

T.H. STONE B1

Thursday, June 21, 2018

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## State tests reveal gains, challenges for district

**By Tim Croft**  
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There was plenty on which the district could hang its hat on in last week's release of Florida Standard Assessment scores.

There was also plenty to be concerned about.

The Florida Department of Education released the latest scores from the state's standardized testing regimen, including language arts, math and science as well as end of course exams in biology, algebra, civics and history.

The scores are the major component in the formula for school grades, which will be released in the coming weeks for elementary schools.

High school grades come later in the year after factors such as graduation and dropout rates are rolled into the final grade.

"We made gains, but there were a couple of areas where we went down," said Superintendent of Schools Jim Norton. "There are areas of concern, but overall there is more positive than negative."

The area of English Language Arts scores highlights the highs and lows.

On the positive, Wewahitchka fourth-graders scoring at Level 3 or above (considered at or above grade proficiency) grew by eight percentage points and Port St. Joe fifth-graders scoring Level 3 or above increased by nine percentage points.

However, at both grade levels the district lagged behind the state; 49 percent of district fourth-graders scored Level 3 or above while statewide the number was 56 percent.

Among fifth-graders, the margin was 48 percent to 55 percent.

The district was at or above the state average of students scoring Level 3 or better in sixth, eighth and 10th grades, but trailed the state in third through fifth and ninth grades.

Wewahitchka High School saw a decrease in seventh-graders scoring Level 3 or above, but gained in eighth (by a whopping 15 percentage points), ninth and 10th grades.

Port St. Joe scores fell for every high school grade save 10th-grade, where the gain was 13 percentage points.

Both high schools were above the state average for Level 3 and above.

Wide swings were also found in math scores.

At Port St. Joe Elementary, math scores in grades 3-6 fell, from a drop of 21 points among fourth-graders to a fall of two percentage points among sixth-graders.

See TESTS, A6

## Return to square one on park plans

**By Tim Croft**  
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An initial focus was established a year ago.

A county-appointed committee has conducted 11 meetings.

Hours of regular meeting time has been consumed by Port St. Joe commissioners over the past three months.

A joint county-city workshop was held in April.

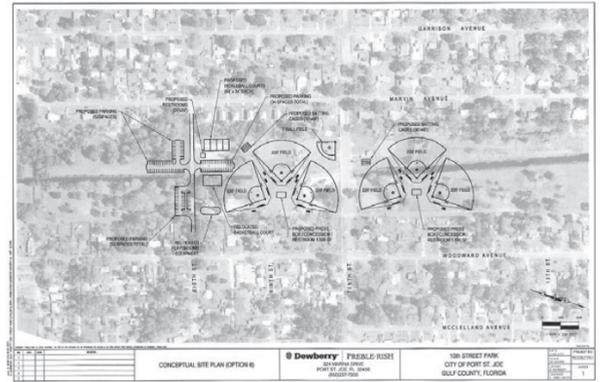
But, after all that, to characterize the 10th Street Park

plans as having made little forward progress would actually be giving the process credit.

That was underscored Wednesday morning as the county committee adjourned with the city pledging a workshop on the project, something a number of residents have said should have been done months ago.

The Board of County Commissioners, as attorney Jeremy Novak explained

See PLANS, A7



The current version of plans for the 10th Street Park [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

## 'Just a little idea'

### DAWGS celebrates 9 years, 591 dogs

**By Tim Croft**  
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Judy Miick and Sandy Christy knew each other 10 years ago, but they were not best friends by any means, Miick.

Christy, though, had come to respect the way Miick

worked with dogs, her ability, patience, discipline, in training the dogs that came through the shelter at the St. Joseph Humane Society.

So, one day, Christy broached a subject.

"She said 'I just have this little idea,'" Miick said. "She said she liked the way I trained the dogs and wondered if I would be interested in working with dogs at the prison."

See DAWGS, A7



Maggie and her one blue eye is going to Panama City and a family with two children. [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]



Blonde lab Lacey is heading to Alabama and a home with five children. [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

## Candidate qualifying ends Friday

### Wooten appears bound for re-election

**By Tim Croft**  
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Candidate qualifying period for the 2018 fall general election ballot will end noon Friday, with few changes likely in the last two days.

And county offices are slowly beginning to fill. County Judge Tim

McFarland was re-elected early last month when the qualifying period for judicial candidates ended and McFarland drew no opposition.

Current chair of the Gulf County School Board, Brooke Wooten, also figures to be automatically re-elected come the close of all candidate qualifying Friday.

As of press time for this edition, Wooten was facing no opposition for his District 2 seat.

The other county races are shaping up, with just one to be determined during the Aug. 28 primary election.

Incumbent County Commissioner Sandy Quinn, Jr. will face off against Tan Smiley, both Democrats, in a rematch of the 2014 election for the District 4 seat on the Board of County Commissioners.

Boyd Pickett has filed his initial paperwork to challenge for the District 4, also as a Democrat, but as of press time had

not completed all his paperwork.

The other BOCC races will be determined in November.

Incumbent Commissioner David Rich, a Republican, has drawn two challengers for the BOCC District 1 seat.

William Lawson is running without party affiliation and John Nagy is a Democrat.

There will be no primary in the race.

See CANDIDATE, A7





Register now to be part of the golden birthday celebration at St. Vincent Island on July 6. [FILE PHOTO]



Learn how to grow and preserve blueberries Friday. [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

The Rick Ott Band plays tonight in the latest installment of "Thursdays at the Theatre." [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]



# 'Thursdays at the Theatre' highlights things to do

Star Staff Report

The temperatures heat up, so too the calendar. A few suggestions for your recreational entertainment.

**The Rick Ott Band at the Port Theatre.** "Thursdays at the Theatre" continues tonight with local favorite the Rick Ott Band taking the stage of the historic Port Theatre.

The concert series is aimed at expanding arts options in the county while training a spotlight on the historic theater as an outstanding venue.

The Rick Ott Band specializes in Southern rock, including all the favorites from the '60s and '70s along with original compositions.

Ott, who plays electric and acoustic guitar, is also known for his From the Heart radio broadcasts.

Dean Neuman will make a guest appearance. General admission tickets are \$10, the doors open at 6:45 p.m. ET.

VIP tickets are \$25 and include admittance into a meet-and-greet with the band 6-6:45 p.m.

Tickets are available at The Port Inn and Gulf County Chamber of Commerce, located at 314 Reid Ave.

Or go online at [www.HistoricPortTheatre.com](http://www.HistoricPortTheatre.com).

**Learn tips on growing, preserving blueberries.** Want to learn more about how to grow and care for blueberries? Want to learn about preserving

the harvest?

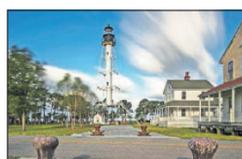
Please join the Gulf County Extension Office for a presentation about what varieties will grow best in the Panhandle, learn the requirements needed for a plentiful harvest and best practices in preserving the fruit. The event is presented by Gulf County Extension Agents, Ray Bodrey and Melanie Taylor.

The presentation will be 11 a.m. until 12 noon CT Friday at the Wewahitchka Library, 314 N. 2nd St., 639-2419.

This is a free event. For more information, please see the UF/IFAS EDIS publication, "Blueberry Gardener's Guide" by J. G. Williamson, P. M. Lyrene, and J. W. Olmstead: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FILES/MG/MG35900.pdf>

UF/IFAS Extension is an Equal Opportunity Institution.

**Register to be part of the 50th birthday celebration on St. Vincent.** The Friends of St. Vincent Island National Wildlife Refuge will be hosting a birthday bash July 6 on the island. From 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.



Summer hours expand options to climb the lighthouse. [FILE PHOTO]

ET that Friday, the island and its Friends will host a summer picnic (lunch on the grill) including a half-mile loop walking tour through forest to sugary beaches (and serious shell searching) and, after a wander over some dunes, to the normally off-limits Point to view nesting and resting shore and water birds.

There will also be a host of exhibits and activities along the way.

It is just a short jaunt by boat to the island and the Friends will have a barge leaving every half hour from the Indian Pass boat ramp.

Space on each barge load is limited to 40 passengers, though, so the Friends of St. Vincent are kindly asking all birthday attendees to register in advance at the citizen support organization's

website: [www.stvincentfriends.com](http://www.stvincentfriends.com). The celebration and the transportation are free, just sign up in advance.

St. Vincent Island is a 12,490-acre barrier island, just over a quarter of a mile into the Gulf of Mexico that is about as Old Florida as one can get in this region.

**Expanded summer hours to climb the Cape San Blas Lighthouse.** Summer hours begin today at the Cape San Blas Lighthouse. Venture to George Core Park in Port St. Joe and climb to the top, nearly 100 feet high. The lighthouse is open 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. ET Thursday through Saturday. For adults 13 and over, the cost to climb is \$5 and for children under 12, but at least 44-inches tall, the cost for the climb is \$3. Please, no flip-flops – climbers need sturdy shoes. In addition, the lighthouse is open, by appointment, for groups of 5 or more. The minimum charge is \$25. Contact 229-8261 to book an appointment for a group.

**PUBLIC ADJUSTER**  
"Advocate for the Home Owner"

**THOMAS E. WALSH**  
Insurance Claims Consultant

7199 W Hwy 98  
St. Joe Beach, FL 32456  
thomas43@mchsi.com  
850-624-9043

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An insurance claims process after a devastating Hurricane can be overwhelming. Thomas E. Walsh is licensed, bonded, and certified as a Public Adjuster to handle your claim from a Hurricane to damage caused by leaking water lines and every peril in between. As a claims consultant he will go over your insurance policy and give you his expert advice. He does not get paid unless you do!

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**THURSDAY JUNE 21ST**

The Historic **Port Theatre** Presents

**THE RICK OTT BAND**

All your Southern Rock favorites with a few originals. Guest appearance by Dean Neuman.

Online at: **HistoricPortTheatre.com**  
Tickets Available at:  
**The Port Inn & Gulf Chamber of Commerce**  
314 REID AVE.  
850.227.4355  
VIP Admission - 6-6:45PM  
General Admission - 6:45PM  
SHOW STARTS AT 7PM

**VIP \$25** **GENERAL ADMISSION \$10**

**Coastal Community Association of Gulf County**  
Protecting Your Property and Quality of Coastal Living

1934 SR 30A • Port St. Joe, FL 32456 • 850-229-7799 • [www.gulfcountyycca.org](http://www.gulfcountyycca.org)

**COASTAL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH GULF COUNTY**  
Annual Meeting  
July 7, 2018 • 10-12 pm EST • **ST JOSEPH BAY GOLF CLUB**  
**Everyone is welcome to attend**

**ELECTED OFFICIALS WHO WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE**  
Fla Senator Bill Montford • Fla Representative Halsey Beshears  
Gulf County Commissioner Ward McDaniel • Gulf County Sheriff Mike Harrison  
Superintendent Gulf District Schools Jim Norton

**TOPICS TO BE COVERED**

- Beach Restoration – County Staff
- CBRA-Progress – Ward McDaniel
- FEMA Flood Map Update: What it Means to Property Owners
  - Jerrick Saquibal, NWFL Water Management, Bureau Chief
  - Mortgages – Stacey Price of Capital City Bank
  - Insurance – Andy Smith of Hannon Insurance
- Salinas Park Extension – County Staff
- Restore Act Funding/Triumph – County Staff
- Port Authority update – Gary Madigson
- Legal issues – County Staff
  - Residential vs. Commercial property regulation
  - FL new law re: private verses State ownership to the mean high tide line
- Tourist Development Council (TDC)
  - Kelli Godwin, Director – Updates
  - Honor Walk – George Duren
  - DAR – Sherrill Russ
- South Gulf County Fire & Rescue Dept.
- Announcements from the community – turtles, bears, and scallops
- Election of CCA Board
- Other

# PSJ moves ahead on master plan amendment

**By Tim Croft**  
The Port St. Joe Star  
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During a workshop last week Port St. Joe commissioners took the first steps toward consideration of a proposal to rezone Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

The rezoning is seen as the catalyst for redevelopment of the neighborhood of North Port St. Joe outlined in a master plan originally formalized in 2006 and updated last year.

The amended plan, sponsored by the North Port St. Joe Project Area Coalition (NPSJ-PAC), was approved earlier this year by the Port St. Joe Redevelopment Agency and forwarded to the Commission.

With the city's new planning consultant, Ray Grier, on hand, commissioners mapped out a plan forward.

"We are trying to figure out our role," said Commissioner David Ashbrook, who chaired the meeting with Mayor Bo Patterson absent.

"We've pledged our support (of the plan) ... and we intend to see it through to the end."

Among the first steps, notifying property owners along and adjacent to the MLK corridor, which Grier said came with a bit of urgency to moving the process.

In addition, an assessment of infrastructure deficits that could arise if density limits were

increased from 15 units per acre to 25, as proposed for some areas of the corridor.

While infrastructure improvements will certainly be needed, the extent is an unknown and significant component of the equation.

The other major change in the community's dynamics, as proposed in the amended master plan and zoning proposal, would be increases in height limits from 35 feet to 60.

"The height and the units per acre, those are going to be your big changes," Grier said. "It is a pretty substantial increase in height."

In short strokes, the proposed rezoning would involve maintaining the current underlying mixed-use category under which most of the corridor is zoned.

On top of that would be "overlay" areas, three sectors or zones which would have specific land use regulations dictating the residential/commercial mix.

A central goal would be preserving the historic and current mix on MLK; predominantly commercial between Avenues A and D and predominantly residential from Avenue D north.

"We didn't want a one-size-fits-all zoning so we could preserve what is there, we want to preserve the sense of neighborhood," said John Hendry, consultant for the NPSJ-PAC.

The increase in height

limits would accommodate buildings which have a first floor of retail or commercial with two to three floors of residential, Hendry said.

Such construction would also bring the necessity of an increase in density limits.

Hendry said the plan provide the elements to create workforce or affordable housing within the neighborhood, which he noted could be revitalizing at the same time as the neighboring Port of Port St. Joe.

But even without the port growing, Hendry said, the plan puts forth a framework to expand lodging and dining options within the neighborhood, providing both visitors and residents more places to shop and eat.

And, Hendry emphasized, the rezoning plan, the master plan, are pieces in a puzzle to address the very evident issue of blight in North Port St. Joe and along MLK, conditions in stark contrast to the revival that has taken place along Reid Ave.

"It is essential the neighborhood, the city and the county come up with the best way of eliminating this blight," Hendry said. "There will have to be a coherent and integrated plan for this."

"This needs the support of everybody. We want everybody to come together in a positive way to determine how to fix this."

The overarching goal, Hendry added, create a neighborhood, community

dynamic that attracts investors, that speaks to investors and compels investment to be part of something positive.

And there will need to be outside investors.

The NPSJ-PAC is pursuing a grant from Triumph Gulf Coast, though an initial pre-application was deemed ineligible.

Hendry said that sufficient documentation was not available at the time the pre-application was submitted and was hopeful a full application would be considered eligible.

As proponents have stated, it fits the Triumph Gulf Coast goal of "transformational projects."

City commissioners will take the next steps once an assessment of infrastructure is taken and impacted property owners notified.

Commissioners expressed a desire for a workshop involving property owners to gauge support for the rezoning and future steps.



[SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

## Sea Turtle Festival July 1

Special to The Star

Florida's Forgotten Coast plays host to an abundance and variety of visitors, including adult and juvenile sea turtles. To celebrate these remarkable creatures and raise awareness of their importance, the Florida Coastal Conservancy and Forgotten Coast Sea Turtle Center invite you to join us for the 3rd Annual Forgotten Coast Sea Turtle Festival 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. ET on Sunday, July 1 at Village Drive and George Core

Park in Port St. Joe.

The Festival will include live music by Rick Wilson, Country Outlaw (11 a.m. until 1 p.m. ET) and K.T. Up Close & In Person (1-4 p.m. ET), hot dogs and ice cream, a sidewalk chalk art contest for all ages, educational displays, local art vendors, activities for kids, and giveaways. The Festival is free to attendees and will take place rain or shine. Come join the fun and learn about our amazing sea turtles and the places they call home!

### ATTENTION RESIDENTS OF GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA

#### STATE HOUSING INITIATIVES PARTNERSHIP (SHIP) FUNDING

Gulf County has committed funding (\$350,000.00) from the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program to provide Housing Rehabilitation assistance and Purchase Assistance for approved **Very Low, Low, and Moderate income** single-family housing units throughout the County. Applications for the SHIP Program **WILL NOT** be made available until the Homeowner Application Workshops to be conducted on 23 July, 2018, and 26 July, 2018, at the times and location described below. For additional information or to see if you qualify in the **Very Low, Low and Moderate Income** category contact Joe Paul at 850-229-6125 or Lianna Sagins at 229-6144. If you are unable to attend either workshop, the SHIP applications will be available **AFTER** 26 July, 2018, at the addresses listed below. The hours of operation for our offices are Monday-Thursday, 7:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m., E.T. For additional information regarding the County's SHIP Program, please contact Joe Paul at (850) 229-6125.

Robert Moore Administration Building, Room 311-312  
1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Boulevard  
Port St. Joe, FL 32456

Additionally, the applications are available online on the County's website after July 26, 2018 at <http://www.gulfcountry-fl.gov>, or you may request an application or additional information by contacting Joe Paul at 850-229-6125. **Upon completion, applications must be submitted to Joe Paul, at the Robert Moore Administration Building, 1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Boulevard, Port St. Joe, FL 32456. Completed S.H.I.P. applications may only be submitted from 26 July, 2018 thru 9 August, 2018, between the hours of 7:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., E.T., in the rooms 311 or 312. Only completed applications will be accepted.**

#### HOMEOWNER APPLICATION WORKSHOPS

The Homeowner Application Workshops will be conducted in the Donald H. Butler Commission Chamber at the Robert Moore Administration Building, 1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Boulevard, Port St. Joe, FL 32456. The County's Homeowner Application Workshops will include a general presentation on the SHIP Programs and applications, followed by individual sessions with residents requiring assistance with the applications. The first workshop will be on 23 July, 2018 2:00 p.m. ET. For your convenience, there will be two Homeowner Application Workshops conducted on 23 July, 2018, one at 2:00 p.m. E.T. and one at 5:00 p.m. E.T. The other workshop will be held in Wewahitchka at the Extension office on 26 July, 2018 at 5:00pm Central Time. Should you have any questions regarding these workshops, please contact Joe Paul at 850-229-6125 or Lianna Sagins 229-6144.

Gulf County is an Equal Opportunity Employer, Handicapped Accessible and Fair Housing Jurisdiction.

# OPINION

## No veteran should slip through the cracks

By Dr. Neal Dunn (FL-02)  
Special to The Star

The opioid epidemic claims the lives of roughly 174 Americans every day. Opioids have resulted in the deaths of more Americans than the Iraq, Afghanistan and Vietnam wars over the same time period.

Unfortunately, the news is worse for our veterans. Former Veterans Affairs Secretary Bob McDonald stated, "Veterans are 10 times more likely to abuse opioids than the average American," and this abuse is the leading cause of homelessness among veterans. In 2016, the VA treated 66,000 veterans for opioid addiction.

It is clear we are failing our nation's heroes. That is unacceptable.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, one of the common risk factors for opioid addiction is obtaining overlapping prescriptions from multiple providers. As a doctor, I'm familiar with the tools already available to help combat the opioid epidemic, such as state-based Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs.

PDMPs ensure prescribing physicians have a clear picture of what controlled medications their patients are taking. That's why almost every state has established some sort of database to monitor prescribing.

Since 2013, the Veterans Health Administration has cut its rate of prescribing these medications by about 41 percent. While this is welcome progress, a recent Government Accountability Office report found that VA providers don't always check state databases.

I recently became chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Health Subcommittee, but this is an issue I've been working tirelessly to address since I was sworn in. Too many veterans are suffering from addiction and opioid abuse. As a doctor and a veteran, I have met heroes who need help, but aren't finding it at the VA. We can change that.

Since the VA is the largest health care provider in the country, it is in a unique position to lead the initiative to prevent prescription opioid abuse, particularly among veterans.

That's why I introduced the Veterans Opioid Abuse Prevention Act – to ensure no veteran slips through the cracks. My bill increases opioid prescribing transparency at the VA and allows VA doctors to do what private sector physicians are already doing – access data from states nationwide to identify patterns of high opioid use that put patients at risk for addiction.

The act recently passed the House with bipartisan support and was also included as a provision in the VA MISSION Act, which was signed by President Trump. Sharing this information is just one step we can take to ensure the nine million veterans who receive their care through the VA benefit from the same safeguards as private sector patients.

I take my responsibility to serve those who fought for our freedoms seriously. We must do more to protect our veterans and I believe my Veterans Opioid Abuse Prevention Act is a vital part of our efforts to fix health care at the VA.

Our work to honor and to care for our veterans will never end, because our debt of gratitude can never be repaid.

### HUNKER DOWN

## Near 'bout "Gone With The Wind"



Kesley Colbert

A childhood friend who accidentally read a couple of my little blurbs asked if I actually remembered everything I was writing about. I didn't say this was a smart friend. But it is a tad difficult to write about something that you DON'T remember!

It did get me to thinking if there were memories out there that had faded over to the forgotten side. And I'm not counting here the ones that I choose not to remember. Like knocking down that whole row of brand new bicycles at Robert Hall's Western Auto or sophomore Latin or getting run over by Leroy Segraves in a high school football game or ripping my pants wide open doing the Watusi on Channel 7's Top Ten Dance Party....

Old Gold cigarettes came to mind. I have no idea why, except maybe I'm no smarter than my friend. I never smoked one. I'm not sure I've ever seen a pack other than on a store shelf or in an advertisement. And I don't know if they even make them anymore. But it is an item I just barely recall. One of those things that is certainly close to being gone forever in my memory bank.

I wouldn't remember them at all if it weren't for the dancing feet covered with white high top boots. The early television ads back in the day showed a pack of Old Golds with a lady's legs protruding from the bottom. The pack, and sometimes two, would dance lightly across the stage as some guy hidden behind the curtain extolled the virtues of Old Gold's tobacco blend. Even as a ten year old I thought it was a

ridiculous way to sell cigarettes.

Of course, it may not have been quite as preposterous as I thought; here I am, writing about the brand half a century—and then some....after the commercials ran. Buddy Wiggleton and I used to wonder why they didn't call them New Golds, Modern Gold or Better Than Gold. It seemed to us they wanted you to try something that was worn out!

I reckon it made more sense than smoking a Camel.

The blame for me not picking up the cigarette habit lies at the feet of my high school coaches. My only goal in life back in those days was to make the varsity team. I showed up for football and before we got our practice gear Coach Scott lectured us, "Don't smoke young men, ever. It will cut your wind." First day of tryouts for basketball, it was the exact same admonition. I got the message early. Loudly. And often.

Here's another one that almost escapes my memory. In the early 1950's, they would take up a collection to help fight polio at the Park movie theatre. Mr. Clericuzio, the manager, had the official cans with pictures of young boys and girls stricken with polio. The top had a small slot where you could drop in your change. It seems like it was done in conjunction with the March of Dimes program instituted by Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Faultless Starch just barely lives in my mind; mostly because Mom didn't use it. She bought that harder than concrete, stiffer than Bessemer steel, more solid than the Rock of Gibraltar Niagara

Corn Starch! And by the amount she poured into my Sunday-go-to-meeting collar, it must have been cheaper than a Continental paper bill back when Washington was huddled up at Valley Forge.

Folks at church were always so complementary on how attentive me, Leon and David Mark were to Brother Hatcher's sermon each and every Sunday morning. The truth is we couldn't turn our heads in any other direction!

S.S.S. Tonic barely rings a bell with me anymore. But I remember Mom giving it to us if we had a fever or the chills or a headache or a bellyache. She'd pour it on a knife wound or a rash. If you had a sore throat, she made you gargle with it. She'd put a few drops in your ear if it was aching. And if a bad tooth was bothering you, she'd have you swish it around in your mouth.

No wonder my mind is trying to blot out that concoction! And I can't for the life of me remember how it tastes.... could be there is something to this "selective memory" theory.

Nobody talks about fender skirts or moon hubcaps anymore. Penny gum machines and roller skate keys have gone the way of the dodo. S&H Green Stamps won't buy a thing these days. There's a fading list chasing the Old Gold cigarettes as items I've almost forgotten.

And maybe that's not a bad thing. Who knows, we get too much of that old stuff cluttering up our minds....it might "cut our wind" completely out.

Respectfully,  
Kes

### CRANKS MY TRACTOR

## The Forrest Gump of zucchini



BN Heard

In the movie Forrest Gump, his friend, "Bubba," talks to Forrest about the versatility of shrimp and how he's going to go back to Alabama when the war is over and get himself a shrimp-boat. As most folks know, Bubba died in the war, leaving Forrest to go back to Alabama and ultimately make it big in the shrimping business. He, of course, did not forget about Bubba's family, giving them Bubba's half after he sold the business.

As you may remember, Bubba had a wonderful quote in the movie regarding the versatility of shrimp. Bubba said to Forrest, "Anyway, like I was sayin', shrimp is the fruit of the sea. You can barbecue it, boil it, broil it, bake it, sauté it. There's uh, shrimp-kabobs, shrimp creole, shrimp gumbo. Pan fried, deep fried, stir-fried. There's pineapple shrimp, lemon shrimp, coconut shrimp, pepper shrimp, shrimp soup, shrimp stew, shrimp salad, shrimp and potatoes, shrimp burger, shrimp sandwich. That - that's about it."

Well, now that I have my little 20 x 50 feet community garden plot at work, I feel like I am the Forrest Gump of squash, specifically zucchini. It seems that six

plants put out a lot more squash than you (or actually I) would expect. I planted six yellow and six zucchini squash and it seems like that every morning I stop in to check on how my garden did during the night, these great big zucchinis show up by the droves.

I'm taking them home in a laundry basket I got at the dollar store. Well, after two or three days of canning, freezing and pickling zucchini squash, I'm started to feel a little like I need Forrest Gump's best good friend, Bubba, to help me out with some recipes or creative ways to prepare my daily haul.

Yes, I do give some away, but the joy of eating out of my little garden is more than I could have imagined.

Where is Bubba on this one?

Well, I don't have the way with words that Bubba did, but here's my take on it.

There is zucchini noodles, zucchini hummus, zucchini salsa and zucchini carpaccio. How about stuffed zucchini, stir-fried zucchini, or in your meatloaf or coleslaw. Maybe zucchini bread or baked in chocolate or cream cheese cake? On the "Zucchini Carpaccio," I didn't know what carpaccio was, but I checked and it looks pretty good.

Throw in a little sugar and vinegar and you can pickle zucchini real easy... You can pickle just about anything for that matter. If you grew up in the South, you know that – we pickle everything, even ourselves from time to time.

Zucchini is great for grilling,

broiling, steaming, sautéing, oven roasting, and microwaving. Heck, I even saw a recipe for smoked squash. And don't forget just plain frying... Maybe I've said that already. We fry everything in the South also, but then we get our cholesterol report and we have to start using air-fryers or other similar contraptions sold on the basis of getting rid of the oil.

Do you know what you have when you are frying without oil? I don't know, but I know you aren't really frying anything.

Zucchini marries up with many interesting flavors including garlic, cheeses, various nuts, yogurt, tomatoes, lemon, soy, ginger and all kinds of herbs and spices.

And just for our best good friend Bubba, there's Zucchini Shrimp Scampi, Garlicky Shrimp Zucchini Pasta, Pan Roasted Garlic Shrimp with Zucchini, and Shrimp with Zucchini and Tomatoes.

Enough is enough...

I was sitting on my front steps and reading an article in the newspaper the other day about how good gardening is for your health and well-being. I think that it must be true. My younger neighbor walked by and asked from the street, "They still make those?" referring to my newspaper.

I said, "Yes and I sure am thankful they do."

My spaghetti squashes are now about to explode. Time to see what I can do with those.

Read more stories at [www.CranksMyTractor.com](http://www.CranksMyTractor.com).



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## LETTERS

## RV ordinance

Dear Editor,  
In reference to the posted April 26, 2018 article "County could reopen RV ordinance." As discussed in the article, Commissioner Phil Mcroan presented a petition requesting the current RV ordinance be amended to include all areas within 3 miles of the coastline of St. Joseph Bay as well as place a moratorium on construction of pole barns as primary structures. Since this commission meeting it seems little to no progress has been made. Currently a new development within the community of Oak Grove is not only allowing, but advertising, the ability to build pole barns and mixed-use, touting light restrictions.

Although I was not living here when the current ordinance was put in place, as someone who was born, raised, and spent 37 of my 47 years of life in the area, I must say it sickens me to see what has happened an been allowed within my hometown. Per the article and county commission meeting, the county administrator stated that "due to the ordinance RV's banned from the beach had no where to go."

Well that is absolutely inaccurate. There are places for RV's to go,

they are called RV parks and campgrounds. It is overwhelmingly apparent the previous commission was influenced by opportunistic desires of certain persons or groups that had previously invested in the areas in question such as Oak Grove during the real estate "boom." During this time of inflated prices, real estate investors purchased properties in Oak Grove and other under developed areas of gulf county believing these areas would see great return on investment if properly developed. Once the market fell, these investors were stuck with properties they were almost certain of realizing a loss on.

During this time values for everyone's homes and land declined due to the fall of the economy. This situation was also compounded by fact many investors walked away from homes and investment properties bringing the onslaught of short sales and/or foreclosures compounding the decline of real estate value. But there were still some investors left holding on to property that had seen major depreciation on value.

Simultaneously, as the market began to take an upward shift, the RV and Tiny house market was beginning to boom. RV's and Tiny homes have

allowed many people to to enjoy vacationing at a lower cost, especially for families. Many people around the country are investing RV's and tiny homes as a residence or vacation option. Due to this boom RV parks have been able to charge much higher prices in excess of a mortgage for monthly rentals, causing some RV owners to begin looking for somewhere to purchase to become their vacation destination

Recognizing this, the good ole boy network has seen opportunity and is capitalizing on it. By carving the areas of Oak Grove, Highland View and Jones Homestead, the investors have now been able to recoup some or all of their initial investment and the real estate agents are profiting from the increased value of open land in these areas. That is great for the real estate investors, agents, and non-residents seeking to have a vacation spot near the water to put an RV.

However, this is not good for the full-time, voting, tax-paying residents of these communities nor the county as a whole.

Since this has been allowed, Highland View, Oak Grove, as well as some areas along CR 30A are essentially becoming campgrounds. Along with the RV's, many owners are constructing

pole barns with little to know regulation that have essentially apartments in them which may or may not be up to code. Compounding this issue, is the fact many of these owners are renting these parcels out as RV lot in a commercial manner which is not allowed. You can also find individuals living in storage units in certain areas of the county. The county has stated they have no way of proving this and does not have the man power to enforce this properly.

On any given weekend there is pole barn and RV in Oak Grove which 8-10 people utilizing the pole barn and RV as a living area which supposedly is not allowed. Upon contacting the county, it is repeatedly stated "we just do not have the manpower to check this."

If the county cannot enforce ordinances, then the ordinances are null and void. Due to this there should be a moratorium on construction of pole barns in the areas in question until the issue is resolved in the best interest for the residents and there are proper ordinances and restrictions that can also be properly enforced.

For those of you that may be thinking this is a Oak Grove or Highland view issue, it is not. If you evaluate the average taxes collected on the properties in these

areas on single family homes compared to RV lots on average is significantly higher. Compound that with the fact that if properly developed, newly constructed single family homes would bring in even higher tax revenue for the county as a whole. In an evaluation of the taxes paid in Oak Grove comparing 10 RV lots and 10 single family homes, on average the revenue from single family homes is approximately \$700.00/parcel more compared to lots being used for RVs. (It should be noted the number quoted does not evaluate all homes and/or lots in the community only 10 lots known for RV use and 10 single family homes). Secondly, some of these RV lots are being rented in a commercial manner and not collecting bed taxes for short term rentals which another loss for the county.

I can only assume, since I was not living here when the ordinance was first established, that many of the residents of these communities were not completely aware of the ordinance, the implications of the ordinance, and what was to come. What I am certain of now is, the majority of the full time residents of these communities are not happy with what has happened. I am also certain that

elected officials should be acting in the best interest of residents of the community they represent as a whole, not the special interest of certain individuals within the county.

Although this issue has not been as highly visible as the recent Port St. Joe city commission debacle attempting to remove the city manager with no just cause, some of the same influences are at play within this situation. I urge everyone who has not driven in these areas and taken notice of what is happening to drive though Oak Grove, Highland View, St. Joe Beach, as well as CR 30A and take notice as to what has happened and is continuing to happen in our paradise. Please contact your county commissioners and/or attend the county commission meetings (I know this is difficult for those of us that work normal 9-5 hours) In my opinion, any county commissioner that would vote against taking action on this is not acting in the best interest of the residents they represent and come election time should be replaced. If not, what will happen next to benefit special interest of certain individuals and what effect will it have on you?

Chris Wahl  
Port St. Joe

## ARBOR OUTLOOK

## Malls, Anchor Tenants and Downtown Revivals



Margaret McDowell

**"Shopping for a pair of shoes, shopping for a hat; We're buyin' some of this, and we're buyin' some of that..."**

"Down in the Mall" as performed by Warren Zevon

Since the first shopping mall was built more than 60 years ago in Edina, Minnesota, malls have represented the apex of American retail and social culture. If we needed anything, from a prom dress to a lawn mower, we headed to the mall, left our car in a vast parking lot, and attempted to navigate an endless variety of stores. We negotiated long, well-lit corridors amidst throngs of fellow customers in a shop-till-you-drop mania.

I bought almost all my Christmas presents at a mall for several years; it was more convenient than driving from store to store.

Everything was under one climate-controlled roof. Often our family would journey to the mall, separate and shop, and convene later at an onsite restaurant with our packages at our feet. We'd then compare purchases and talk about which stores were the most appealing.

The mall was, simply put, part of our family's weekly experience and part of the larger

**So what are we doing with our mall space? In California, one mall now houses a prominent tech firm. In Tennessee, another has been converted to a skating rink, a recreation center, a community college and a library. One of the nation's oldest indoor retail spaces, located in Providence, RI, has been converted to small, one-bedroom apartments. Restaurants and other walk-in retail outlets now occupy abandoned malls.**

American culture. Like everyone else, we stopped shopping on Main Street and headed to the mall instead.

I remember the first time I read about the Mall of America shortly after it opened in Bloomington, Minnesota in 1992. One of the first mega-malls, the MOA was the largest in the U.S. in total floor area and the third largest in North America in leasable space.

But like railroad travel, which gave way to planes and cars, malls are now being replaced by online retail and the new outdoor "walking retail" concept. Mall anchor tenants, some of them household names, are closing in droves. Many municipalities are attempting to revive their downtown and inner city regions with new, walker friendly retail developments, often placed adjacent to apartments and lofts. The irony is obvious, as the trend comes full circle.

The advent of suburban malls hastened the decline of our inner city shopping districts. Now, the return to walking retail in downtown areas is rendering the suburban mall obsolete.

So what are we doing with our mall space? In California,

one mall now houses a prominent tech firm.

In Tennessee, another has been converted to a skating rink, a recreation center, a community college and a library. One of the nation's oldest indoor retail spaces, located in Providence, RI, has been converted to small, one-bedroom apartments. Restaurants and other walk-in retail outlets now occupy abandoned malls.

Dozens of new schools and churches have utilized store space in malls. Once we worried that our kids were wasting too much time hanging out at the mall.

Well, they're still there, only now they're attending class.

Margaret R. McDowell, ChFC®, AIF®, author of the syndicated economic column "Arbor Outlook," is the founder of Arbor Wealth Management, LLC, (850.608.6121 - www.arborwealth.net), a fiduciary, "fee-only" registered investment advisory firm located near Destin, FL. This column should not be considered personalized investment advice and provides no assurance that any specific strategy or investment will be suitable or profitable for an investor.

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Gulf County SHIP Administrator's Office  
Robert Moore Administration Building  
1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Boulevard, Room #311-312  
Port St. Joe, FL 32456

Additionally, the applications are available online on the County's website at <http://www.gulfcounty-fl.gov>, or you may request an application or additional information by contacting Joe Paul at 850-229-6125. Upon completion, applications must be submitted to Joe Paul, SHIP Administrator, at the Robert Moore Administration Building, 1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Boulevard, Room #311, Port St. Joe, FL 32456.

**ALL CONTRACTOR APPLICATIONS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN 2:00 P.M., E.T. ON AUGUST 9, 2018.**

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# City bids Buzzett farewell; swears-in 3

**By Tim Croft**  
The Port St. Joe Star  
850-227-7827 | @PSJ\_Star  
tcroft@starfl.com

Transition time for the Port St. Joe Commission arrived Tuesday as commissioners were joined by a full meeting room in bidding adieu to Commissioner Rex Buzzett.

The longest-serving commissioner, Buzzett leaves after a decade, deciding not to stand for re-election.

Buzzett noted some of the successes during his tenure.

That included the expansion of sewer, the building of a new city water plant constructed for the future and saving the Cape San Blas Lighthouse, "a beacon to the future."

During his tenure the city had not raised the millage rate, Buzzett noted, and he believed he was leaving with the city in an improved financial state.

Buzzett, his voice shaking a bit, thanked his family, noting wife Nancy had been a commissioner for 10 years but without a vote.

He also thanked staff for the solid working relationship and effort during his tenure.

The board presented Buzzett with a plaque.

In addition, newcomer Commissioner Scott Hoffman, who is succeeding



**County Judge Tim McFarland swears-in new Commissioner Scott Hoffman.** [PHOTOS BY TIM CROFT | THE STAR]



**Commissioner Eric Langston is sworn in for a one-year term.**



**Commissioner Brett Lowry was sworn in for a new two-year term.**



**The city presented outgoing Commissioner Rex Buzzett a plaque of appreciation for 10 years of service.**

Buzzett in the Group 4 seat, and Commissioners Brett Lowry and Eric Langston were sworn in for new terms.

In other business:

\*A workshop on golf carts and their usage in city limits is scheduled for 6 p.m. ET Tuesday in the Ward Ridge

meeting room.

\*Commissioners approved adding four-way stop signs at 10th Street and Woodward and 10th Street and Marvin in an attempt to cut down people speeding on the roads and ignoring existing signage.

\*Commissioners discussed

a workshop on Triumph Gulf Coast funding and the potential for securing funding for the proposed rezoning of MLK and revitalization of North Port St. Joe.

Hoffman noted the city did not need county permission to pursue grant funding. The

North Port St. Joe Project Area Coalition is in the midst of crafting an application to Triumph for some \$5 million for in infrastructure improvements.

• Commissioners canceled their next regular meeting, scheduled for July 3. The next regular meeting will be July 17.

## TESTS

From Page A1

Only among sixth- and eighth-graders did district students scoring Level 3 or above exceed the state average: among fifth-graders the district lagged 14 percentage points behind the state.

On the other side of the scale, however, 78 percent, up five percentage points, of sixth-graders at Wewahitchka Elementary scored at least Level 3 or above, 12 percentage points beyond the state average.

Fifth-graders at WES met the state average and improved by an impressive

14 percentage points.

"There is a challenge in maintaining that momentum as students enter the middle school grades," said Lori Price, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction.

And 81 percent of Port St. Joe students taking the end of course exam in geometry scored at Level 3 or above.

Science scores maintained the trend of uneven scores.

Port St. Joe fifth-graders improve 20 percentage points for students scoring Level 3 or above, which was also three points above the state average.

In addition, the percentage of students scoring Level 3 or above in end of course biology exams at Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High School improved 22 points.

However, overall, the district lagged behind the state in fifth- and eighth-grade science scores and Port St. Joe eighth-graders lost ground, as did Wewahitchka biology scores.

The district is above the state in biology and even with the state in U.S. History.

Price mapped out challenges highlighted by the scores.

"Teacher turnover has proved to be a significant problem," she said, noting Wewahitchka Elementary will be filling at least seven teaching positions for the second consecutive school year.

A top priority will continue to be 10th-graders passing the English Language Arts FSA test, seeking to add to

the growth realized this past school year.

The district will continue to offer after-school tutoring and weekend ACT prep classes, Price said.

"Test scores also indicate a need to increase emphasis on science instruction in the primary grades," Price said. "Science is not formally tested until fifth grade and not retested until eighth."

"It is necessary to improve progress monitoring in this area and provide interventions earlier."

New science textbooks have been adopted for the upcoming school year with a hope to foster growth.

Price said in light of test scores and new legislation, each elementary school will

be putting in place additional teaching strategies, including an emphasis on a multi-sensory approach to reading.

At all grade levels, schedules will be amended to allow those students with disabilities an increased amount of time in less restrictive mainstream classes, Price added.

"As with every year, there remains both a need and desire to improve, but (we) feel confident that school grades will reflect the dedication of the teachers and the hard work of the students," Price said.

"Factors such as graduation rate, industry certification and middle school acceleration are a part of school grades making predictions based on test scores alone precarious."

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## PLANS

From Page A1

during the committee's meeting Wednesday morning, needs to receive a formal resolution from the city.

That resolution should provide the detail for what the city proposes for the park project, a budget, scope of work and timeline.

Only then, Novak continued, could the BOCC consider approving using tourist development bed tax dollars, roughly \$850,000, on the project.

"The city picks the amenities, this is city property," Novak said. "The BOCC is the final arbiter of funding this TDC project, but everything outside of that is the city."

Novak also noted the BOCC will soon have to decide on continuing the bed tax's fifth penny for parks and recreation which sunsets in 18 months.

The park committee has recommended the BOCC continue the fifth penny beyond that point, in part to renovate the 10th Street Park.

The obstacle to any resolution from the city is the fair distance remaining to anything resembling consensus.

"I was hoping to get a plan that everybody would support, but we are still a long ways from that," said newly-installed City Commissioner Scott Hoffman. "We are far away from where we need to be."

Hoffman stepped into the minefield during Tuesday's regular meeting of the City Commission, his first action to put forward a revision of a prior plan, version six, and urged support from commissioners prior to Wednesday's county committee meeting.

Though Mayor Bo Patterson expressed a desire to wait until after the committee meeting to take action, ultimately the board voted 5-0 to support a plan that mirrors version six.

That includes six total ball fields, three on either side of 10th Street, with pickle ball courts and parking primarily along Eighth Street.

There are also batting cages, concession stands and restrooms.

The board's decision, which approved the plan while allowing for possible tweaks to softball fields on the south side of 10th, was not met warmly.

To start, for the second meeting in a row residents were being asked to consider not the conceptual plan provided the public in advance of the meeting, but another revised drawing.

This fed a sentiment from many residents living adjacent to the park, though the number has expanded beyond those boundaries, who believe they have been left out of the process from the get-go.

Opposition cleaves along several lines.

Several residents see expansion of the ball parks as an encroachment on their property rights, which they assert are already tenuous during ball season.

Trash and rude behavior from children and, especially, adults, are ongoing problems.

For them, the Field of Dreams opposite the Gulf/Franklin campus is the place for the kind of "sports complex" the city wishes, one that will attract tournaments, which dovetails with the TDC mission regarding the fifth penny.

"This issue is this is a residential area and you want to build a sports complex, not ball fields," said resident Arthur Rodgers. "This is a slap on the face for residents."

There are concerns about further construction and potentially piping a stormwater canal as just adding to existing problems with flooding during heavy rains.

In addition, there is skepticism as to whether this initial renovation leads

to additional phases to meet an initial conceptual plan that had construction all the way to 16th Street.

"We do not oppose have the existing neighborhood ball fields improved," said resident Jill Bebee. "It's a park and needs to stay a park. Those are neighborhood ball fields and they should stay neighborhood ball fields."

"You're building in a swamp ... this is not an appropriate place for anything but a rebuilt neighborhood park."

On a completely separate spot are coaches, parents and players of youth baseball and softball who contend the existing park footprint constraining for the 225 or so children who play on the existing, historic fields.

As the debate has raged over the past several months, another alternate location has gained some support.

A sports complex on 60 acres donated to the city along Field of Dreams Ave. was abandoned long ago by the city and county due to funding constraints in the wake of last decade's Great Recession.

Neither city or county has broached a return to that concept.

Recently, resident Robert Farmer has urged commissioners to consider the old railroad yard land behind CVS and bordered by Avenue A and First Street.

There would be plenty of space, Farmer said, for anything desired in the complex and would be in the middle of town, a showcase for people entering the city.

The drawback for that proposal is the land is owned by The St. Joe Company, which adds an entirely new dynamic to the puzzle.

As of Wednesday morning, the city was to hold a "town hall" meeting, as the recommendation of County Commissioner Sandy Quinn, Jr., in order to provide sufficient public input in order for the city to find a path forward.

## DAWGS

From Page A1

Miick was about to have a void in her everyday routine anyway as she was about to retire her dog from the two trips a week to the local nursing home.

"I thought about (the prison program) and figured, 'How hard can it be?'" Miick said.

Nine years later, the Developing Adoptable Dogs with Good Sociability (DAWGS) in Prison graduated its 59th class last week, bringing to 591 dogs that have graduated the program.

Pause (or paws) here, and let that number sink in.

"I am excited and overwhelmed with the number of dogs we have been able to graduate and get adopted," Miick said. "More often than not, those are dogs that would have ultimately been euthanized without that program."

Just one more fun fact, even though it is younger than nearly all other programs in the state prison systems, DAWGS is a pack leader. "We have graduated more than any other canine prison program in Florida," Miick said.

"Last year, Sandi and I (co-directors of DAWGS) were at a conference and according to the literature on the canine programs they handed out, we had graduated more dogs."

Those 591 dogs over the past nine years have ended up becoming part of 578 families; there are several homes with two dogs adopted from DAWGS and one New York City residence is home to four such graduates.

Those 578 families are spread across 28 states and three countries; last week's graduates were heading to Alabama, Florida, New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania.

And lest one believes



Lilly, a brindle Plott hound, is going to Panama City.

(SPECIAL TO THE STAR)

that the work ends with graduation, Miick will quickly disabuse one of that notion.

Since last Wednesday's graduation, she has exchanged phone calls with two of the four adopters who traveled to the ceremony. Part of each graduation is a rundown of commands as well as a letter "from the dog" detailing the personality, likes and dislikes of each dog.

But, Miick noted, there is a lot of information to cover and transition, for dog and adopters, can take a few days.

And is hardly unusual for adopters to call in the days following graduation, at least one time, Miick noted, at 3 a.m.

"Usually for dogs it takes about a week," Miick said of the transition from prison to a home. "And usually, it only takes a few minutes to understand what is going on and provide some suggestions."

"Our program is very structured and at this point I knew it very well. Usually, it is just simple things."

But, there have been occasions.... "Sandi and I, we have both gone to people's homes to help," Miick said, saying the decision is based on proximity and nature of the issue.

One thing that can be said of DAWGS, however, there has been just one return.

Out of 591, and that dog was quickly placed in another "forever home."

There is, of course, another side to DAWGS, a partnership between the humane society, Board of County Commissioners, Department of Corrections and the Gulf Forestry Camp.

In addition to the number of dogs, the total of inmates who have worked in the program is over 500; 536 to be exact who have served as caretakers, handlers, trainers and lead trainers.

And, many of whom have gone on to apply skills learned in dogs, including discipline, accountability, responsibility with a mix of humble, to a successful life outside the prison.

"It's very rewarding," Miick said of DAWGS. "I like to do it. I love working with animals. I have learned how to teach those inmates how to train the animals. I respect them and they give me a great deal of respect."

"I had no idea (the program would flourish for nine years). It is something Sandi and I never dreamed. We're both very proud of our program."

## CANDIDATE

From Page A1

There will also be no primary for the BOCC District 2 seat.

Commissioner Ward McDaniel, the Democrat incumbent, is facing Republican Tom Semmes.

Josh Taunton had filed initial, but not all, paperwork this week to run for the District 2 seat. He would run with no party affiliation meaning the November ballot would decide the race.

School Board races are non-partisan.

The District 1 seat, being vacated by Danny Little, has three candidates vying, Brian Cox, Bernadette Hackett and Dennis McGlon.

If none of the three earns 50 percent-plus one of the vote in the August primary, the top two vote-getters will advance to November.

Ruby Knox and Barbara Radcliff have filed for School Board District 5 seat being vacated by John Wright.

That race will be decided on the August primary

ballot.

From the beginning of the qualifying period Monday, it was likely there would be few actual changes since the deadline for candidate qualifying via the petition method expired last month.

To qualify all candidates had to secure was signatures from just 10 percent of eligible voters in their race.

This week, to enter any race candidates had to pay the qualifying fee; \$1,732-\$1,155 for county commission depending on whether or not there is a party affiliation, \$1,061 for school board.

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Associated Health Press

**AHP** – Adult diaper sales are expected to plummet as results from a clinical trial on a new, patented bladder control pill have finally been released.

Sold under the brand name *UriVarx™*, the new pill contains key ingredients that keeps the bladder from releasing voluntarily, which reduces accidents and frequent bathroom trips.

Perhaps more impressive, it also targets the tiny muscles around the bladder, which helps the bladder to create a tighter seal.

This would explain why the average *UriVarx™* user in clinical trials experiences a 66% reduction in urinary incontinence symptoms, such as day and night leaking and sudden urges to urinate.

## NEW DISCOVERY IN BLADDER CONTROL

Until now, doctors believed it was impossible to strengthen the muscles that control the bladder. They are amazed to see that it can now be done with the non-prescription *UriVarx™* pill.

“As you get older, and the involuntary muscles around your bladder weaken, you lose urinary control. With your bladder wall unable to properly seal, you constantly leak and feel pressure to urinate” explains Dr. Bassam Damaj of Innovus Pharmaceuticals.

“*UriVarx™* targets the bladder muscles and help restores vital kidney health, reducing urgency and frequency. It also helps you “hold it” for hours so you never have to worry about embarrassing accidents ever again!”

## FREEDOM FROM SUDDEN URGES AND LEAKS

Since hitting the market, sales for the patented *UriVarx™* pill have soared and there are some very good reasons why.

To begin with, the double blind large clinical studies published in the clinicaltrials.gov have been impressive. Participants taking *UriVarx™* saw a **stunning reduction** in urinary frequency, which resulted in fewer bathroom trips both day and night.

They also experienced a **dramatic decrease** in incontinence episodes, such as leaking and bed wetting.

The active ingredients in *UriVarx™* comes from a patented formula. It is both safe and healthy. There are also no known serious side effects in its history of use.

Scientists believe that the ingredients target the muscles of the bladder to grow stronger. These muscles are responsible for keeping the bladder tightly sealed. They also help the bladder to completely empty, allowing bacteria to be flushed from the urinary tract.

Research has shown that as you get older, certain hormonal changes in the body cause these muscles to shrink and become lose. This is what causes the bladder to be over active and the resulting urine accidents and why *UriVarx™* seems to be so effective in the published clinical trials.

## EXCITING RESULTS FROM URIVARX USERS

Many *UriVarx™* users say their bladders have never been stronger. For the first time in years, they are confident and in complete



**NEW PILL MAY REPLACE DIAPERS FOR BLADDER CONTROL: This new patented clinically proven pill solution is now available nationwide**

control. Adult pads and diapers are no longer a big worry.

“After my third child, I couldn’t control my bladder. I was running to the bathroom all the time! And once I hit my 60s it became so unpredictable I needed to wear adult pads every day” explained Marie L. of Danbury, CT.

“I was embarrassed so before going to my doctor I decided to try *UriVarx* and I’m so glad I did! The urgency is gone and I no longer feel like my bladder is about to explode. I can also “hold it” when I need to so I’m no longer living in constant fear of finding a bathroom.”

## IMPRESSIVE CLINICAL RESULTS

The exciting clinical results published on the government clinical website clinicaltrials.gov show that *UriVarx™* can strengthen your bladder fast, significantly reducing the urine urgency and leaks.

In a new double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical study, 142 men and women with bladder control issues were separated into two groups. The first group was given a placebo while the other received *UriVarx™*.

**The results were incredible.** The participants who received *UriVarx™* saw major improvements in leaking, pressure, and the urgency to go – all without the usual side effects seen in prescription drugs! They also reported fewer trips to the bathroom both day and night.

Overall, the *UriVarx™* group experienced:

- 56% Reduction in Urge Incontinence
- 66% Reduction in Stress Incontinence
- 61% Reduction in Urgency
- 33% Reduction in Frequency
- 46% Reduction in Nighttime Bathroom Trips

Additionally, at the end of clinical trial and after seeing the results, **84% of the participants taking *UriVarx™* said it significantly improved their quality of life.**

“The clinical findings are incredible, but people still wonder if it will really work” explains Dr. Bassam Damaj. “It’s normal to be skeptical, but we’ve seen thousands of *UriVarx™* users get results exactly like the

participants in the study. It’s an amazing product.”

## HOW IT WORKS

*UriVarx™* is a pill that’s taken just once daily. It does not require a prescription.

The active ingredients are patented natural extracts.

Research shows that as we get older, the muscles which surround the bladder weaken. This is caused by hormonal changes in the body that causes the muscles to atrophy and weaken.

When they become too small and weak, they cannot seal your bladder shut, which causes leaking, accidents, among other incontinence symptoms.

It also prevents your bladder from fully emptying, which can result in persistent bacterial infections and UTIs.

*UriVarx™* active ingredient targets the muscles around the bladder, making them stronger. Supporting ingredients in *UriVarx™* support kidney function and overall urinary health.

## BLADDER PROBLEMS GONE

With daily use, *UriVarx™* can restore strong bladder control and help users overcome leakage without the negative side effects or interactions associated with drugs.

Leakage sufferers can now put an end to the uncontrollable urges, the embarrassing accidents, and enjoy an entirely new level of comfort and confidence.

## HOW TO GET URIVARX IN FLORIDA

This is the official release of *UriVarx™* in Florida. As such, the company is offering a special discounted supply to anyone suffering from bladder issues who calls within the next 48 hours.

A special hotline number and discounted pricing has been created for all Florida residents. Discounts will be available starting today at 6:00AM and will automatically be applied to all callers.

Your Toll-Free Hotline number is 1-800-497-6352 and will only be open for the next 48 hours. Only a limited discounted supply of *UriVarx™* is currently available in your region.

# Eliminating the plastic, part II

**A follow-up to last week's 'Turtle Straws' story**

**By Tim Croft**  
The Port St. Joe Star  
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In last week’s (June 14) edition, we reported on Nancy Jones and her local effort to eliminate plastic straws.

Jones and her partner had become the regional distributor for a brand of paper straws manufactured by an Indiana company, the local product sporting the shapes of green sea turtles.

A portion of the proceeds from sales of the straws will be donated to the Forgotten Coast Sea Turtle Center.

Jones already lined up several prominent establishments including the Haughty Heron, Blue Parrot and The Owl, the latter two in Franklin County.

The initiative generated plenty of positive comments on social media, as well as a couple of links on similar initiatives around the globe.

One reader noted they had just dined at the Blue Parrot which served them paper straws.

“I’d like to see our Gulf and Franklin County

**According to Litterati, an app that identifies and maps trash, plastic straws are the sixth-most common type of litter globally.**

**Only 1 percent are recycled, largely because they are made of a mixture of polypropylene and polystyrene.**

restaurants support this initiative,” wrote Keka Spoonemore.

Lennon Thiel added, “This is fantastic.”

Of course, straws are only part of a problem that scientists have estimated will leave as much poundage in plastic as fish in the world’s oceans by 2050.

Several readers urged the end of plastic grocery bags.

“Plastic grocery bags must go,” wrote Paula Ramsey Pickett. “Most places we visit offer paper or you bring your own.”

“If you request plastic they charge you a fee.”

The discussion also brought a couple of links worthy of attention.

One, shared by Jack Kerigan, was a report from Money magazine that McDonald’s would eliminate plastic straws in the United Kingdom and Ireland by the end of 2019.

McDonald’s uses some 1.8 million plastic straws per day in the UK and Ireland alone.

According to Litterati, an app that identifies and maps trash, plastic

straws are the sixth-most common type of litter globally.

Only 1 percent are recycled, largely because they are made of a mixture of polypropylene and polystyrene.

One million birds and more than 100,000 sea mammals die every year from eating or getting entangled in plastic waste, according to the UK government.

Another link, shared by a public relations consultant for FinalStraw, concerned the company’s focus on the consumer instead of business with a stainless steel, collapsible straw.

The straw comes with a carrying case, small enough to attach to a keychain, and cards the customer can leave behind for the business, encouraging them to eliminate plastic straws.

The company is partnering with companies such as www.lonelywhale.org, a “global movement for a strawless ocean.”

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Vytorin 10mg/40mg	90	\$155.00	QVAR 80mcg	400 ds	\$135.00
Xifaxan 550mg	100	\$170.00	Finacea Gel 15%	90	\$135.00
Asacol 800mg	300	\$250.00	Uloric 40mg	90	\$175.00
Vesicare 10mg	100	\$165.00	Breo Ellipta 100mcg/25mcg	90 ds	\$400.00
Ranexa ER 500mg	200	\$190.00	Jublia 10%	24 ml	\$490.00
Myrbetriq 50mg	90	\$365.00	Tradjenta 5mg	90	\$350.00
Actigall 300mg	300	\$225.00	Nasonex 50 mcg	420 ds	\$95.00
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Eliquis 5mg	168	\$605.00			
Spiriva Respimat 2.5mcg	180 ds	\$235.00			
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# OUTDOORS

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## Time to snap up a few snappers

**By Frank Sargeant**  
Special to The Star

For those with a desire for red snapper fillets—pretty much all of us without a fish allergy—the opening of the season in June is cause for celebration. And thanks to extended negotiations between the Gulf states and federal fishery managers, this year’s season is the most promising in years because it’s likely to provide an extended opportunity to harvest these tasty fish, more in line with their apparent numbers.

The 2018 recreational season opened June 11 and is expected to close July 21, depending on the reported harvest. The season for charter and party boats is June 1 through July 21. While that’s not a lot of time, it beats the heck out of the four-day seasons in federal waters in the recent past.

The great thing about

red snappers at present is that it does not take a trip over the horizon to get at least a few keeper-size fish; they have again become abundant on some inshore structures in as little as 60 feet of water, well within sight of the beaches. This makes it possible for those of us who own single-outboard center consoles to get at them in relative safety. (However, venturing offshore in iffy conditions is always questionable and all the usual safety gear should be aboard anytime a boat gets outside the inlet, including a DSC-enabled VHF radio that will tell the Coast Guard where you are at the touch of a button if you get into serious trouble.)

### How to get ‘em

Red snapper are generally pretty cooperative, which is one of the reasons they are so easily fished

down to levels lower than biologists like to see. However, there’s definitely an established regimen for finding and catching them. Here are a few tips, most given to me by Captain Tommy Butler, longtime commercial hook-and-liner and charter captain out of Madeira Beach:

1. Snapper are not “bottom fish” like grouper—they’re usually found above the structure rather than directly down on it.

2. Look for the “Christmas tree” image on sonar, small and the top, large at the bottom above structure, to indicate a school of red snapper. The top of this tree may be as much as 40 feet off bottom in a big school.

3. Motor-fish where possible: It’s difficult for most less expert anglers to drop the anchor in 200-foot depths and get the boat positioned right in wind and current on the first try, and repeat drops can spook the fish.

4. Have a chum bag ready: Snapper frequently come up to take advantage of a chum stream, and when they’re in the chum, they’re usually easy to catch, though you may have to switch to unweighted hooks on spinning tackle for these fish.

5. Avoid catch-and-release fishing—as soon as everybody on board has their 2-fish limit, pull off the spot. That way there’s less chance of other anglers discovering you and moving in to clean it out. It’s also a good idea to “rest” a school for several days before hitting it again, though given the pressure that’s likely on nearshore reefs, this may not be a good plan this summer.

6. In calm, clear water, it pays to lighten up on gear—opt for 40-pound-test tackle rather than 60, giving the fish less visible leader and smaller hooks to fool them.

7. Don’t fish below the fish. Snapper will come up to get a bait, but they won’t go down as a rule—note where the fish are on sonar and stop your drop above bottom to put it in their face.

8. While there may be keepers over the 16-inch minimum on inshore reefs, if you want fish over 10 pounds, it means a trip out to 150 to 280 feet of water. The inshore fish get caught before they become lunkers.

### The right baits and rigs

Cut cigar minnows are a favorite of many experienced



**Red snapper are usually easy to catch, making them good targets for young anglers.** [PHOTOS BY FRANK SARGEANT]

snapper-chasers—a piece about 3 inches long on a 2/0 to 3/0 circle hook is the ticket for inshore “chicken” snapper, while the big momma’s offshore require 5/0 to 7/0 hooks and larger baits.

Note that by law, only circle hooks without an offset are permitted for reef species. The idea is that the circular hooks tend to slide out of the throat but the point catches on the lip of the snapper, thus it’s less likely to mortally wound fish that are to be released.

Red snapper eat a wide assortment of other baits, with squid and cut menhaden also effective. Some expert skippers like Captain Mike Parker of Silver King Charters in Destin carry along several dozen select live shrimp when they go snapper-ing—the shrimp are all but irresistible to the fish, apparently. Anglers fishing farther south, where scaled sardines are abundant, have done well by using these silvery live baits to lure the snapper, as well.

Snapper that have not been hard-fished can be caught on artificial lures, with the shrimp-scented DOA Shrimp in 4-inch size and the Berkley GULP crab among the more successful offerings—they’re fished below heavy weights, just like live bait. For adult fish far offshore, giant jigs from 4 to 8 ounces with 8-inch plastic tails, sometimes dressed with a mullet or bonito belly, lure fish off reefs over 200 feet down.

The usual rig for fishing cut or live bait is an egg sinker between 3 and 8 ounces above a swivel of suitable strength, then a 5-foot length (or more in clear water) of mono or fluorocarbon in 50 to 60 pound test, then the hook.



**Cut cigar minnows are among the favorite snapper baits, but they also take squid, shrimp and other cut fish.**

### Finding snapper spots

The Panhandle has hundreds and perhaps thousands of “private” reefs, that is junk that skippers have dropped on otherwise barren sand bottom to attract snapper—old washing machines, steel drums, all sorts of bulky trash. It’s not legal any more, but there are still many of these reefs around, and smart skippers have dozens of them in their GPS machines—all very carefully protected from other skippers who might want to pirate “their” fish.

There are also numerous legally-placed artificial reefs, including tugboats, barges and ships as well as demolition rubble, that attract lots of fish; these can be found on any good offshore chart, or visit [www.myfwc.com](http://www.myfwc.com) and type “artificial reefs” in the search box.

### Party boats and charter boats

You don’t have to have your own boat to go red snapper fishing; the Panhandle area between Panama City and Pensacola has one of the largest and most active reef fishing fleets in the nation, and any angler interested in a trip can readily find just the right boat for his buddies or his family. Prices range from around \$350 for a

half-day to \$800 for a full day, and that fee can be split by up to six anglers on most boats.

Party boats or “head boats” are also numerous in Panhandle ports, and these big boats can handle up to 45 anglers, at prices typically around \$60 each for four hours, \$90 each for eight hours. The longer trips go out farther and catch the bigger snapper. Kids under 5 are not accepted on some offshore boats—check in advance. Most party-boats have snackbars and air-conditioned lounges where you can cool off between spots.

Note that during the snapper season, it can be hard to get a spot—it’s best to reserve by phone or on-line in advance because everybody wants to bring home a few snappers while there’s an opportunity.

Take your Dramamine in advance—they won’t come back if you get seasick. (ReliefBand is a watch-like strap-on device that sends tiny electrical shocks into your wrist to prevent sea-sickness—it sounds like snakeoil, but it absolutely works; I’ve seen it cure some folks who absolutely could not get offshore otherwise—[www.reliefband.com](http://www.reliefband.com).)

### Releasing red snapper

Fish caught from deep water frequently have issues with the rapid pressure change as they are brought aboard—they blow up like a balloon, and are unable to swim when put back over the side. Since the limit on red snapper is just two fish daily, it’s common for anglers to release much of their catch these days, and improving survival of these fish makes good conservation sense—as well as being required by state and federal law.

Improving survival depends on several steps:

1. Use circle hooks so that the hook is unlikely to be swallowed. (This is required by law for all reef species anyway.)

2. Get the hooks out promptly with an efficient hook-removing tool or long-nose pliers. (These are also required when fishing for reef species.)

3. If you want a photo, make it quickly.

4. Use a deep-release “descender” device like the Seaqualizer ([www.seaqualizer.com](http://www.seaqualizer.com)) to help the fish get back down to bottom safely. Descender devices include large weights to which the fish is hooked and lowered back to a comfortable depth, then released.

5. Let the fish go promptly—time out of water are the biggest enemy to survival.

## WEEKLY ALMANAC

Date	High	Low	% Precip
Thu, June 21	86°	78°	60%
Fri, June 22	88°	78°	80%
Sat, June 23	88°	78°	20%
Sun, June 24	88°	77°	20%
Mon, June 25	88°	76°	50%
Tues, June 26	88°	77°	40%
Wed, June 27	87°	76°	50%

## 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
21	Th	7:59a	1.0	9:49p	0.6
22	Fr	7:29a	1.2	4:42p	0.3
23	Sa	7:34a	1.4	5:24p	0.1
24	Su	7:55a	1.6	6:06p	-0.1
25	Mo	8:23a	1.7	6:46p	-0.2
26	Tu	8:53a	1.8	7:23p	-0.2
27	We	9:24a	1.9	7:57p	-0.3

## APALACHICOLA BAY, WEST PASS

Date	Day	High Tide	High Tide	Low Tide	Low Tide
21	Th	11:00a	1.3	11:56p	1.0
22	Fr	11:30a	1.3	5:27a	0.8
23	Sa	1:56a	1.0	12:01p	1.4
24	Su	3:27a	1.0	12:32p	1.4
25	Mo	4:31a	1.1	1:05p	1.5
26	Tu	5:20a	1.2	1:39p	1.5
27	We	5:59a	1.2	2:15p	1.5

**SPONSOR THE WEEKLY ALMANAC  
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### FISHING REPORT



Fishing continues to be hot along with the weather on the Forgotten Coast. Flounder has been excellent and Bull Minnows and Natural or White grub colors are taking fish. We even had a customer in the store with about a 8 to 10 pounder that blew everyone’s mind including the old timers. Redfish is still good as well as Trout in the Bay and Popping rigs and paddle shad worked along the bottom is producing fish. Snapper fishing is now a week in and the fishing has been awesome, some very large Snapper have been taken along with a good mix of Grouper and Vermillion. We had great luck on the Bluewater boat last week and boated some nice Chicken Dolphin on the outing. Make sure on your run back you troll for some King Mackerel to finish up the day. Until next week Happy Fishing !!

We have everything you need for outdoor Summer fun!

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# SPORTS

## Lady Gators dominate all-state team

Star Staff Report

To the winner belong the spoils, the old adage goes, and the Wewahitchka Jr./Sr. High School softball team cleaned up on all-state selections last week.

The Class 1A state champion nearly swept the major awards in the Class 1A balloting, with Brianna Bailey taking both Player of the Year and Pitcher of the Year awards and Gracie Price winning the Defensive Player of the Year.

First-year Coach Tony Price was named the Coach of the Year.

The only major award the Lady Gators did not win was Offensive Player of the Year, which went to a member of the squad from state runner-up Trenton.

Bailey simply dominated all year for the Lady Gators, who finished 26-4 and won a state championship that had eluded them the prior two years.

Bailey was 25-1 with a 0.31 ERA and 282 strikeouts, against just 30 walks, in the circle.

At the plate, Bailey, who signed a scholarship with Florida Gulf Coast, hit .279 with 29 RBIs, second on the team, six doubles, a triple and home run.

Price, a first-baseman, made no errors while handling more than 300 put-outs and adding 16 assists.

She also hit .419 with a .515 on-based percentage, .782 slugging percentage and 1.298 OPS, combined slugging and on-base, all team-highs.

Price also led the team in hits (45), doubles (11) and triples (five) and tied with Bailey for the team lead in home runs with two.

She also scored runs 27 runs.

In addition to Bailey and Price, Lady Gators named to the first team included Cyrina Madrid, Angela Long and Aleah Wooten.

Madrid batted .312, scored a team-high 36 runs and led the team with 27 stolen bases without being caught.

She had 25 hits and drove in 12.

Wooten, who hit .279, was second on the team with 32 runs and stole 20 bases, third on the team, without being caught.

Wooten's .959 fielding percentage was fourth on the team.

Long hit .253, driving in 17 runs while scoring 13, stealing 13 bases and registering a .963 fielding percentage, third on the team.

Two other Lady Gators were named to all-state teams.

Katie Shealy earned a second-team nod after hitting .288, driving in seven runs and scoring 11.

Anna Setterich was an honorable mention

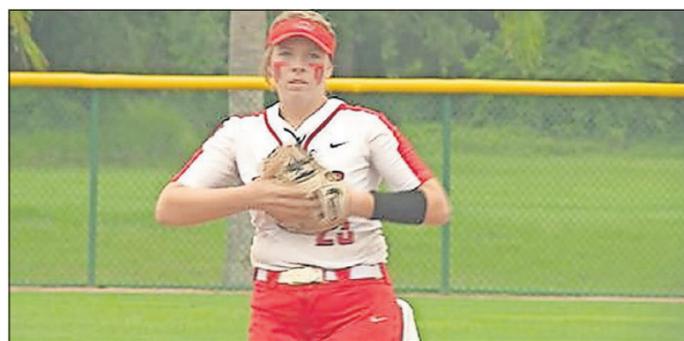


The state champion Lady Gators placed five players on the Class 1A all-State first team; seven total on all-state teams. [FILE PHOTOS]

selection; she scored 12 runs, drove in 10 and her .978 fielding percentage was second on the team.

Bailey, Long and Setterich were graduating seniors, along with Naomi Parker, who did not play this year due to a knee injury suffered during the volleyball season.

However, Madrid, Price and Wooten were all sophomores this past season and Shealy was just an eighth-grader.



Wewahitchka's Brianna Bailey was the state Class 1A Player of the Year and Pitcher of the Year.

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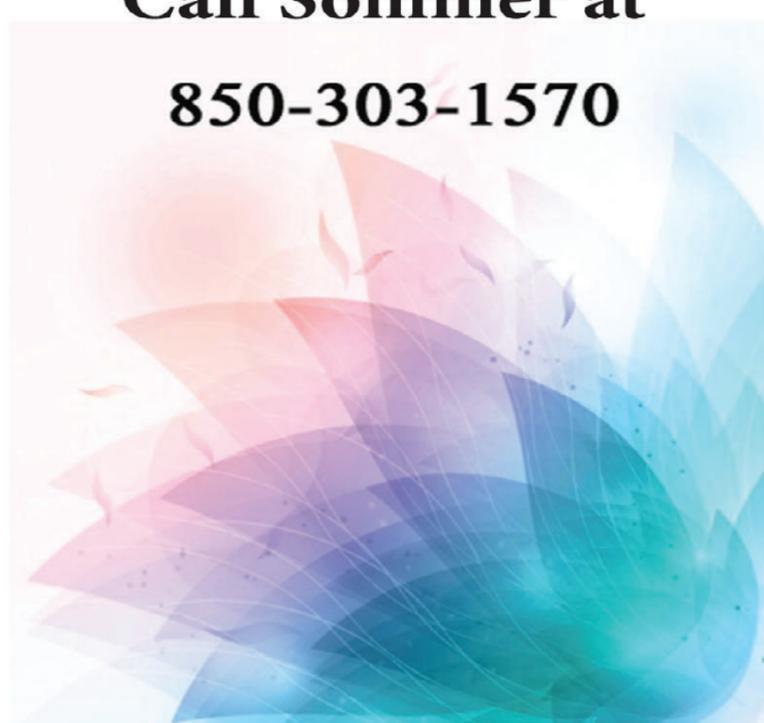
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# SCENE AROUND



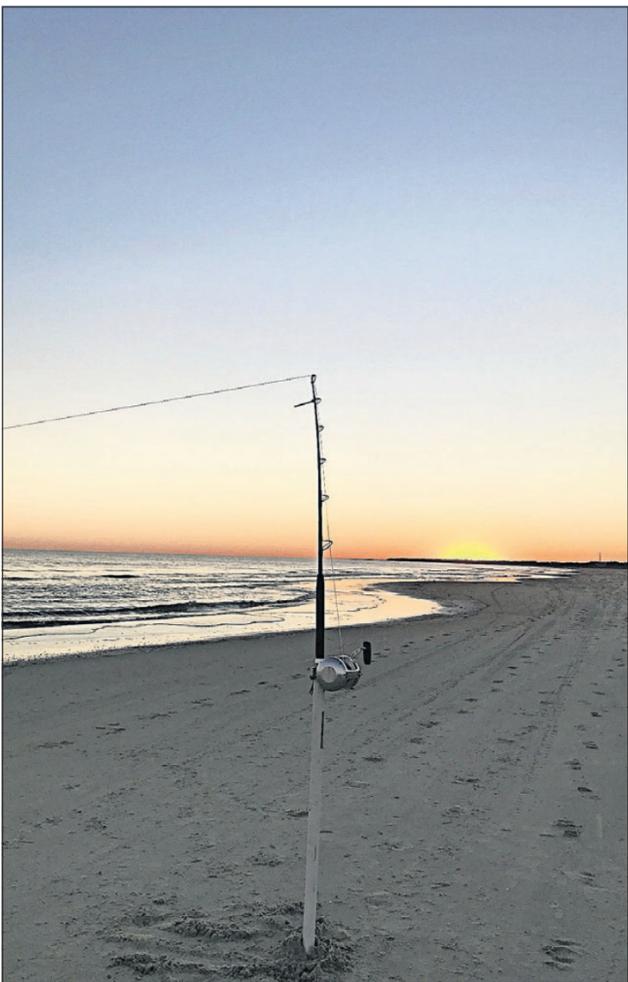
**St. Joseph Bay at peace.** [COURTESY OF KAREN GEORGE]



**The end of another day in paradise.** [COURTESY OF KENNY MOORE]



**The eerie beauty of the Dead Lakes.** [COURTESY OF LINDA SEXTON]



**Fishing on Indian Pass Beach.** [COURTESY OF JOHN SELLERS]



**Kayaking St. Joseph Bay.** [COURTESY OF HEATHER BLOOD AND STEVE WOMACK]



**All sorts of wildlife can be found at T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park.** [COURTESY OF CAROL BUIKEMA]



**A Scarlet Tanager during a stop on its migratory flight.** [COURTESY OF CAROL AND PHIL DOHMEN]

Send us your photos that spotlight the best that Gulf Coast has to offer. This page is for photos submitted to The Star by readers. Please submit your photos to [tcroft@starfl.com](mailto:tcroft@starfl.com).

# COMMUNITY

## 'Hometown teams'

### Smithsonian to bring exhibit to PSJ library

By **Tim Croft**

The Port St. Joe Star | 850-227-7827  
@PSJ\_Star | tcroft@starfl.com

Smithsonian. Gulf County sports.

Sounds like a winning mix. And it figures to be this fall when the Smithsonian Institute will bring its "Museum on Main Street" to the Port St. Joe Library, and as the local library seeks to add a dash of community flavor to the exhibit.

With photos of the many great athletes, and teams, that have called Gulf County home through the years.

The traveling exhibit, "Hometown Teams",

"examines the many roles that sports play in American society," according to the Smithsonian website. "Hometown sports are more than just games – they shape our lives and unite us and celebrate who we are as Americans."

The exhibit will arrive in November but preparations have been taking place for some time.

Funding for the exhibit was secured through a grant from the Florida Humanities Council, said Nancy Brockman, director of the Gulf County Libraries.

"They have been marvelous in their support," Brockman said of the humanities council. "They are a wonderful way for us to expand our offerings for

the community."

With "Museums on Main Street" the Smithsonian extends its reach into smaller, rural areas, communities with an average population of 8,000; the range is 1,000 to 20,000.

"It's really to get Smithsonian quality exhibits out in rural areas," Brockman said, noting there are six different exhibits traveling the country as part of the "Museums on Main Street" program.

"Hometown Teams" is merely one of the exhibits which have visited more than 1,400 communities across the country since 1994.

The idea came out of a survey of 13 humanities councils and 300 small



The Port St. Joe Library is seeking photos pertaining to Gulf County athletics. [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

cultural institutions in the country which underscored that rural areas tend to be isolated from things such as the arts and museums and that libraries and small museums, while lacking in financial assets, were perfect platforms for programs

as they serve as community centers.

The exhibit, which will fill the Florida History room in the library during its stay, brings Smithsonian quality and space for a local look at

See **EXHIBIT, B5**



The peninsula state park was a wish of Stone's and the park is named in his honor. [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

## REMEMBERING Terrell Higdon Stone

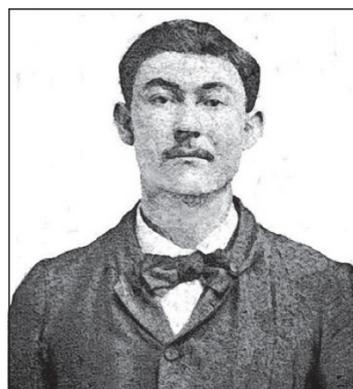
### Pioneer of Port St. Joe

Compiled and written by **H. Higdon Swatts**

Grandson of T.H. Stone, written May 20, 2018  
Special to The Star

Terrell Higdon Stone, also known as T. H. Stone, was born September 19, 1868. He was the son of James Bennett and Jincy Ann Yon Stone and was born at Shiloh Community in Calhoun County, Florida. The Shiloh Community was located near what is now called Scott's Ferry.

Mr. Stone, was the great-grandson of Colonel Henry Dessex Stone, of a well known Stone family of Marianna, and Jackson County Florida. Colonel Stone had a total of four wives and according to Stone family records, he fathered twenty seven (27) sons. The Colonel served with Andrew Jackson during the Civil War between the North and the South. At one time, he had been President of the Territorial Council of Florida. One of the Colonels



T. H. Stone

grandsons, James Bennett Stone, resided in old St. Joseph during the last couple of years before the city was destroyed by yellow fever and a hurricane. Later James Bennett became a member of the Florida Legislature and served from 1868 to 1877. He later located on a creek about four miles north of Wewahitchka. There, he erected a saw

See **STONE, B6**

## A market calling

### Local woman honors father with market

By **Tim Croft**

The Port St. Joe Star | 850-227-7827  
@PSJ\_Star | tcroft@starfl.com

Nearly four months ago Teresa Sosebee received a medical diagnosis to make any child shudder.

Her father, just in his late 50s, had 24-48 hours to live as he battled vascular dementia and repeated strokes, a physician told her.

In the hours following that diagnosis, she made her dad a pledge.

"He told me that he wanted to see me do what he had done someday," Sosebee said. "He did so much for our family and gave back to his community.

"I promised him after

"He told me that he wanted to see me do what he had done someday. He did so much for our family and gave back to his community. I promised him after that diagnosis that I was going to make that happen."

Teresa Sosebee, Clementine'z owner

that diagnosis that I was going to make that happen."

Beginning Friday the journey arrives.

Sosebee will open Clementine'z at 3320 State 386 which she described as a produce market/general store.

"Not just your average general store," she said.

See **MARKET, B5**



Teresa Sosebee's grandfather established the family produce business in Georgia in 1937. [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

### TRIVIA FUN



Wilson Casey

"Trivia Fun" with Wilson Casey, Guinness World Record Holder from Woodruff, S.C., is published in more than 500 newspapers across the country. Comments, questions or suggestions? WC@TriviaGuy.com

1. "It would be the biggest state in the union if it were ironed out flat" is said about what state?

Tennessee, North Carolina, Idaho, Montana  
2. Whose quotes included, "Life is a succession of lessons which must be lived to

be understood.?"

Twain, Emerson, Thoreau, Frost

3. By perpetual legend, Adolf Hitler at one time owned thousands of acres in which U.S. state?

Texas, Colorado, Pennsylvania, Georgia

4. Which Florida city is the "Kitty-Litter Capital of the World"?

Foley, Ocala, Tice, Quincy

5. Where is the Palliser Triangle?

Pacific ocean, Canada, Indian ocean, Moon

6. Papiamento is a type of ...?

Language, Seasoning, Ship, Pizza

ANSWERS: 1. Idaho, 2. Emerson (Ralph Waldo), 3. Colorado, 4. Quincy, 5. Canada, 6. Language

**SOCIETY**

# Wewahitchka Woman's Club news

**'National Elder Abuse Awareness Day' Bingo**

Special to The Star

With June 15 being National Elder Abuse Awareness Day, the Domestic Violence committee from GFWC Wewahitchka Woman's Club was prompted to hold a special day event at the Wewahitchka Senior Center.

A sing-a-long was provided by David Ford, Mary Jo and Marjorie Ford, Rick and Carol Bragg and Dudley Balmer. Club member Nancy Balmer accompanied on the keyboard. All are from Taunton's "Chapel in The Woods" church.

Following music, the 10 GFWC club members assisted in the Bingo games, with prizes for all of the 13 senior players. Pastor Dudley Balmer, GFWC Booster member, called out the numbers.

After lunch the ladies served watermelon as a treat to all. The watermelons were donated by David Rich from Rich's IGA. Excess watermelon was delivered to local neighborhood elder adults.

Workers from Woman's Club included: Nancy Balmer, Carol Childress,



Hosting Bingo. [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

**With June 15 being National Elder Abuse Awareness Day, the Domestic Violence committee from GFWC Wewahitchka Woman's Club was prompted to hold a special day event at the Wewahitchka Senior Center.**

Donna Stitz, Catherine Adams, Marlyn Grawey, Rosemary Lewis, Pat Stripling, Carolyn Watson, Rhonda Alderman and Booster member Dudley Balmer



Woman's Club members and the Bingo prizes. [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

## The good, bad of money discussed at Lifetree Café

Special to The Star

The impact of money on people's lives will be explored 7 p.m. CT Monday, June 25 at Lifetree Café.

The program, titled "Money, Money, Money: Stories from a Lottery Winner," features a filmed

interview with Harry Werkema, a man who won \$26 million in the Michigan lottery with his police partner. "Winning the lottery will change your life," said Werkema. "It can have a profound effect for the good, the bad and otherwise."

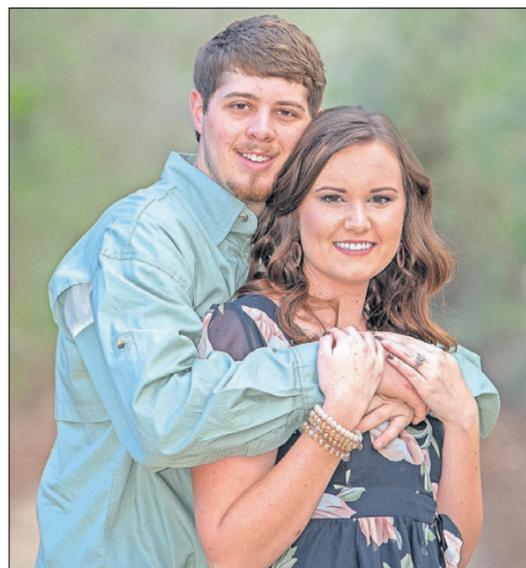
During the program,

Lifetree participants will have the opportunity to discuss ways their lives would change if they won the lottery. Admission to the 60-minute event is free. Snacks and beverages are available.

Lifetree Café is located at 1602 U.S. Highway 98 in Mexico Beach across from

El Governor 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 livingwater@livingwateratthebeach.com.



## Haley McCroan, Trent Charles to marry

Mr. and Mrs. Phil McCroan of Port Saint Joe, Florida along with Mr. and Mrs. Steven Charles of Marianna, Florida are pleased to announce the upcoming marriage of their children, Haley McCroan to Trent Charles.

Haley McCroan is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Barnes of Port Saint Joe, Florida and the late Mrs. Elaine Barnes of Port Saint Joe and the late Mr. and Mrs. Barney McCroan of Port Saint Joe.

Trent Charles is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. John Sims and Ms. Maggie Charles and the late Lavon Charles all of Marianna. Haley is a 2015 graduate

of Port Saint Joe High School and graduated with her RN degree from Chipola College and is presently continuing her education through Chipola to receive her BSN degree. She is currently employed at Jackson Hospital in the Special Care Unit.

Trent is a 2015 graduate of Marianna High School and is employed at Philco as an HVAC/R technician and installer.

The ceremony will be held at Centennial Park in Port Saint Joe on July 7, 2018, at 6 p.m. ET, with a reception immediately following in the Centennial Building.

## Donating to stop domestic violence

Special to The Star

During last month's fundraiser for the Gulf County and Mexico Beach Domestic Violence Task Force, the Bay County's Sheriff's Office was among the donors, pledging \$1,500 for the cause. Pictured is Pam Martin from the Task Force (left) and Cheyena Jackson, a victim advocate with the BCSO's Criminal Investigations Division.



[SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

**PET OF THE WEEK**  
St. Joseph Bay Humane Society

This is Rose, a small hound mix. She weighs only 22 pounds and is full grown; about 2 years old. Rose loves to play with other dogs and doesn't mind cats, either. She walks great on a leash and is very loving. She is very intelligent and eager to please. A wonderful girl, came to us by animal control as a stray just looking for a home to call her own. Come see her and the other fur babies wanting to find their home!

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 [j.stricklandsjbhs@gmail.com](mailto:j.stricklandsjbhs@gmail.com) or call the St. Joseph Bay Humane Society at 850-227-1103. Online applications and pet photos are available at [www.sjbhumaneociety.org](http://www.sjbhumaneociety.org)

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## Guardian ad Litem volunteers sought

Special to The Star

Guardian ad Litem volunteers advocate for abused and neglected children from Gulf County who are currently going through court proceedings. We do this through the use of specially trained volunteers. We are seeking strong, stable adults who can be the voice for

these children. Your input to the court is valuable and you are the "eyes and ears" for the judge. An application, fingerprints/background check and training is required. Training is scheduled to begin in July. Please visit our website at [www.guardianadlitem14.com](http://www.guardianadlitem14.com) or call the Bay County office at 747-5180.

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## SCHOOL NEWS

# STEM Summer for challenge at Gulf Coast State College

Special to The Star

Gulf Coast State College in Panama City was the focus of much excitement during the first week of June as faculty members from Gulf Coast State College and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and PAEC personnel provided an Unmanned Systems STEM Summer Challenge to middle and high school students from Gulf and Franklin counties.

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University provided this high-tech learning opportunity at no cost to participating students through a partnership with the Panhandle Area Educational Consortium. Gulf Coast State College, another project partner provided space, faculty and technical support.

During the Challenge activities, student teams designed, constructed, and flew their hovercraft and coded terrestrial and aerial vehicles to navigate through obstacle courses to conduct autonomous "missions." On the final day of the challenge, students tested their skills by maneuvering the systems during a series of competitions.

Students were accompanied by Gulf district teachers, Lana Harrison and Kim McFarland and Franklin district teacher Lucinda Mathews.

This is an important opportunity for



Participants in last week's STEM camp. [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

area students, because unmanned or autonomous systems are gaining in sophistication, use is expanding and the demand for new systems and operators is growing. Annually, the potential financial impact totals in the billions of dollars across military, commercial, personal, and technology sectors. Increased demand is a result of the benefit of using these systems in places where people cannot reach or are unable to perform in a timely and efficient manner.

By using cameras, sensors, and computing capabilities, these systems can sense and navigate challenging terrain and provide information, so that human operators may understand the environment and take action to achieve a variety of missions.

Some of the uses

include examining agricultural crops, capturing more innovative shots for movies, getting closer to action for accurate news stories, highlighting real estate properties and mapping areas. Unmanned systems are also making their way onto roadways and in use to deliver packages, inspect bridges and oil platforms, for search and rescue missions, to monitor drug trafficking across borders, to conduct weather and environmental research, in disaster relief, firefighting, and by the military. Their use captured an international audience during the 2018 Winter Olympics when 1218 Shooting Star drones took to the skies to present an inspiring light show, as well as set a Guinness World Records title for the most unmanned aerial vehicles airborne simultaneously.



Bailey Lake, second from right, was honored last month in Orlando. [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

# Bailey Lake is Gulf County's Sunshine State Scholar

Special to The Star

The 2018 Sunshine State Scholars program was held last month in Orlando. Each of Florida's school districts select their top 11th grade students in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics (STEM).

Each of the scholars, along with their parents, traveled to Orlando for an extraordinary two-day program.

This year's program brought 100 high school STEM scholars together

**The two-day program culminated with the Commissioner of Education honoring each scholar for their significant academic accomplishments and celebrated for the potential they represent for our communities and state.**

to conduct a "think tank" on tough Florida challenges.

The two-day program culminated with the Commissioner of Education honoring each scholar for their significant academic accomplishments and celebrated for the potential they represent for our

communities and state.

In addition to bringing together the scholars to be honored by the Commissioner of Education, representatives from Florida's colleges and universities met with the students and discuss higher education opportunities available to them in Florida.

# Huntingdon announces Spring 2018 Dean's Lists

Special to The Star

MONTGOMERY, AL—The Huntingdon College Office of the Registrar has issued the lists of full-time day students whose academic performance during the spring semester 2018 qualified for recognition on the College's Dean's List of Honors or Dean's List of High Honors. The Dean's

List of High Honors recognizes those who achieved semester grade point averages of 3.8 to 4.00. The Dean's List of Honors recognizes those who achieved semester averages of 3.6 to 3.79. To be eligible for inclusion on either list, a student must have received letter grade evaluations on at least 12 hours during the term and must have

completed all coursework for the term. An "incomplete" grade on a student's grade report precludes the student's inclusion on the Dean's List.

The Dean's List of High Honors, Winter 2017 and Spring 2018, included Kerigan Addie Pickett of Port St. Joe. She is seeking a degree in Communication Studies.

# Local students named to TCC Dean's List

Special to The Star

TALLAHASSEE-- More than 1,000 students were named to the Spring 2018 Dean's List at Tallahassee Community College. To qualify, students must earn a semester grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

Local students named

to the list include: Rachel Douglas and Janeesa Lewis of Port St. Joe.

Tallahassee Community College is consistently ranked as one of the top community colleges in the nation. Every semester, thousands of students choose TCC as the next step in their education

journey. With our Associate in Arts degree for transfer to a state university in multiple tracks, as well as over 70 different degree and certificate programs that encompass a variety of fields, TCC has a wide range of educational pathways for students from all walks of life.

# Accelerated reading at PSJES



Makayan Jones, a fifth-grader at Port St. Joe Elementary School earned her place in the 100 Point Club in Accelerated Reader. Congratulations. [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

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# FAITH

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## MINNIE GLEN FLOYD FENNELL

Minnie Glen Floyd Fennell age 75, of Fort Worth, Florida, formerly of Campbellton, Florida went home to be with the Lord on Friday, June 15, 2018 in Boynton, Florida.

She was born on August 8, 1942, in Campbellton, Florida, to the late Gentle Floyd and the late Era Mae Floyd (Robinson). Her early education was received in the Jackson County School System. Later she moved to Port St. Joe, Florida where she graduated from Washington Senior High School.

Minnie and her family moved to Okeechobee, Florida in 1965.

While in Okeechobee, she worked as a Cottage Parent for the Florida School for Boys and then the Okeechobee County School District as a Teacher's Aide. Minnie retired from the Okeechobee County School District in 2002.

God gave her the gift of giving and she never hesitated to give to anyone that was in need. She was also a great cook. She touched many lives with her food and her cooking brought people from many different backgrounds together.

Minnie gave her life to Christ at an early age. While in Okeechobee, she attended Bethel Missionary Baptist Church and New St. Stephens African Methodist Episcopal Church. When she moved to Lake Worth,



Florida, she worshiped at St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church.

She is loved and missed by her family, many relatives and friends!

She met and married Zebedee Fennell. From this union four children were born: Era Dionne, Candace Lashawn, Derrick Tramane and Raymond Gregory, affectionately known as Tony; she is also survived numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends from 10 a.m. (EST) until funeral time of 11 a.m., Saturday, June 23, 2018 at the New Bethel AME Church, 146 Avenue A in Port St. Joe, Florida.

She will be laid to rest in the Forest Hill Cemetery in Port St. Joe under the directions of Christian Memorial Chapel of Graceville, Florida.

## FAITH BRIEFS

### Men's fellowship breakfast at New Life

New Life Christian Center will host a Men's Fellowship Breakfast 9-11 a.m. Saturday, June 23 at the Center, 5-4 Sixth Strett in Port St. Joe. The speaker will be Brother John Crosby from the Church of God in Christ. Come out and fellowship. Contact the church at 229-7782.

### VBS at FUMC

First United Methodist Church of Port St. Joe will host Vacation Bible School June 25-29. The program, "Rolling River Rampage: Experience the Ride of a Lifetime with God" will be held 9 a.m. until 12 p.m.; each day. This is for children grades K4 through sixth. Register at [www.cokesburyvbs.com/portstjoeumc](http://www.cokesburyvbs.com/portstjoeumc).

For more information contact Krystal Terry at 227-1724 or [krystal@psjumc.org](mailto:krystal@psjumc.org).

### 'Over 55 Bunch' Eco-Dolphin Tour

The "Over 55 Bunch" at Beach Baptist Chapel will host a Captain Anderson's Eco Dolphin Tour 12:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. ET Saturday, June. 23. Cost is \$18.75 per person and payment is due in cash day of trip. We will car pool from Beach Baptist Chapel. All community Seniors are welcome.

Contact Jackie King 850-731-1197

### Davis to be honored

The members of Philadelphia Primitive Baptist Church will be honoring its Pastor, the Elder Chester Davis and Leading Lady Freddie Davis with appreciation services on Sunday, July 1. The Davis's have served Philadelphia and the community untiringly for the past 3 years. Lady Freddie Davis will be honored during the 11 a.m. ET worship hour with Co-Pastor Shirley Jenkins of New Life Christian Church as the

guest speaker. Elder Davis will be honored during the 3 p.m. services with guest minister, the Rev. Paxton Rogers and St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church of Tallahassee leading the services. Rev. Rogers is a native of Port St. Joe.

A cordial invitation is extended to each one to come and be blessed along with the Philadelphia Primitive Baptist Church family as it "gives honor where honor is due", to Elder Chester and Lady Freddie Davis. The church is located at 261 Avenue D.

### 'Over 55 Bunch' at Beach Baptist

The "Over 55 Bunch" at Beach Baptist Chapel invites all to join them in a game of Hand-and-Foot. The Bunch meets 10 a.m. ET every Tuesday and Thursday. Bring your lunch and enjoy getting to know new people. If you enjoy a little friendly competition stop by and try a hand. Don't know how to play? These ladies will be happy to teach you.

## Respected or rejected

God would have us to respect all people,  
 And earn their respect too.  
 I don't know about you,  
 But it's hard for me to do.  
 But when I think about Jesus,  
 How He suffered on the cross for me.

He did it for all who believe folks,  
 That we might be set free.  
 We have a choice to make,  
 What't is going to be?  
 Jesus said if you're mine  
 take up your cross  
 And follow after me.

Will you start today respecting people  
 And try to be respected?  
 What ever you do in the name of Jesus,  
 I know it will be accepted.

Billy Johnson

SEE MORE ONLINE AT STARFL.COM

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**Long Avenue BAPTIST CHURCH**

**MINISTRY SCHEDULE**

**SUNDAY:**  
 Sunday School - 9:15  
 Morning Worship - 10:30  
 Evening Worship - 5:00

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

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9:15 a.m. Prayer service  
 9:45 a.m. Sunday school  
 10:30 a.m. Fellowship breakfast  
 11 a.m. Worship service

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**Oak Grove Church**  
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**Schedule of Worship Services**

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

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

Nursery provided for all services

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 10:00AM EST Sunday School  
 11:00AM EST Sanctuary Service with Special Children's Time

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 Psalm 29:2

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

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 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

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 Dr. Boyd Evans Pastor  
 Buddy Caswell, Minister of Music & Education  
 Bobby Alexander, Minister to Students

**New Service Schedule for First Baptist Church**

**Sunday Morning Schedule**  
 Blended Worship with Choir/Praise Team...8:30 AM  
 Great Commission Sunday School.....9:45 AM  
 Contemporary Worship w/Band.....10:45 AM

**Wednesday**  
 Dinner.....5:00 - 6:00 pm  
 AWANA.....6:00 - 7:30 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](http://www.fbcpsj.org)

# Upcoming Florida Master Naturalist Program

## Register now for Coastal Shoreline Restoration

By Ray Bodrey

Gulf County Extension Director  
UF/IFAS  
Special to The Star

The Coastal Shoreline Restoration module is a 4-day course filled with knowledge of marine ecology and restoration principles regarding our Panhandle shores. Some of the topics that will be discussed are living shorelines, coastal processes & sea level rise, mangroves and their impact on our bays and oyster restoration efforts. The class dates for the course are July 12 in Bay County, August 9 and 10 in Gulf

County and September 20 in Franklin County. Classroom presentations will be accompanied by field trips. For tentative course agenda, see registration link below.

The Florida Master Naturalist Program (FMNP) is an adult education program developed by the University of Florida and provided by many UF/IFAS Extension Agents and participating organizations throughout the State of Florida. This course focuses on living shoreline restoration and is intended to improve participants' understanding of the science and application of living shorelines. It includes foundational training on the ecology, benefits, methods, and monitoring techniques for restoring oyster reefs,



Coastal Shoreline Restoration



[SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

mangroves, and salt marsh. Graduates of this course will be better prepared to

promote and assist with restoration projects.

You will receive 24 hours of in-person classroom learning, field trips, and hands-on experience. The registration fee is \$155 - \$175 (depending on materials) and includes a detailed course manual, FMNP certificate, and entry into the online FMNP Database for verification as required for obtaining CEUs or in-service credits. We welcome anyone interested in shoreline restoration (homeowners, contractors, concerned citizens, politicians, managers, or naturalists).

To see the tentative course agenda and register, navigate to <http://www.masternaturalist.ifas.ufl.edu/>. Then select the "current course

offerings" tab and view current courses under coastal shoreline restoration.

• Registration closes at 10 a.m. July 6, 2018.

### Special Instructions:

- Field trip locations & times may change due to unforeseen circumstances. It is the student's responsibility to verify field information.
- Course time schedule does not include travel time, except between a.m. and p.m.
- Transportation and lunches are not included.
- Students need to bring lunch and water bottle to all classes.
- Field activities can take up to 2 to 4 hours and may involve wading, walking, or paddling.

## New website helps businesses prepare for natural disasters

Special to The Star

TALLAHASSEE—This week, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) announced the launch of a new website, FloridaDisaster.biz, to help Florida businesses prepare for and recover from hurricanes and other disasters. By providing critical information before, during and after a disaster, the website will help businesses recover and get Floridians back to work following emergencies.

Features of the new website include:

- A disaster planning toolkit to help businesses prepare for hurricanes and other disasters;
- Critical disaster updates from the State Emergency Operations Center to keep businesses informed during emergencies; and
- A Business Damage Assessment Survey to help businesses get back up and running after an emergency.

Governor Scott said, "Floridians understand the importance of being prepared for disasters, especially during hurricane season. This new website will help businesses make safe and informed decisions for themselves, their employees and their customers. Every Florida business can visit FloridaDisaster.biz, make a disaster plan and stay updated as we move further into hurricane season."

Cissy Proctor, DEO

Executive Director, said, "The new FloridaDisaster.biz provides key resources and information to help Florida's job creators in the face of a disaster. We know that businesses, like individuals and families, must be prepared with a plan, and FloridaDisaster.biz will guide businesses step-by-step to help them prepare and recover quickly from an emergency."

Wes Maul, Director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management, said, "Effectively preparing for, responding to and recovering from disasters takes input from the whole community. This valuable tool will boost Florida's private sector engagement during emergencies and help raise awareness of available resources. Ensuring our businesses can reopen quickly is critical to the speedy recovery of our impacted communities."

FloridaDisaster.biz is a partnership between DEO and the Florida Division of Emergency Management. Other partners include the U.S. Department of Commerce, Florida State University's Center for Disaster Risk Policy, the Florida Chamber of Commerce, the Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association, the Florida Retail Federation, VISIT FLORIDA, the Florida Small Business Development Center Network and others. DEO is the lead agency for the support of business, industry and economic stabilization during a statewide disaster.



"Hometown Teams" celebrates the role of athletics in small communities. [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

## EXHIBIT

From Page B1

sports.

"It's really, really neat," Brockman said. "We can bring a local flavor to it."

The connection between the community and its athletics seemed a perfect fit, Brockman added.

Brockman and staff are currently soliciting and combing through historic photos pertaining to sports donated to the library for use during the exhibit.

The plan is for at least one slideshow pertaining to local sports to be part

"Soccer is big around here and so is track and field and youth sports. I want to expand as much as we can."

Nancy Brockman, director of the Gulf County Libraries.

of the exhibit and a high school yearbook will also be included.

Brockman and volunteer Mimi Minnick have also undergone training required to assemble, disassemble, understand and explain the exhibit.

The exhibit includes a series of panels pertaining to American hometown sports and there is a seat of bleachers from which folks can lift a seat cushion and learn about local or national sports.

"It all has to do with how sports are part of small towns," Brockman said.

The library, as noted, is soliciting photos from the community and Brockman is placing a particular focus on expanding the images beyond the troika of football, basketball and baseball.

"Soccer is big around here and so is track and field and youth sports," Brockman said.

"I want to expand as much as we can."

## MARKET

From Page B1

To begin, the store will be open 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. ET every day but Tuesday at the outset, though Sosebee said the hours will also depend on the season.

The produce side of the store is something that Sosebee carries in the genes.

Founded by her grandfather in 1937, Sosebee's Produce was a supplier from North Georgia to western North Carolina for decades.

Her father took over the business upon his father's death and continued the

business until his illness just over four years ago.

After 12 years in the medical field and her dad very sick, Sosebee decided the time was right for a move.

Her dad wanted to be near the ocean and they had relatives that spoke glowingly of the area.

She said they had been welcomed and nurtured by the community the past four years.

And when she says her store will feature fresh produce, given her family's connections in the business, Sosebee means fresh.

### "This is all about him."

Teresa Sosebee, Clementine's owner

"When I think of it I say farm to table," she said.

In addition to a regional network, Sosebee said she would be tapping into local resources, receiving fresh eggs from Wewahitchka and fresh Tupelo honey products from keepers based in Overstreet.

The general store side of the endeavor, she added, will also take advantage of an array of locally produced items, from toiletries to sundries.

And once a month, Sosebee will hold a kind of mini-farmers market, what

she called a "bazaar", outside her store.

She will invite four or five vendors, of the variety one might encounter at Port St. Joe and Mexico Beach farmers markets, to showcase their wares for a day.

"I want to bring local art to the store," Sosebee said. "It's really important to me."

She will focus on what she called "cost-effective" merchandise: the vendor makes a living but nothing beyond the means of a traveler along the road.

"It wouldn't make sense to have \$200 items," Sosebee said. "I want to make it cost-effective for everyone."

And while she will not

require, she will encourage each of those vendors to set aside a percentage of their sales that day to be used as a contribution to a local charity.

"My soft spot is the elderly," Sosebee said, noting the work of Cross Shores Care Center.

Speaking of which, it would be appropriate here to mention that four months after that horrific diagnosis, Sosebee's father celebrated a birthday Tuesday and was recently discharged from hospice care.

"This is all about him," Sosebee said of her store.

Vendors interested in being part of Sosebee's monthly bazaars can call her at 630-7743.

# STONE

From Page B1

mill and a grist mill on the property. The creek to this day is known as Stone Mill Creek.

T. H. Stone labored with his father, James Bennett Stone and four brothers in the saw mill, falling and hauling logs. T. H. attended the meager schools of the community but mostly his education was secured in his home via tutoring by his parents. Seeking to further his education, he attended a business college in Columbus, Georgia and after several months of diligent study, was awarded a diploma in accounting and bookkeeping.

In 1891, T. H. Stone went into business for himself, opening a general mercantile store at Magnolia Landing on the Chipola River about four miles northeast of Wewahitchka. In addition, he was employed by the Federal Government as a mail carrier. The steamboats delivered the mail to his store and he carried it to Wewahitchka by horseback. Stone operated his store at Magnolia Landing for thirteen (13) years.

On May 2, 1904 Stone married Miss Annie Virginia Wynn, who was a native of Dublin, Georgia. Miss Wynn had been spending time with her aunt and uncle, who at the time operated the Iola Hotel, located on the Chipola River near Magnolia Landing.

Stone's father had left him a vast tract of land which was centered around the site of old St. Joseph. This tract extended from what is now Beacon Hill all the way to Cape San Blas. In 1903, he moved to what is now Port St. Joe and established a navel stores business (turpentine). In 1904 he moved his young bride to the wilderness to begin a new life and raise a family. Building the first home, he and his wife became the first permanent residents of a new town, which later would be established as the City of Port St. Joe, Florida.

The first child, a little girl named Etta, was born in 1905 and died at the young age of six months. In 1907, a son named Nobie Higdon Stone was born and in 1909, a second daughter was born. Her name was Maybel Stone. A third daughter



The 1923 dedication of the Constitution Convention Monument. [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

named Ola was born in 1913. In 1914, another son named Silas R. Stone was born and in 1921 a third son named Jesse V. Stone was born.

In 1909, the town of Port St. Joe was founded. It was also this year when the first post office was established. On March 10, 1910, by act of the Florida State Legislature, the town was officially named Port St. Joe. T. H. Stone was named the city's first postmaster and was considered the founder of the new town.

On May 7, 1910, the first excursion and passenger train over the new Apalachicola & Northern Railroad's tracks left Apalachicola at 8 a.m. and arrived in Port St. Joe 50 minutes later. Several hundred Passengers were greeted with a picnic lunch at the beach provided by the ladies of the M.E Church of Apalachicola as a fund raising event. The round trip fare was fifty cents. The railroad had wanted the city to be named Port St. Joe because of their interest in the city's deep water port. This was the reason they built their line to St. Joe in the first place. Later the railroad would move it's headquarters to Port St. Joe.

The City of Port St. Joe was incorporated on July 1, 1913. Thomas J. Howard served as the city's first mayor, but resigned before the end of that year. T. H. Stone then became mayor and served for several terms. He promoted the city at every opportunity. Many new homes were being built and the first public school at Port St. Joe opened. The railroad docks were expanded and the population grew to close to 1800 according to census records.

In 1922, a state monument was erected to commemorate the assembling of the First Constitutional Convention of the State of Florida at the site of the former city of St. Joseph. On January 11, 1923, it was dedicated and a huge celebration was held hosted by the cities of Port St. Joe, Apalachicola and the State of Florida. The Monument was unveiled by Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Stone's oldest daughter, Maybel Stone and her friend Elizabeth Jones. Miss Jones was the daughter of other early Port St. Joe pioneers, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Jones. This monument still stands today in Port St. Joe at the site of the Florida State Museum.

Port St. Joe as well as Wewahitchka and all surrounding areas were all a part of Calhoun County. T. H. Stone as Port St. Joe's Mayor and also a Calhoun County Commissioner was the outstanding spokesman for the division of Calhoun County. After seven years of opposition by the residents of the City of Blountstown and surrounding areas, Mr. Stone with help of several state legislators, was finally able to split the county and Florida's 66th county was born on June 6, 1925. Elections were held and a new slate of county commissioners was elected. When the new county held its first organization meeting, the first order of business was to select a name for the new county. One of the commissioners made a motion to name the county, Satsuma County. Mr. Stone stood to his feet and asked for permission to address the new commission. He then stated "It is true, that the new county has an abundance of Satsuma trees but with

one hard freeze, they could all be wiped out. Why don't we name the county Gulf County? That gulf will never run dry". The next moment, there was a motion and a second made and a vote of 5-0 to name the county Gulf. Stone served Gulf County as County Commissioner for several years and later as a State Legislator during the 1933-35 Session.

In 1930, Port St. Joe began to experience a downturn in the local economy. The lumber mills failed and closed down after many years of cutting and re-cutting of the timberlands. The country's banks were failing and with national panic and depression sweeping the country, people began to move out of Port St. Joe in order to find enough work to feed their families. The population dwindled to 853 people. Fearing that the city would soon become little but a memory, Stone and others began to promote the city in several ways. The deep water port had always attracted the shipping industry and fishing was definitely an asset but with little or no tourism left, the economy had dwindled to almost nothing.

In 1933, Alfred I du Pont, a member of the famous manufacturing family of du Ponts became interested in industrial developments, especially those based on chemical research. When the possibility of making paper from southern pine wood became apparent, he and his bother-in-law, Edward Ball, surveyed the Northwest Florida Region.

Encouraged by the results of the survey, Mr. du Pont purchased 60,000 acres of Northwest Florida timberland. Mr. du Pont knew

that, for a southern paper industry to become a reality, a vast amount of timberland would be required. Soon after the first land purchase, Mr. Ball concluded a transaction with a bond-holding company in St. Louis, Missouri, that gave Mr. du Pont ownership of five Port St. Joe companies and an additional 240,000 acres of timberland. The companies acquired were: Apalachicola Northern Railroad Company, St. Joseph Telephone & Telegraph Company, St. Joseph Land Development Company, St. Joe Dock Company and Port St. Joe Company. A very large tract of Port St. Joe area timberland was also purchased from T. H. Stone.

The St. Joe Paper Company was founded in 1936, a year after Mr. du Pont's death. The mill went into operation in 1938. Because many new families were moving into Port St. Joe, a substantial need for housing developed. T. H. Stone, being the largest land owner in Port St. Joe Proper, began to sell lots for houses to be built by the new citizens. It has been said that he gave many lots to needy families with the only stipulation, that they build their family a home. Stone also built several boarding houses as well as a few rental homes to help alleviate the housing shortage. He also built several store buildings downtown, to be rented to newfound business adventures.

During WW II, the Federal Government built a new Air Force Base in Bay County. The original mission of the base was to train pilots to fly Missions supporting the allied

See STONE, B7



# TRADES & SERVICES



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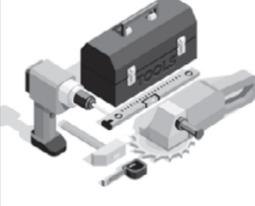
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The arrival of the railroad brought vast changes to early Port St. Joe, and Stone was front and center. [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

## STONE

From Page B6

force war efforts around the world. Around 1944, the Government found a need for property to be used for target practice and soon condemned Cape San Blas, using Eminent Domain laws to obtain ownership of the Cape. T. H. Stone, being the owner of the Cape, had sold large tracts of land to others but had remained the largest landowner with several thousand acres of timberland, with bay front and gulf front beaches. The Government was required to give "just" compensation to

the property owners. T. H. Stone, with the largest tract, was paid just \$10,000 and others much less. Many years after WW II was over, the Government declared Cape San Blas property to be surplus land but retained ownership until the early 1960's. Prior to T. H. Stone's death in 1958, efforts to regain ownership had been fruitless. It was his desire to regain ownership, so that one day a state park might be built on this pristine land. Stone's son, Attorney Silas R. "Mickey" Stone, made numerous trips to Washington D. C., representing the previous land owners, hoping to have the land returned to no avail. In 1963, through the efforts of the St. Joseph

Historical Society and under the direction of it's president, Jesse V. Stone, who was T. H Stone's youngest son, began a campaign to have portions of the Cape property deeded from the Federal Government, to the State of Florida for the purpose of building a new state park. This campaign consisted of some 1100 letters being mailed to public officials as well as obtaining 63 resolutions from local government, social and educational groups. Most of these letters were directed to congressmen and Senators to support the request to deed the requested property to the state. In that same year, some 900 letters were written to the Florida State Governor, State

Representatives and Senators, requesting that appropriation of funds be made to begin construction and development of the park. In December of that year, The Federal Government released 671 acres. By 1966, another 1700 acres was released. In August of 1967, the first phase of the Park was completed and the formal dedication was set for September 6, 1967. By act of Legislature in 1967, the name of the state park, previously named as St. Joseph Peninsula State Park was officially renamed T. H Stone Memorial State Park. This bill, Number 1162, was filed by State Representative of the Ninth District, Ben C. Williams and became law upon the official signing by Governor Claude R. Kirk.

On September 6, 1967, T.H. Stone Memorial State Park was officially dedicated with Mrs. Annie V. Stone and other Stone family members being honored during the ceremony. T.H. Stone Memorial State Park is today one of the largest, certainly one of the finest and one of the most beautiful state parks in the State of Florida. The white sand beaches have been selected as the finest beaches in the world several times during the past few years. T. H. Stone, most certainly, would be mighty proud. *This information was compiled from family and historical records and written by H. Higdon Swatts, grandson of T.H. Stone.*



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<p><b>LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100</b></p> <p>Wife</p> <p><b>NOTICE OF ACTION</b></p> <p>TO: TIMOTHY MARTIN SOUTHERLAND ADDRESS UNKNOWN</p> <p><b>YOU ARE NOTIFIED</b> that a Petition for Modification of Custody and to Establish Child Support has been filed by Madelaine Kristen Bryant and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses to it, if any, on H. Matthew Fuqua, Esq., Former Wife's Attorney, whose address is Post Office Box 1508, Marianna, Florida 32447, on or before 30 days from the first date of this publication. You must file the original of your written defenses with the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Gulf County Courthouse, Port St. Joe, Florida 32456, either before service on petitioner's attorney or immediately after service. Otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.</p> <p>Dated this 12th day of</p>	<p><b>LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100</b></p> <p>June, 2018.</p> <p>REBECCA L. NORRIS, Clerk Gulf County, Florida</p> <p>By: Lynn M. Barnes Deputy Clerk Pub: June 21, 28, July 5, 12, 2018</p> <p><b>20647S FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT, Petitioner</b></p> <p>vs.</p> <p>ETHAN R. WOODARD, Case #40521 Respondent</p> <p><b>NOTICE OF ACTION</b></p> <p>TO: ETHAN R. WOODARD, Residence Unknown</p> <p><b>YOU ARE NOTIFIED</b> that an Administrative Complaint has been filed against you seeking to revoke your CORRECTIONAL Certificate in accordance with Section 943.1395, F.S., and any rules promulgated thereunder.</p> <p>You are required to serve a written copy of your intent to request a</p>	<p><b>LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100</b></p> <p>hearing pursuant to Section 120.57, F.S. upon Dean Register, Director, Criminal Justice Professionalism Program, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, P. O. Box 1489, Tallahassee, Florida 32302-1489, on or before July 23, 2018. Failure to do so will result in a default being entered against you to Revoke said certification pursuant to Section 120.60, F.S., and Rule 11B-27, F.A.C.</p> <p>Dated: May 23, 2018 Dean Register, Professionalism Director, FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT</p> <p>By: -s- Ashley Black, Division Representative Pub June 7, 14, 21, 28, 2018</p> <p><b>20649S FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT, Petitioner</b></p> <p>vs.</p> <p>RYAN M. HATHCOX Case #41277 Respondent</p> <p><b>NOTICE OF ACTION</b></p>	<p><b>LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100</b></p> <p>TO: RYAN M. HATHCOX, Residence Unknown</p> <p><b>YOU ARE NOTIFIED</b> that an Administrative Complaint has been filed against you seeking to revoke your CORRECTIONAL Certificate in accordance with Section 943.1395, F.S., and any rules promulgated thereunder.</p> <p>You are required to serve a written copy of your intent to request a hearing pursuant to Section 120.57, F.S. upon Dean Register, Director, Criminal Justice Professionalism Program, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, P. O. Box 1489, Tallahassee, Florida 32302-1489, on or before July 23, 2018. Failure to do so will result in a default being entered against you to Revoke said certification pursuant to Section 120.60, F.S., and Rule 11B-27, F.A.C.</p> <p>Dated: May 23, 2018 Dean Register, Professionalism Director, FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT</p>	<p><b>LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100</b></p> <p>By: -s- Stacey Price, Division Representative Pub: June 7, 14, 21, 28, 2018</p> <p><b>20731S NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED</b></p> <p><b>NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN</b> that ST Wealth Partners, LP, the Certificate Holder of the following Tax Sale Certificate, has filed said Certificate for a Tax Deed to be issued thereon. The Tax Deed Application number, Real Estate number, Certificate number, Date of Issuance and Name(s) in which it was assessed are as follows:</p> <p><b>Application #2018-06 R.E. No. 00624-050R Tax Sale No. 00624-050R Certificate #2011-101 Date of Issuance: May 25, 2011 Name in which assessed: R.E. Tracy D Ritter a/k/a Tracy Denise Ritter</b></p> <p><b>Description of Property:</b></p> <p>Lot 22, Block "L" RED BULL ISLAND UNIT NO. 2, an Unrecorded</p>	<p><b>LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100</b></p> <p>Subdivision, in Section 30, Township 4 South, Range 9 West, Gulf County, Florida, being more particularly described as follows:</p> <p>COMMENCE at the Northwest Corner of Section 30, Township 4 South, Range 9 West, and thence go South 00 Degrees 00 Minutes 00 Seconds East (Bearing Base) along the West boundary line of said Section 30, for a distance of 422.7 feet to the Southerly right of way boundary line of Canning Drive (formerly River Road; having a 66 foot wide right of way); thence go South 89 Degrees 12 Minutes 00 Seconds East along the Southerly right of way boundary line of Canning Drive for a distance of 195.00 feet to a point of intersection with the Easterly right of way boundary line of Sesame Street (having a 60 foot wide right of way); thence go South 00 Degrees 00 Minutes 00 Seconds East along the Easterly right of way boundary line of Sesame Street for a distance of 704.60 feet to a point of intersection with the Northerly</p>	<p><b>LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100</b></p> <p>right of way boundary line of Tupelo Avenue (having a 60 foot wide right of way); thence go South 88 Degrees 32 Minutes 00 Seconds East along the Southerly right of way boundary line of Tupelo Avenue for a distance of 945.00 feet for the POINT OF BEGINNING. From said POINT OF BEGINNING, departing the Northerly right of way boundary line of Tupelo Avenue, go North 00 Degrees 00 Minutes 00 Seconds West, for a distance of 135.00 feet; thence go South 88 Degrees 32 Minutes 00 Seconds East for a distance of 90.00 feet; thence go South 00 Degrees 00 Minutes 00 Seconds East for a distance of 135.00 feet to the Northerly right of way boundary line of Tupelo Avenue; thence go North 88 Degrees 32 Minutes 00 Seconds West along said Northerly right of way boundary line for a distance of 90.00 feet, to the POINT OF BEGINNING. Said parcel having an area of 0.28 acres, more or less.</p> <p><b>All of said property</b></p>	<p><b>LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100</b></p> <p>being in Gulf County, State Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate will be sold to the highest bidder in the front Lobby of the Gulf County Courthouse, 1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Blvd., Port St. Joe, Florida at 11:00 am E.T., Wednesday, 11th day of July, 2018.</p> <p>DATED: June 4, 2018</p> <p>REBECCA L. NORRIS CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA BY: Elaine Bland, Deputy Clerk Pub: June 7, 14, 21, 28, 2018</p> <p><b>20796S IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR GULF COUNTY. CASE NO. 18CP-32 IN PROBATE</b></p> <p>IN RE: The Estate of JOSEPH KYLE RICH, deceased. NOTICE TO CREDITORS</p> <p><b>TO ALL PERSONS</b></p>
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