm not even sure how to use it.

I do know this. I know people who I would consider to be "felicific." They "cause happiness." Some don't even know it. I've thought about calling them on it. When the guy at the fast food place or the lady at the gas station smiles and thanks me, I could say, "Thank you for being so felicific."

They would either pretend to know what it means or ask me. If they

asked, I could explain that it simply means to "cause happiness."

That is a nice compliment.



CRANKS MY TRACTOR
BN Heard

One fellow noted, "Don't worry about using this word (felicific) - it is very obscure. I have never seen it or heard it before, and I think that would be true for almost all native speakers. A couple of related words are more common - felicity, felicitous, felicitate -- but even these are very rarely used in ordinary conversation. As long as you know that they are all related to "happiness," you will understand them about as well as most native speakers do."

One my girls had a baby doll named "Felicity" who made her pretty happy. I never really thought about it that much.

When I studied the word a little more, I got about waist deep into some wordy ideological quicksand.

This fellow named Bentham (1748-1832) came up with something he called "felicific calculus." I'm a math guy, but I just have a real issue with quantifying happiness. I know when I'm really happy, kind of happy or a little happy. I don't need to put a number on it.

It seemed to me that this fellow was all for "everybody being happy" and not doing things to anybody or anything that caused unhappiness. Of course, I'm kind of paraphrasing here. I'm also starting to understand that this word I found may cause more problems than I can handle.

Maybe my new word is kind of like that plastic gizmo that is supposed to squash tomatoes and get rid of the peel and seeds.

I just know this. I can "use" a yoyo. It makes me happy. I have trouble getting messages off of my cell phone sometimes - that gets me a little frustrated.

If we only did what made us happy, some things would never get done. We would be in a fix depending on others to do things for us (assuming we could find folks who were happy to do all of the things that made them happy and do everything for us also).

This explains why I'm not so good at crossword puzzles, but I do have a lot of folks around me who make me happy.

Read more stories at www.CranksMyTractor.com.

That gate can swing both ways

Listen, if life was fair Brussel sprouts would taste like a Snickers bar. Rain would fall only at night. The guy in the lane in front of you would never need a price check. Kidney stones would dissipate before they got stuck. And we'd all been born rich.

I've been hearing this discussion since way before the Pope became a Catholic. They used to kick it around right regularly in the front room up at Bill Argo's Gulf Station. Mostly it dealt with hog prices and weather. The former were perennially low and the latter was always too wet, too cold, too dry or too unpredictable. Some declared it fate. A few figured luck played a hand. One or two cursed it. Most shook their heads and accepted it as just a part of being here.

The unfairness of life has touched us all. In the early spring of 1958 I proudly shoved my hard earned quarter through the ticket window out front of the Park Theatre. I waited impatiently for my change. The lady that Mr. Clericuzio had hired to handle the money pointed to a freshly painted sign advertising the increased admission price of twenty-five cents. You've got to be kidding me! It had been fifteen cents all my life! I needed a dime back for the popcorn and drink. Where was "right, justice and the American way" here?

I was going to have to enjoy "Old Yeller" on an empty stomach. I got as close as I could to the front and settled in. I don't remember the cartoon, the newsreel or any of the coming attractions. But I knew something was dreadfully wrong right after that lion roared and the Eiffel Tower flashed across the

screen. Old Yeller wasn't a city dog! This picture show was about some skinny necked girl name "Gigi" looking for the right man. Every time she got remotely close to finding him, someone would break out with a song! Half of it was in French!



HUNKER DOWN
Kelsey Colbert

You talk about unfair! I was out a whole quarter. I didn't get nothing to eat. Someone had lied to me about what picture show was playing. And I don't know to this day how Old Yeller died.

Nobody has to tell me about the twist and turns of life.

But there is another side, some think possibly providentially provided, to this bouncing coin. Me and Leon were playing "pitch" in the back yard. We were backing up and throwing an old baseball further and higher with each toss. Daddy warned us about the car. We were more intent on the roar from the Yankee Stadium crowd. I was almost under the black walnut tree in the Boaz's yard when I let go with a mighty heave. It was errant from the get-go. And I couldn't pull it back! Leon raced over to the driver's side of the car but I'm not sure Willie Mays would have had a chance.

That ball crashed into the front windshield of our faithful '51 Chevrolet with a glass shattering bang that reverberates to this day. My heart skipped ten beats. And then stopped completely when I realized Daddy was standing on the back porch! He had witnessed the whole thing. He bolted down the steps, grabbed Leon up, and whipped him "for a while". He never said a word or laid a hand on me.

I reckon life was not good

for Leon that day. But it let me off scot-free. You see, sometimes life can be unfair IN YOUR FAVOR!

People have had trouble pronouncing my name since I've been old enough to remember. It has been misspoken, mutilated and tangled by teachers on the first day of school, by college professors, by store clerks, candle stick makers and by friend and foe alike. It was a great source of embarrassment, most especially when I was in those self conscious early teenage years. I was sixteen when I met Mary Hadley Hayden. You should have heard how "Kesley" rolled off those beautiful lips. She could make it sing!

I've been kinda proud of that special name ever since. A lot of this fairness business deals from the angle you're viewing it.

I married my first wife for two reasons. She was even better looking than Mary Hadley and I thought she had money. It turned out she was poorer than I was! And let me tell you, that was a feat in itself! Before I could kick myself for getting into this deal under false pretenses, she loved me and cared for me and gave me children, respected me, put my concerns above hers on a daily basis, took care of our household, washed and cleaned up after me with a light heart and smile on her face ... and she is one person on earth who is completely void of any guile. She has given so much more to this relationship than I have.

That is why my first wife is still my first wife. I've known lots of guys who married above themselves. But I excelled them all!

I do wonder from time to time if SHE ever thinks life is unfair!

Bemused,
Kes

On the subject of legalizing marijuana

By LOREN SIPRELL
Special to The Star

I've been thinking about marijuana ... legalization, that is. I would imagine most readers have seen all the headlines from the President's recent interview with the New Yorker in which his views on marijuana "evolved"; I wouldn't personally use that term, instead I would say he is in a much more comfortable place politically to tell us how he really feels about certain things.

Not surprisingly I have no qualms about the legalization of marijuana, to echo the President I believe its impact on the individual user is less harmful than alcohol, and this estimation isn't coming from some Ivy League liberal who smoked some dope in college. My history with drugs is, admittedly, vast and sordid; as of this year I've had roughly two years "clean and sober", hold the applause.

Would it shock you to read that I don't actually remember the first time I smoked weed. (note: we will be referring to marijuana in its various slang forms from here on out) I realize it's incredibly cliché to be a forgetful pot user but I was indeed that guy. Unlike many users I've spoken to, my introduction to drugs didn't coincide with high school. I didn't hang in cliques that drank, or smoked weed but on occasion we would end

up at parties where joints were being passed and I always shied away. In my teens I didn't see the point quite honestly, I was a relatively happy kid who didn't feel the need to get messed up and everything was already pretty damn funny sober.

Though I forget the initial toke I know it was taken sometime in 2002, at the age of 20. That same year I found myself experiencing with ecstasy, cocaine, and what would ultimately lead to my downward spiral into addiction, pills; I, of course, topped all that off with copious amounts of alcohol.

Now my history would lead some people to the conclusion that weed led the charge on my own personal "million little pieces", and maybe rightly so but it could easily be argued, as many addiction specialist do, that I was well on my way before I took that first hit of that dreaded leaf. I won't get into the science of addiction here but suffice it say, Mary Jane wasn't the catalyst. In fact, I never really cared for weed; it made what was already a neurotic, overly self-conscious weirdo like me into an even more neurotic, self-conscious weirdo. I only smoked dope because, at the time, I hadn't been introduced to the "good stuff" yet.

Which brings me to this point: Because marijuana is illegal it was dealt with by the kinda folks who deal in, well, other illegal stuff, e.g.

cocaine, ecstasy, lortabs, the list goes on. It could be argued that weed is simply a gateway drug because the legality forces it into the black market where the user is introduced to harder, more illicit and dangerous drugs. Would I have ever tried cocaine had my pot dealer not offered? I don't know, but it's a valid question nonetheless.

Arguing that the legalization of marijuana is a slippery slope is the same lifeless argument as allowing "gay" marriage, or as we secularist call it marriage, will someone open the flood gates to people marrying goats ... or whatever. To make this assessment is to miss the bigger picture, and take it from someone who spent 10 years in the trenches; America has a much bigger drug problem on their hands than some black youth slinging dime bags to the yuppie, collar popping white kids. According to some estimates America spends roughly \$20 billion a year on "fighting" marijuana, meanwhile pill mills flourish down south, methadone clinics have lines half way around the block, crystal meth is ravaging the country yet countless numbers of harmless potheads are clogging the prison system.

Keeping marijuana illegal doesn't hinder drug use, just like denying contraceptives will not curb premarital sex and no more than stripping away food stamps or unemployment

motivates someone to find a job that isn't there. Has alcohol prohibition taught us nothing? Has no one drawn the parallel between Chicago gang violence of the 1920s and Chicago gang violence now?

Let me make this clear, I am not advocating some Ron Paul stance on drugs; I'm simply saying, let's focus our attention where it needs to be. Cocaine, crack-cocaine, heroin, crystal meth, these drugs are dangerous and will rip society apart; marijuana ... let's be real, not so much.

Marijuana, like all things, can become addictive in the broadest sense of the term, in that it ranks higher on the priority scale than it should. At my core I know I'm a libertarian with the bleeding-heart of a liberal; so I feel that empathetic need to shake my finger at people and tell them, "No, that's bad for you!" but at the same time, I know that isn't my place. Individual rights, when not used to deny other's their rights, should always be the priority; everyone should have a chance to create their own moral compass through their own trials and tribulations, and if selling a quarter sack behind the counter next to a pack of cigarettes will help stretch the idea of liberty in the beautiful experiment that is America then so be it.

Loren Siprell is a resident of Port St. Joe.

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are going to look at the five locations to provide a methodology for fixing the other areas. We need to get a cross section of what is going on.

"I know there are problems there, big problems." Preble Rish has agreed to provide dollars for materials needed to fix all areas of the pipe and to come back to the county with a final report on the best method for addressing the problems.

Left unresolved is who picks up the tab for fixing the remainder of the project.

That led to some tense exchanges.

Rish said he believed the issue was less about Preble Rish and more about him.

"This is a Ralph Rish issue for four or five people in this county," he told the board, adding that Bryan was "carrying the water" for those individuals.

He said his company had a limited inspection responsibility for the project, reflected in the reduced costs for engineering and inspection service offered on the project.

Rish also noted that while Preble Rish had been subject to the ongoing BOCC discussions pertaining to Americus Ditch, there had been little talk about the contractor on the job.

Bryan disagreed with several points, particularly about the responsibility of the county's engineer for the project.

"Preble Rish was responsible for the engineering and inspection of the project," Bryan said, adding that no language in the contract indicates the responsibility for inspections was "limited." "They represented the county. Every taxpayer in the

Preble Rish has agreed to provide dollars for materials needed to fix all areas of the pipe and to come back to the county with a final report on the best method for addressing the problems. Left unresolved is who picks up the tab for fixing the remainder of the project.

county is footing the bill for this project."

Bryan attempted to continue the discussion but was ruled out of order by Commission Chairman Ward McDaniel.

Before relinquishing the floor, she noted she had still not received answers to a series of questions about the project which had been placed in the public information packet months back only to be pulled by vote of the full board.

Commissioners Tan Smiley and Carmen McLemore said they were ready to move ahead with the MOU, McLemore adding that it would not be a surprise if Preble Rish pulled its offer.

"He is under no obligation," McDaniel said of Rish. "He's offered to assist the county. He doesn't have to do anything."

Resident Tom Graney said the fixes of the pipe were only part of the solution to the "fiasco" that Americus Ditch has come to represent for many.

While expressing appreciation to Preble Rish, while asserting its responsibility to assist, and praising the MOU as an excellent plan moving forward, Graney said commissioners had yet to address systemic problems with the county process for bidding and awarding contracts.

Saying the contractor was unqualified from the outset — the contractor allegedly lacked required documents and bonding and has since gone out of business — he said commissioners could not deflect responsibility because it was a previous board that made the decisions.

"Taxpayers are paying for this," Graney said. "Your bid policy violated Florida law. No one is talking about who is responsible for this. I want somebody held responsible for the bid process, for this fiasco. As a taxpayer, you are obligated to do that."

"This was poor work by the county commission and by county staff. That comes back to you. The commission has to hold somebody accountable for this project that was screwed up from the beginning."

McLemore, the lone commissioner on the board at the time the project was awarded, noted he opposed the project, saying it was a "bad project" and "would never work."

Economic development

On two fronts, commissioners received positive news on economic development.

Tourism Development Council Executive Director

Jennifer Jenkins said during a recent trip to New York she spoke with officials of a boutique cruise line about dockage in Port St. Joe.

The company, Travel Dynamics, had been interested in stopping in Port St. Joe for cultural/arts themed cruises, but found the conditions along Jetty Park and the so-called "low docks" — which fall in the city of Port St. Joe but are also part of the Port of Port St. Joe master plan — lacking as well as an absence of activities for cruise-goers.

Jenkins said she pitched the concept of an eco-excursion and the company agreed to target April 2015 to arrive in Port St. Joe on a trip out of New Orleans and stopping at other north Gulf locations.

"I told them we are committed to this," Jenkins said, adding there was work to do — determining dockage rates, improvements to the low docks, etc. — but that she hoped to be in line to begin marketing the cruises this April.

She said the company was also looking at other cruise stops in the future.

The BOCC also heard from Alex Mouton of M3 Services, which is looking to establish a base of operations in Gulf County, creating as many as 100 jobs over the first three years.

Mouton is close to lining up financing, the last hurdle for M3, which has been in talks with the Gulf County Economic Development Alliance and Port of Port St. Joe for over a year.

The company would work in government defense industries, specifically aerospace, Mouton said.

PORT from page A1

at similar scenarios at other ports.

Specifically, it focused on the economic impacts of a \$25 million dredging project combined with \$5 million in state-funded improvements to the Genesee-Wyoming rail line; the impacts from the cargo loads shipped through the port from Green Circle and Enova; and additional indirect impacts of new port operations and rail employment to haul the wood pellets.

The team examined operations and financial impacts at ports such as Panama City, Canaveral, Jacksonville, Olympia, Wash., all the ports of Georgia, Everglades, Wilmington, Del., as well as averages for all ports in the U.S.

Researchers quantified the impacts per 1,000 shipping ton; examining direct jobs generated, total jobs, user jobs as well as tax revenue and cargo loads.

Direct jobs, Lewis explained, are those jobs dependent on an operational port and which would relocate if the port was not operational.

User jobs are those created by factory operations tied to shipping through an operational port, such as at Green Circle and Enova.

According to the study, the port dredging would create 319 construction jobs — short-term employment — as soon as 2015, with 707 permanent jobs in place each year of the ensuing decade.

The labor income over that decade would top \$216 million with total economic impacts, local, regional and statewide, of over \$552 million.

"The impacts in year one are less than the impacts over 10 years," Lewis said. "That is the meat of where this happens. You get a lot more of your impacts in the out years."

Combined with the railway investment and factory (user) jobs, the numbers grow exponentially.

The total impacts of rail and port expansion, the increase in factory activity, all of it sustained over 10 years, would equate to 803 jobs, \$334 million in wages/payroll, \$491 million in gross domestic product and a total economic impact of \$940.5 million.

"I did not expect going into this to see the

numbers play out so positively," Lewis said.

Eugene Raffield noted the port's case is also bolstered by the fact that just 40 percent of the shipping channel will have to be dredged, meaning a project of lesser scope than is typical, and that there has already been over the past decade considerable investment in infrastructure at the port.

"That only makes the story that much stronger," Lewis agreed. "You should capitalize on investments already made."

And, Lewis noted, the ROI only quantifies the impacts of just two identified potential clients.

Those two companies, however, are not the only parties showing interest in the port, just the two that have formally signed agreements.

The Holland M. Ware Charitable Foundation has offered a letter of interest to ship aggregate and sand through the port, which would effectively double the volume estimated from Green Circle Energy and Enova.

In addition, the Port Authority has seen a recent uptick in inquiries, with at least two potential clients to visit in the next few weeks, said Board Chairman Leonard Costin.

"You have a great case even with the worst case," Lewis said.

The key, Costin said, is making that case successfully to the Florida Legislature and Gov. Rick Scott, who has repeatedly told port officials that state investment hinges in large measure on a return.

Costin said the report showed the return was potentially game-changing.

"I am really encouraged," he said. "We are moving in the right direction I think. We need to get this (study) to the powers that be. This is a very important step. This is one of the first hoops we have to jump through."

The dredge permit application work continues apace of the original timetable, Costin said.

The goal is to have the application submitted by March with a permit hopefully in Port Authority hands by early summer. The hope is that state funding will be put in place for the coming fiscal year leading to dredging by the end of 2014 or early 2015.

PILOT from page A1

your chance to tell your story."

All work under the grant must be completed by the end of the fiscal year June 30 with a community case study the final document to be produced.

The key, Dennis said, was more than just putting an action plan for economic development on paper. Those actions plans must result in action.

"This all leads to the development of an action plan," Dennis said. "Getting things on paper helps us get organized, but we are more interested in the actual doing of things than putting things on paper."

To craft that plan, a major step is an inventory of community assets.

Those assets can be organizations, natural resources, individuals, historical, cultural or infrastructure, for examples.

By assessing a community's strengths and crafting plans to tap those assets, organic and achievable

economic goals can emerge, according to Competitive Florida's mission statement.

"Are we putting our best foot forward in promoting those assets to the outside world?" asked Port St. Joe City Manager Jim Anderson.

A significant aspect of the pilot project is the sharing of information.

Economic development and elected officials from the four communities will meet as a final part of the process, sharing experiences.

That begins what the DEO hopes will be a long-term project to create a kind of central clearinghouse for economic development efforts around the state, leading to a template of sorts for communities to enhance their competitiveness.

The disparate spots on the spectrum occupied by communities, Dennis said, were apparent during the introductory meetings with

local officials at the four participating communities.

Whereas the city of Port St. Joe can offer written strategic documents from the Port of Port St. Joe, Gulf Coast State College and the Gulf County Economic Development Alliance Inc. as well as a comp plan element pertaining to economic development, Dennis said other communities have nothing on paper and no real organized plans.

The city of Port St. Joe applied to be included in the pilot program, modeled after a similar program in Mississippi, while drafting the economic development

element to the city's comprehensive plan.

The comp plan effort served as a sort of introductory to the community for the DEO, which continued that introduction process last week.

In addition to a tour of the community, local and DEO staff worked on a scope of work for the pilot project and a timeline, with dollars attached to deliverables at each step, and local stakeholders needed to provide input and help craft the final case study.

A final scope of work is to be submitted to the DEO before the end of the week.

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

Send your letters to :

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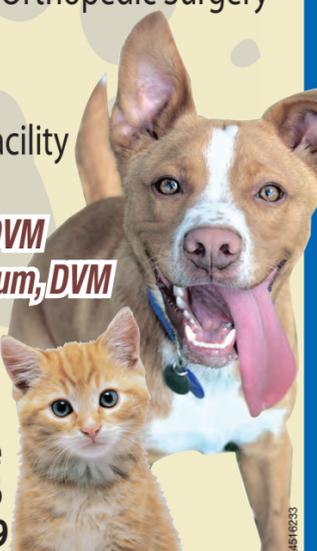
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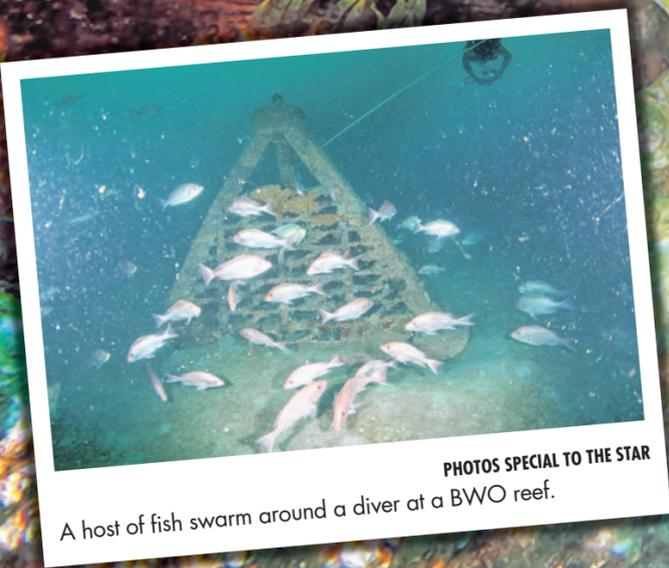
UPCOMING EVENTS



Duren builds fifth artificial reef



A diver inspects a BWO reef.



A host of fish swarm around a diver at a BWO reef.

Special to The Star

George Duren, owner of Blue Water Outrigger and Piggly Wiggly in Port St. Joe, recently worked with the Mexico Beach Artificial Reef Association to build his fifth artificial reef in the Gulf of Mexico.

Mr. Duren has been a longtime supporter of the MBARA and has built reefs for the past five years. The reefs are named BWO for the Blue Water Outrigger Store in Port St. Joe that was originally started in the Piggly Wiggly shopping center back in 2005. The store caters to persons who love the outdoors and enjoy fishing and hunting. Mr. Duren moved to Port St. Joe when he was two years old where he went to school after which he went to FSU. He then joined the US Army and served a tour in Vietnam. After serving his country he began to work in the grocery business.

Three artificial reefs are out in the LAARS B Site about 24 miles off shore, one is in the Tower Site out by the old Air Force Tower around 5 miles off shore, and the other one is in the South Site out around 24 miles

offshore. The reefs use Reef Maker concrete pyramids with limestone inserts, Ecosystems for smaller fish, and Grouper Reefs built to simulate a cave.

Bob Cox, President of the MBARA, said, "We are so thankful for all that Mr. Duren has done over the past 17 years to build marine habitat to enhance diving and fishing off of Port St. Joe and Mexico Beach. What he has built has greatly enhanced the red snapper and grouper fishery for recreational anglers in our area."

Ron Childs, Director of the MBARA Kingfish Tournament, said, "Mr. Duren does a lot for the community in so many ways, and this is just one of his contributions to the local area."

Childs added, "I go in to the Piggly Wiggly grocery store and look up on the wall at the names of over 100 local organizations he supports, and we are just thankful that he has chosen to support our effort to build artificial reefs for our fishermen and divers. We have been very successful because of people like Mr. Duren."

All of the BWO sites are listed on the MBARA website (www.mbara.org) with the GPS numbers in latitude and longitude for all persons to access.

WEEKLY ALMANAC

Date	High	Low	% Precip
Thu, Jan. 30	47°	28°	0 %
Fri, Jan. 31	54°	47°	0 %
Sat, Feb. 1	60°	52°	0 %
Sun, Feb. 2	62°	54°	10 %
Mon, Feb. 3	65°	43°	- %
Tues, Feb. 4	65°	43°	- %
Wed, Feb. 5	65°	43°	- %

TIDE TABLES MONTHLY AVERAGES

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

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

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

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

ST. JOSEPH BAY

Date	Day	High Tide	High Tide	Low Tide	Low Tide				
30	Th	9:39pm	1.2	6:36am	-0.8				
31	Fr	10:38pm	1.1	7:15am	-0.6				
1	Sa	11:38pm	0.8	7:44am	-0.3				
2	Su			7:50am	-0.1				
3	Mo	12:40am	0.6	1:58pm	0.3	7:36pm	0.1		
4	Tu	1:56am	0.2	2:05pm	0.6	5:52am	0.1	11:04pm	0.0
5	We	2:37pm	0.8						
6	Th	3:20pm	0.9			12:22am	-0.2		
7	Fr	4:08pm	1.0			2:24am	-0.4		
8	Sa	4:58pm	1.1			3:11am	-0.4		

APALACHICOLA BAY, WEST PASS

Date	Day	High Tide	High Tide	Low Tide	Low Tide				
30	Th	12:7am	1.2	4:36pm	1.0	9:40am	-0.7	9:12pm	0.7
31	Fr	2:29am	1.2	4:58pm	1.0	10:20am	-0.6	10:00pm	0.5
1	We	12:3am	1.3	5:17pm	1.0	9:53am	-0.8	9:17pm	0.9
2	Th	2:18am	1.3	5:47pm	1.0	10:36am	-0.7	10:08pm	0.8
3	Fr	3:15am	1.3	6:15pm	1.0	11:17am	-0.6	11:01pm	0.7
4	Sa	4:13am	1.2	6:41pm	1.0	11:56am	-0.4	11:59pm	0.5
5	Su	5:14am	1.0	7:07pm	1.0	12:34pm	-0.2		
6	Mo	6:21am	0.9	7:34pm	1.0	1:04am	0.4	1:10pm	0.0
7	Tu	7:39am	0.8	8:05pm	1.0	2:18am	0.3	1:45pm	0.2
8	We	9:18am	0.6	8:39pm	1.0	3:38am	0.1	2:22pm	0.4

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Species numbers up for Christmas Bird Count

By Lois Swoboda
Halifax Media Group

A total of 130 species were spotted during this year's Christmas Bird Count (CBC).

"Not bad for a rainy day," said organizer Donna Wells.

On Dec. 26, volunteers spotted 10,200 individual birds representing 130 species.

The bald eagle population continues to flourish. This year 23 were seen.

Rod Gasche wrote this stirring description of a bald eagle encounter, "We headed back to the West Pass to reenter the bay on the eastern shoreline of St. Vincent near what is known as dry bar. It is one of the main oyster bars in the winter harvesting area for the bay. As we crossed the pass, one of the members shouted, 'Look at the eagles!'"

"Here we saw eventually six flying with soaring seabirds and swooping down to the water. The water was filled with cormorants and a pod of porpoises that were feeding on a baitfish ball! That activity was causing the baitfish to come to the top of the water and the eagles were swooping down and catching fish from the waters! We watched enthralled for a while as none of us had ever expected see something like this! Only one of them was an adult eagle, the rest were immature



ROD GASCHE | Special to The Star

Even this majestic bald eagle looked wet and bedraggled on the day of the Christmas Bird Count.

birds - but learning their craft!"

The most commonly observed bird was the American robin with 1,622 individuals counted.

Migratory robins were observed in every region of the county.

According to the Audubon website, the CBC helps inform conservationists about local trends in bird populations and plan strategies to protect birds and their habitat.

The Environmental Protection Agency included Audubon's climate change work from CBC data as one of 26 indicators of climate change in their 2012 report.

more about how birds are doing. Last year, participants turned in more than 104,285 checklists online, creating the continent's largest instantaneous snapshot of bird populations ever recorded. Watchers reported observing 623 species and 17,382,831 individual birds.

Anyone can take part in the GBBC, from novice bird watchers to experts. Participants count birds for 15 minutes or more on one or more days of the event and report their sightings online at www.birdcount.org.

On the web site, participants can explore real-time maps and charts that show what others are reporting during the count.

The site has tips to help identify birds and special materials for educators.

Participants may also enter the GBBC photo contest by uploading images taken during the count.

Many images will be featured in the GBBC website's photo gallery.

All participants are entered in a drawing for prizes that include bird feeders, binoculars, books, CDs, and many other great birding products.

For more information about the GBBC, visit www.birdcount.org or contact the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at (800) 843-2473.

FISH REPORT SPONSORED BY



Inshore/Bay

Local area lakes, rivers, and streams will all be affected by this week's onset of cold, near freezing water. Our best bet is going to be crappie fishing the deeper holes on the Big River and into the larger lakes.

Trout fishing should be decent in deeper holes in the ICW canal, but live shrimp will be hard to find, so go for a grub and jig!



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10th Halifax All-Star Classic set for April 5

By BRAD MILNER
Special to The Star



PANAMA CITY — The Halifax All-Star Classic will celebrate a decade of prep basketball excellence on April 5.

The 10th annual event returns to Gulf Coast State College's Billy Harrison Field House for the games pitting some of the best senior talent in the Panhandle. The girls game begins at 11 a.m. on the first Saturday in April followed by the boys at 1 p.m., continuing a series featuring some highly competitive basketball games.

Halifax Media Group and two of its Florida daily newspapers, The Panama City News Herald and the Northwest Florida Daily News, again are lead sponsors along with GCSC. Additional sponsorship is provided by the Panama City Beach Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The East teams are selected by the sports department at The News Herald, the publication stationed in Panama City that covers eight counties of Bay, Calhoun, Franklin, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty and Washington. The East boys team has won three consecutive meetings and leads the overall series 6-3.

The West teams are chosen by the sports department at the Northwest Florida Daily News, which is headquartered in Fort Walton Beach and covers Okaloosa, Santa Rosa and Walton counties. The West

girls lead 7-2 with a series-high streak of four straight wins from 2008 to 2011.

The Halifax Classic features some area athletes who have decided on college destinations as high as the Division I level. The event also gives additional players a final opportunity to be seen by regional scouts at junior colleges and smaller universities. It's not uncommon for athletes to be offered scholarships after the Halifax Classic.

The games are played under collegiate rules to help the athletes prepare for the next step in their

careers. The differences include 20-minute halves, which extend the games eight minutes longer than traditional four-quarter prep encounters to place increased emphasis on stamina and deeper rosters. Other rules variations include extended 3-point lines and a shot clock.

Player nominations are being accepted. Area coaches in the East coverage area are asked to send player name, position, height, statistics and other pertinent information to Brad Milner at The News Herald via email at bmilner@pcnh.com or by calling 747-5065.

The first round of selections will be announced in the coming weeks, and the complete 12-player rosters for the four teams will be released in early March.

Any individual or business with a desire to sponsor the event may contact Milner, News Herald writer Jason Shoot (jshoot@pcnh.com, 747-5067) or Executive Sports Editor Pat McCann (pmccann@pcnh.com, 747-5068). The event accepts any and all levels of sponsorships, from monetary support to in-kind donations.

County sports focus for new magazine

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

Jeremy Dixon grew up on a steady diet of sports.

His high school years in Port St. Joe (Class of 1998) were spent on the baseball diamond and basketball hardwood.

And, so, Dixon recently arrived on an idea to celebrate all things athletic in Gulf County — a new magazine.

Dixon's "Sidelines" premiered early this month, a full-color slick periodical to be published six times a year and focused on what happens on and off the field among the county's athletes, from youth leagues to an alumni section for former high school athletes.

"The magazine is hitting on two things," Dixon said. "What is happening on the field and what is going on outside the field."

The magazine, which carries a newsstand price of \$2, is available at several local outlets. Dixon plans to have web presence and mobile app in the coming months, aiming in part at parents of athletes.

Dixon played baseball and basketball as a teenager and matriculated to Carson-Newman College before transferring to Florida State University.

Having studied economics at FSU and with a sales background, Dixon said, "He hit the ground running" in promoting his magazine.

"The county has such a rich history



of sports," Dixon said. "I grew up playing sports. The first thought I had about the magazine was pictures."

Dixon wanted to provide a format for "full-colored, vibrant" pictures that "athletes would want to keep."

Those photos, he added, would also attract parents seeking to secure memories of their child's exploits on the fields of play.

"I wanted something that puts athletes on the front cover," Dixon said.

The magazine will profile players and teams competing in county athletics and will also include a section celebrating those athletes who have advanced beyond high school and became standouts in college or even the professional ranks.

"Putting it all together, making it concise, that will be the learning curve," Dixon said. "As with anything new it will take time. But a year from now I'd like it to be something that readers look forward to it and for it to have enough notoriety that people want to be in it."

PSJHS Tiger Sharks prepare for baseball season

Star Staff Report

The Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High School baseball program began practice for the upcoming season on Jan. 15.

Port St. Joe is joined in District 4-1A by Bozeman, Liberty County, South Walton, Franklin County and West Gadsden.

In addition to 10 district games, the Tiger Sharks will also play games against teams from Mississippi, Tennessee and Alabama.

The season begins Feb. 6 when the Tiger Sharks host Liberty County and Wewahitchka.

Liberty County and Wewahitchka will play the opening game of the day at 3 p.m. ET followed at 5:30 p.m. ET by Liberty County versus Port St. Joe.

The Tiger Sharks face Wewahitchka at 8 p.m.

All ticket prices during the regular season at \$5 as set by the Florida High School Athletics Association.

The Tiger Sharks are

currently selling banners to be hung on the home field fences and are also raising money for the annual 100 inning game.

The 100 inning game is at 9:30 a.m. until noon ET on Saturday.

The Alumni Game is at 2 p.m. ET on Saturday.

Anyone interested in participating in the Alumni Game should call Bobby Nobles at 527-3707. The game will be played at Centennial Field. The concession stand will be open Saturday.

PSJ SOCCER

PSJ boys' soccer season ends

Star Staff Report

The end arrived quickly this year for the Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High School boys' soccer team.

Breaking a streak of four straight playoff appearances, the Tiger Sharks allowed a goal in the opening minute and went on to lose 4-1 to District 1-1A second-seeded and tournament host Tallahassee Maclay in the district semifinals.

The loss ends Port St. Joe's season. The Tiger Sharks finished 6-9-1.

Maclay faced top-seeded Mayo Lafayette in the title game.

Maclay put a goal up with just 59 seconds gone in the game and went on to outshoot the Tiger Sharks by a 25-6 margin.

Maclay added a goal in the 32nd minute to go into halftime up 2-0.

The Tiger whittled the lead when Marcel Duarte scored, on assists by Drew and Jacob Lacour, in the 50th minute.

It was only the third goal of an injury-plagued season for Duarte, who came into the season just 12 goals shy of the school career leader, JMason Ray, who had 72 goals from 2008-2011.

Tyler Alford was in goal

for Port St. Joe and made 12 saves while allowing all four Maclay goals.

PSJ girls fall in soccer playoffs

Star Staff Report

Running into the defending state champions proved a bad draw for the Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High School girls' soccer team last Thursday.

The Lady Tiger Sharks opened the Region 1-1A playoff at Orange Park and a matchup with St. John's Country Day, which won the state title last year.

Country Day made short work of Port St. Joe, winning 8-0.

The Lady Tiger Sharks finish 9-5-3.

"St. John's was the most complete high school level team that I have seen in my five years here," said Port St. Joe coach Gary Hindley. "It was easy to see why they are the reigning state champions and why they have won five overall state championships. Their technical ability was fantastic and it allowed them to play at a speed that you rarely see at the high school level."

"It was a great experience for our girls and gave them the vision of where a high level program operates and plays at."

St. John's scored in the

second minute of play and added goals at the 29th and 31st minutes to take a 3-0 first half lead.

In the second half, the offensive barrage continued with goals in the 43rd, 59th, 64th, 69th and 72nd minutes.

Port St. Joe was outshot 33-2.

Starting goalkeeper Celeste Chiles, an eighth-grader, recorded 13 saves on the night (a season high).

"Celeste actually played quite well to keep the score at eight," Hindley said. "She was especially solid in the second half, in spite of the goals allowed."

"It was quite an experience for our girls to compete against such a high quality squad. Our program will be better in the future for the experience. St. John's has a great chance to repeat as state champions and with only two seniors they should be strong for years to come."

Hindley went on to praise the Lady Tiger Sharks.

"In spite of the regional loss, the coaching staff is very proud of this group and how they progressed during the year," Hindley said. "We had great success within our district (3-1-2 and runners-up in the district tournament) and had a nine-game unbeaten streak during the middle portion of the schedule."

Dentist with a heart

Special to The Star

Dr. Frank D. May, of Port St. Joe, has a unique Valentine's Day present for the needy of this area. For the last 13 years, Dr. May has provided free dental treatment for Valentine's Day at his office. This year, his office will provide this valuable service on Wednesday, Feb. 19.

This year the office will schedule appointments with those in need of treatment. To schedule an appointment you will need to send or bring by a letter to Dr. May's office giving a brief description of your dental needs, and please describe your situation that makes you a good candidate for this benefit. Send the letter to Dr. May's office at 319 Williams Ave., Port St. Joe, FL 32456. Please no phone calls. Be sure to include your telephone number so we can contact

you to schedule an appointment.

Dr. May will see 20 patients in need of dental treatment, and the hygienists Anealia Bush and Linda Wright will see eight to 10 patients each who wish to have their teeth cleaned. The office hopes to serve as many as 40 patients. Patients must be at least 12 years of age, and accompanied by a parent or guardian if under the age of 18. Treatments provided will include cleaning, x-rays, fillings, extractions, diagnostics, and pain control. Dr. May and his staff participate in "Dentist With a Heart because they wish to impact people who otherwise could not afford to see a dentist, and help those people save their teeth, as well as relieve them of any discomfort they may be having. Our office cares about this community and would like to give those in need of our services, their smiles back!

HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CLARENCE MONETTE

The St. Joseph Historical Society, first organized in 1959, held its annual meeting last week during a dinner at Sunset Coastal Grill. President Charlotte Pierce summarized the past year as one marked by less business and more preparation for the future as the Society works on the relocation of the Cape San Blas Lighthouse. The organization has focused on saving the historic lighthouse for well over a decade. Officers for 2014 are Pierce, president; Lynda Bordelon is vice president; Linda Wood is the recording secretary; treasurer is Pauline Pendarvis; and Paula Boone is the parliamentarian. They were sworn by Clerk of Courts Becky Norris. The guest speaker was Joseph S. Cocking, president of Lighthouse Lamp Shop, Inc. of Fleming Island, FL. Cocking and his team removed the lens from the Cape San Blas Lighthouse last week. (see related article, **Page B1**).



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Dana Whaley ARNP-C



Eugene Charbonneau DO

4516242

THE DAIHANDLE PLAYERS PRESENT

The Kitchen Witches

Written by Caroline Smith
Directed by Ann Cowles

February 7th, 8th, and 9th

7th and 8th Performance at 7:30 pm
9th Performance at 3:00 pm
at the First United Methodist Church,
Port St. Joe Desert Theater \$20

February 14th, 15th, and 16th

14th and 15th Performance at 7:30 pm
16th Performance at 3:00 pm
at the St. George Island Firehouse
Ticket Price \$ 15



4516272

Tickets may be purchased at Downtown Books in Apalachicola, The Butler Agency in Eastpoint, Carrabelle Junction, No Name Cafe Books & More in Port St. Joe, and Caribbean Coffee in Mexico Beach.

Produced in Special Arrangement with Samuel French, Inc

This event is funded in part by the Franklin County Tourist Development Council



PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION DEADLINE FOR 2014

Dear Gulf County Citizens,

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage new homeowners, or those of you who have never filed for Homestead Exemption, to do so on or before March 3, 2014. In order to receive this exemption you must be a Florida resident and provide proof of ownership and physically occupy your home on or before January 1, 2014.

Please be advised that the Homestead Exemption does NOT transfer from the previous owner to the new owner.

The Homestead Exemption provides up to a \$50,000 reduction in the assessed value of your home. In addition, the Homestead Exemption limits the increase of the assessed value in year two not to exceed 3% per year or the value of the Consumer Price Index for the previous December, whichever is less. In order to receive this exemption one must have supporting documents of residency, i.e. driver's license, vehicle registration(s), Florida voter's registration number(s), proof of local utility payments at said address, social security number(s), date of birth(s), name and address of current employer if employed, bank statement and checking account address, and if property is in a trust then a copy of trust is needed. You may also review the requirements on our website at www.gulfpa.com.

This is also the time to apply for other exemptions for which you may qualify:

- Senior Exemption (household income could not exceed \$27,994 for 2013),
- Senior's Long-Term Residency Exemption: This allows an exemption equal to the assessed value of the homestead property when the just value is less than \$250,000. The owner is required to be 65 years of age or older and maintain a permanent residence on the property for a minimum of 25 years. (household income could not exceed \$27,994 for 2013). *Please note: The Board of County Commissioners or Municipality governing authority must vote to approve by adoption of ordinance no later than December 1 of the year prior to the year the exemption will take effect. This exemption does not include School Board or North West Florida Water Management District taxes.*
- Widows or Widowers Exemption
- Veteran's Disability: Veteran's Percentage Exemption; Deployed Military Exemption
- Civilian Disability/Blind Exemptions
- Total and Permanent Disability, non-service connected (household income could not exceed \$27,994 for 2013).
- Total and Permanent Veteran's Disability
- Agricultural Exemptions

We also encourage business owners to file their Tangible Personal Property Tax return by April 1st. Businesses with \$25,000 or less of personal property are exempt by statute from personal property, BUT, they MUST file a return in order to receive the exemption.

If you should have any questions, please call or visit our website at gulfpa.com.

Sincerely,

Mitch Burke, CFA
Gulf County Property Appraiser

4516272

Mexico Beach Gumbo Cook-off and Art Walk

Star Staff Report

Are you ready to cook the rice, peel the shrimp, stew the veggies and bask in the aroma of roux?

If so, then tie on that apron and enter to be one of the 30 chefs competing for the title of Gumbo King in the 16th Annual Mexico Beach Gumbo Cook-Off!

The event takes place at Sunset Park on Feb. 15, beginning at 10 a.m. and lasting until all the gumbo and Brunswick stew runs out. This event is free to enter and tickets will be available for purchase to sample

the competing gumbos and Brunswick stews.

Also available will be barbecue sandwiches, hot dogs and drinks, as well as live music and free Mardi Gras beads.

"This event is one of the highlights for Mexico Beach," said Kimberly Shoaf, president of the Mexico Beach Community Development Council. "We draw in record-breaking crowds every year."

"The Gumbo Cook-Off allows families to come spend the day at the beach with live music and all the gumbo you can eat."

Awards will be given in both amateur and restaurant categories for gumbo and an overall category for Brunswick stew. Judges will be looking at entries for the best overall taste and presentation.

Applications for the cook-off are available online at www.MexicoBeach.com/Pages/News-Events/Calendar-of-Events and are due no later than Feb. 7. The competition is free to enter.

All proceeds raised at the cook-off will help fund the Special Events for Mexico

See **GUMBO B6**



FILE PHOTO

The 16th annual Mexico Beach Gumbo Cook-off will be held at Sunset Park on Feb. 15.

FRIENDS OF ST. JOSEPH BAY PRESERVES BAY DAY

SATURDAY TOURS AND TRIPS OF THE PRESERVES: 9:30-11 a.m.; 10-11:30 a.m.; 12-1:30 p.m.; 2-3:30 p.m. ET

Enjoy a bird walk on the Deal Tract; a tram riding tour through the backwoods; a Deal Tract adventure; or explore the shore of St. Joseph Bay.

Schedule and information at www.stjosephbaypreserves.org. Call 229-1787 to register. All trips are weather permitting



FILE PHOTO

The Low Country Boil is a highlight of the annual Bay Day in support of the St. Joseph Bay Preserves.

Bay Day promotes preserves

By TIM CROFT

227-7827 | @PSJ_Star
tcroft@starfl.com

From its creation in 2003, the Friends of St. Joseph Bay Preserves has performed to a succinct motto.

"People must be stakeholders in the land," founding members said as a mission statement.

To promote the Preserves, create more stakeholders

and increase membership the Friends will hold Bay Day this Saturday, with tours of the preserve and its natural beauty, music and food.

The first trip begins with a Bird Walk through the Deal Tract on Cape San Blas. Led by Matt Anderson with the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve, the walking tour begins at the Preserve Lodge.

A Low Country Boil will be

held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. ET and the menu includes boiled shrimp, sausage, potatoes, corn on the cob, Cole slaw, garlic bread and beverages.

A \$10 donation is asked per meal.

During last year's February Bay Day 458 plates of shrimp boil were sold, representing a major fundraiser for the Friends.

Other tours include "Deal Tract Adventure" with Kim

Wren, aquatic preserve coordinator, who will feature the history of the land and the importance of the uplands in protecting the quality and natural resources of the bay.

This tour includes a moderate one-mile hike and participants are urged to dress appropriately and bring bug spray and water, as well as proper footwear.

See **BAY DAY B6**

Port Theatre Foundation kicks into high gear

By WES LOCHER
229-7843 | @PSJ_Star
wlocher@starfl.com

After holding its first meeting in December, the Port Theatre Foundation has welcomed its latest member and the board is already solidifying plans for the future.

The founding members, who include Jimbo Collins, Dolores Windolf, Anna Duren and Phillip Croton, have welcomed



TOM GOLDSMITH

Tom Goldsmith to the board of directors.

Goldsmith, Port St. Joe High School Class of 1987, will join the discussions that will ultimately lead to the historic Port Theatre building becoming a central location for movies, live theatre, weddings and graduation ceremonies.

Goldsmith worked at the St. Joe Paper Mill and Raffield Fisheries and spent seven years as a telecom technician in the U.S. military, serving in Saudi Arabia and Iraq during Operation Desert Storm and the Gulf War.

Upon returning to Port St. Joe, Goldsmith opened Beachy Keen custom framing and gallery on Reid Avenue next to the Port Theatre.

Also a photographer, Goldsmith will soon open a portrait studio.

"I couldn't think of a more beautiful and diverse location to live and be able to shoot my pictures," said Goldsmith. "We are thrilled to have something happening with the theatre and look forward to being involved with its community endeavors."

See **THEATRE B6**



Trivia Fun

Wilson Casey
WC@TriviaGuy.com

"Trivia Fun" with Wilson Casey, Guinness World Record Holder from Woodruff, S.C., is published in more than 500 newspapers across the country and is a weekly feature in The Star.

1) President Reagan survived an assassination attempt outside what Washington hotel in 1981?

Hilton, Sheraton, Marriot, Holiday Inn

2) What year marked the death of former Soviet head of state, Leonid Brezhnev?

1978, 1982, 2006, Still living

3) What team besides the Yankees did Joe DiMaggio play for?

No other, Red Sox, Braves, Twins

4) Which river does the Brooklyn Bridge (NY) cross?

Delaware, Hudson, East, St. Lawrence

5) What state has the most publicly owned land?

New York, Texas, California, Alaska

6) Whose moving screen debut was 1950's "The Men"?

Bogart, Wayne, Gable, Brando

7) Who's been the only woman to ever appear on U.S. paper money?

None, Martha Washington, Molly Brown, Ida Tarbell

8) What is writing an email message in all capital letters called?

Tenting, Cooking, Shouting, Lurking

9) Two of the world's top 3 highest waterfalls are located in what country?

Venezuela, S. Africa, Canada, New Zealand

10) Of the six men

who made up the "Three Stooges," how many were real-life brothers?

2, 3, 4, 5

11) When were TV's first Emmy Awards?

1949, 1954, 1961, 1966

12) Whose career homerun Major League record did Babe Ruth break?

Kenesaw Landis, Roger Connor, Bobby Hofman, Hal Griggs

13) What's the home of cartoon superhero Mighty Mouse?

Tinseltown, Smallville, Terrytown, Mouseville

14) Which "Charles" invented the pop-up toaster patented in 1919?

Strite, Littlefield, Harmon, Jackson

ANSWERS

1) Hilton. 2) 1982. 3) No other. 4) East. 5) Alaska. 6) Brando. 7) Martha Washington. 8) Shouting. 9) Venezuela. 10) 3. 11) 1949. 12) Roger Connor. 13) Terrytown. 14) Strite.

SALT-AIR FARMER'S MARKET



WES LOCHER | The Star

The Salt-Air Farmer's Market will take place from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. ET on Saturday, Feb. 1 at City Commons Park next to city hall in Port St. Joe. Vendors will be selling homemade goods and fresh produce.

Amateur radio license exams

Star Staff Report

The Gulf Amateur Radio Society will sponsor amateur radio exams 10 a.m. ET on Saturday, Feb. 8 at the EOC Building in Port St. Joe.

Take the exam for an initial license or upgrade a present license. Get on the air and become part of the community disaster response. "When all else

fails, there's amateur radio."

The Gulf Amateur Radio Society meets at 7 p.m. ET the first Thursday of each month at the EOC Building. Guests and prospective members are welcome to attend.

For registration and information concerning license exams call C.H. Tillis, AJ4XJ, at 648-8251.

Senior Citizens meal program

Special to The Star

Gulf County Senior Citizens, located at 120 Library Drive in Port St. Joe and 314 E. Third St. in Wewahitchka, provide a hot nutritious noon meal Monday through

Friday to seniors 60 and older. Transportation might be available to our meal sites. Anyone interested in coming to our sites in Port St. Joe or Wewahitchka for meals and activities is asked to call Debbie at 229-8466.

K.N.E.W You!

Special to The Star

The staff at MyGulfCare has launched a new program, K.N.E.W. You! From 1-3 p.m. ET on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month

well-checks and a K.N.E.W. You! lesson will be available at the WIG Center on Peters Street in Port St. Joe.

Stop by, and see what you can do to improve your health.

VFW German Food Night to benefit SJBHS

Star Staff Report

A German Food Night to be held at VFW Post 10069 in Highland View will benefit the St. Joseph Bay Humane Society.

The event will begin 5 p.m. ET on Feb. 8 and will continue until the food is gone.

Friends of the Humane Society will be serving up brats, sauerkraut, potato salad, Wisconsin cheese soup and homemade desserts.

The cost is a \$6 donation to the Humane Society.

John Miick will be on hand with his guitar to entertain for the evening.

All proceeds of the

WANT TO GO?

WHAT: VFW German Food Night

WHEN: Saturday, Feb. 8, 2014 starting at 5 p.m. ET

WHERE: VFW Post 10069 in Highland View

evening will benefit the St. Josephs Bay Humane Society. All VFW members and their guests are invited to attend. There will be a donation box for old towels, sheets, leashes, collars and treats for the shelter.

The trouble with calcium

This week we will enlighten you on some of the important plant nutrients necessary for healthy woody ornamentals in the Florida landscape. We've had information about why the nutrient elements are needed and some of the problems caused when plants don't get enough of them. But plants can



ROY LEE CARTER
County extension director

almost always get enough of the element we're discussing today, calcium. In fact, when calcium is a problem for landscape ornamentals it's usually because there's too much of it in the soil, not too little. Today you will find out why. My information was provided by Extension Emeritus Professor of Horticulture, Dr. Robert Black of the University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agriculture Sciences (IFAS).

Scientists have not found calcium deficiency to be a problem on woody ornamental plants growing in Florida landscapes. Several factors account for his, including the presence of calcium and calcium compounds in much of our water and in commercial fertilizers.

Calcium is important to plants for several reasons. It functions as a plant nutrient and it

also indirectly affects soil fertility. For one thing, calcium helps maintain the right pH or acid level in the soil around your home.

This is important because it reduces leaching of ammonia, phosphorus and several other nutrient elements. In addition, keeping the right pH range in the soil encourages the growth of beneficial soil organisms, makes it easier for plants to utilize an element called molybdenum and reduces plant injury from toxic elements such as aluminum and excess copper.

In spite of all its beneficial effects, calcium can cause serious trouble for you or landscape plants if you have too much of it in your soil. High calcium levels increase soil pH beyond the desirable range, make it too sweet, or alkaline. This makes it harder for ornamental plants to take up several other important nutrient elements including iron, manganese, zinc, copper, boron, magnesium, potassium and phosphorous.

Fortunately, the amount of available calcium in most Florida soil is fairly low although there is usually enough for normal growth of landscape

In spite of all its beneficial effects, calcium can cause serious trouble for you or landscape plants if you have too much of it in your soil. High calcium levels increase soil pH beyond the desirable range, make it too sweet, or alkaline. This makes it harder for ornamental plants to take up several other important nutrient elements including iron, manganese, zinc, copper, boron, magnesium, potassium and phosphorous.

ornamentals. In very acid soils, it is occasionally necessary to add calcium by liming. As a rule you'd only lime an area you were planning to landscape if you had soil test results showing that the pH was too low.

You might remember from some of our previous articles about soil pH that the lower the pH numbers the higher the soil acid level. Anytime you have a soil pH below 5.5 or so, the soil acid level is higher than most landscape plants like. To raise the pH into the desirable range between 5.5 and 6.5 you need to add calcium to the soil.

Materials commonly used for this purpose are agricultural limestone, hydrated lime and dolomite. Dolomite

contains calcium and another important element, magnesium. If you just need to change the pH level for your soil, agricultural limestone is probably the best material to use. However, many acid sandy soils in Florida are low in magnesium, so dolomite can be sued to raise the pH and supply magnesium at the same time.

As we said, the decision to use these materials should be based on soil test results. The amount you need depends on the soil pH you have, the soil type and the amount of organic matter in the soil.

For more information on calcium contact the Gulf County Extension Service @ 639-3200 or visit our website at gulf.ifas.ufl.edu or edis.ifas.ufl.edu.

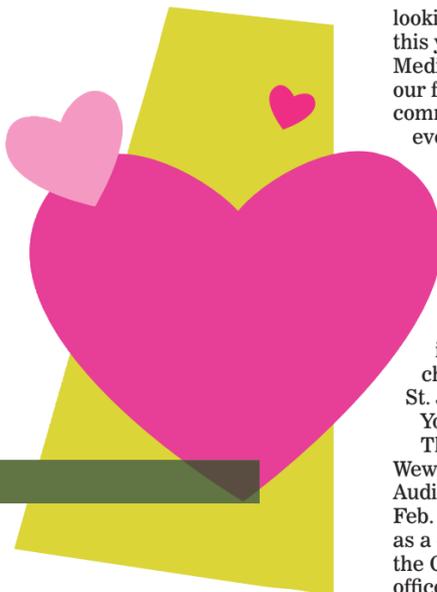
GCSCA to hold Miss Gulf County Valentine's pageant

Special to The Star

For more than 30 years, the Gulf County Senior Citizens Association has sponsored the Miss Gulf County Valentine's Pageant. This event is an evening of absolute fun for the entire family and is centered around our beautiful young ladies in age categories from infants through high school seniors. There is a category for every age group.

There are some very nice prizes given away. First, about 25 door prizes will be given away throughout the evening. Each contestant will receive a memento for participation and a college scholarship is given away to Miss Gulf County. One of the more popular prizes in the past has been a complete beauty makeover and cosmetic consultation by award winning professional beauty consultant and artist, Ms. Dee Dee Morris of Dothan, Ala. (Facebook: Dee Dee Morris, Dothan Al).

According to Mrs. Barbara Mannon, president of the Gulf



County Senior Citizens Board of Director, this event is used to raise funds for Gulf County Seniors. "We have had excellent community support in the past, but we are

looking for increased sponsorship this year. The change in Florida Medicaid has dramatically impacted our funding and we need the community's assistance more than ever." The funds will be used to provide meals, companionship, social activities, personal care, housekeeping, and other vital services needed so our elderly can stay active and in their homes.

Call the Senior Center at 229-8466 for sponsorship information or send donation checks to 120 Library Drive, Port St. Joe, Florida 32456.

Your donation is tax deductible.

The event will be held at the Wewahitchka Elementary School Auditorium at 6 p.m. CT Saturday, Feb. 8. Applications to participate as a contestant are available from the Center or through your school office. Applications must be turned in no later than Feb. 3 in order to participate. This event is not held in conjunction with any other nationally sponsored contest, but is strictly for the young ladies and families of Gulf County.

PET OF THE WEEK

St. Joseph Bay Humane Society

Myron is a handsome young Beagle/Hound mix. He walks well on a leash and is learning basic commands. He gets along with other dogs and even seems to like kitties.

If you cannot adopt perhaps you can foster Myron.

Volunteers Needed:

- ADOPTION EVENTS -
 - Help to get pets ready for events
 - Transport Pets to and from Adoption Events
 - Help with walking and caring for pets while at the events
 - Help with promotion of the HS and adoption of pets

- SHELTER -
 - Walking, bathing, and socializing dogs • Socializing cats
 - Help with laundry, dishes & cleanup
 - Handyman repairs and shelter maintenance

FOSTER - Fostering & preparing our pets for successful adoptions

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.hs@direct.com or adoptbaystjoe@gmail.com or call the St. Joseph Bay Humane Society at 850-227-1103 and ask for Melody or Debbie! Online applications and pet photos are available at www.sjbhumane.org

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 soon!

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

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Marcia Knapke 227-7847

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Overlooking St. Joseph Bay this 2 bedroom home gives you great sunrise views. Enjoy beautiful views and sunrises while overlooking the bay. The porch on the upper level is screened in and is on the gulf side of the house. There is 80 feet of bay frontage and a boat dock which is jointly owned with the house next door for fishing, kayaking or a boat.

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

FCS students to have busy months

February through May are busy months for FCS students. Here are some dates and events that parents and students should be aware of:

- Progress Reports go home Feb. 3.
- No School on Feb. 17, in honor of Presidents' Day.
- Spring pictures are scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 20; this will also include K5 graduation pictures.
- The Learning Fair will take place in the auditorium on Friday, Feb. 21. This is a half day for Godfrey Hall students.
- Friday, Feb. 28, is the Annual Spring Auction and Italian Dinner. This is an



The Lion's Tale

early dismissal day with no lunch and no extended care. Spirit Week is March 10 - 14 (a flyer will be sent home Friday to explain the events of the week.) Friday, March 14, is Field Day. The Marvin Wing will be dismissed at 11:15 a.m. and Godfrey Hall students will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m. There will be no lunch and no extended care on March 14. March 17 - 21, is Spring Break. Students return

Monday, March 24. Report Cards go home Monday, March 31. April 17, is Terrific Thursday. There will be no school on April 18, in observance of Good Friday. Achievement test will be given to all students on April 21 - 25. Progress Reports go home Monday, April 28. Thursday, May 1, is the National Day of Prayer. Last day of school for K3 through K5 is Thursday, May 15. Preschool program is on May 16. Elementary program is on May 23, at 9 a.m.

WEWAHITCHKA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LOVES TO READ



SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Ms. Aimee Walsh's second-grade class enjoyed reading from their personally designed shirts. Each student designed their own shirt with their favorite movie, favorite food, something they do well, and even what they want to be when they grow up. The students enjoyed creating the shirts and loved reading their classmates' shirts to find similarities. A colorful, meaningful and super culmination to Literacy Week! Happy Reading!



Don't bother me

Tyler Stark relaxes and takes advantage of some leisurely reading time associated with the many activities going on recently at Wewahitchka Elementary School during the 6th Annual Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida. WES contributed 27, 090 minutes toward Florida's Million Minute Reading Marathon. Tyler is a third grade student in Mr. Brown's class.

College Goal Saturday at Wewa High School

Special to The Star

College Goal Saturday will take place from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. CT this Saturday, Feb. 1 at Wewahitchka High School. The event, located in Room 7, is open to 2014 seniors and anyone wanting help with FAFSA, Pell Grants, or Gulf Coast State College Foundation Scholarships. Be sure to bring your 2013 tax information.

DAZZLING DOLPHINS



PORT ST. JOE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Front row: Dru Flowers, Bryce Forston, Karma Olson-Morgan, Sydney Kingsland-Lormand. Back row: Amari Nickson, Adison Burkett, Judson Griffies, Jacob Justice.

Honor ROLL

The following students made the honor roll for the 2nd nine weeks at Port St. Joe Elementary.

Kindergarten all A's: Hunter Ard, Joshua Baker, Maya Barnes, Lauren Brant, Carson Brown, Corban Butts, Caitlin Cathey, Blake Childress, Christina Clayton, Brayden Dailey, Summer Dickey, Logan Ellwood, Trinity Farmer, Dru Flowers, Jakwavian Gray, Hailey Green, Fenix Grogan, Shamyiah Hayes, Addison Hendricks, Cole Hart, Kenley Hatcher, Easton Herring, Emma Hill, Anderson Hodges, Bobby Landrum, Landon Layfield, Christopher Lee, Brody Lemieux, Stratton Levins, Jacob Marshall, Reagan Mathews, Krissy Maxwell, Kymani Mcadoo, Hallie Mize, Brody Mock, Kari Moore, Colt Patterson, Kaley Rhodes, Leelyn Rollins, Melina Ruiz, Reed Scott, Emily Sudduth, Reagan Thomas, James Ward, Paisley White, Keiara Winfield, Sha'Nara Woodruff, Callee Wray.

Kindergarten, A's and B's: Cole Bailey, Zora Beauchamp, Christianna Causey, Harmony Dwight, Korbin Ellwood, Scarlett Fofanov, Dominic Fitzgerald, Jayvonta Harris, Chloe Jones, Dovud Kouljanov, Nathan Lipford, Costin Marshall, Ryder Mohr, Cameron Nicholse, Nijah Quinn, Colton Raker, Jamie Rapier, Jenna Shively, Aaliyah Thompson, Lexi Webb, Jett Whicker, Ryder Mohr, Amirah Yarrell.

1st Grade all A's: Whitney Butler, Gannon Buzzett, Sara Beasley Flowers, Elizabeth Hopkins, Thomas Hopkins, Makayan Jones, Peyton Knox, Boston McGhee, Leila Smith, Lincoln Tomberlin, Emily Warner.

1st Grade A's and B's: Mikey Allen, Ian Beck, Ta'Niyah Bryan, Kate Fidler, MacKenzie Freisleben, Jamicia Glenn, Amonta Harris, Kaelee Johnson, Lyriq Larry, Hailyn Levins,

Chloe Harper, Carly Hatcher, Ava Kennedy, Sydney Kingsland-Lormand, Olivia Leonard, Eileen Madrid, Kensley Mathews, Draven O'Neal, Kiyleh Parker, Handley Pitts, Bionca Raffield, Bella Ray, Jackson Reatherford, Levi Sanders, Jasmine Sandoval, Sunny Shearer, Lisa Southerland, King Waters, Karis Whicker, Landon White.

2nd Grade all A's: Garrett Acree, Estevan Angel, Jenna Barfield, Desirae Causey, Sam Childers, Sara Durham, Dawson Fisher, Arlena Gleichner, Brandon Heckenlively, Cassidy Lewis, Dakota Tousignant, Elyse Williams.

2nd Grade A's and B's: Bella Cannington, Ashleigh Causey, Cody Combaw, Juveryona Daniels, Chase Dykes, Mary Margaret Farrell, Shauna Flowers, Tanner Fogle, Brandon Givens, Lauren Givens, Owen Grantland, Kylie Ingalls, Braden Jackson, T.J. Jenkins, Danica Kelly, Lance Larry, Jamal Leslie, Chasity Moore, Austin O'Bryan, Luke Pickels, Alivia Randall, Kylie Sapp, Kaylee Schweikert, Ardarien Shackelford, Fisher Vandertulip, Diamond Warner.

3rd Grade all A's: Maelynn Butler, Eli Fidler, Celeste Hamm, Luke Lentz, Dane Mallon, Gabriella Price, Jasslyn Raffield, Hannah Riley.

3rd Grade A's and B's: Cheon Beachum, Sam Brown, Emma Grace Burke, Madison Burkett, Emily Butler, Alexis Causey, Walker Chumney, Skylar Clayton, AJ Davis, Nathan Duong, Lexi Fountain, Jaydon Gant, Payton Garland, Alexis Gathers, Raelynn Hardy, Prince Jones, Jacob Justice, Chase Lanford, Gavin Lee, Cole Moore, Ricky Sherrill, Damien VanDyke, Emigen Watkins, Addi Watts, Halee Whicker, Britt White, Dane Wright.

4th Grade all A's: Trent Antley, Elliana Burkett,

Santana Causey, Ricky Forbes-Rosado, Halston Fulk, Zoe Gerlach, Natalie Graziano, Ashton McGlamery, Donovan Miniati, Erica Ramsey, Ava Ryan, Megan Saleh, Sarah Beth Thompson, Lily Wockenfuss, Lauren Woolsley.

4th Grade A's and B's: Skyah Addison, Sammya Brown, Paloma Burgos-Harris, Destiny Dykes, Madelyn Gortemoller, Jayden Hayes, Shadavia Hudgins, Laura Beth Hill, Porter Hodges, Emily Lacour, MiMi Larry, Sarah Metcalf, Morgan Mills, Amari Nickson, Rylee Reatherford, Alexandria Thomason, Caleb ZurHeiden.

5th Grade all A's: Ali Godwin, Hailey Harriman, Alex Strickland, Caleb Wright.

5th Grade A's and B's: Austin Ard, Henry Balogh, Noah Barfield, Leanna Baumgardner, Savannah Burkett, Lyndsey Butler, Parker Cornwell, Jacob Davis, Allie Evans, Judson Griffies, Tyler Guthrie, Corbin Ingalls, Lauren Jenkins, Reese Johnston, Chloe Jones, Gavin Jones, Lanecia Larry, Evelyn Laue, Bryson Lee, Mattison Mills, Kevin Lacivita, Clint Moore, Gabrielle Nicodemus, Terri Rae Phillips, Jack Randall, Philip Riley, Hannah Tomlinson, Analisa Treglown, Davis Varnes, Gabrielle Wood.

6th Grade all A's: Jade Cothran, Sean Farnsley, Madeline Ginnell, Bailey Lake, Zach McFarland, Malena Ramsey, Sara Whitfield.

6th Grade A's and B's: Brandon Barnes, Miranda Brown, Adison Burkett, Wesley Chapman, Cheyenne Cole, Tristan Doran, Joseph Farrell, Micaela Fedd, Jireh Gant, John Austin Gee, Kelvin Griffin, Brittany Hanson, Madison Jasinski, Greg Julius, Rainey Nobles, Jytrel Riley, Caroline Sapp, Rachel Sherman, Hannah Smith.



Alonzo (Tony) and Shawana Davis are pleased to announce the participation of their daughter, Sha'Naiya Addison, in the 2013-2014 Debutante Cotillion and Scholarship Program, sponsored by the Upsilon Alpha Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated and by Gwinnett Pearls of Service Foundation, Incorporated. The Debutante Cotillion and Scholarship Ball is arguably the premier event for high school junior and senior girls in the Metro Atlanta area. The program provides opportunities for the debutantes to earn scholarships for higher education. In 2012, debutantes were awarded more than \$30,000 in scholarship money.

Sha'Naiya is currently a junior at Sprayberry High School in Marietta, GA. She is an honor roll student, varsity cheerleader, member of the Black Student Union, journalism, and mentorship club. Sha'Naiya's father, Alonzo Tony Davis, is a 1994 graduate of Apalachicola High and her mother, Shawana Carter Davis, is a 1995 graduate of Port St. Joe High School. She is the granddaughter of Emily Carter Jefferson of Panama City, FL. and Shirley Addison of Wewahitchka, FL.

If you would like to help Sha'Naiya earn the title of 2014 Miss Debutante, donations can be made no later than February 15, 2014 to <http://www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/shaniyaaddison/cotillion>

FREE and open to the business community

Coffee & Conversation

Join us for great coffee and highly-caffeinated conversation at 8 a.m. on the last Friday of every month in the Advanced Technology Center (ATC) at Gulf Coast State College.

Next Session: Friday, January 31

Visit gulfoast.edu/smallbusiness/candc or call 850.747.3204.

TOGETHER

We use energy wisely.

Saving energy can be easy. Whether you use ceiling fans to cool your home, clean or change your AC filters monthly or keep your thermostat set at 78 in the summer/68 in the winter, every low-cost energy change adds up to make a big difference. We're in the business of using energy wisely. Together we power your life.

Obituaries

James Parham

Jim passed peacefully from this life the morning of Jan. 22, 2014.

Jim was born in Griffin, GA but has been a resident of Port St. Joe for over 25 years.

Jim is survived by his spouse and children: Belinda Parham (wife); Jeniffer and Matt Ward (daughter and son-in-law), Jamey and Stephanie Parham (son and daughter-in-law), Toni and Shawn Bidingier (step-daughter and son-in-law), Tommy and Vonda Worley (step-son and daughter-in-law), Terry and Heather Worley (step-son and daughter-in-law); three grandchildren: Brent Walker, Megan and

Matthew Nazor, Nataleigh Parham; and seven great-grandchildren. Jim is also survived by his brother Jerry Parham.

He was preceded in death by his father, John Parham, his mother Betty Parham and brother John Parham III.

A memorial service was held 10 a.m. EST on Saturday, Jan. 24, 2014, at Beach Baptist Chapel, 311 Columbus St., St. Joe Beach, FL with interment following in Holly Hill Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to National Rifle Association.

Services were provided by Comforter Funeral Home.

Mandie Davis

Mother Mandie Davis was born on July 16, 1922, in Leon County, Fla., to George and Mattie Green. Mother Davis was educated in the public schools of Leon County. She made a living working as a custodian for many years.

Mother Davis confessed Christ early in her life and was a member of Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church in Port St. Joe, Fla.

Mother Davis was preceded in death by her parents, George and Mattie Green and her brother Joe Green.

She is survived by her sister, Alice Green of Port St. Joe, Fla.; three close cousins, Carlos Cunningham (Dawn) of Zellwood, Fla., Donald Cunningham and wife of Rochester, N.Y., Kelly Campbell and wife of Gainesville, Fla., and a host of relatives and friends.

Her service was held at 11 a.m. E.S.T. on Thursday, Jan. 23, 2014, at New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church with interment following in Forest Hill Cemetery.

Services were provided by Comforter Funeral Home.

Cloteal Burke



CLOTEAL BURKE

A host of angels outstretched their arms to greet Cloteal Burke as she lost her fight to cancer on Jan. 16, 2014, in her home in Wewahitchka.

Cloteal was born on Sept. 2, 1937, in Southport, Fla.

She was a wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, beautician, nurse, gardener, animal lover, painter, poet and so much more. She will continue to be an inspiration to those who knew and loved her.

She is preceded in death by her husband of 48 years, Victor Jewel Burke; sister, Teresa; brothers, Bronzel, Clyde; and granddaughter, Jessica Whitfield.

Cloteal is survived by her four children, Deborah Burke McLeod and Mike,

Steven Victor Burke, Victoria Burke Langford and Lonnie, Michael Eugene Burke; eight grandchildren, Jason Kretzer and Heather, Alison Martin Buckner and Frank, Wesley

Burke Wilson, Melissa Martin Evans and Dustin, Chris Burke, Erica Burke, Maxwell Burke; great-grandchildren, Jackson, Brianna, Isabelle, Jayce; sisters, Glenda, Lois, Leta; brother, WD; her two cherished pets, GiGi, Lady; many loving friends and a host of nephews and nieces.

Cloteal will be laid to rest beside her husband at Live Oak Baptist Church Cemetery/Miller Cemetery in New Hope, Fla. Special thanks to Southerland Funeral Home for handling the cremation.

Kathleen Blackman

On Jan. 22, 2014, Kathleen Blackman, 89, rejoined her husband who preceded her in death, the late Rev. Woodrow Blackman, whom she married on Nov. 31, 1948.

A resident of Wewahitchka, Fla., for almost 60 years, she is survived by her two sons, Billy Blackman of Havana, Fla., (his wife Susan and children: Justin Blackman of Bakersfield, Calif., and Jillian Crymes and her husband, Justin, of Live Oak, Fla.) and Stevie (Tammy Nelson) Blackmon of Wewahitchka, Fla., (children: Stephanie Bailey and husband, Chip, and their daughter, Aubry, of Wewahitchka, Brad Blackmon and his wife, Gabbie, and their daughter, Whitley of Wewahitchka, and Beth Blackmon of

Port St. Joe); two brothers, the Rev. Tommy Martin of Dothan, Ala., and Ed Martin of Panama City, Fla.; a host of nieces, nephews and too many friends to count.

Services will be held 11 a.m. CST on Thursday, Jan. 30, in Wewahitchka at Glad Tidings Assembly Of God. Family will receive friends and family 30 minutes prior to the service. She will be laid to rest next to her husband at Roberts Cemetery in Honeyville.

The family requests that no flowers be sent but instead the money be donated to the Glad Tidings Building Fund, Box 128, Wewahitchka, FL 32465.

Services are provided by Comforter Funeral Home.

Bobby Gene Pelt

On Sunday, Jan. 26, 2014, Bobby Gene Pelt fell asleep in death at the age of 76. He will be missed very much by all of his many family members and friends. Gene is survived by his loving wife, Rita. They were wed on June 22, 1959. They have been married 54 years.

Gene Pelt is also survived by his sons, Mitchell Wayne Pelt (wife Kim) and Douglas Lynn Pelt and his daughter Tammy Ware (husband Lashay) and his brothers Steve Buster Pelt, Robert Pelt and Tim Pelt, five

grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Gene was one of Jehovah's Witnesses. He enjoyed very much discussing what he learned from the Bible to help us develop and strengthen our faith.

This Saturday Feb. 1, 2014, at 3 p.m. ET there will be a memorial service held at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses at 335 Selma St. in St Joe Beach. A comforting biblical talk will be given highlighting the resurrection as a solid hope for the future.

The future considered at Lifetree Café

Special to The Star

WANT TO GO?

WHAT: "News From the Future: A Futurist Gives a Sneak Peek"
WHEN: 7 p.m. CT Monday
WHERE: 1602 U.S. 98 in Mexico Beach

The trends that will affect how we live in the future will be explored 7 p.m. CT on Monday, Feb. 3 at Lifetree Café.

The program, titled "News From the Future: A Futurist Gives a Sneak Peek," features a filmed interview with Thomas Frey, senior futurist at the DaVinci Institute.

"There's an ongoing fear about the future," says Frey, who encourages people to be aware of developments shaping their futures. "The future will happen, so let's be engaged so we can take advantage of the opportunities. This is a wonderful time to be alive."

Participants in the Lifetree program will hear about key developments that Frey predicts will significantly change daily life in the

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

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

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.fbcpsj.org

living water
church at the beach

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY - 8:00 AM - Worship at Sunset Park (on the sand)
10:00 AM - Bible Study at 1602 Highway 98
MONDAY - 7:00 PM - Lifetree Café. Join the Conversation
WEDNESDAY - 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM - Open House Coffee & Conversation
THURSDAY - 6:30 PM Mixed Bible Study

To contact worship leader: (850) 648.1151 or lwcpastor@fairpoint.net

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

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

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

Home of Faith Christian School
www.faithchristianpsj.net

Long Avenue
BAPTIST CHURCH

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY:	WEDNESDAY:
Sunday School - 9:15	Family Dinner - 5:30
Morning Worship - 10:30	Prayer Meeting - 6:30
Evening Worship - 5:00	Student Ministry - 6:30
1601 Long Ave Port St Joe, FL 32456	Children's Ministry / Choir - 6:30
(850) 229-8691	Adult Choir - 7:30

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

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 Sun Always Shines

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

Service Times

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

First United Methodist Church of Mexico Beach

111 North 22nd Street • Mexico Beach, FL 32410

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

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

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

SOUTHERLAND FAMILY FUNERAL HOME

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

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

Panama City man convicted in MB hotel burglary

Star Staff Report

A Bay County jury last week convicted a Panama City man of breaking into a Mexico Beach hotel room and battering two occupants in April 2011.

Ronald Deon Lee, 34, entered a hotel room occupied by Scott

Webb, Trent Webb and Janice Williamson, all from Eufaula, AL, early on April 15, 2011.

Assistant State Attorney Robert Sale told jurors that Williamson awoke to find Lee naked and on top of her trying to rape her.

She screamed, awakening

Scott Webb, who suffered four broken toes and was bitten twice while detaining Lee until police arrived.

The evidence, Sale said, showed Lee had entered the room twice that morning, first taking the couple's cell phones and car keys back to his adjoin-

ing room.

He returned to attempt the rape of Williamson, even though she was sleeping in the same bed as Scott Webb while Trent Webb, 11 at the time, was in the other bed.

Lee probably entered the victims' room the first time by

climbing across the balconies, Sale said.

Lee was found guilty of burglary of an occupied dwelling with a battery.

He faces a maximum of life in prison when Circuit Judge Michael Overstreet sentences him Feb. 4.

GCSO BRIEFS

Jan. 20-Jan. 26

On Monday, Jan. 20, the Gulf County Sheriff's Office (GCSO) received a 911 call regarding a domestic disturbance in the 1100 block of West River Road in Wewahitchka. Deputy Ken Starnes investigated the complaint and arrested Leonard Harold Britt (52) of Wewahitchka for

Domestic Battery and Domestic Felony Battery by Strangulation. Britt was transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility.

An active warrant was served on Rex Aaron Veasey, Jr., (22), of Wewahitchka. Deputy Ken Starnes arrested Veasey at his residence. Veasey was wanted for Violation of Probation - Battery out

of Calhoun County. He was transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility.

The GCSO executed five transport orders by local judges. Deputies traveled to Walton County Correctional Institution and Cross City Correctional Institution to transport inmates for circuit court proceedings in Gulf County on Tuesday, Jan. 21. Transports were also for inmates at Gulf Correctional Institution and the Bay County Jail.

On Wednesday, Jan. 22, Deputy Paul Williams served a Writ of Bodily Attachment for Child Support on Clyde Randall McDaniel (50), of Wewahitchka. McDaniel turned himself in at the GCSO.

On Thursday, Jan. 23, a complaint was received from the 200 block of Abby Drive in Wewahitchka, regarding a possible domestic disturbance. Once Deputy Paul Williams arrived he made contact with the parties and determined that domestic violence did occur. As a result of the investigation

Colton Lee Mullinax (18) and a female juvenile were arrested. Both were charged with Domestic Battery and transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility.

On Jan. 23, the GCSO received a complaint of theft from the 100 block of Ling Street, in Highland View. The victim discovered four large truck type rims with recapped tires and an ignition system on an engine missing. The total property stolen was valued at approximately \$500. Inv. Greg Skipper continues to investigate the case. If you have any information that would assist the GCSO in recovering the property and/or lead to the arrest of the suspect(s) please contact the GCSO at 227-1115, or remain anonymous by calling CrimeStoppers at 785-TIPS (8477).

On Friday, Jan. 24, a report was filed with the GCSO for Failure to Return Rented Property. The total value of the unreturned rented property is \$350, which constitutes a third degree felony. Deputy Chip Bailey continues to investigate the case.

On Jan. 24, Deputy Ken Starnes responded to a physical disturbance in the 6200 block of Ganley Road, in the Five-Acre Farms area. Eugene Phillip Allen

(27) was arrested and charged with Domestic Battery. Allen was transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility.

On Jan. 24, the GCSO received a report of the burglary of a vehicle in the area of Iola Landing. The complainant was hunting in the area and later returned to find the vehicle burglarized. Approximately \$1,800 in hunting related items was stolen from the vehicle. Deputy Desrosier continues to investigate this case.

On Saturday, Jan. 25, another report of the burglary of a vehicle was received at Iola Landing. Approximately \$230 of property was stolen from the vehicle. If you have any information on this, or the burglary on Jan. 24, that would assist the GCSO in recovering the property and/or lead to the arrest of the suspect(s) please contact the GCSO at 227-1115, or remain anonymous by calling CrimeStoppers at 785-TIPS (8477).

On Jan. 25, Kenneth Devon Fain (36) was transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility after he was arrested in Calhoun County on an arrest order out of Gulf County. Fain was served the arrest order for Contempt of Court - Driving While License

Suspended or Revoked.

On Jan. 25, the GCSO received a 911 call regarding a physical disturbance in the 9200 block of Cockles Ave, in the Beacon Hill area. At the conclusion of the investigation, Deputy Ken Starnes arrested and charged Jackie F. Grable (59) with Domestic Battery. Grable was transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility.

From Jan. 20-26 the GCSO logged the following department activity: Traffic Stops, 33; Civil Process Services, 10; Field Contacts, 13; Abandoned Vehicles, 8; Warrant Arrests, 3; Requests for Security Checks, 1; Trespass/Prowler Complaints, 1; Alarms, 1; Traffic Accidents, 4; Suspicious Person, 3; Suspicious Vehicle, 3; Welfare Check, 2; Funeral Escort/Parade, 6; Domestic Disturbance, 5; Auto Burglary, 2; Death Investigations, 1; Disabled Motor Vehicle, 2; Verbal Disturbance, 2; Field/Grass Fire, 2; Vehicle Fire, 1; Prisoner Transport for Court, 4; Obscene/Harassing Phone calls, 2; Reckless Driver, 2; Criminal Mischief, 1; Music/Noise, 4; Physical Disturbance, 1; Drunk Pedestrian, 1; Hit & Run, 1; Sexual Battery, 1; and Theft, 1.

Coastal Community Association

Please Call 850-229-7799 for information

Everyone Is Welcome to Attend

AGENDA for Winter Meeting

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

Official Updates & Reports

- Rep Southerland
- Senator Montford
- Rep Beshears
- Insurance Issues
- Taxes & Appraisals
- Tourist Development Council
- Economic Development in Gulf Co.
- Port Authority
- Gulf County Schools
- Gulf County Courts
- Turtles-UF Marine Turtle Research
- Beach Restoration - FEMA
- CBRA progress
- Fire Department
- Sheriff Mike Harrison
- Intersection 98/SR 30A-DOT
- Lighthouse Dilemma
- Other business

Election of the 2012-2013 Board

Date: Feb. 1, 2014
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 a.m. EST
Place of Meeting: St. Joseph's Bay Golf Club

Guests:
US Rep Southerland
Fla Senator Montford
Fla Rep Beshears
Gulf County Elected Officials & TDC, Port Authority, SGCFD

NOTICE TO RECEIVE SEALED BIDS CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA

The City of Wewahitchka has declared the following items as surplus and will accept sealed bids for the purchase of these items. Minimum bid for any vehicle is \$150.00.

1.	1997 Dodge Ram Van	VIN:2B5WB35Z7VK585316
2.	1999 Ford Club Wagon Van	VIN:1FBSS31S2XHA13076

Bids must be marked "SEALED BID - SURPLUS EQUIPMENT" and must be received by the City Clerk prior to 12 noon (CT) Thursday, February 20, 2014, at the City Annex, 318 South 7 Street, Wewahitchka, FL 32465. Items may be inspected at the City during regular business hours Monday through Friday between 8:00 AM and 3:00 PM (CT) by appointment. Please call 850-639-2605. Bids will be opened during the regular City Commission meeting on Monday, February 24, 2014, at 6:30 PM (CT). The City Commission reserves the right to reject any or all bids received.

The City of Wewahitchka is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Connie Parrish
City Clerk

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, religion, sex, familial status, sexual orientation, and reprisal. Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.

Friends of St. Joseph Bay Preserves

Proudly Present

Winter Bay Day

stjosephbaypreserves.org

2014 Bay & Buffer Preserve Celebration

February 1, 2014

St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve

Tour the Preserves:
10-11:30am • 12am-1:30pm • 2-3:30pm

Enjoy a tour through the backwoods trails of the Buffer Preserve!

Trips about shore birds or life along the shoreline!
Check the schedule at stjosephbay.org for Birding, Deal Tract, Explorations Trips

11am - 2pm
Low Country Shrimp Boil
\$10 Donation

Find us on Facebook: Friends of St. Joseph Bay Preserves

FDOH offers new, county-level healthiest weight snapshots

Special to The Star

The Florida Department of Health announced the rollout of a new resource providing the first comprehensive profile regarding healthiest weight for each Florida County. The County-Level Healthiest Weight Snapshots tool is a part of the Community Health Assessment Resource Tool Set (CHARTS) and features information designed to assist families, health care professionals, policy makers and whole communities to help Floridians achieve a healthy weight.

"This new tool provides an important view of the progress in each of our counties as we work to become the healthiest state in the nation," said Marsha

Lindeman, Administrator of the Florida Department of Health in Gulf and Franklin counties.

The tool includes demographic, behavioral and built environment measures relating to the community's healthy weight status, and may be used to support community health assessments, provide data for health and weight related research, and encourage communities to continue their efforts to improve nutrition and increase physical activity.

Healthiest Weight Florida is a public-private collaboration bringing together state agencies, not for profit organizations, businesses, and entire communities to help Florida's children and adults make consistent,

informed choices about healthy eating and active living.

To learn more about the CHARTS County-Level Healthiest Weight Snapshots, please visit the Healthiest Weight Florida County Profile page. The Department also encourages you to learn more about our Healthiest Weight Florida initiative at www.HealthiestWeightFL.com.

The Department works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

Follow us on Twitter at @HealthyFla and on Facebook. For more information about the Florida Department of Health please visit www.FloridaHealth.gov.



FILE PHOTO

All proceeds raised will help fund the Best Blast on the Beach fireworks display on July 4.

GUMBO from page B1

Beach's Best Blast on the Beach July Fourth fireworks celebration.

"The cook-off has become one of the must attend events here in Mexico Beach," said Shoaf. "This is one event you will not want to miss or taste!"

Happening simultaneously on the opposite side of Highway 98, will be the third annual Society of Expressive Artists (SEA) Art Walk, which will showcase artists from all along the Forgotten Coast.

The cost to showcase is \$5 for SEA members, \$25 for nonmembers and \$35 for those who want to showcase

and join the organization. The application deadline has been extended to Feb. 3.

Interested artists may download the application from the SEA Facebook page at www.facebook.com/sea-artists.

SEA is a group of local artists that reside in coastal communities along the Florida panhandle. The goal of the group is to provide a forum for local artists to promote their work, share ideas and opportunities, to network with other artist organizations and to identify and create art exhibit venues.

GCEC employee NEWS

Special to The Star



ERIC BALCAZAR



KELSI BUCCELLATO



JOSH PITTS



LUKE VICKERS

Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative is proud to announce the addition of two employees to its staff and the promotion of one of its employees. The Cooperative is also hosting a student intern.

Kelsie Buccellato is new to the Cooperative's accounting department. She holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Florida State University.

Luke Vickers is a Line Technician. He is a graduate of Liberty County High School.

Also, Josh Pitts was recently promoted to from the title of Line Technician Trainee IV to the title

of Line Technician.

The Cooperative is also proud to host Eric Balcazar as an intern. Eric is a student at Margaret K. Lewis School.

Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative is part of the Touchstone Energy® national alliance of local, consumer-owned electric cooperatives providing high standards of service to customers large and small. More than 70 employees serve more than 20,000 meters and 2,500 miles of line in Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Jackson, Walton and Washington counties and in the municipalities of Wewahitchka, Ebro, Lynn Haven, White City, Fountain and Southport.

BAY DAY from page B1

Jason Garwood will lead "Explore the Shore of St. Joseph Bay" which will begin at Eagle Harbor at St. Joseph Peninsula State Park, with wading and hands-on activities.

Be prepared to get wet and bring bug spray, sunscreen, a change of clothes, towel, field glasses, camera and hat.

Preserve manager Dylan Shoemaker will lead a backwoods tour of the buffer preserve. This is a riding trip into the 5,000 acre preserve with short walking intervals.

Eleven years after its creation the Friends group remains a vibrant and active group working with the preserve staff to keep St. Joseph Bay, one of Florida's 41 aquatic preserves, pristine while assisting with work on the uplands when called.

"If you are not familiar with the Buffer Preserve or the Aquatic Preserve stop in for a visit at the Preserve Welcome Center and learn how the Buffer Preserve helps to protect the bay through a natural filtration of the water as it descends to the bay via the watershed," said Sandra Chafin, preserve secretary. "St. Joseph Bay is one of the most pristine bays on the Gulf of Mexico and the goal is to keep it that way."

The Preserves Center is also a mecca for scientists and researchers.

In the past year, more than 20 groups of students and professors have stayed at the Preserve. They have come from South Dakota, Wayne State College in Nebraska, Creighton University in Omaha and colleges



FILE PHOTO

Tram tours in search of wildflowers and butterflies will be led by Dylan Shoemaker, preserve manager.

from Missouri, Illinois to those close to home such as Florida, Louisiana and Tennessee.

"A student from Puerto Rico and one from Nova Scotia have called the Buffer Preserve home in 2013," Chafin noted.

The Friends group, a non-profit supporting the missions of the Preserves, has exploded since its creation.

Membership is now over 200 and still growing, Chafin said.

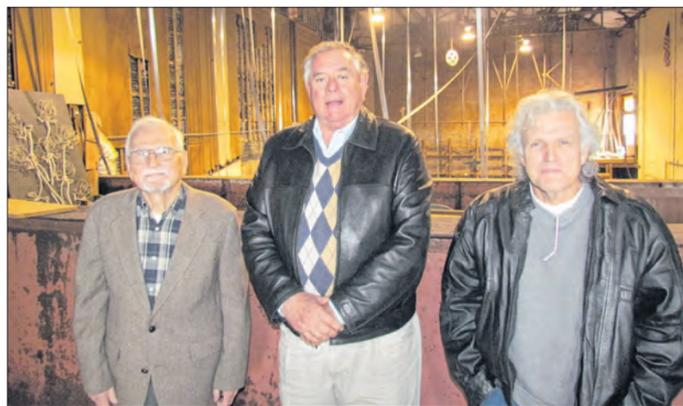
"The Friends need your help and support in order to continue working to make the Preserves the best they can be and provide a place of enjoyment and learning for the public," Chafin said. "Dylan arrived last year and has made a substantial impact at the Buffer Preserve."

St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve is located on State Road 30-A at Simmons Bayou. St. Joseph Bay Aquatic Pre-

serve encompasses 73,000 submerged acres in the bay and gulf. The Friends group work to help both hence they are Friends of the Preserves while each of the preserve are a separate entity.

The Aquatic Preserve has not been funded through the state so a group of dedicated volunteers sample the water and use a transect to observe the sea grass to ensure the pristine condition of the water and sea grass for all living in the bay.

Plants are a major area of study on the Buffer Preserve. The preserve's crop of Chapman's rhododendrons is the largest population of its kind on public lands. Other federally or state threatened or endangered plant populations are observed and conditions created that encourage their growth.



WES LOCHER | The Star

Unofficial historian Tom Parker, director Jimbo Collins and videographer Rick Ott took a tour of the theatre last week.

THEATRE from page B1

Collins, who is under contract to be the next owner of the theater, met with Rick Ott last week regarding the filming of live music performances at the venue.

Ott is owner of "From the Heart of Sopchoppy Music Hour", a show televised on WFSU which is the equivalent of Austin City Limits and features artists from the North Florida area.

"I've looked at the Port Theatre for several years," said Ott. "I love Port St. Joe and Gulf County."

Once Ott heard Collins' plans to open the venue back up to live performances, he got in touch to see how soon he could begin recording.

Ott has recorded many music performances in his career including shows at the Monticello Opera House in Jefferson County and a month's worth of performances in Ireland. He's previously recorded in Gulf County and said that he looks forward to returning.

Collins said he hopes that Ott would be able to record three shows a year to be broadcast on WFSU to bring additional awareness to the area.

"The goal is to (reeducate) the people in the community with this wonderful old historic asset," said Collins.

He went on to say that a town hall meeting would soon take place so that the board of directors could better understand what the community wants the Port Theatre to be.

Collins is also focused on preserving the history of the build-

ing and will soon put out a call for anyone who frequented the theatre during its movie heyday from the 1940s and beyond.

"I want to preserve recollections that the citizens have," said Collins. "Especially those who are in the autumn of their lives."

"If we don't get them now, they may be lost forever."

Port St. Joe native Tom Parker, considered by Collins to be the "unofficial historian" of the theatre, was an employee from 1943 until 1945 and has shared many memories and stories about the building.

"I think people will be interested in the theatre reopening," said Parker. "People would reach out to any type of activity going on here."

Parker said he was present in 1938 when the theatre opened its doors for its inaugural showing of the film "Gold Diggers in Paris" and began working as a projectionist at the age of 12 with his best friend Billy Howell.

Parker said that he left his job at a drugstore to work at the theatre, where he worked four hours a day, seven days a week. His take was \$25 per week.

"That was big money at the time!" said Parker with a laugh. "I enjoyed it so much."

He also recalled the kids who came to the theatre and said there was always lot of smooching going on.

Those who may have early memories of the theatre can share them by calling the Port Theatre Foundation at 227-8122.

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93732S
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 13-140-CA

NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE, LLC, Plaintiff,
vs.
JENNIFER M. BURKE and BETTY G. OWENS, Defendants

TO: Jennifer M. Burke 14809 Heronglen Drive Lithia, Florida 33547

NOTICE OF ACTION

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action to reform a mortgage has been filed against you on the following described property:

Commence at a 1/2 inch iron rod and cap (LB 732) marking the Southeast corner of lands described in Official Records Book 355 at Pages 102 and 103 of the Public Records of Gulf County, Florida, said point being the intersection of the Northerly right of way boundary of Chipola Avenue with the Westerly right of way boundary of Second Street and run thence North 01 degree 47 minutes 33 seconds East along said Westerly right of way boundary, a distance of 404.84 feet to a 1/2 inch iron pipe marking the Southeast corner of lands described in Official Records Book 266 at pages 427-429 (Parcel 5) of said Public Records; thence Continue North 01 degree 47 minutes 33 seconds East along said Westerly right of way boundary, a distance of 113.34 feet to the Southerly right of way boundary of East Church Avenue; thence North 89 degrees 47 minutes 19

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seconds West along said Southerly right of way boundary, a distance of 172.78 feet to the Easterly boundary of lands described in Deed Book 34 at page 610 of said Public Records; thence South 03 degrees 12 minutes 26 seconds West along said Easterly boundary, a distance of 226.73 feet; thence North 89 degrees 26 minutes 53 seconds East, a distance of 23.46 feet to the Southwest corner of the aforesaid lands described in Official Records Book 266 at pages 427-429; thence along the Westerly and Northerly boundary of said lands as follows: thence North 01 degree 47 minutes 33 seconds East, a distance of 111.00 feet; thence North 89 degrees 30 minutes 49 seconds East, a distance of 155.00 feet to the Point of Beginning, Containing 0.51 acre, more or less.

Commonly known at 511 S. Second Street, Wewahitchka, Florida 32465

and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to Charles S. Isler, III, Plaintiffs attorney, whose address is P.O. Box 430, Panama City, Florida 32402, within thirty (30) days from the first date of publication, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiffs attorney or immediately thereafter, otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

WITNESS my hand and seal of this Court on the 7th day of the January, 2014.

REBECCA L. NORRIS Clerk of the Court
By: Wynonne Pickett Deputy Clerk
January 23, 30, 2014
February 6, 13, 2014

93746S
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 14TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA, CASE No. 23-2009-CA-000301

RBC CENTURA BANK, Plaintiff,

vs.
EICHER, BRUCE, et. al., Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order or Final Judgment entered in Case No. 23-2009-CA000301 of the Circuit Court of the 14TH Judicial Circuit in and for GULF

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

County, Florida, wherein, PNC BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO RBC CENTURA BANK, Plaintiff, and, EICHER, BRUCE, et. al., are Defendants, I will sell to the highest bidder for cash at the FRONT LOBBY OF THE GULF COUNTY COURT HOUSE, at the hour of 11:00 a.m. ET on the 13th day of February, 2014, the following described property:

LOT 57 OF WINDMARK BEACH, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGE(S) 1 THROUGH 5, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA.

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 60 days after the sale.

DATED this 9th day of January, 2014.

REBECCA L. NORRIS Clerk Circuit Court

By: BA Baxter Deputy Clerk

GREENSPOON MARDER, P.A., 100 West Cypress Creek Road, Trade Centre South, Suite 700 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309
954-491-1120
20851.0130/RBerkman

IMPORTANT

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the Clerk of the Court's disability coordinator at P.O. BOX 1089, PANAMA CITY, FL 32402, 850-747-5338 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.
January 23, 30, 2014

93782S
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION File Number: 13-CP-65

IN RE: ESTATE OF ROY M. LILLY, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the Estate of ROY M. LILLY, deceased, whose date of death was June 29, 2012, File Number 13-CP-65 is

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

pending in the Circuit Court for Gulf County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Gulf County Courthouse, 1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Blvd., Room 148, Port St. Joe, Florida 32456. The name and address of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT:

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

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against the decedent's estate, including unmatured, contingent, or unliquidated claims, must file their claims with this court WITHIN THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 732.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO YEARS OR MORE AFTER DECEDENT'S DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of the first publication of this Notice is January 23, 2014.

Personal Representative: Robert S. Hightower FL Bar No. 199801 P.O. Box 4165 Tallahassee, FL 32315 Phone: (850)222-3363
January 23, 30, 2014

93786S
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION CASE NO. 2011-CA-000350 Division No. Section.

BANK OF AMERICA, N.A. Plaintiff(s),

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vs.

GILDA G. BRANCH, Defendant(s)

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order or Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated January 18th, 2014, and entered in Case No. 2011-CA-000350 of the Circuit Court of the 14TH Judicial Circuit in and or GULF COUNTY, Florida, wherein BANK OF AMERICA, N.A. is the Plaintiff and LARRY W. BRANCH AND GILDA G. BRANCH are the Defendants, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in the Main Lobby of Gulf County Courthouse, 1000 Cecil Costin Blvd., Port St. Joe, Florida, at 11:00 a.m. ET on the 20th day of February, 2014, the following described property as set forth in said Order of Final Judgment, to wit:

Commence at a re-bar marking the Northwest corner of Tract 18 of Gulfdive and Bayside Subdivision, a subdivision as per map or plat thereof recorded in plat book 3, page 24-B; of the official records of office of Gulf County, Florida also being a point lying on the Westerly right of way of County Road Number 30-E; thence run along said right of way South 20 degrees 14 minutes 55 seconds East 101.49 feet to a rod and cap for the POINT OF BEGINNING;

thence from said POINT OF BEGINNING run along said right of way South 20 Degrees 14 minutes 55 Seconds East 91.49 feet to a rod and cap; thence North 69 degrees 42 minutes 54 seconds East 238.06 feet to a rod and cap; thence North 20 degrees 14 minutes 55 seconds West 91.51 feet to a rod and cap; thence South 69 degrees 43 minutes 58 seconds West 238.06 feet to the point of Beginning, containing 0.50 acres more or less.

and commonly known as: LOT A TRACK 17 CAPE, PORT SAINT JOE, FL 32456

IF YOU ARE A PERSON CLAIMING A RIGHT TO FUNDS REMAINING AFTER THE SALE, YOU MUST FILE A CLAIM WITH THE CLERK OF COURT NO LATER THAN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE. IF YOU FAIL TO FILE A CLAIM, YOU WILL NOT BE ENTITLED TO ANY REMAINING FUNDS. AFTER 60 DAYS, ONLY THE OWNER OF RECORD AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

MAY CLAIM THE SURPLUS.

DATED at GULF County, Florida, this 17th day of January, 2014.

REBECCA L. NORRIS Clerk, Gulf County, FL

By: BA Baxter Deputy Clerk

Michelle Garcia Gilbert, Esq./FL Bar# 549452
Laura L. Walker, Esq./FL Bar# 509434
Daniel F. Martinez, II, Esq./FL Bar# 438405
Kalei McElroy Blair, Esq./FL Bar# 44613
Jennifer Lima Smith/FL Bar # 984183
GILBERT GARCIA GROUP PA, Attorney for Plaintiff(s)
2005 Pan Am Circle, Suite 110
Tampa, FL 33607
(813)443-5087
972233.10184tavias
January 23, 30, 2014

97255S
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION Case No.: 2014-02PR

IN RE: ESTATE OF JAMES WILLIAM TUTTLE, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the Estate of James William Tuttle Deceased, File Number 2014-02PR, is pending in the Circuit Court for Gulf County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr., Blvd., Port St. Joe, FL 32456. The names and addresses of the Personal Representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate, including unmatured, contingent or unliquidated claims, on whom a copy of this notice is served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate, including unmatured, contingent or unliquidated claims, must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT SO

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FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

The date of first publication of this Notice is January 23, 2014.

Sandra J. Tuttle 76 Peach Tree Road Byhalia, MS 38611
Personal Representative of the Estate of James William Tuttle, Deceased

J. Patrick Floyd Law Offices J. Patrick Floyd, Chtd. 408 Long Avenue Port St. Joe, FL 32546 (850) 227-7413
FL Bar No. 257001 Attorney for Petitioner January 23, 30, 2014

97295S
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT Case No.: 2012-CA 236

WINDMARK INVESTMENTS, LLC, a Georgia limited liability company Plaintiff,

vs.

RIVERFRONT PROPERTIES, INC., a Georgia corporation, GARY R. RHINEHEART, and HARRY A. SCHULTZ, Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on the 20th day of February, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time on the steps of the Gulf County Courthouse, 1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr., Blvd, Port St. Joe, Florida 32546, the undersigned Clerk will offer for sale the following real property more particularly described as follows:

Lot 30 of WINDMARK BEACH, according to the Plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 4, Page(s) 1-5, of the Public Records of Gulf County, Florida.

Together with the following described parcel:

Begin at the most Easterly Corner of Lot 30, Windmark Beach, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 4, Pages 1-5, Public Records of Gulf County, Florida; thence N75°02'39"W along the Northerly line of said Lot 30 for 15.03 feet to the Westerly line of Parcel V, said Windmark Beach; thence N18°42'14"E along said Westerly line for 88.42 feet to the Southerly right of way line of Windmark Way which is a curve concave to the North having a radius of 510.00 feet; thence Easterly along said curving right of way line for an arc distance of 15.16 feet, the chord of

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

said arc bearing S79°41'20"E for 15.16 feet; thence S18°42'14"W for 89.65 feet to the point of beginning.

The aforesaid sale will be made pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered in Gulf County Circuit Court Case No.: 2012 CA 00236; Windmark Investments LLC, v. Riverfront Properties, Inc., Gary R. Rhineheart, and Harry A. Schultz, now pending in the Circuit Court of the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit in and for Gulf County, Florida.

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 60 days after the sale.

Dated this 15th day of January, 2014

REBECCA NORRIS Clerk of Circuit Court

By: BA Baxter Deputy Clerk

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator by mail at P. O. Box 1089, Panama City, FL 32402 or by phone at (850) 747-5338 at least seven (7) days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than seven (7) days. If you are hearing impaired, please call 711.
January 23, 30, 2014

97303S
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT Case No.: 2012-CA-234

WINDMARK INVESTMENTS, LLC, a Georgia limited liability company

vs.

RIVERFRONT PROPERTIES, INC., a Georgia corporation, GARY R. RHINEHEART, and HARRY A. SCHULTZ, Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on the 20th day of February, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time on the steps of the Gulf County Courthouse, 1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr., Blvd, Port St. Joe, Florida 32546, the undersigned Clerk will offer for sale the following real property more particularly described as follows:

Lot 77 of WINDMARK BEACH, according to the Plat on file in Plat Book 4, Pages 1 through 5, of the Public Records of Gulf County, Florida.

The aforesaid sale will be made pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered in Gulf County Circuit Court Case No.: 2012 CA 000234; Windmark Investments LLC, v. Riverfront Properties, Inc., Gary R. Rhineheart, Harry A. Schultz, and Georgia Commerce Bank, now pending in the Circuit Court of the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit in and for Gulf County, Florida.

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 60 days after the sale.

Dated this 15th day of January, 2014

REBECCA NORRIS Clerk of Circuit Court

By: BA Baxter Deputy Clerk

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in



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order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator by mail at P. O. Box 1089, Panama City, FL 32402 or by phone at (850) 747-5338 at least seven (7) days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than seven (7) days. If you are hearing impaired, please call 711. January 23, 30, 2014

97359S IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION Case No.: 2013-CA-000096

JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association Plaintiff, vs. James Monroe Freeman a/k/a James Freeman; Unknown Spouse of James Monroe Freeman a/k/a James Freeman; Unknown Parties in Possession #1, if living, and all Unknown Parties claiming by, through, under and against the above named Defendant(s) who are not known to be dead or alive, whether said Unknown Parties may claim an interest as Spouse, Heirs, Devisees, Grantees, or Other Claimants; Unknown Parties in Possession #2, if living, and all Unknown Parties claiming by, through, under and against the above named Defendant(s) who are not known to be dead or alive, whether said Unknown Parties may claim an interest as Spouse, Heirs, Devisees, Grantees, or Other Claimants Defendant(s).

James Monroe Freeman a/k/a James Freeman; Unknown Spouse of James Monroe Freeman a/k/a James Freeman; Unknown Parties in Possession #1, if living, and all Unknown Parties claiming by, through, under and against the above named Defendant(s) who are not known to be dead or alive, whether said Unknown Parties may claim an interest as Spouse, Heirs, Devisees, Grantees, or Other Claimants Defendant(s).

97361S PUBLIC NOTICE ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS:

The Gulf County School Board will be accepting bids for the removal of 3 pair of storefront doors and their replacement with hurricane impact storefront systems. A bid package may be picked up at the Gulf County School Board, Maintenance Department, 150 Middle School Road, Port St. Joe, FL 32456 or faxed by calling 850-229-8369. January 23, 30, 2014

97395S IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL ACTION CASE NO.: 23-2010-CA-000459 DIVISION:

BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., Plaintiff, vs. EARLENE E. ASHBAUGH, et al, Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Mortgage Foreclosure dated September 25, 2013 and entered in Case No. 23-2010-CA-000459 of the Circuit Court of the FOURTEENTH Judicial Circuit in and for GULF County, Florida wherein BANK OF AMERICA, N.A. is the Plaintiff and EARLENE E. ASHBAUGH; CRAIG ASHBAUGH; are the Defendants. The Clerk of the Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at LOBBY OF THE GULF COUNTY COURTHOUSE AT 11:00AM ET, on the 20th day of February, 2014, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment:

LOT 1, BLOCK 1, WARD RIDGE FLORIDA UNIT ONE, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, AT PAGE 3, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA.

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

HELP WANTED 4100

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE. If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator by mail at P.O. Box 1089, Panama City, FL 32402 at (850) 747-5338, at least seven (7) days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than seven (7) days. If you are hearing impaired, call 711.

Rebecca L. Norris CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT Gulf County, Florida

By: BA Baxter DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT

Submitted By: ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF: SHAPIRO, FISHERMAN & GACHE, LLP 2424 North Federal Highway, Suite 360 Boca Raton, Florida 33431 (561) 998-6700 (561) 998-6707 13-260760 FC02 CHE January 23, 30, 2014

97361S PUBLIC NOTICE ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS:

The Gulf County School Board will be accepting bids for the removal of 3 pair of storefront doors and their replacement with hurricane impact storefront systems. A bid package may be picked up at the Gulf County School Board, Maintenance Department, 150 Middle School Road, Port St. Joe, FL 32456 or faxed by calling 850-229-8369. January 23, 30, 2014

97395S IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL ACTION CASE NO.: 23-2010-CA-000459 DIVISION:

BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., Plaintiff, vs. EARLENE E. ASHBAUGH, et al, Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Mortgage Foreclosure dated September 25, 2013 and entered in Case No. 23-2010-CA-000459 of the Circuit Court of the FOURTEENTH Judicial Circuit in and for GULF County, Florida wherein BANK OF AMERICA, N.A. is the Plaintiff and EARLENE E. ASHBAUGH; CRAIG ASHBAUGH; are the Defendants. The Clerk of the Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at LOBBY OF THE GULF COUNTY COURTHOUSE AT 11:00AM ET, on the 20th day of February, 2014, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment:

LOT 134, WETAPPO

HELP WANTED 4100

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

SUBDIVISION ACCORDING TO THE PLAT RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 5, PAGES 36-42 IN THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA. A/K/A LOT 134 WETAPPO CREEK ROAD, PORT ST JOE, FL 32456

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. WITNESS MY HAND and the seal of this Court on January 22, 2014.

Rebecca Norris Clerk of Circuit Court

By: BA Baxter Deputy Clerk

**See Americans with Disabilities Act If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator by mail at P. O. Box 1089, Panama City, FL 32402 or by phone at (850) 747-5338 at least seven (7) days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than seven (7) days. If you are hearing impaired, please call 711.

ADA Coordinator P.O. Box 1089 Panama City, FL 32402 Phone: 850-747-5338 Fax: (850) 747-5717 Hearing Impaired: Dial 711 Email: ADARquest@jud14.flcourts.org F10073015 Jan. 30, Feb. 6, 2014

97425S NOTICE TO RECEIVE SEALED BIDS BID NO. 1314-12

The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners will receive sealed bids from any qualified person, company or corporation interested in constructing:

LAND'S LANDING BOAT RAMP & DOCK IMPROVEMENTS (PRI PROJECT #003.238)

This project includes construction of a temporary coffer dam, concrete repairs to the existing boat ramp, approximately 500 SF of 5' wide timber boardwalk, and 320 SF of floating docks at Land's Landing in Gulf County, Florida.

Plans and specifications can be obtained at Preble-Rish, Inc., 324 Marina Drive, Port St. Joe, Florida 32456, (850) 227-7200. The bid must conform to Section 287.133(3) Florida Statutes, on public entity crimes. Cost for Plans and Specifications will be \$50.00 per set and is non-refundable. Checks should be made payable to PREBLE-RISH, INC.

Completion date for this project will be 60 days from the date of the Notice to Proceed presented to the successful bidder. Liquidated damages for failure to complete the project on the specified date will be set at \$250.00 per day.

HELP WANTED 4100

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

Please indicate on the envelope YOUR COMPANY NAME, BID NUMBER and that this is a sealed bid for "Land's Landing Boat Ramp & Dock Improvements" project. Bids will be received until 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time, on February 14, 2014 at the Gulf County Clerk's Office, 1000 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd., Port St. Joe, Florida, 32456. Bids will be opened and read aloud at this same location on February 17, 2014 at 10:00 a.m., Eastern Time.

The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners has implemented a Local Bidders' Preference Policy for all RFP/BIDS. Any one interested in bidding as a local bidder must follow the requirements of Resolution 2009-02 which may be obtained from the Clerk's Office at the above address. The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners reserves the right to waive informalities in any bid, to accept and/or reject any or all bids, and to accept the bid that in their judgment will be in the best interest of the County.

All bids shall remain firm for a period of sixty days after the opening. All bidders shall comply with all applicable State and local laws concerning licensing registration and regulation of contractors doing business to the State of Florida.

If you have any questions, please call Clay Smallwood at (850) 227-7200.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA

/s/ Ward McDaniel, Chairman Jan. 30, Feb. 6, 2014

97425S NOTICE TO RECEIVE SEALED BIDS BID NO. 1314-12

The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners will receive sealed bids from any qualified person, company or corporation interested in constructing:

LAND'S LANDING BOAT RAMP & DOCK IMPROVEMENTS (PRI PROJECT #003.238)

This project includes construction of a temporary coffer dam, concrete repairs to the existing boat ramp, approximately 500 SF of 5' wide timber boardwalk, and 320 SF of floating docks at Land's Landing in Gulf County, Florida.

Plans and specifications can be obtained at Preble-Rish, Inc., 324 Marina Drive, Port St. Joe, Florida 32456, (850) 227-7200. The bid must conform to Section 287.133(3) Florida Statutes, on public entity crimes. Cost for Plans and Specifications will be \$50.00 per set and is non-refundable. Checks should be made payable to PREBLE-RISH, INC.

Completion date for this project will be 60 days from the date of the Notice to Proceed presented to the successful bidder. Liquidated damages for failure to complete the project on the specified date will be set at \$250.00 per day.

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APPLIANCES 3110

GE Washer and Dryer. Large Capacity. Good condition. \$125 for the set. 850-227-1189

Wanted- M1 Grand & WWII Rifles. M1 Grand Parts and 30.6 military ammo. 850-227-1189

GARAGE/YARD SALES 3230

Highland View 238 Marlin St. Fri-Sat Jan 24th and 25th. from 8a-4p

Huge Indoor Garage Sale Fishing Gear, Sporting Goods, Housewares, Clothes. Text FL77695 to 56654

GUNS 3240

GUN SHOW Santa Rosa County Auditorium: Milton, FL February 15th & 16th 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. (Concealed Weapons Classes- 10am & 2pm Daily Call: 850-602-6572) General Admission \$6 850-957-4952 or 850-261-8407

HELP WANTED 4100

Are you looking to make extra money? Home delivery carriers needed in Panama City Beach

Great opportunity to own your own BUSINESS

For more information please contact Terri McAfee at tmcafee@pcnh.com OR 850-747-5054 Apply in person at: 501 W 11th St. and ask for a carrier application Web ID#: 34278490

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