



Property values continue growth spurt

By Tim Croft

The Port St. Joe Star | 850-227-7827
@PSJ_Star | tcroft@starfl.com

For the fifth consecutive year county property values continued to climb, jumping 8.4 percent year over year.

Property Appraiser Mitch Burke submitted the 2018 preliminary tax roll to the Florida Department of

Revenue last Thursday.

In effect, the 2018 property roll is a historical document, reflecting the market and property values as of Jan. 1 of this year, six months before the roll is released.

The tax roll is a snapshot of county conditions, which may or may not have changed in the ensuing six months.

But, Burke said, nearly

every index is pointing up.

Burke said his estimated real and personal taxable property for the county rose to \$1.738 billion, up from \$1.6 billion a year ago.

Property values remain nearly \$1 billion off the 2005-06 peak before what is known as the Great Recession.

But, over the past five years, the average annual

increase in property values has been 6.56 percent, or just over \$90 million per year.

“Those figures will be widely watched because it most directly impacts Gulf County government officials as they work to prepare a budget for the upcoming fiscal year,” Burke said.

The Board of County Commissioners has maintained a

millage rate of 7.2442 since 2015.

A mill represents \$1 for every \$1,000 in taxable property value.

The property roll becomes the template against which government budgets will be crafted; for the county and cities the new fiscal year

See PROPERTY, A8



[FILE PHOTOS]

Star Staff Report

Decisions, decisions; this part of the Forgotten Coast provides not one, not two, but three fireworks shows to celebrate Independence Day.

And, Mexico Beach doesn't wait until the evening to get the entire celebration underway.

The annual 5K run begins at 7 a.m. CT at the Seventh Street Park. (Registration has closed).

The annual Fishing Rodeo, for youngsters age 2-14, will be 9:30 a.m. until 11 a.m. CT at the Mexico Beach Canal near the Welcome Center.

Each angler will receive a participation ribbon, hat and

lunch; just bring along the fishing gear.

In Mexico Beach, the fireworks, sponsored by the Special Events Committee and Community Development Council, will be shot from the city pier at roughly 8:30 p.m. CT.

Just about the same time, Wewahitchka will be lobbing fireworks into the air over Lake Alice Park after dark; generally that means somewhere around 9 p.m. CT.

Port St. Joe brings the shows to a close with its annual fireworks show, co-sponsored by the Gulf County Tourist Development Council, at 10 p.m. ET.



District earns a 'B'

By Tim Croft

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Characterizing this year's school grades is as simple as consistency.

For the third year in a row Gulf District Schools earned a "B" in the Florida Department of Education's school grading formula.

Grades were released last week by the DOE.

Since the transition from the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test to the Florida Standard Assessments, the district has earned a "B" grade each year.

“We are pleased, they are about what we thought (after FSA scores were released last month),” said Superintendent of Schools Jim Norton. “I don't want to sound complacent, because we are not, but we are happy with the grades.”

“The grades are always a mixed bag. There are positives and there are areas we already know we have to work on. We have already formulated plans for addressing areas of concern.”

The only non-'B' on the district's report card, for the second-straight year, was Port St. Joe Elementary School, which earned 'C.'

Each of the district's other three public schools earned a 'B.'

That made two years running each of those three has scored a 'B.'

Since the transition to the FSA which began in 2014, the only 'A' earned in the county came from Wewahitchka Elementary in 2016 and Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High School in 2015.

On the other side of that assessment, no district school has fallen below a 'C.'

The challenges at Port St. Joe Elementary focus on raising the achievement levels and less-than-satisfactory learning gains among those students identified as being within the lowest quartile.

And overall, in both language arts and math the school lagged behind the state average other than at sixth grade and lost ground year over year in every grade and subject save fifth-grade

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Beach restoration on track for Aug. 1 start

By Tim Croft

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The final hurdle appears to be cleared to allow a long-awaited beach restoration project to begin next month.

Warren Yeager, the county's executive director of the Economic Development

Coalition, said last week that the U.S. Treasury had approved the county's amended spending plan for the county's direct allocation of RESTORE funding.

With that plan approved, a check for roughly \$2.8 million, representing the county's first-year funding under the RESTORE Act, should be received this

month.

“We think we will be ready for August 1,” Yeager said.

That \$2.8 million is the last significant chunk of funding the project needed to proceed.

Eligible voters approved three Municipal Services Taxing Units (MSTUs) two years ago to provide some \$4 million.

The Gulf County Tourist Development Council is chipping in some beach restoration funding and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection is paying just over a third of the project's cost.

But the RESTORE Act funds, which the county first

See BEACH, A8

5 things to do this week

Star Staff Report

It is not all fireworks and Independence this week. Here are a few suggestions from a busy calendar.

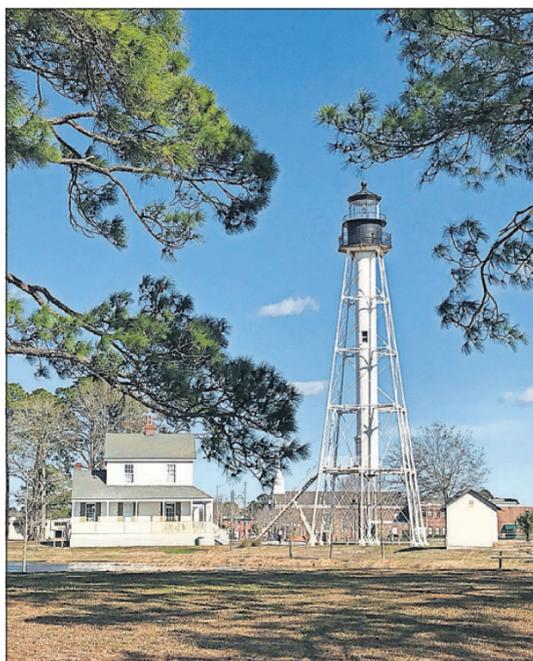
Fun Night at First Baptist. “God and Country Fun Night” at First Baptist Church of Port St. Joe will begin at 6 p.m. ET and continue through 10 p.m. ET and one of the best views of the Port St. Joe fireworks. At 6 p.m. ET a “Cruise In” will feature classic cars and trucks, modern muscle cars, hot rods and street rods (clubs and individuals welcome) arrives in the parking lot. At 7 p.m. there will be free food (hot dogs, hamburgers and ice cream until it is all gone) and plenty of fun, with a bouncy house, horseback riding, backyard games and a kids’ water slide among other activities. At 10 p.m., the fireworks begin (please bring your own chair). The night is free. First Baptist is located on U.S. 98 adjacent to the Cape San Blas Lighthouse.

Shop the SaltAir Farmers Market. The Port St. Joe SaltAir Farmers Market, in its 11th year, is held the first and third Saturdays of the month at City Commons adjacent to Port St. Joe City Hall, at the intersection of Reid Ave. and Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Blvd. The market is held 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. ET. At the market you may find fresh seasonal produce, jewelry, tie dye, carved woodwork and much more.

Holiday hours for the best view in town. Venture to George Core Park in Port St. Joe and climb to the top of the Cape San Blas



SaltAir Farmers Market Saturday in Port St. Joe City Commons [FILE PHOTOS]



Holiday hours expanded to climb the lighthouse.

lighthouse, nearly 100 feet high. This week the lighthouse is 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. ET Monday 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.

St. Vincent Island’s birthday celebration Friday. The Friends of St. Vincent Island National Wildlife Refuge host a birthday bash Friday on the island. From 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. ET, 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.



St. Vincent Island celebrates 50 years as a national wildlife refuge Friday.



Science Sunday explores plastics and our environment at The Joe Center for the Arts.

of recycling, will discuss issues pertinent to the Center’s current exhibit, “Turtles and Trash.” Wilhite will be followed by a talk at 2 p.m. by Eric Sparks and Elizabeth Englebretson from Biloxi and Mississippi State University concerning Micro plastics and the Plastic Free Gulf initiative. Several local residents are participating in this Micro plastics research project being coordinated locally by Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve (ANERR) and happening here in our community.

And, meet Peter Castoro from Danimer Scientific, a company pioneering new biodegradable polymer research. The speaker series wraps up with the mesmerizing assemblage work of artist Beth Appleton, who works closely with scientists and will share her work process. There will be cookies and lemonade, art making in the Center’s workshop studio with Judy Scott and microscopes and hydrometers for the public to use. For more information call 404-345-1008.

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.

Science Sunday at The Joe Center for the Arts. The Joe Center for the Arts will host a fun, hands-on, educational day in its gallery at 201 Reid Avenue in the heart of Port St. Joe. The Center will be open to the public from 1-4 p.m. ET Sunday and all events are free. Several special speakers starting at 1 p.m., with Laura Wilhite and a talk about the Do’s and Don’t’s



Andrew Gillum [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

Gillum, candidate for governor, to speak at GCSC

At Gulf/Franklin Campus Saturday

Special to The Star

Andrew Gillum, Mayor of Tallahassee and a Democratic candidate for Florida Governor, will be speaking at a Meet and Greet sponsored by the Gulf County Democrats, 4-6 p.m. ET Saturday in Building A at the Gulf Coast State College Gulf/Franklin Campus.

The campus is located at 3800 Garrison St. in Port St. Joe.

Gillum will speak about his reasons for running for governor and answer questions from the audience. There will also be an opportunity to meet Andrew and take a photo with him. Refreshments will be served. The event is free and open to the public. “We are so excited that Mr. Gillum has agreed to visit Gulf County to speak,” said Shannon Stallings, Chair of the Gulf County Democrats. “Andrew is an inspirational speaker and we

really wanted him to be able to share his message in person. It is impressive that he is planning to visit all Florida counties, including to speak with Gulf County voters.” Andrew was born in Miami. He was the first in his family to graduate college and went on to become the youngest person elected to the Tallahassee City Commission, before later becoming Mayor. He lives with his wife R. Jai and their three children in Tallahassee, Florida.

PSJ commissioners establish golf cart usage committee

By Tim Croft
The Port St. Joe Star | 850-227-7827
@PSJ_Star | tceroff@starfl.com

During a workshop last week Port St. Joe commissioners appointed a committee to examine ongoing issues with golf cart usage.

The citizens committee will examine the city's golf cart ordinance and return to commissioners with any recommendations.

Commissioners have discussed for months problems with the operation of golf carts in a community promoting itself as golf cart friendly.

In addition to basic safety of operation, obeying rules of the road, commissioners, and Police Chief Matt Herring, have noted underage drivers and unrestrained children as passengers.

Not to mention golf carts traveling where they are prohibited.

An operator of a golf cart must be a licensed driver; a 15-year-old with a learner's permit may drive a golf cart provided there is a licensed driver at least 21 year of age in

the cart.

Additionally, Cecil G. Costin Blvd. (Fifth Street or State 71) is off limits to golf carts save the crossing at Reid Ave.; there is a crossing of U.S. 98 at First Street, but otherwise the highway is off limits.

Golf carts can only drive on Long and Garrison to reach the next access road.

Monument is open to golf carts only from Allen Memorial to Ninth Street.

And former Commissioner Rex Buzzett noted the city needed to add signage to emphasize golf carts are prohibited on the Port City Trail.

Some residents, it has been discussed ignore the rules, while others, primarily visitors, operate oblivious of the rules.

Herring recently expressed frustration with the lack of an enforcement mechanism for violations.

Herring said the city was incurring a significant liability exposure in the case of a tragic, fatal or serious accident with the lack of an enforcement arm.

While the city ordinance contains a fine

and forfeiture structure, there is no mechanism established between the city and, likely, the Clerk of Courts, for administration and collection of fines.

Commissioners last week briefly discussed that as well as bolstering education of the rules of operation for golf carts.

There was also discussion of abandoning the lifetime permit for an annual permit in order to ensure frequent reinforcement of the rules and inspection of carts by the police department.

The city issued only an annual permit after the initial passage of a golf cart ordinance more than a decade ago; the lifetime permit was implemented following one of four amendments to that original ordinance.

There are 206 issued golf cart permits in the city, according to city manager Jim Anderson.

Members of the citizens committee include Boyd Pickett, Ed Creamer, Stan Price and Phil Earley.

The City Commission will not meet again in regular session until July 17.

Billy Dixson passes away

Star Staff Report

Prophet Billy Dixson, a fixture in the business and faith communities of Gulf County for decades, passed away Sunday.

He suffered a stroke three weeks ago.

Dixson, and his Dixon and Son Taxi Service vehicles, were constant presences throughout the community for years.

He was involved in a number of charities, large and small, and never lacked for a smile and kind

word or "Be blessed."

Further information, including memorial services, were not available at press time for this edition of The Star.

Please check www.starfl.com for any updates as they become available.

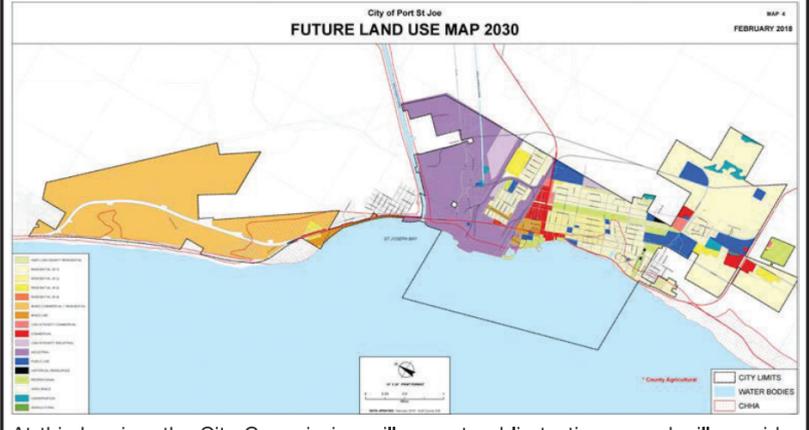
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR ADOPTION OF A LARGE-SCALE TEXT AND MAP AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF PORT ST. JOE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Public Hearing of the City of Port St. Joe City Commission

The City of Port St. Joe City Commission will conduct a public meeting, hold a second reading of an ordinance, the title of which is set forth below, at 2775 Garrison Avenue, Port St. Joe, Florida on Tuesday, July 17, 2018, at 6:00 p.m., EST, or as soon thereafter as the issue may be heard, to consider the adoption of the Evaluation and Appraisal Report based amendments to the City of Port St. Joe Comprehensive Plan. The title of the ordinance to be considered is set forth below.

ORDINANCE NO. 547

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF THE CITY OF PORT ST. JOE, SPECIFICALLY CITY-INITIATED TEXT AMENDMENTS TO (1) UPDATE THE GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES OF THE FUTURE LAND USE, TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING, INFRASTRUCTURE COASTAL MANAGEMENT, CONSERVATION, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION, ECONOMIC AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS ELEMENTS OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, (2) TO UPDATE THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP SERIES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



At this hearing, the City Commission will accept public testimony and will consider the Adoption of the Evaluation and Appraisal Report based Comprehensive Plan Amendments.

Copies of the Comprehensive Plan Amendments are available for public inspection at the City of Port St. Joe City Hall, located at 305 Cecil G. Costin, Sr., Blvd., Port St. Joe, Florida.

The hearing may be continued from time to time as may be necessary.

Interested persons may attend and be heard at the public hearing or provide comments in writing to the City Commissioners. City of Port St. Joe City Hall, 305 Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Blvd., Port St. Joe, Florida. Transactions of the public hearing will not be recorded. Persons wishing to appeal any decision made during the hearing will need a record of the proceeding and should ensure a verbatim record is made, including the testimony on which the appeal is based.

Any person requiring a special accommodation at this hearing because of a disability or physical impairment should contact the City Clerk's Office at (850)229-8261, at least five (5) calendar days prior to the hearing.

CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA

NF-4529516

THANK YOU PATRIOTS!

You have contributed 50% of what is needed.

OUR GOAL IS \$300,000

DON'T WAIT! JOIN US!

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO www.veteransparkhonorwalk.org

We are soliciting donations to help build

A Salute to All Veterans

for their sacrifice & service.

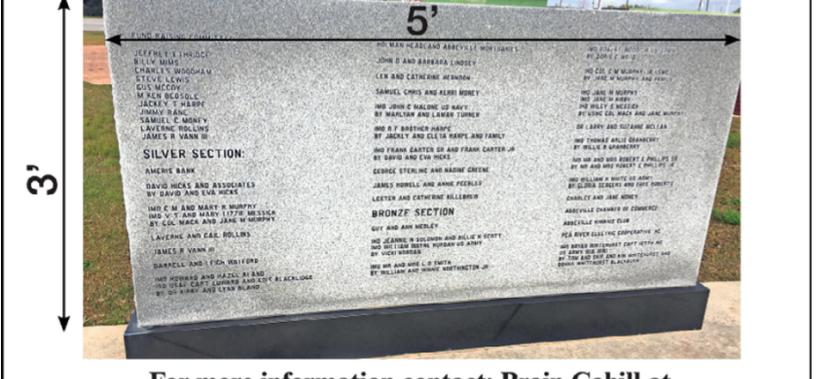
THE HONOR WALK

A 501(C) (3) Tax Deductible Organization will be located at the Gulf County Veterans Memorial Park at Beacon Hill, near Mexico Beach, FL. It will be built by the GENEROSITY OF PATRONS & VETERANS.

Individual & Corporate Donor Levels

BRONZE \$1,000 • SILVER \$2,500 • GOLD \$5,000
PLATINUM \$10,000 • DIAMOND \$25,000

Donors in these categories will be recognized on a permanent monument at the park



For more information contact: Brain Cahill at 850 819 3310 or any committee member
Please Make Checks Payable To: Honor Walk at Veterans Memorial Park at Beacon Hill
Mail to: 195 Four J's Rd. Port St. Joe, FL 32456

BRICK PAVERS

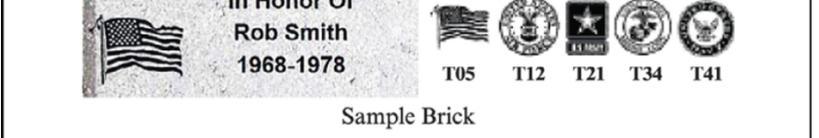
A portion of the funds needed to accomplish this goal will come from friends and family members who choose to purchase an engraved brick to honor or memorialize a special veteran. Two brick walkways will extend twenty feet from the center of the monument in opposite directions.

BRICK INFORMATION

4" x 8" engraved brick \$150.00; with Clip Art or Logo \$156.00



If ordering a brick with clip art please do not write in shaded areas.



DONOR INFORMATION

Name: _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Email Address _____ Phone Number (____) _____

The HONOR WALK COMMITTEE

- George Duren 850 227 6576
- Jessica Susich 850 867 5479
- Ralph Rish 850 227 5137
- Rodney Herring 850 227 4600
- Brain Cahill 850 819 3310
- Rick Lamberson 850 340 1219
- Billy Traylor 850 227 5602
- Joe Paul 850 819 6688
- Don Butler 850 227 8917

OPINION

KEYBOARD KLATTERINGS

The improbably possible



Tim Croft

The white screen screams, starting, as if saying, "Okay, let's go." Waiting for the pounding (my colleagues have long called me "Tap" for the abuse I can inflict on a keyboard. Hence, Klatterings) to ensue.

On hold, I suppose, for the profound message about the national holiday being celebrated this week.

Not just a national holiday, but the National Holiday.

The one commemorating a document of ideals as well as the courage and fortitude of men, yes, all men, who had their fill of a king and the spines to tread onto foreign terrain.

As a famous movie line goes, America, democracy, is messy.

You've got to want it bad; it will put up a fight.

And, there is no question that regardless of one's views these days, on the left and the right, the voices, the level of passion, rhetoric, okay, fight, seems to represent an extreme level of wanting it bad.

The America we see right now has mastered the art of talking past each other, of shouting to the high hills with the belief that the louder and more often we speak the more we speak the truth.

"I'm going to tell you like it is," we are fond of saying.

I was raised in a church-going household.

I tried to feign more illness to get out of going to church each Sunday as I did school.

In neither case did it work one whit.

And my father, as was his wont to dissect everything down to its molecules, was an academic on matters of faith.

At his funeral, the eulogy most emotional to his children was one delivered by three local priests from the small town he had retired to regaling with stories of my dad effectively inviting himself into their Bible study group.

And then proceeding to drive them to even greater heights of learning.

That is all a very long-winded way of saying that the empathy, compassion, for the weak, the poor, the elderly, those who don't see the world as we, that so many of us, regardless of our church, learned when we were young, has disappeared.

Without it, we are left to battles over winners or losers, right or wrong and it always seems that must be decided with a WWE death match.

In this age of so much dissonance, so much nastiness, coarseness, and that could easily refer these days to city or county meeting rooms as national debate, remembering what happened in the 1770s offers hope.

Fact was there was, as the kids say, some heavy shade being thrown around during those Philadelphia conclaves back in the day.

In private writings, sometimes in public debate, those Founding Fathers, paragons of virtue, could smote an opponent with language as indelicate in its day as some of the bombs currently Tweeted about.

The newspapers of the day, well, they lived up to the epithet of "fake news" to the extent that in comparison some of the balderdash on Facebook and social media seems positively investigative journalism.

And those Founding Fathers, those upright monuments, often contributed to the partisanship, and personality-driven publications, either with money or writing under pen names that were as effective at hiding identity as a mirror.

Read through biographies of John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Alexander Hamilton, George Washington and some of the others and a reader finds plenty of enmity to

See CROFT, A5

HUNKER DOWN

And to the Republic for which it stands



Kesley Colbert

I had a crazy thought about this 4th of July thing. Do the people in America who don't respect the flag get to celebrate the holiday? Do they get the day off from work? Do they get the same sale prices at Sears and Lowes that we get? Is it illegal for them to cook out or spend the Fourth at the beach? Can they watch the fireworks show?

Is there any penalty at all in this country for NOT respecting the American Flag?

And let's not bore each other with ex post facto, jurisprudence, writ of habeas corpus delicti legal talk. The short answer is.....you bet your Stars and Stripes there is! And it is much worse than any police department, constitutional law or court of public opinion can hand down.

Can you imagine reading the life and death struggles of the birth of this nation at Lexington Green, Bunker Hill, Valley Forge.....and only understanding the cold hard history of it? Those same people would think a Civil War soldier crazy to drop his rifle to pick up a fallen American Flag in the midst of battle. They wouldn't understand the week after Pearl Harbor when hundreds of thousands left the farm, quit their job at the bank, withdrew from college, lied about their age, gave up a major league baseball career.....and sprinted to the nearest induction center. The disrespecters would

argue quickly, loudly and often that Bunker Hill, the Civil War and being attacked by the Japanese had nothing to do with the American Flag. That is really the sad part of this whole story.

It's all in the Pledge.

I believe, with all my heart, that a bacon and egg sandwich tastes better if red, white and blue are your favorite colors. The morning sun peeping out from the eastern sky holds more promise to those who truly lift the Banner high. A correct relationship with the Stars and Stripes ought to start friends, family and opponents singing together in perfect three part harmony.

Can you imagine watching an eagle soar over the Grand Canyon and NOT relating it to the majesty and wonderment of this great nation, entwined with freedom, liberty and justice, resting safely under the protection of the best looking Flag on earth! To see it any other way.....it's just a bird flying over a big ditch.

Maybe these dissenters weren't lucky enough to stand as a boy on the square across from the Western Auto and cheer as the 4th of July parade passed by. Maybe they didn't get any of the free chicken and barbeque. Maybe they didn't notice that every father in the crowd had served in the last war. So they might not have quite understood why everybody snapped to ramrod straight attention as the big Flag was raised over the World War Monument. I'm telling you, the wind didn't even breathe for a few minutes.

Can you imagine singing "Oh, say can you see"..... and you really couldn't!

Good people have been taking care of me since I was knee

high to a grasshopper. I've seen my share of peaceful sunsets. My belly is full. The wind stays at my back. I don't think it is by accident or blind luck.

And it didn't just happen this morning. Somebody somewhere paid a price for me to live like this!

Let's not separate our good fortune into parents, big brothers, pastors, elementary school teachers, coaches, friends, mentors, soldiers, concerned neighbors, past experiences, blessings from above, land of the free or the Star Spangled Banner. It's all of them rolled into one—we call it life in these United States. And I believe ours is a story worth sharing with any that might have lost the way.

Can you imagine turning down Main Street on the 4th of July, seeing a hundred American Flags waving on every tree, utility pole and street light from the Methodist Church all the way passed City Hall out to the intersection with the state highway..... and not feeling anything!

So please, let's not get mad at these few naysayers. Don't cause a scene. And for goodness sakes don't get on TV and say anything bad about them. There's not a group in the world that needs our help more.....and our sympathy. It is so difficult to spend all your waking hours swimming up a crippled creek. I'm for throwing out a lifeline to every single one of them. How about, instead of barbs, we offer an understanding hand.

It's the American way. And it would do our Flag proud.....

Respectfully,

Kes

CRANKS MY TRACTOR

Life's best instructions



BN Heard

Needing some ice and having been rerouted off the interstate on my way back home from work, I stopped at one of these well-known variety stores best known for popping up in rural areas. They had ice and it made me happy to get to go up and down aisles of unnecessary plastic stuff that actually was a lot of fun to study.

The only thing that really caught my eye was this tiny swimming pool, maybe four or five feet in diameter. I guess you would call it a wading pool or something for toddlers to splash around in. It was 6 or 8 inches deep.

It seemed perfect for a dog.

My daughter and her dog are home from college for the summer, and I kind of treat the dog like a grandchild. Therefore, I decided "Wilson" needed a swimming pool. The nice thing about a swimming pool this size is that it will easily fit into a small car (and it was very inexpensive).

When I put it into the car, I noticed that it had "Instructions" in a bag taped to the bottom of the pool. I wasn't really sure what kind of instructions were needed for a

six inch deep swimming pool, but I was anxious to find out.

Wilson was not real sure what the blue plastic thing was when I put it down on the walkway and sat down on my front steps. He was even more puzzled when I pulled the instructions off the bottom of the pool and took them out of the plastic they were wrapped in.

We read these instructions together (as best as a man and dog can read). The instructions first noted "Adult Assembly Required." I'm pretty sure that by dropping down on the walkway, I "assembled" it. The next one was "Do not put on an inclined surface."

Honestly that was a good one... I would have never thought to use this tiny pool to slide down a snow-covered or rain-slicked hill, but it would be a fun thing to try. So that was a good rule (not to follow).

The next rule was not to climb in the bag that the rules came in, because bags can cause suffocation. That is no laughing matter, but judging by the size of the bag, neither Wilson nor I would be able to fit our heads in the bag. So, we decided we were safe.

The fourth rule was about using mild soap to clean the pool. Honestly, Wilson and I decided it might be a great place to take a bath on a summer day.

Finally there was the main rule - "Do not dive into this pool. Diving into shallow water

can result in all kinds of terrible things." They noted the terrible things and they are no laughing matter. However, looking at this pool and thinking that someone might even think of diving into it, worries me a lot (about the person who would consider it).

After making sure that Wilson the dog understood all of the rules, I turned the water on and put the hose into the little blue pool. Wilson was impressed. I'm pretty sure he thought it was the largest water bowl he had ever seen. I put him in a couple times and he kept climbing out. Such is life... we will try again and if the pool part doesn't work out, we will save it to use as a sled in the winter.

One of the best set of instructions I've ever seen in a book were by a fellow named H. Jackson Brown, Jr. He wrote a little book called "Life's Little Instruction Book."

Some of my favorites include, "Number 2 - Have a dog," "Number 8 - Say thank you a lot," "Number 43 - Never give up on anybody. Miracles happen every day," "Number 884 - Never say, My child would never do that," and "Number 999 - Call your dad."

How about 1523 through 1529 - "Think quickly, Work diligently, Fight fairly, Give generously, Laugh loudly and Love deeply."

Read more stories at www.CranksMyTractor.com.



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LETTERS

What the Pledge means

By Lee H. Hamilton
Special to The Star

You know the Pledge of Allegiance, probably by heart. You may recite it only occasionally, or get the chance several times a week. Sometimes, I'm guessing, you say it mechanically, and other times filled with deep meaning.

I hope it's more often the latter, because here's what's remarkable about the Pledge: in a few short phrases, it lays out the fundamentals of what our country represents and strives to achieve.

Let's start with these words: "and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible." It's not just talking about any nation or form

of government; it's talking about a republic — a unified nation, under divine Providence, with three fully equal branches that are strong, independent, and each entrusted with limited and defined powers within their constitutional boundaries.

The meaning goes even deeper than that. Really, we're talking about power being dispersed across a large number of people and institutions. We're talking about a system that was designed by people who were so wary of concentrated power that they made it difficult for any one person or institution to wield it.

They created a republic that to its core rejects autocratic political leadership and

authoritarianism. It sees them as a threat to our democracy, and depends upon a system of elections in which ballots are counted fairly and citizens have equal voting rights.

This, in turn, provides a system that has the capacity to reform and renew itself, because its institutions rest on the political involvement of our citizens. Elected representatives make the laws, but government is bound by the electoral process, an independent judiciary, and constitutional guarantees of freedom of speech, assembly, religion and the press.

This brings us to the final words: "with liberty and justice for all." These are crucial to understand. They

represent what some pundits have called a framework of decency: a system built on individual dignity and respect for each person. This is a monumental achievement — a country that seeks liberty and justice for all within its borders, and often beyond them, with no limitations or caveats.

Liberty and justice are not reserved for white males, or even for citizens only.

In all this, we recognize and tolerate our differences. We may not always measure up to our ideals, but we certainly know what they are. We expect differences in race, religion, and political beliefs. We don't try to demonize those who are different.

At heart, then, this is

a system based on a core belief that we're all in this enterprise together, and all connected to one another. Everyone has the right to enjoy the promise of America.

Put these two parts of the Pledge together, and what it's telling us is that we live in a system that binds us together by adherence to rules of political engagement, respect for the rule of law, and belief in our democratic institutions.

We may disagree about all kinds of issues, but we firmly believe in equal political rights and equal opportunity. "Liberty and justice for all" means giving individuals the space to make choices in their own lives that will enable them to flourish. What the country expects

in return is that most individuals will live a life of honor, excellence and responsibility. The system demands hard work on the part of its citizens if it is to succeed.

So the next time you stand as the Pledge is recited, think about what you're saying. It's deceptively simple. But it packs a powerful message.

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar, IU School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice, IU School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

Don't manage diabetes — reverse it

By Sarah Hallberg
Special to The Star

Diabetes is reversible. That's the exciting conclusion of a study I'm leading at Indiana University Health.

Two hundred and sixty-two patients with type-2 diabetes recently completed one year of a clinical trial examining the impact of a low-carbohydrate diet, which limits foods like grains and pasta while boosting consumption of healthy fats like avocados and butter. The diet didn't restrict calories.

Using smartphone technology, health coaches worked with participants while physicians monitored and adjusted medications.

A control group of 87 patients with diabetes received the American Diabetes Association standard

A full 94 percent of patients on the low-carb intervention have been able to reduce or eliminate their need for insulin. For six in ten patients, average blood sugar levels fell so low that technically, they had reversed their diabetes.

nutritional treatment.

A full 94 percent of patients on the low-carb intervention have been able to reduce or eliminate their need for insulin. For six in ten patients, average blood sugar levels fell so low that technically, they had reversed their diabetes.

These findings are promising for treating one of America's deadliest, most expensive diseases.

Diabetes is a public-health emergency. Thirty million Americans suffer from diabetes. The illness is the nation's seventh leading killer, with serious side effects including heart disease, kidney damage, limb amputation,

and blindness. Last year, diabetes cost the country about \$327 billion in medical bills and lost productivity.

Despite this staggering cost, health experts have focused on managing the disease rather than reversing it. When patients consult the ADA website, they learn that "there is no cure for type 2 diabetes, but it can be managed."

"Management" usually involves costly medications. Medical expenditures for people with diabetes total about \$13,700 per year — double the figure for people without the disease.

Bariatric surgery, the procedure that helps people lose weight by stapling, binding, or

removing part of the stomach, has even become a "first line" treatment for obese individuals with diabetes. This was once seen as a last resort, as it costs about \$26,000 and one in six patients experiences complications. Yet in 2016, the ADA led 45 international diabetes organizations to begin recommending the surgery as standard treatment.

That's misguided. Plenty of research — including our own — shows that dietary adjustments can curb diabetes. A 2017 study from University of California San Francisco found that 60 percent of diabetic patients put on a very

low-carb diet were able to stop common medications for their condition at one year.

A 2008 study found that 95 percent of patients on a low-carb diet either cut back on diabetes medications or stopped taking them entirely.

With conventional treatment regimens, according to a study in Diabetes Care, only 0.1 percent of patients achieve complete remission.

Nutrition-centric treatment was once the standard. In the 20th century, people with diabetes were told to avoid foods high in carbohydrates. That treatment fell from favor with the commercialization of insulin. Employing insulin, patients could again consume carbohydrates, and when the U.S. government

launched its low-fat, high-carbohydrate advice via the dietary guidelines in 1980, those with diabetes fell in line with everyday Americans, eating bread and pasta with gusto.

Critics worry that low-carb diets are too difficult. But in our study, 83 percent of patients stayed with it. With individualized support, changing a grocery list is far less daunting than a lifetime of dependency on costly medications.

Reversing diabetes is possible — and should be our goal.

Sarah Hallberg, DO, MS, is the medical director and founder of the Medically Supervised Weight Loss Program at Indiana University Health and an adjunct professor at Indiana University's School of Medicine. She is also the medical director at Virta Health.

CROFT

From Page A4

go with adulation.

Adams and Jefferson spent decades directly or through proxies attacking each other in the years after the Declaration.

They deeply despised each other, and the others view of government's role, until shortly before their deaths on the same day, also a July 4.

Few seemed to like Hamilton, an immigrant born out of wedlock and something of a banty rooster.

He lived a pathetically short life after being on the losing end of a duel with a political rival, who aspired to be Vice President and nearly was.

The two actually worked together as lawyers early in their careers; their spat was almost entirely generated within the newspapers that favored, or opposed, their respective political position.

There are many cases of signatories of the Declaration (and not on July 4, but a couple of days earlier) who could barely

stand to be in the same room with each other let alone affix signatures on a single document.

Somehow, however, through so much outsized division and immense ego, those dandied, bewigged fellows managed to put aside personal and political scuffles, and often competing agendas, to establish the framework, the reason, for a country.

They had an overarching goal, to rid themselves of a fickle, obnoxious ruler an ocean away and to forge for themselves independence.

They only barely understood what they were doing other than nominating themselves for hanging.

That Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights and Constitution that would follow, would leave some important, critical, details to future generations, and a civil war, to fill in but the blanks were the product of what is completely absent in today's national leaders' compromise.

The most significant example, of course, they compromised on addressing slavery, much to the shame of future generations,

because forming a country was paramount.

In essentially explaining what they had wrought, Alexander Hamilton and James Madison, would collaborate on the Federalist Papers, the brilliant explanation and framework defining the government that was to come.

That was the outline of the government we have today.

Hamilton and Madison also came to despise each other, but it didn't impact the Federalist Papers they were writing.

It was really all quite astounding, to put aside the frailties of human nature, the pettiness,

jealously, ego, differences of opinion on the role of government, and forge a document, and a government, that survived 242 years.

That provides the reason to celebrate, and, maybe, to remember the possible in this time riddled with the seemingly impossible.

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Wewahitchka Board of City Commissioners will hold a PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2018-1190L on Monday, July 9, 2018 @ 9:00 am (ct) to consider adoption of ordinance with the following title, to wit:

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA, GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING ORDINANCE #2018-1188L BY ADDING A SITE PLAN APPROVAL REQUIREMENT, REDEFINING RED BULL ISLAND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Ordinance No. 2018-1190L in its entirety may be inspected at the office of the City Clerk during business hours 8 am to 4 pm (ct) Monday-Friday @ City Annex 318 S 7th St.

Connie Parrish
City Clerk

NF-4529556

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Support rises from Eastpoint's ashes

Community evaluating options and needs after wildfire

By David Adlerstein
850-653-8894
dadlerstein@pcnh.com

EASTPOINT — In the week after the Lime Rock Road wildfire, which destroyed three dozen homes and left four times that many homeless, a swift and steady outpouring of help has flowed in.

Jodi Ivester and Bill Walker, from The Last Bar in Tallahassee, brought a truckload of donations, all from bar patrons.

So did Carolyn Sellers and Joley Owens, from Liberty County, and so did scores more people with deliveries every day to the Eastpoint Fire House, where the Franklin County Emergency Management is staging its operations in the aftermath of the June 24 fire.

Sellers and Owens had gathered what they could, doing their best to select what they thought people would need, before heading over to Eastpoint.

Owens had a pretty good idea of what to bring. When she was 12 and living with her mom in Telogia, their home had burned to the ground, changing the circumstances of her life for years to come.

"I know how this feels



Andres Pinera tosses a piece of metal from what was once the home where he lived with his father, Jose Lima. Pinera is holding out hope he will find a rare coin from his native Honduras in the debris, one his father gave him when he was born. The owner of the rental unit, Mario Zambrano, background, said he was insured for the 30-year-old mobile home, but not any of the contents. See more photos and video from the fire at newsherald.com. [PHOTOS BY DAVID ADLERSTEIN/THE TIMES]

like," she said, "I know exactly how they feel."

As the two women sorted their contributions into the correct stacks at the fire house, now over half filled with everything from diapers to toothbrushes to fidget spinners, Sellers had to ask, "Do you guys have an overabundance of stuff?"

That's without her having seen the cafeteria at the former Carrabelle High School at the other end of the county, which also is almost filled, along with two other classrooms.

"Right now, we're

focusing on things you would need to establish your house, pots and pans and utilitarian furniture, table and chairs to eat at," said Joe Taylor, director of the Franklin's Promise Coalition, the long-term recovery organization designated by the county emergency management office.

He said once permanent housing is secured, people will need such large, durable goods as washers and dryers, microwaves and other appliances, as well as beds and mattresses.

"All that burned up," he

said. "We had one company out of Tallahassee donate all new linens and pillows for 40 households."

Clothing is pretty well stocked now at the Eastpoint United Methodist Church, but there remains a need for some targeted items, as the full-scale clean-up begins Monday.

Leather work gloves, dust masks, first aid kits, men's work socks and work boots, and heavy duty garbage bags are all in demand.

"Washing powder has been a big thing," Taylor said. "Everything smells like smoke."

Over the weekend, the American Red Cross shut down its outreach at the Eastpoint Church of God, having sheltered about 50 evacuated people the night of the fires, when no one knew for sure whether their home had been spared.

After that, they gave out \$95 vouchers for emergency needs, but had plenty of vacancies at the shelter, with displaced people mostly taken in by nearby relatives and friends.

"You go out to Ridge and Wilderness roads right now you'll see people living on their home sites where there's no longer a



Eddie Money, right, a radio announcer at WOCY Radio, which is spearheading the Love 36 campaign to assist the 36 displaced families in Eastpoint, gets ready to put on the air John Paul Sanders, whose family's home was destroyed in the Lime Rock Road wildfire.

How to donate

There are immense short- and long-term challenges for the Eastpoint community.

The primary outlet for monetary donations is a GoFundMe page established by the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, at <https://www.gofundme.com/eastpoint-fire-victim-relief-fund>.

In addition, Franklin's Promise Coalition, a long-term recovery organization, is coordinating the relief effort. Find information and donate at <http://www.franklin-spromisecoalition.org>.

home. That's how strong they are," said Sheriff A.J. Smith. "They are not going to leave. You try to get them to go to a shelter and they won't go."

"That's the kind of fortitude and the kind of determination and the kind of 'get 'er done' attitude they have," he said.

The sheriff's GoFundMe account, which is raising money entirely for future housing needs, had raised more than \$95,000 as of Saturday night.

"Everybody's doing everything they can," Smith said. "We're getting outreach from other counties, other states."

Funds also have been flowing in directly to the county, with Billy Collins, community relations manager for Duke Energy, presenting a check for \$25,000 from the company on Friday.

Duke crews had restored power to all the area properties by Monday evening, with the exception of those

places where it would be pointless until the land is cleared of scorched debris beginning Monday morning. The county plans to use its road crews to assist in debris removal and land clearing, but property owners must first file release-from-liability paperwork with the county, which normally doesn't allow its crews to do work on private property.

For short-term housing, the First Baptist Church of St. George Island's Christian Retreat Center has made seven of its cabins available for housing next week. The Florida Division of Emergency Management said it is coordinating with private sector partners including Airbnb to identify possible housing for affected families.

Chase Landry, star of the TV show "Swamp People" and close friends with the Ward family, which owns 13 Mile Seafood

See SUPPORT, A7

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NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

THE GULF COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Purpose and Effect: The Gulf County School Board proposes to amend and adopt policies, as provided for in the Administrative Procedures Act, for the purpose of bringing said policies into compliance with Florida Statutes and State Board of Education Rules.

Summary: The following is a brief description of each proposal change.

Student Progression Plan

Code of Conduct

Economic Impact: These proposals will result in no direct costs associated with implementation.

IF REQUESTED, A HEARING WILL BE HELD AT:

Time: 5:15 PM EST

Date: July 31, 2018

Place: Gulf County School Board Room

The entire text of the proposed rules can be inspected during regular office hours at the Office of Instructional Services, 150 Middle School Road, Port St. Joe, FL.

Special legal authority under which the adoption is authorized and the law being implemented and interpreted are made specific.

The addition and changes are proposed and approved for consideration by Lori Price, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction.

Amendments: See above

NF-4529552

PUBLIC NOTICE

A Public Hearing will be held before the Gulf County Planning and Development Review Board (PDRB) on Monday, July 16, 2018 at 8:45 a.m. EST and thereafter a Quasi-Judicial Hearing before the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) meeting on Tuesday, July 24, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. EST. Both the Public Hearing and the Quasi-Judicial Hearing will be held in the Donald H. Butler Commission Chamber located in the Robert M. Moore Administration Building at the Gulf County Courthouse Complex, 1000 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd., in Port St. Joe, Florida. The Public Hearing before the PDRB will be to discuss, review, and submit recommendations to the BOCC on the following:

Variance Request - APPLICANTS: Charles M. & Kitti B. BODIFORD. **LOCATION:** 287 South Deer Avenue, Parcel ID #00292-000R, Section 5, Township 7 South, Range 8 West, Gulf County, Florida. **REQUEST:** Requesting a ten (10) foot variance into the twenty (20) foot roadside building setbacks off of Shellcracker Street.

The public is encouraged to attend and be heard on these matters. Information prior to the public hearing and quasi-judicial hearing can be viewed at the Planning Department at 1000 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd., Room 303.

Pursuant to F.S. 286.0105:
If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board, agency or commission, with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Americans with Disabilities Act
Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this workshop/meeting is asked to advise the County at least 3 days before the workshop/meeting/hearing by contacting: County Administrators Office at (850) 229-6106. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact Gulf County by utilizing and making the necessary arrangements with the Florida Coordination Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing at (866) 602-3275.

NF-4529550

SUPPORT

From Page A6

in Apalachicola, served up a crawfish boil Friday night at the First Baptist Church for the fire victims. The Salvation Army brought in a food trailer, and has been cooking hot meals that Jennifer Daniels, emergency management's special needs coordinator, has been delivering three times daily to a loop she drives on Ridge and Wilderness roads, Buck Street and Bear Creek Road, where the fire raged from about 4 p.m. late into the night. Along that route are portable toilets that Mize Plumbing Services in Port St. Joe brought in and installed, at no cost.

The Salvation Army brought in a truck for showers, but they weren't used very much at all. People instead went to where they felt more at home, the First Baptist Church. That church, which long has handled the food pantry needs in Eastpoint on Saturdays, is now open every day.

"Some of the churches have done their own programs," Taylor said.

One church that has reached out is Tallahassee's Bethel Missionary Church, which is pastored by the Rev. R.B. Holmes Jr., who also owns WOCY radio in Eastpoint.

That church and radio station, in partnership with Tallahassee Memorial Health-Care and Prime Meridian Bank in Tallahassee, on Thursday launched the Love 36 campaign, through which Holmes is appealing for other faith-based groups, businesses and individuals to adopt one of the 36 families who lost their homes for the next 36 months. With the presentation of a check for \$1,000, Bethel Missionary made tangible its commitment to follow the family of Joe and Becky Banks for the next 36



Jimmy Boone and son Jimmy Jr. display a class action law suit proffered by a Tallahassee law firm. "We ain't signing nothin' till we're good and ready," said Jimmy Boone Sr. The Boones lost their home and vehicles in the blaze. [RICHARD BICKEL/SPECIAL TO THE TIMES]



Pastor R.B. Holmes Jr., owner of Eastpoint-based WOCY Radio, and Sheriff A.J. Smith, left, announce that Joe and Becky Banks, with son Bill, will be the first family helped in the business and faith-based community's Love 36 outreach to the 36 families who lost everything in the Lime Rock Road fire. [DAVID ADLERSTEIN/THE TIMES]

months, to see them through to a new place to live.

"We know that the government is going to do things," Holmes said. "The faith community must do our part."

The pastor said the church had learned that the Banks' son Bill was instrumental in offering help the night of the fire.

"He rides a bicycle, but he was out working, while his own

or disaster where the recovery could exceed the state's ability to respond, or where an extraordinary amount of coordination is needed between various government agencies," his office wrote in a press release.

One solid chunk of financial help for those affected, most of whom lack homeowners or renters insurance, has come from the Florida Department of Financial Services. Chief Financial Officer and State Fire Marshal Jimmy Patronis has deployed insurance experts to assist with navigating the insurance claims-filing process, as well as adjusters to assist residents with filing a partial settlement claim for up to \$5,000 per household for emergency living expenses, such as temporary housing, clothing, food or pet care.

Residents have been asked to bring proof of residency, which can be done by showing a utility bill sent in their name to the property. But Duke officials have been limited in establishing residency for others who may have been living in campers on a property, which zoning laws do not allow, or in a building that did not have electrical service billed to it. As of Friday, Property Appraiser Rhonda Skipper has estimated real estate losses were about \$800,000, with another \$900,000 in losses of personal property, such as cars, trucks, boats and motorcycles.

The promise of future funds is also being offered in the form of a sales pitch from a bevy of law firms that were down in the county as early as Thursday morning to see who they could attract as clients.

Some people, like Glenn Woodall, signed right up, while others, like neighbor Bill Hatteway, held their horses.

"We ain't signing nothin' till we're good and ready," said Jimmy Boone Sr., as he stood next to the ruins of his home and vehicles, all destroyed in the blaze.

We know that the government is going to do things. The faith community must do our part.

Rev. R.B. Holmes Jr., pastor at Tallahassee's Bethel Missionary Church

beloved family was losing their home," said Holmes. "They all said this young man is a hero, and we said 'This is a family we want to adopt.'

"This is my new family, and this Love 36 will walk them for 36 months," he said. "We're going to make sure they'll be whole."

Gov. Rick Scott, who has visited the fire victims, has not issued an emergency declaration, but has said he will consider that option in the future.

"In general, executive orders are issued by the governor in anticipation of an emergency

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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
- Alex Merlo, Manson Construction
- 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

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BEACH

From Page A1

filed for early last year only to have to amend the multi-year spending plan to reflect changes in the restoration project, were essential.

The amended plan's public comment period ended in March.

The Board of County Commissioners in January approved a bid for the restoration project, which will now focus solely on beaches between the Stump Hole rock revetments to the southern boundary of Billy Joe Rish Park.

Manson Construction, based in Washington State, will perform the work.

Manson's bid provided the most sand for the county's budgeted \$10.2 million in total funding for the

There was a substantial cost savings by doing this method. We gained 200,000 cubic yards.

Michael Dombrowski, county's consulting engineer

restoration project.

The sand, the county's consulting engineer Michael Dombrowski said, will cover the proposed boundaries of the project, from Stump Hole to Rish Park.

In addition, according to Dombrowski, Manson will use a large hopper to dredge the sand from an offshore borrow area and is projecting to complete the work and be off the beach within 45 days of the start date.

That will slash the construction timeline by nearly 80 days and reduces costs.

The work will fall directly

in the middle of sea turtle season, as the season is transitioning from nesting to hatchlings emerging.

Jessica Swindall with the St. Joseph Peninsula Turtle Patrol, said her group has been relocating turtles since the first nests were discovered in May.

Manson was one of two bidders on the project, which was re-bid late last year after the BOCC rejected an initial round of bids.

Those initial bids came in some 40 percent over the county's budget.

In re-bidding, the county "reverse-bid" the project, requiring contractors to detail how much sand the county could purchase and place on the beach for the \$10.2 million.

Manson's bid was 705,882 cubic yards; Great Lakes Dredge's bid less than half that amount.

Dombrowski said the

county realized savings by re-bidding the project.

With the elimination of some surveying, oversight and inspection services due to the shorter timeframe for the project, the county saved right at \$1 million, he said.

The unit cost per cubic yard of sand of \$1.50 was also lower.

Had the county accepted the low bidder on the first round of bids last year, which was Great Lakes, it would have received 510,000 cubic yards of sand, based on per unit cost in the bid and the county's available funds, Dombrowski said.

"There was a substantial cost savings by doing this method," Dombrowski said. "We gained 200,000 cubic yards."

The hope is that sand placed on the southern end of the six-mile length of the peninsula moves, or accretes, north.

That was the case in the

original restoration project of a decade ago, with a significant amount of sand, in the hundreds of thousands of cubic yards, moving south to north.

Similar accretion is the hope in the future.

Some residents to the north of Billy Joe Rish Park have complained that while they were taxed as all peninsula property owners, they will not immediately receive sand as originally pledged.

No one, however, argues with the need to get sand on the beach as soon as possible; structures are being threatened, as Dombrowski predicted two years ago.

The restoration is roughly one year behind the county's most optimistic timeline.

"We need to get sand out there," said Dr. Pat Hardman, president of the Coastal Community Association of Gulf County.

PROPERTY

From Page A1

begins in October, for Gulf District Schools it began July 1.

"Hopefully, as a result of our healthy economy and steady increase in the taxable value, the public may see lower millage rates," Burke said.

Each of the three Municipal Services Taxing Units established to fund beach restoration also realized increases in the values of property within each boundaries, which, in theory should

Those figures will be widely watched because it most directly impacts Gulf County government officials as they work to prepare a budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

Mitch Burke, property appraiser

bring down MSTU taxes.

The preliminary tax roll could also cause some adjustments in the tentative budget to be recommended for advertisement later this month by the Gulf County School Board.

(See story page B1).

Those tentative budget numbers for the school district are based on an increase in the tax base of 6.45 percent; Burke's preliminary tax roll pegs the increase at 7.9 percent on a taxable value of \$1.949 billion.

Property values for school taxes are higher because fewer exemptions apply to taxes for public education.

The county's two cities diverged significantly.

The city of Port St. Joe realized an increase of 8.3 percent in taxable property values, its biggest in years, while the city of Wewahitchka went the other direction, showing a 1.9 percent decrease in its tax base.

The Port St. Joe Fire Zone also saw the biggest increase in property values among the county's fire districts, increasing by 10.2 percent.

The Tupelo Fire Zone realized an increase in property values of 4.3 percent and the Howard Creek Fire Zone 0.8 percent.

Property values in the Overstreet Fire Zone fell 1.4 percent.

Property values for the Northwest Florida Water Management District increased 8.4 percent.

Another bright spot in the local economy was new construction starts.

As of Jan. 1, new construction represented \$43.59

million of the county's taxable value, up 11.2 percent from 2017.

"We still continue to see new construction taking place in Gulf County, which is great news," Burke said.

Further, Burke said properties are not typically on the market for a shorter period of time before selling and the county is seeing relatively fewer foreclosures and short-sales.

Across Florida, foreclosures and short-sales are down a combined 46.5 percent year over year.

"Gulf County seems to be experiencing an active and healthy market again," Burke said.



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An update on citrus greening in the Panhandle

By Ray Bodrey
Gulf County Extension Director
UF/IFAS
Special to The Star

Citrus greening or Huanglongbing (HLB) is currently the most devastating disease of citrus worldwide. The disease was first reported in 1919 in China, and again in Brazil in 2004 and discovered in Miami, FL in 2005. Since then, the disease has affected most of Florida's commercial citrus-producing areas leading to a remarkable 75% decline in Florida's \$9 billion citrus industry (USDA).

In the Panhandle, UF/IFAS Extension Agents have implemented a survey to track and monitor citrus greening, including evidence of the vector, the Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP), which depending on individual, may or may not carry the disease. Confirmed cases of citrus greening in the Panhandle have been isolated to Franklin County to date. Although, there has been a positive identification of the ACP in seven northern counties, including Gulf and Bay.

The ACP nymphs are yellow-green in color and will produce a white, waxy substance or tubules (Fig. 1). The adults are small, approximately 1/8" and are brown in color. The Asian psyllid is not directly the cause of the citrus tree demise, as it attacks the trunk, branches, leaves or fruit. More so, the bacteria that is released from

the psyllid during the attack is cause of the condition. The bacterium will live and thrive in the tree's phloem for some time. The phloem is the living tissue of the tree that transports nutrients throughout. However once infected, the phloem will transport the disease to other parts of the tree. Unfortunately, once infected, the tree will steadily decline in health.

So, what are the symptoms? Citrus greening will lead to yellowing of the leaves along the veins. A green tie-dye look to the leaves is a typical sign. Fruit will be asymmetrical and dark green on the end. To make matters worse, it's difficult to diagnose, especially during non-fruiting months, where leaves are only the symptomatic feature. Symptoms can easily be confused with nutrient deficiency. Lab analysis is most likely needed to identify. Fruit production will also drop in number, size and taste each year until the demise of the tree. Sadly, there is no cure, nor citrus species that is immune to the bacterium. However, it is known that the most severely affected citrus are sweet oranges, mandarins and mandarin hybrids.

What can I do to help prevent the disease as a backyard citrus grower? Unfortunately, there are no chemical options to treat an infected citrus tree at this point, only methods to keep the condition from spreading from tree to tree. Detection

through scouting is the first line of defense. Dr. Xavier Martini of the UF/IFAS North Florida Research & Education Center is studying the distribution and population dynamics of the ACP in northern Florida. His studies have shown that peaks of infestation in flush (new growth) is at its height in summer and fall. This is the time to be particularly vigilant in scouting. Preventative pesticide applications during this time is also recommended. A foliar spray such as a non-systemic pesticide like malathion or neem oil (a less toxic repellent) accompanied by a soil drench containing imidacloprid can help as a deterrent. Please follow the product directions, rates and precautions.

For more information, please visit the UF/IFAS Entomology website, <http://entomology.ifas.ufl.edu/creatures/citrus/acpsyllid.htm>. Gulf County Extension is participating in a study to track the occurrence of the disease and vector. If you are a Gulf County resident with citrus trees and wish to participate in the study, please call 639-3200.

Supporting information for this article supplied by X. Martini, M. Paret, P. Andersen, L. Stelinski, F. Iriarte, I. Small, N. Nguyen, M. Dewdney, E. Johnson and E. Lovestrang, all affiliated with UF/IFAS Extension.

Other supporting information can be found in the UF/IFAS EDIS publication, "Citrus



Asian Citrus Psyllid secreting white, waxy tubules.
[ASHLEY HOPPERS, UGA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION-LIBERTY COUNTY]

Problems in the Home Landscape" by Mongi Zekri and Robert E. Rouse: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs141> & "Citrus Canker & Greening (HLB) - Handling Protocols for Master

Gardener Plant Clinics" by Megan M. Dewdney, Timothy M. Spann, Ryan A. Atwood, Jamie Burrow: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/files/HS/HS37100.pdf>

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Senate farm bill takes steps to level playing field for family farms

By Center for Rural Affairs
Special to The Star

LYONS, NE – Last week, the Senate passed its version of the farm bill, with a 86-11 vote. In response, Center for Rural Affairs Senior Policy Associate Anna Johnson said the farm bill represents a “step in a positive direction for family farms.”

“For years, Sen. Grassley has championed closing loopholes in farm programs that allow millions of dollars of subsidy payments to go to individuals who are not doing the hard work of farming,” Johnson said. “We were very pleased the final Senate bill includes these long-needed fixes to subsidy payments that level the playing field for family farms.”

Johnson said she is disappointed the Senate declined to take up a proposal from Sens. Durbin, Grassley, Flake, Shaheen, Warren, and Lee, that would have “put common sense limits on crop insurance subsidies for the very largest operations.”

“Currently, there are no limits placed on farmers’ access to crop insurance subsidies, which provides a competitive advantage to the largest operations,” she

We were very pleased the final Senate bill includes these long-needed fixes to subsidy payments that level the playing field for family farms.

Anna Johnson, Center for Rural Affairs Senior Policy Associate

said. “This payment structure continues to drive farm consolidation, increase land prices, and undermine rural communities. The Senate missed an important opportunity to address this issue in crop insurance today.”

The bill includes strong support for several programs that are important for the development of rural communities, and would reinstate the position of Undersecretary for Rural Development, according to Johnson.

“However, we are concerned that the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program (RMAP) has not received mandatory funding in either the House or Senate farm bills,” she said. “This program supports rural entrepreneurs who start, then build small businesses. RMAP helps spark innovation and economic activity in rural areas where it is sorely needed.”

In addition, the Senate farm bill cuts working lands conservation funding, reducing the number of acres enrolled annually in the Conservation Stewardship Program from 10 million to 8.8 million. The Senate also proposes to combine several smaller programs that support beginning farmers and rural development.

“While we are concerned by the impact of the proposed cuts to working lands conservation funding, we are glad to see the proposed program combinations will protect the missions of the Value-Added Producer Grant Program, the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program, and others,” Johnson said.

The versions of the bill passed by the Senate and House of Representatives will now go in front of the Joint Conference Committee, which will address the differences and agree on a final bill. The current farm bill expires Sept 30, 2018.

“Now, we look toward conference, and urge our elected officials to maintain the many strengths of the Senate bill, resolve the challenges that remain, and develop a bipartisan farm bill that supports rural communities,” Johnson said.

DISTRICT

From Page A1

language arts.

Science grades among fifth-graders, on the other hand, spiked by 20 points.

Norton said plans are already being put in place to address the challenges.

“I have no doubt that we can bring Port St. Joe Elementary up to an ‘A’ in the next two years,” Norton said.

The district was behind the state at every elementary grade, in both language arts and math, save sixth-grade, where students scored ahead of the state average in both areas.

The elementary schools also lagged in science.

Wewahitchka Elementary was even with the state average in fifth-grade math.

Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High School, for the third consecutive year, missed a ‘B’ by mere points, two points in this case.

To reach an ‘A’ a school must earn at least 62 percent of the possible points; Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High School earned 60 percent.

Norton noted that the ‘B’ point range is the narrowest among the school grades, A-F, and in a small district such as Gulf a swing of two or three points in any category calculation can make a significant difference.

Among FSA-tested students, the district’s high schools trended above state averages in both language arts and math save for grade 9 language arts and grade 7 math.

However, both high schools lost ground year over year in math, save for Wewahitchka seventh-graders.

Science scores were mixed bag, with eighth-graders struggling to reach

I don’t want to sound complacent, because we are not, but we are happy with the grades.

Jim Norton, Superintendent of Schools

state averages while biology end of course scores are well above the state, thanks to a huge leap forward by students in Port St. Joe.

In addition to FSA scores, high school grades also fold in graduation rates and students enrolled in advanced or college-level dual-enrolled courses.

The district’s graduation rate was 85 percent, a reflection of ninth-graders who graduated within four years.

And the district earned 61 of a possible 100 points for its dual-enrolled students.

Also, among high schoolers, the district was behind the state in Civics and US History end of course scores.

School grades are calculated annually based on up to 11 components, including student achievement and learning gains on the FSA and, for high schools, graduation rates.

Districts, and schools, receive points for each component, the points added together and divided by the total points possible to determine a percentage of points earned.

A school that earns 62 percent of points or higher earns an ‘A,’ 54-61 percent earns the school a ‘B,’ 41-53 percent is a ‘C,’ 32-40 percent earns a ‘D,’ and 31 percent or less an ‘F.’

In addition to Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High School’s total points, Wewahitchka Elementary earned 56 percent of the possible points, Port St. Joe Elementary 43 percent and Wewahitchka Jr./Sr. High School 57 percent.

County Democrats meeting

Special to The Star

The July meeting of the Gulf County Democrats will be held 7 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. ET Monday, July 9 at the WIG Building located at 401 Peters St. in Port St. Joe.

Speakers this month will be Rachel Jackson and Ben Guthrie from Gulf County Emergency Management. They will discuss hurricane preparedness.

Each meeting features a topical speaker and a discussion of a related issue.

Meeting updates may be found on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/GulfCountyDemocrats/>). The Democrats look forward to seeing you at the meeting! Bring a friend. Everyone is welcome.

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- 12 JEEP WRANGLER S RED, P0281A **\$22,990**
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- 14 RAM 1500 SLT RED, N0782A **\$26,990**
- 17 RAM 1500 LARAMIE WHITE, PC5511A **\$36,990**
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OUTDOORS

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Scallop season opened July 1 in Franklin-NW Taylor

Also opened in Levy-Hernando counties

Special to The Star

State waters off the following areas are open to bay scallop harvest: Franklin through northwest Taylor County (including Carrabelle, Lanark and St. Marks) and Levy, Citrus and Hernando counties (including Cedar Key, Crystal River and Homosassa). These areas will remain open to harvest through Sept. 24.

Bag limits and other regulations

Bag and vessel limits in open bay scallop harvest zones are 2 gallons whole bay scallops in shell or 1 pint of bay scallop meat per person, with a maximum of 10 gallons of whole bay scallops in shell or 1/2 gallon of bay scallop meat per vessel.

Scallops may be collected by hand or with a landing or dip net.

Scallops must be landed within areas that are open to harvest and may not be possessed on



[COURTESY PHOTO/FWC]

waters outside of areas that are open to harvest or during the closed season.

There is no commercial harvest allowed for bay scallops in Florida.

For information on bay scallop regulations, visit MyFWC.com/Fishing and click on "Saltwater Fishing," "Recreational

Regulations" and "Bay Scallops."

Boater and scalloper safety

Be safe when diving for scallops. Stay within 300 feet of a properly displayed divers-down flag or device when scalloping in open water, and within 100 feet of a properly displayed divers-down flag or device if on a river, inlet or navigation channel. Boat operators traveling within 300 feet of a divers-down flag or device in open water or within 100 feet of one on a river, inlet or navigational channel must slow to idle speed. For more information, visit MyFWC.com/Boating/

Regulations and click on "Divers-down Warning Devices." Always remember to properly stow divers-down devices when divers and snorkelers have exited the water.

Other best practices

- Snorkel with a buddy.
- Always have an observer on board the boat while others are scalloping.
- Do not discard scallop shells in inshore waters commonly used for recreational activities such as the Homosassa River or Crystal River. Piles of discarded scallop shells can create hazards for swimmers and damage seagrass habitat. Scallop

shells can be discarded in a trash receptacle or in larger bodies of water where they are more likely to disperse.

- Be aware of changing tides.
- Stash your trash.
- Wear your personal flotation device when the boat is underway.

Season Dates and Boundaries

• St. Joseph Bay and Gulf County: Aug. 17 - Sept. 30. This region includes all state waters from the Mexico Beach Canal in Bay County to the westernmost point of St. Vincent Island in Franklin County.

• Franklin through northwest Taylor County (including Carrabelle, Lanark and St. Marks): July 1 - Sept. 24. This region includes all state waters from the westernmost point of St. Vincent Island in Franklin County to Rock Island near the mouth of the Fenholloway River in Taylor County.

• The remaining portion of Taylor County and all of Dixie County (including Keaton Beach and the Steinhatchee area): June 16 - Sept. 10. This region includes all state waters east of Rock Island near the mouth of the Fenholloway River in Taylor County and north of Alligator Pass Daybeacon #4 near the mouth of the Suwannee River in Levy County.

• Levy, Citrus and Hernando counties (including Cedar Key, Crystal River and Homosassa): July 1 - Sept. 24. This region includes all state waters south of Alligator Pass

Daybeacon #4 near the mouth of the Suwannee River in Levy County to the Hernando - Pasco county line.

• Pasco County: A trial 10-day open season will occur July 20-29. This region includes all state waters south of the Hernando - Pasco county line and north of the Anclote Key Lighthouse in northern Pinellas County, and includes all waters of the Anclote River.

Tell us what you think

These season dates are for 2018 only. In late 2018 or early 2019, the FWC will set the 2019 seasons for Gulf and Pasco counties, consider continuing the 2018 season structure for the remaining portions of the open scallop harvest area in 2019, and will work toward creating a more permanent season structure for 2020 and beyond.

As the 2018 season moves forward, share your comments on what you would like to see for a future season structure at MyFWC.com/SaltwaterComments. The FWC is very interested in understanding whether the public prefers regional differences in the season dates or a consistent season across the harvest area, as well as what season dates work best for various regions. Public feedback will be an important factor for determining whether further changes are needed when making a decision about the long-term season dates.

WEEKLY ALMANAC

Date	High	Low	% Precip
Thu, July 5	89°	77°	30%
Fri, July 6	89°	76°	40%
Sat, July 7	88°	76°	30%
Sun, July 8	88°	77°	50%
Mon, July 9	89°	77°	40%
Tues, July 10	90°	77°	20%
Wed, July 11	90°	77°	40%

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
5	Th	12:23p 1.0		10:27p 0.4	
6	Fr	7:21a 1.0		9:33p 0.6	
7	Sa	6:52a 1.2		4:07p 0.4	
8	Su	6:56a 1.4		4:34p 0.1	
9	Mo	7:19a 1.7		5:19p -0.1	
10	Tu	7:53a 1.9		6:09p -0.3	
11	We	8:36a 2.0		7:00p -0.6	

APALACHICOLA BAY, WEST PASS

Date	Day	High Tide	High Tide	Low Tide	Low Tide
5	Th	9:28a 1.4	9:09p 1.0	2:23a 0.3	4:12p 0.8
6	Fr	9:59a 1.4	10:46p 1.0	3:04a 0.5	5:24p 0.6
7	Sa	10:32a 1.4		3:50a 0.7	6:31p 0.4
8	Su	12:39a 1.0	11:07a 1.5	4:44a 0.9	7:31p 0.2
9	Mo	2:31a 1.0	11:46a 1.5	5:49a 1.1	8:25p 0.0
10	Tu	4:00a 1.2	12:29p 1.6	7:00a 1.3	9:16p -0.2
11	We	5:04a 1.3	1:16p 1.6	8:08a 1.4	10:04p -0.4

SPONSOR THE WEEKLY ALMANAC CALL TODAY! 227-7847

FISHING REPORT



We have had some really hot temps. the last week on the Forgotten Coast but it has not cooled off the fishing. Redfish and Trout has been pretty productive in St. Joe Bay and live shrimp and soft baits have done a good job. We think one key is hitting it early or hitting it late in the evening with these hot temps. Fish are going to go deeper and look for shelter right now. Offshore Snapper season has been really good so far with plenty of boat limits (two per person) and some exceptional sized fish this year. If your worried about your boat not being able to get out to the Snapper there has been plenty of good reports of Snapper in shallower water only 10 or 12 miles out. Until next week, Happy Fishing !

FWC promotes heightened awareness, enforcement for boating under the influence

Special to The Star

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) Division of Law Enforcement will be promoting awareness and conducting heightened enforcement targeting boating under the influence as part of the national Operation Dry Water campaign this week.

FWC officers will be focused on educating boaters about safe boating practices, which includes boating sober and enforcing the Florida's boating under the influence laws.

With the summer boating season underway and the July Fourth holiday approaching, the FWC reminds boaters that impaired boating is against the law. The Fourth of July holiday is one of the busiest boating holidays all over the U.S., including here in Florida. In 2017, a total of 944,162



[COURTESY FWC]

boats were registered in Florida, with an estimated 1 million additional non-registered boats enjoying Florida's waters. And last year, July had more reportable accidents (113) and more fatal accidents (11) than any other month.

Operating a vessel under the influence of alcohol or drugs is illegal on all bodies of water and can lead to serious injuries and consequences. In Florida, it is illegal to operate a vessel with a blood alcohol content level of .08 or higher - the same as it is to operate a vehicle.

"The accidents and tragedies that happen because individuals choose to drive drunk or

impaired, on land or on the water, are preventable. The decision lies with the individual on whether they choose to operate a boat or vehicle while under the influence," says Maj. Robert Rowe, FWC's Boating and Waterways Section Leader. "As law enforcement, it is our job to do all we can to ensure the safety of our recreational boaters and paddlers. That is why the FWC is joining other states and agencies across the country to do our part in keeping boaters safe and preventing accidents related to boating under the influence."

Alcohol is a leading contributing factor in recreational boating deaths,

and a major contributor to accidents. Last year in Florida, out of the 67 fatal accident victims, 24 percent (16) were related to alcohol or drug use. If a person decides to take alcohol on their voyage, it is important to designate an operator who isn't drinking alcohol and will remain sober to ensure everyone gets home safely. The FWC encourages boaters to enjoy the boating season to its full extent by boating sober, wearing a life jacket and taking a boating education course.

The mission of Operation Dry Water is to reduce the number of alcohol- and drug-related accidents and fatalities through increased recreational boater awareness and by fostering a stronger and more visible deterrent to alcohol use on the water.

For more information, visit MyFWC.com/Boating and Operation-DryWater.org.

FWC 2017 Boating Accident Statistics Link: MyFWC.com/Boating/Safety-Education/Accidents.

We have everything you need for outdoor Summer fun!

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SPORTS

St. Joe Bay back among the big boys

By Tim Croft
 The Port St. Joe Star | 850-227-7827
 @PSJ_Star | tcroft@starfl.com

St. Joe Bay, the horse in this case, was back up front in a thoroughbred horse race last weekend as he finished second by a head in the San Carlos Stakes (Grade 2) at Santa Anita Park in California.

It was the first time the horse, named by breeders Bonnie and Kim Heath for St. Joseph Bay, one of Bonnie's favored fishing spots, was back in front in quite some time.

In fact, he had lost eight-straight races before being claimed in May for \$62,500 and joining a new trainer, new racing team and new jockey.

Going off as a 42-1 long shot, however, St. Joe Bay set a face early pace only to be chased down by American Anthem, losing by a head.

At the wire, American Anthem's head was down, St. Joe Bay's up, the difference in the race.

American Anthem is trained by Bob Baffert and was ridden by Mike Smith, both coming off winning the Triple Crown last month with Justify.

"I caught such a good jump (out of the gate) that I just thought I needed to stay out of his way," Smith told reporter Mike Wellman of his horse. "It thought all I could do was mess it up at that point."

"St. Joe Bay was running along so easy that I thought I should keep a little pressure on him, and I'm glad I did,



St. Joe Bay (right) lost by a head in the San Carlos Stakes.
 [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

because I needed every bit of it to get by him."

After falling a half-length back with a furlong to go, St. Joe Bay fought back to nearly take down American Anthem.

"That other horse (St. Joe Bay) was putting up a big fight," Baffert said,

St. Joe Bay was ridden by jockey Tyler Baze.

"He put a head in front two or three times," Baze said. "He tried so hard. It's not very often that you get one that tries that hard."

This was St. Joe Bay's first start since being claimed for trainer John Sadler.

Bonnie Heath said he had

talked to Sadler and the trainer said, "He just saw something in the horse."

St. Joe Bay is a six-year-old gelding foaled at Bonnie Heath Farm in near Ocala; the Heaths also foaled a horse they named Cape San Blas, though injury shortened its career.

In 2016-2017, St. Joe was prominent in the Southern California sprinting scene, winning the Midnight Lute Stakes (Grade 3) and the Palos Verdes Stakes (Grade 2) in consecutive starts.

He took fourth at the \$10 million Golden Shaheen in Dubai in March 2017, but, according to some

observers who commented in various publications, the horse seemed not to be the same after Dubai.

After the Golden Shaheen, St. Joe Bay was eighth in the Bing Crosby Stakes (Grade 1) and 11th in the Green Flash Handicap on grass.

St. Joe Bay, under previous owners David Bernsen and Peter Miller, also underwent a surgical procedure last year to improve his breathing.

He was relocated to Oaklawn Park in Arkansas from Del Mar in San Diego for the 2018 campaign, and finished fourth, third and sixth in allowance races before a fifth

in the King Cotton Stakes in February.

His first race back in California ended with a third in a claiming race and he was claimed for Sadler.

"It was his back class (that led to the claim)," Sadler said to reporter Jeremy Balan. "I have a good record claiming horses and I want to see how they perform in a bigger race."

"St Joe Bay was a top horse around here last year, and maybe he just didn't like Oaklawn, but it's all upside in a race like (the San Carlos Stakes)."

The horse now carries the silks of Hronis Racing.

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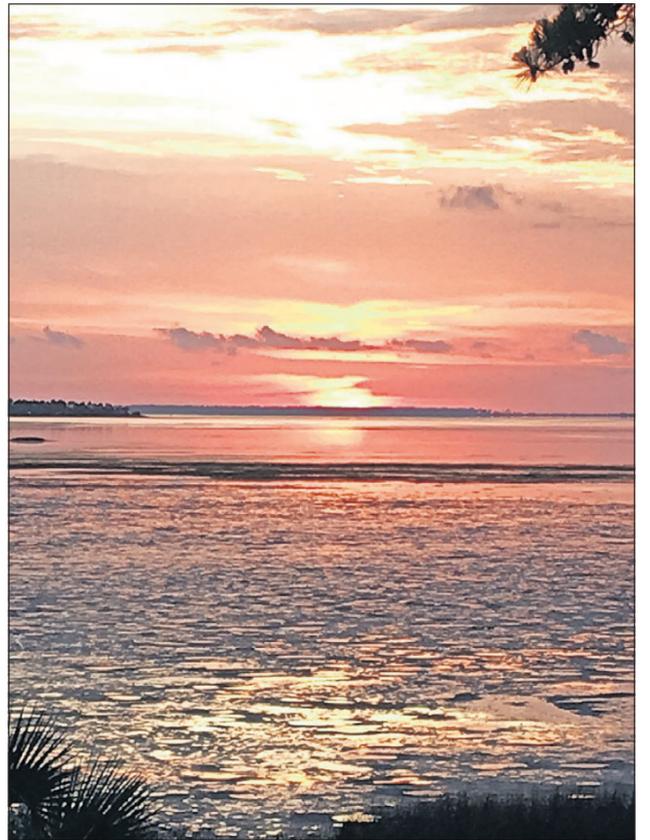
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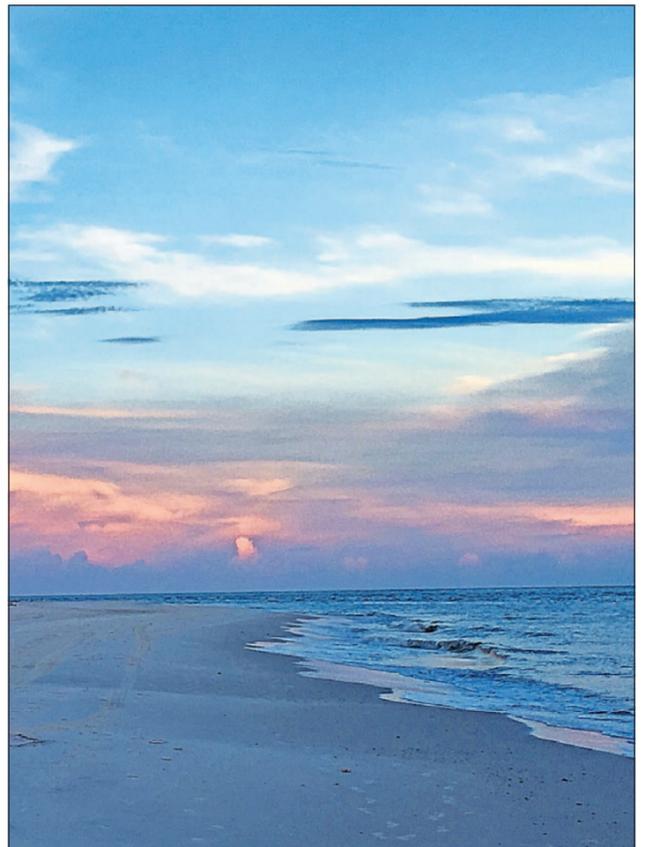
Sunset over the Forgotten Coast [COURTESY OF RON RUDOLPH]



Low tide at sunset [COURTESY OF PATTI BLAYLOCK]



Summer storms rising in the afternoon [COURTESY OF EDWINA BACK-YAKKEY]



Beach driving [COURTESY OF SANDIE KENNEDY]



Taken at midnight, with the moon providing the illumination [COURTESY OF BILL FAUTH]



A bounty of shells on the beach at Crooked Island
[COURTESY OF VIC KEASLER]



Port St. Joe at sunset [COURTESY OF KAREN GEORGE]

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@starfi.com.

COMMUNITY

District to propose small tax increase

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

Passed a tiny increase in basic spending by state lawmakers, the Gulf County School Board will soon vote on whether to increase the millage rate by less than 2 percent.

In year in which the assessed property value for the school district increased by 6.45 percent, the proposed increase in dollars would be 7.72 percent, bringing the budget to \$957,123.71, excluding federal funding.

The proposed budget, to

be considered for advertisement later this month by the Gulf County School Board, includes a millage increase from 6.536 mills to 6.626, the increase entirely focused on the district's local infrastructure needs.

A mill represents \$1 for every \$1,000 in assessed property tax.

The board will propose to increase the lone funding component in the Florida Education Finance Program over which has control, local capital improvement, by just over a quarter of a mill.

Over the past decade the board has resisted levying much more than one

half mills in LCI, part of a pledge to voters when they approved an additional mill operating levy.

Voters have renewed the pledge twice, every four years since.

Last year, the LCI millage was .680, which still remained among the lowest in the state; a district may levy up to 1.5 mills for LCI.

"We're trying to keep (LCI) under one mill," said Superintendent of Schools Jim Norton. "We are very conscious of not going over a full mill."

The LCI millage rate for the fiscal year that began Sunday is 0.962.

That will generate a 34

percent increase in LCI dollars.

And, the district needs the additional dollars as it faces myriad issues, the product of aging infrastructure.

Of immediate need is replacing the heating/air conditioning at Wewahitchka Jr./Sr. High and repairing the larger of the two domes at Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High School; both building nearly 50 years old.

Norton said while the dome work is not technically an "emergency, we are on notice" of issues concerning supporting beams.

See **TAX, B6**

Supreme Court sends 'water wars' back to special master

By **Lloyd Dunkelberger**
The News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — In a victory for Florida, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled last week that the nation's third most-populated state should be given another chance to prove its case that overconsumption of water in Georgia is damaging the Apalachicola River system.

The 5-4 decision, written by Justice Stephen Breyer, overturned a 2017 recommendation by a court-appointed special master that found Florida had not proven its case "by clear and convincing evidence" that imposing a cap on Georgia's water use would benefit Florida water systems, including oyster-rich Apalachicola Bay in Franklin County.

Breyer said the special master had "applied too strict a standard" in rejecting Florida's claim.

"To require 'clear and convincing evidence' about the workability of a (water) decree before the court or a special master has a view about likely harms and likely amelioration is, at least in this case, to put the cart before the horse," Breyer wrote.

The immediate impact of the decision is to send the case back to Ralph Lancaster, a Maine lawyer who was appointed as a special master by the Supreme Court to oversee the dispute. Florida filed the lawsuit in 2013, although the case is only the latest iteration of a decades-old battle about the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint river system, which starts in Georgia and flows south to Florida.

Among the key questions Lancaster will have to settle is whether an "equity-based cap" on Georgia's water consumption in the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint system would increase the water flow into the Apalachicola River and whether the amount of that extra water would "significantly redress the economic and ecological harm that Florida has suffered," the opinion said.

The special master also could seek further findings on his preliminary rulings that Florida had suffered harm from the overconsumption of water by Georgia. And the future deliberations will have to weigh Georgia's claims that any limits on its water use would undermine its economy, including the growth of the Atlanta area and the state's agriculture industry in southwestern Georgia.

"We repeat, however, that Florida will be entitled to a decree only if it is shown that 'the benefits of the (apportionment) substantially outweigh the harm that might result,'" the court said.

Breyer's opinion was supported by Chief Justice John

See **WATER, B6**

Bed tax revenues spiked in May

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

The waters are mighty buoyant right now for the Gulf County Tourist Development Council.

The TDC places a marketing focus on the county's bounty of liquid delights, and the strategy is clearly working as the TDC realized still another stellar month in bed tax revenue in May, climbing a whopping 39 percent compared to the same month in 2017.

"I am really happy to report that number," said TDC executive director Kelli Godwin. "We had our spring campaign and that went well and we are seeing new visitors, from places like Chattanooga and Kentucky.

"We are pacing good and healthy."

With four months remaining in the 2018-2019 fiscal year, the TDC has seen bed tax revenue increase, year over year, in seven of the past eight months.

In four of those months the increase was by double digits, percentage-wise.

The lone month of decline, April, was really a result of the calendar and how Easter and spring breaks fell; Easter was the first day of the month.

For the year, bed taxes are running 14.2 percent ahead of last year.

The TDC is on pace to easily exceed \$2 million in revenue for the fiscal year; it was just five years ago that bed tax revenue first eclipsed \$1 million.

And July is just cranking up with plenty to do just this week, from a festival to fireworks to farmers market.

"There is just a lot going on," Godwin said. "We are just full-force into summer and really focused in-market."

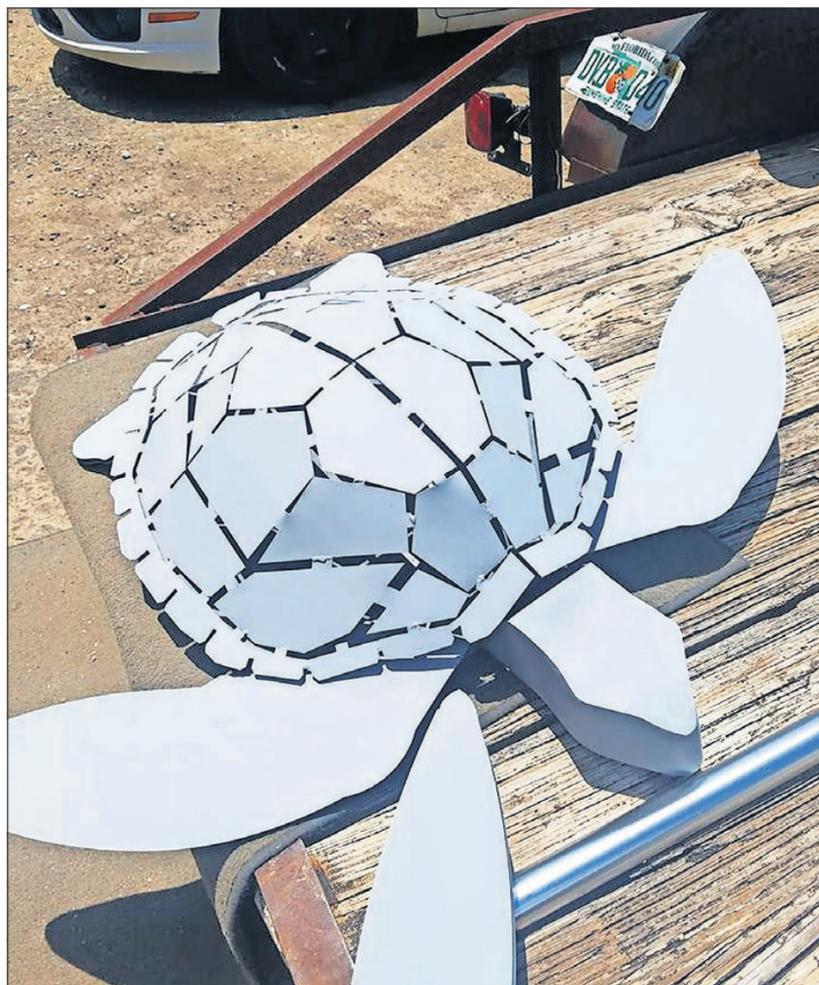
'Turtle Trail'

The new "Turtle Trail" sponsored by the TDC is taking shape.

Part of the education and outreach regarding the area's sea turtles, the TDC has produced its first hatching of what Godwin hopes will become an annual celebration.

Artist Alex Henderson, who is fabricating a Sea Turtle monument for the Florida Coastal Conservancy, created six smaller versions of the turtle that will dominate the fountain.

Artists, who submitted a rendering of how they would decorate a turtle, with



The first six "hatchings" in the TDC's 'Turtle Trail' will go up in the coming weeks [SPECIAL TO THE STAR PHOTOS]

an image, logo or other Gulf County-centric rendering, were selected and have begun their work.

They were given two weeks to complete the decoration and the turtles will then be installed.

Each turtle will be sponsored by a local business.

Mounted with each turtle will be information on its origin, the artist and the sponsoring business.

One turtle is destined for Dead Lakes Park, two will be placed in Port St. Joe, two along Cape San Blas and St. Joseph Peninsula and one in St. Joe Beach.

"We are designed by nature and people love turtles," Godwin said. "This

See **REVENUES, B6**



Kristen Gerspacher at work on her turtle; she was one of the artists selected by the TDC after submitting proposals

TRIVIA FUN

1. Which TV series had the first-ever episode to be watched by more than 50 million U.S. households?

"M*A*S*H," "Seinfeld," "Dallas," "American Idol"

2. What was introduced in 1963 at the U.S. Post Office?

Self-sticking stamps, RFD, ZIP codes, Saturday delivery

3. Who was the first U.S.

president to sport a beard while in office?

Van Buren, Fillmore, Pierce, Lincoln

4. What part of a cat comes in the shapes of round, slanted and almond?

Fur, Eye, Paw, Tail

5. Where is the Central Kalahari Game Reserve?

Panama, Botswana, Peru,

Kenya

6. What's a small dent or scrape in the body of the vehicle?

Ring, Sing, Ping, Ding

ANSWERS: 1. "M*A*S*H," 2. ZIP codes, 3. Lincoln, 4. Eye, 5. Botswana, 6. Ding



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

SOCIETY

PSJ Garden Club news

Special to The Star

A few months ago the Corinne Costin Gibson Memorial Public Library and the Port St. Joe Garden Club decided to begin a collaboration between the two organizations.

The Port St. Joe Garden Club ("PSJGC") was interested in becoming more integrated with the community and the library was in need of some gardening assistance. After some discussions, additional ideas formed.

As a result of those discussions, the PSJGC recently donated a beautiful planter to the library. The planter currently contains white geraniums, variegated bougainvillea, purple wandering jew, and sedum accented with giant liriopes. The planter is located in front of the building adjacent to the bike rack.

The library graciously hosted the winning designs and



Nancy Brockman, Gulf County Coordinator for the Corinne Costin Gibson Memorial Public Library, reading "The Frightened Frog" to local children

[PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE STAR]



Susan Wozniak's winning design displayed at the library [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

horticultural exhibits and an educational exhibit demonstrating why walking on the dunes causes beach erosion, all submitted for the National Garden Club Flower Show presented by the PSJGC. Last week the PSJGC donated to the library two children's books in honor of the PSJGC President, Sue Meyer. Sue has worked tirelessly this past year to grow the PSJGC while

continuing many of the long standing traditions held by the 70 year old club.

Under her leadership the club has more than doubled in size. The books, "The Saved Seed" and "The Frightened Frog", are now available for check-out at the library. In September, the PSJGC in conjunction with the Corinne Costin Gibson Memorial Public Library will be holding a workshop

at the library on the making of Kokedama balls, a Japanese adaptation of the Nearai Bonsai method of gardening wherein a mud ball is wrapped in moss, wound with string and a small plant is inserted into the mud ball.

Kokedama is popular today due to its living sculptural beauty and the moss ball's small space requirements. Additional information on the workshop will be provided at a later date.



Celebrating 70 Years together!

Special to The Star

Tom and Mary Knox of Port St. Joe celebrated a significant milestone of 70 years of marriage. They were married July 2, 1948. They have spent the last 53 years in Port St. Joe where they raised their family.

Their greatest

accomplishment and blessing have been their six children, Tommy, Gregg, Lynn, Connie, Mike and Nancy along with their nine grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

We are honored to be part of their legacy. With love from all of your children!

Girl Scout news

Special to The Star

Girl Scout Troop 347 in Port St. Joe has had a busy year and to wind it up they spent the afternoon of June 21 delivering some service projects and good cheer.

Two projects this year were in support of our local library.

This fall, the girls began working on two little libraries for the Books to Go project of the Northwest Florida Library System that were destined to be placed at Sacred Heart Medical Office building.

The girls repurposed some flyer holders donated to the library using maps to inspire readers to travel with a book. In May, the troop took on the project to build some picnic tables for our local library staff, visitor, and program use. The girls worked with one of our talented moms to construct and decorate the tables from the ground up. The girls brainstormed a design and painted the tables in a way to represent each girl and Girl Scouts.

To finish the afternoon,

the troop sought out the PSJ Police department to drop off some donated cookies.

It has been a busy year for Girl Scout Troop 347 and vests and sashes are becoming records of our efforts with badges. We were a troop of Brownies, Juniors, and Cadets grades 2-7.

Meetings were held twice a month at the John Simpson Scout Hut in Port St. Joe. In addition, we participated in the holiday parade and visited the nursing home with holiday greetings.

Some girls participated in Girl Scout events planned by regional the service unit and council that included overnight camping, archery, and technology events at Gulf Coast State College.

We had a successful cookie season giving the girls opportunity to handle money, inventory, and interact with customers. Girls were fast developing skills and growing in confidence.

February had some of the girls soaring at the Tree to



[SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

Tree course at Tallahassee Museum, challenging them both physically and mentally. We camped at TH Stone State Park in April and worked on our outdoor cooking skills.

In May, we traveled to Flint RiverQuarium to overnight inside the museum. We learned about the river and fresh water environment getting a larger overview of the Flint/Apalachicola water system of which we are a part. May and June had us working on our picnic

tables.

Girl Scout Troop 347 appreciates all of the community and family support for the past year and looks forward to continuing our adventures in exploration, learning, and service in 2018-2019.

Learn more about us on Facebook at PSJ Girl Scout Troop 347 and message us there if you have questions about us or our projects. If you or your daughters are interested in Girl Scouts, check online at www.gscfp.org.

Activities at the Senior Citizens Center

Special to The Star

- Mondays: Gospel Singing at 10:45 a.m.
- Tuesdays: Tai Chi at 9 a.m.; Bingo at 10:45 a.m.
- Wednesdays: DJ Gina dancing (first Wednesday each month) at 10:30 a.m.; Arts & Crafts at 11:15 a.m.; Trip to Walmart (once a month).

- Thursdays: Sewing and Quilting at 9 a.m.; Bingo at 10:45 a.m.
- Fridays: Tai Chi at 9 a.m.; Gulf Coast hearing checks at 9 a.m. (first Friday each month); Field trip once a month.

We will be adding new activities beginning Aug. 1, such as movie day, puzzle day, exercise, bean toss, etc.

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 or call the Bay County office at 747-5180.

Declining levels of trust explored at Lifetree Café

Special to The Star

Recent sharp declines in trust in the government and other institutions will be discussed 7 p.m. CT Monday, July 9 at Lifetree Café.

The program—titled "In the News: Who Can You Trust?"—features a filmed interview with a retired FBI special agent, who discusses what it was like to work for an organization people are quick to question.

"In a time where fake news is common, and scandals are commonly stalling the reputation of institutions, it's hard to know who or what to trust," said Lifetree Café national director Craig Cable "This program is dedicated to

exploring why people do or don't trust institutions anymore."

During the program, participants will have an opportunity to share their opinions about who is trustworthy in today's society.

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.

PET OF THE WEEK

St. Joseph Bay Humane Society



This is Ivy. She is a hound mix around 2 years old. Very gentle and sweet, she just wants to please. Ivy is great with all other dogs and cats too! She likes to play, but will lounge around also. She came to us as a stray, and has been fully vaccinated and spayed. She has learned to walk well on a leash, and loves her kennel to lay in as well. Come meet Ivy, and the rest of our animals. One is sure to steal your heart, and waiting to give all their love!

If you are unable to adopt at this time, perhaps you could foster or make a Donation. All pets adopted from SJBH will be current on vaccinations and spayed/neutered. Please do not hesitate to email 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.sjbhumanesociety.org

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SOCIETY

DAR in Washington, D.C.

Special to The Star

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution held its 127th conference “Continental Congress” at national headquarters in Washington, D. C. June 18 – 25. The St. Joseph Bay Chapter Regent, Sherrill Russ, attended with her husband, Preston Russ (Vietnam Veteran) and two granddaughters, Elliana and Sadie Burkett. There were over 3,200 members attending representing a membership of over 185,000. NSDAR was founded in 1890 and in 1895, purchased a city block in Washington, D.C. diagonally from the rear of the White House. The NSDAR now

has three connecting buildings on their property. There are chapters in all 50 states, DC and 13 countries around the world. Each member is a direct descendant of a Revolutionary War patriot who fought for our country’s independence.

Each of the evening events began with a musical performance from a military band: the U.S. Navy Band, the U. S. Air Force Band and the U. S. Marine Band. Among the key note speakers were Lynn Novick, award winning Documentary Filmmaker, on Wednesday evening.

On Saturday evening the key note speaker was Rear Admiral Joseph M. Vojvodich, Deputy for Mission Support

of the U. S. Coast Guard. The same evening awards were given to previous Commander of the 7th Fleet- Vice Admiral Nora W. Tyson, U. S. Navy (retired), for Distinguished Women in Military Service 2018; Colonel Traci E. Crawford, U. S. Army Nurse Corps, for Army Nurse of the Year 2018; DAR Medal of Honor awarded to Nimrod Frazer of Montgomery, Ala.; Brigadier General Lapthe Flora, Virginia National Guard, was awarded the Americanism Award; Staff Sgt. Earl Granville, U. S. Army (retired), awarded the National Outstanding Veteran Volunteer for 2018; McKinley Cameron for National Outstanding Youth Volunteer 2018 and



The St. Joseph Bay Chapter Regent, Sherrill Russ, attended with her husband, Preston Russ (Vietnam Veteran) and two granddaughters, Elliana and Sadie Burkett. (SPECIAL TO THE STAR)

Ann Elizabeth Little Jones for National Outstanding DAR Service for Veterans Award for 2018. Many military personnel

were in attendance, which included veterans from the Vietnam War to the present, were recognized and honored.

Cross Shores Care Center top 13 percent of country

By Shelly Cain
Special to The Star



U.S. News and World Report evaluated more than 15,000 nursing homes nationwide and announced that our Care Center earned the award for Best Nursing Home! Only 2,005 nursing homes qualified as best. This places Cross Shores Care Center, in Port St. Joe, as in the top 13 percent in the nation.

Finding a nursing home that meets individual needs is a difficult decision for everyone. U.S News helps make that a little easier. They rate nursing homes through health inspections, nurse staffing, and the

quality of medical care. I'd like to say, "Is that cool or what?!" but my staff really gave me a hard time about writing how I talk a few weeks ago! I don't know about this community, but I know our staff are proud to have been recognized for their hard work and dedication. We take care of our families and our neighbors. If you see any of our staff, take a moment, pat them on the back, and say thank you for taking care of our community. They truly care about your loved one.

TCC to donate backpacks full of school supplies July 22

Special to The Star

CARMEL, Ind. – Round Room LLC, the nation’s largest Verizon Authorized Wireless Retailer, announces today that its TCC and Wireless Zone stores are donating 187,000 backpacks full of school supplies to ensure children across the U.S. are well prepared for the start of the school year. This donation marks TCC’s sixth annual School Rocks Backpack Giveaway. Since 2013, TCC has donated 752,000 backpacks filled with supplies to

kids. That includes the Port St. Joe store located in the Port City Shopping Center. “We are thrilled to support the education of our youth in our communities,” said Scott Moorehead, CEO of Round Room, parent company of TCC. “By providing families across the country with essential school supplies, we’re easing the back-to-school shopping burden and helping set children up for success.”

More than 1,200 participating TCC and Wireless

Zone stores across the U.S. are inviting local families and their children to visit select locations on Sunday, July 22, between 1-4 p.m. to pick up a backpack filled with various school supplies, including pencils, paper, a pencil box, folders and glue. One backpack per child present will be given away on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last.

Each participating TCC store will donate up to 220 backpacks. All leftover backpacks will be donated to local schools.

Commitment to education

The Gulf Coast State College Foundation is proud to announce its 2018-2019 General and Endowed scholarship recipients. Our mission is to provide scholarship support to students who are attending, or planning to attend, Gulf Coast State College. The Foundation specializes in serving recent high school graduates, as well as adults, by providing funding in the form of tuition assistance and book vouchers. The Foundation is committed to the belief that every deserving student, or potential student, merits a chance to continue his or her education.

These scholarship opportunities would not be possible without the continuing financial support of our community donors. On behalf of the Foundation Board of Directors, we would like to thank our donors for their commitment to help our community and we congratulate all of our 2018-2019 recipients.

Floyd Skinner
Foundation President

Margie Mazur
Executive Director

2018-2019 GULF AND FRANKLIN COUNTIES SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Claudia Alcorn, Miriam Barahona, Madison Barnes, Kyran Batson, Avia Bell, Jonah Bidwell, Haylee Bonner, Grace Bosstick, Zachary Bryan, Tiffany Burch, Amy Butler, Callie Capps, Sasha Carr, Takaylynn Carter, Landon Chisholm, Alexis Combs, Ursula Countryman, Courtney Davidson, Haley Edmondson,

Aidan Evans, Samantha Everett, Jacob Gibbs, Tylyn Gillikin, Sharon Greene, Rose Griffin, Brandon Hall, Lauren Hall, Alana Hamm, Bobby Hanson, Savannah Harrison*, Amanda Helson, Elijah Hester, Dakota Hornsby, Mary Howard, Eddie Hunter, Katelyn Hysmith, Aliyah Johnson, Gabrielle Jones,

William Kennedy, Emerald Larkin, Precious Lavine, Angela Leavens, Hayden Lee, Angela Long, Lauren Martina, Joseph Martinez, Brooke McMillian, Kristen McMillion, Jocelyn Minchew, Ethan Moses, Christopher Nash, Andrew Nguyen, Jaylunn Obee, Sydnee O'Donnell, Alexandra Osborne, Burley Parker,

Summer Parrish, David Peavy, Marcella Phelps, Alexandria Pitts, Samantha Pitts, Brandi Purswell, Shakinah Quinn, Astrid Ramirez, Bryce Register, Matthew Renfro, Chelsea Reynolds, Emily Roberts, DeAmber Rolack, Faith Sapp, Anna Setterich*, Brianna Shackelford, Joshua Sheffield, Michael Sherrill,

Deanna Shuman, Derik Siliezar, Madison Smith, Katy Spann, Christopher Stockton, Mekena Taunton, Cole Thursby, Kristen Thursby, Shad Tracy, Monica Varnes, McKenna Waters, Rylee Waters*, Harper Westbrook, Chance White, James White, Anna Wiser

* Denotes 2018-2019 High School Honors Scholarship Recipient

850.872.3810 or 850.872.3862
www.gcscfoundation.org



Gulf Coast State College Foundation

Listing contains the scholarship recipients as of May 31, 2018 from Gulf and Franklin counties. Some awards are still pending. The Foundation apologizes for any recipients who have been omitted in error.

FAITH

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JESSIE P. CORE

Jessie P. Core, 96, of Port St. Joe passed away Monday, July 2. She was born in Marianna, Florida, to Bunk B. Porter and Little Frances Porter on August 16, 1921. She moved to Port St. Joe where she met and married her husband, John W. Core, on January 15, 1949, in Perry, Georgia. She worked as a receptionist for Dr. Joe Hendrix and later Dr. Wayne Hendrix until her retirement at age 80. She was a long-time member of Long Avenue Baptist Church where she taught Sunday School classes for many years. She was preceded in death

by her husband, John W. Core; sisters, Patsy Pyles, Maude Pledger, and Eva Nell Porter; and brothers, Sam Porter and Buddy Porter. She is survived by her daughter, Kitty Morales (Joe) and son, Lowell Core, both of Port St. Joe; grandsons, Erradame ("Papo") Morales of Louisville, Kentucky, and Francisco ("Andre") Morales and wife, Jennifer Lincoln, of Lehi, Utah; great-grandchildren, Lachlan and Freyja Lincoln Morales also of Lehi; sister, Myrthel Boggs of Marianna; and numerous nieces and nephews. Honorary pallbearers will be the members of the

Faith, Hope, and Love Sunday School class of Long Avenue Baptist Church. Graveside funeral services will be held Saturday, July 7, at 10 a.m. EDT at the Pavilion at Holly Hill Cemetery in Port St. Joe, conducted by Rev Dave Fernandez. Visitation will be 30 minutes prior to the service. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Long Ave Baptist Church Gideon Bibles, 1601 Long Ave, Port St. Joe FL 32456. All services will be under the direction of Southernland Family Funeral Home. Expressions of sympathy may be viewed at www.southernlandfamily.com

MYRTLE JACKSON

Myrtle Jackson of Kinard and Wewahitchka, Florida, passed away Friday night, June 29, 2018, in Panama City, Florida. A lifelong resident of Calhoun and Gulf Counties, she worked for the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services for many years prior to her retirement. She went above and beyond on her job, and was well known for her kind and loving heart. She was preceded in death by her parents; two daughters, Diane and Darlene; her son Roger; and her brother James.

Survivors include two sons, Charles Jackson, Jr. and Dell Jackson; many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren; and her brother Dan. Her services will be held at 11 a.m. CDT on Friday, July 6, 2018 at New Harvest Fellowship Church in Wewahitchka with interment following in Cypress Creek Cemetery. She will lie in state at the church for an hour prior to the service. Services are under the direction of Comforter Funeral Home.

ELIZABETH ANN (LYD) BROWN MILLS STOKOE

Elizabeth Ann (Lyd) Brown Mills Stokoe, 77, of Port St. Joe, Florida, went to be with her Lord and Saviour, Friday, June 29, 2018. She was the daughter of Charles A. (Bo) and Ida Ethel Kilbourn Brown of Port St. Joe, Florida. Elizabeth was preceded in death by her parents: her first husband, William J. Mills; uncle Fayette Kilbourn; sister, Maxie Smith; and her nephew, Max Clardy. She is survived by her husband, Gerald Stokoe, of Port St. Joe; son, Christopher Mills (Belci Lisbet) of Deridda, LA; sister, Lenohr Clardy (Charles) of Wadley, AL; niece, Lenohr Dickson (Walt) of Whigham, GA; niece, Laurie Faison (Jim) of Dozier, AL; nephew, Tyler Smith of Port St. Joe; nephew, Tom Clardy (Amanda) of Wadley, AL, and



numerous cousins, grandnieces and grandnephews. Elizabeth was a Christian and believed in truth and honor. She was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Apalachicola Chapter 826, and St. Joseph Bay Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution. She attended Port St. Joe High School, she played drums in the band, also she attended

Sacred Heart College in Cullman, AL and Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL. Elizabeth taught kindergarten in Blakely, GA, Happyland Kindergarten in Port St. Joe, and the first grade in Apalachicola, FL. For years she helped at the Senior Citizens Center, Meals on Wheels, and always cooked turkeys at Thanksgiving for the needy. She will be missed by relatives and friends. She was an Angel on Earth, and now she is an Angel in Heaven. Elizabeth will be buried in Holly Hill Cemetery. In Lieu of flowers, please give to the charity of your choice. At her request, a private graveside service will be held. Services are under the direction of Comforter Funeral Home.

WILLIAMS FAMILY CARD OF THANKS

The family of Roy Lee "Bubba" Williams wishes to express our sincere appreciation for all acts of kindness, condolences, and prayers expressed to us during our time of bereavement. We have been comforted beyond measure by your visits, phone calls, text

messages, florals, cards, food, helping hands cooking, serving, and cleaning up, tributes. Thank you all for all the love and support, we are deeply appreciated. May God Bless You All.

Willie Mae Williams and Family

GOD FORGIVES

God forgives, I know this is true. He forgives my sins each day, Has He forgiven you? He forgives each sin, But we have to ask it. It will be too late, When you're in your casket. With a humble heart,

Ask forgiveness each day. God is always listening for His children to pray. He also says we're to forgive others too. If we're to be forgiven, This is what we must do.

Billy Johnson

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 Evening Worship - 5:00

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

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 Wednesday Night.....7:00 pm

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 Pastor Josh Fidler

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 9:30 AM - Bible Study at 1602 Highway 98

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Sunday Schedule
 9:00AM EST Worship on the Water overlooking St. Joseph Bay with Special Children's Time
 10:00AM EST Sunday School
 11:00AM EST Sanctuary Service with Special Children's Time

Dr. Geoffrey Lentz
 Pastor
 Ann Comforter
 Director of Music
 Krystal Terry
 Director of Children's Ministries
 Julie Hodges
 Director of Youth Ministries

First Baptist Church
 102 THIRD STREET • PORT ST. JOE
 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

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 10:30 a.m.....Fellowship breakfast
 11 a.m.....Worship service

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

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 Sunday Morning Worship11 a.m.
 Sunday Evening Worship6 p.m.
 Wednesday Evening Service6 p.m.

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Schedule of Worship Services

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

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

Nursery provided for all services

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 10:00 a.m. CST Contemporary Worship
 Thursday - 6:30 p.m. CST Bible Study

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What Southern Folks Eat - A salad made for summer days



Stephanie Hill-Frazier

‘T hen followed that beautiful season... Summer....

Filled was the air with a dreamy and magical light; and the landscape

Lay as if new created in all the freshness of childhood.” — Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Childhood summers seemed long and carefree; don’t you remember that? I recall at the beginning of summer vacation, thinking it would be practically forever until I had to study spelling words and do math again. The summer days were filled with riding bikes with friends all over the streets of St. Joe Beach, playing in friends’ yards in their pools and sprinklers, and taking afternoon naps during the frequent rain showers that would roll through, ever so briefly. Those were excellent times.

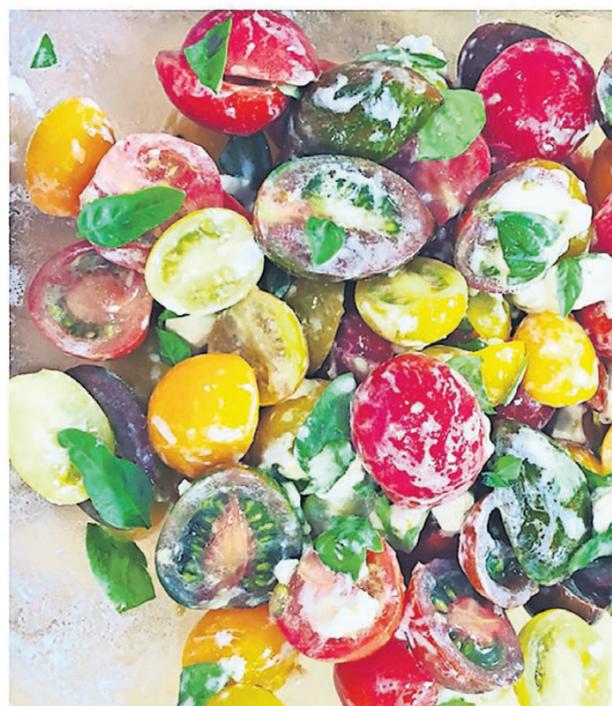
One of my favorite summertime memories is the frequent trips I made down the street to the beach with my mom, sister, and grandparents. We would spend several hours searching for shells and swimming. We could find whole sand dollars on our beach then, as well as shells like lightning whelks and the shiny brown Florida fighting conch. We loved watching the coquinas being washed up onto the shore, only to burrow quickly down into the sand, away from view.

When a wayward starfish would be stranded on shore, we would cast him back out into the gulf, certain that we were saving his life. The beach was a magical otherworld.

We’d walk for miles, or at least it seemed like miles to my short legs at the time, occasionally stopping the shell search to chase the petite sandpipers that pranced ahead of us along the shore. We’d end up with a lovely collection of shells in our bright-colored plastic buckets to take home for mom and Grammy to make crafts with.

They made beautiful shell-filled glass lamps, shell-covered wreaths, and even refrigerator magnets, with the treasures we collected along the beach.

We’d build up quite an appetite spending those hours of discovery at the beach, an appetite that Grammy’s sandy peanut butter crackers just barely held at bay. We’d drag ourselves back up the street after several hours, have a



Heirloom tomato salad with fresh basil and goat cheese [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

sandwich with Granddaddy on his favorite pumpernickel bread, and then we’d walk on home.

Mom would get to work on dinner while my sister and I took naps in front of the t.v. in the late afternoon. I can only imagine she was thankful for the peace that ensued after the two of us were worn out and quiet.

She’d often make a big salad for dinner on those hot evenings, filled with fresh chopped tomatoes, boiled egg, and crumbled bacon.

She often made her dressings from scratch, and would have them set out in small china bowls for us to dip into.

She would serve the big salad with barbecued chicken, or some fried fish or shrimp, and we’d be in heaven at dinnertime when dad came home from work.

I still love a fresh, cool salad in the summertime. In my own kitchen I like to try

new salad combinations, and I came up with one recently that I think is special enough to share with you. If you’re like me, you love basil, and perhaps even have some growing in your yard or in a pot on your deck. This salad makes good use of that herb’s delicious summer-y flavor.

Not a fan of basil? Try a small amount, a tablespoon perhaps, of fresh thyme or oregano in its place.

You can add more if needed, but taste first to make sure, as those herbs are very strong in flavor.

In this salad, I also used some creamy white goat cheese, also called chèvre, but if you’re like my husband and don’t care for it, use an equal amount of soft, fresh mozzarella instead.

It comes packaged as white orbs of cheese that you can chop and add to salads, pasta dishes, and more.

It has a mild, slightly salty

flavor.

I chose heirloom tomatoes for this salad because I love the color and flavor variety, but regular red grape or cherry tomatoes will work just fine.

Heirloom tomato salad with fresh basil and goat cheese

2 pounds of heirloom grape or cherry tomatoes, halved
 ½ cup torn fresh basil
 3 to 4 ounces goat cheese, chopped
 3 tablespoons olive oil
 1½ tablespoons white wine vinegar (or substitute balsamic)
 1 teaspoon minced garlic
 ½ teaspoon salt
 1 tablespoon crumbled bacon (optional)

Method:

1. Whisk together oil, vinegar, garlic, and salt in a small bowl to make vinaigrette.

Set aside.

2. Place tomato halves in a large salad bowl.

Sprinkle basil over the tomatoes, then drizzle with the vinaigrette. Toss to coat. If possible, allow to marinate 30 minutes.

3. Top with chunks of cheese and sprinkle with bacon, if using.

Note: If using dried herbs, use ¼ the amount called for when using fresh. Add slightly more if desired.

Enjoy!

Stephanie Hill-Frazier is a writer, food blogger and regional television chef, whose on-air nickname is “Mama Steph.” She grew up in Gulf County, on St. Joe Beach, a place she will forever call home. She is married and has three sons who are substantially taller than she is. You can find more of her recipes at WhatSouthernFolksEat.com.

Gulf County Sheriff’s Office law enforcement summary

On June 22, Carrie Darlene Keith (40) was arrested at the Gulf County Detention Facility after turning herself in on a violation of probation warrant. Keith was on probation for Possession of Methamphetamine, Possession of Marijuana and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

On June 22, a Florida Probation Officer and Deputy G. Desrosier went to Woodmere Drive in Wewahitchka and arrested Darrell Larvon Vann (44) on a violation of probation warrant. Vann was on probation for Possession of Methamphetamine.

On June 22, Investigator S. Ferrell and P. Williams conducted a traffic stop Chipola Avenue and 6th Street in Wewahitchka. The driver was identified as Joanna Michelle Wilder (42). A driver’s license check revealed that Wilder’s license was suspended. Wilder was placed under arrest and charged with DWLSR.

On June 25, Sgt. R. Burkett responded to a report of a theft at Presnell’s Campground in Simmon’s Bayou. It was reported that someone had stolen a 45qt Yeti cooler. The cooler was white in color with miscellaneous stickers on it. The cooler was left outside next to the victim’s camper at the time it was stolen.

On June 25, Deputy V. Everett was dispatched to the 600 block of 2nd Street in Wewahitchka in reference to a burglary of a storage shed. Someone had broken into the shed and stolen several fishing rods and reels and a black and red, multi-speed, bicycle. The investigation is still pending.

On June 26, Investigators P. Williams and S. Ferrell arrested Lance Wayne Lindsay (39) on a Bay County warrant for a Writ of Bodily Attachment. Lindsay was found on Lake Grove Road near Cutoff Drive.

On June 26, Sgt. C. Dixon was dispatched to Mitchell Road in

Wewahitchka in reference to a dog that was allegedly stolen. The victim reported that their dog, which was described as a dirty white colored golden retriever poodle mix, known as a golden doodle, was in the front yard when a car door was heard outside. Moments later the owner looked outside and the dog was gone. Anyone with information about the missing dog’s whereabouts is encouraged to contact the Gulf County Sheriff’s Office.

On June 26, the Gulf County Sheriff’s Office received information that a wanted man from Bay County was located on April Lane in Wewahitchka. The man was Joseph Lee Jackson Adams (28) and he had a Bay County warrant for his arrest for Felony Battery by Strangulation. GCSO Deputies apprehended Adams on April Lane and he was transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility.

On June 26, Deputy Manley

responded to the 6000 block of CR 30A to investigate a report of an intoxicated person in the area causing a disturbance. Deputy Manley located the subject. When Deputy Manley arrived, he encountered a subject in a disheveled and intoxicated state. The man was identified as Ryan Wayne Gurley (29). Other members of a group that he was with reported that Gurley’s intoxication level was so high to the point that he could not be reasoned with or controlled. Deputy Manley placed Gurley under arrest and charged him with Disorderly Intoxication.

On June 28, Deputy D. House conducted a traffic stop CR 386 near Borders Road. The driver of the vehicle was identified as Jonathan Keith Barkwick (52). During the traffic stop it was revealed that Barkwick did not have a valid driver’s license. Barkwick was placed under arrest and charged with DWLSR.

On June 29, Deputy C. Harvey was dispatched to the 4000 block of Cape San Blas Road in reference to a burglary report. It was reported that someone had broken into a screen porch but did not take anything. The suspect then went out onto the residence’s dock, vandalized it, and stole a stainless-steel plate. The investigation is still pending.

On June 30, Deputy C. Harvey responded to Treasure Drive in Indian Pass where it was reported that an unknown subject had just stolen a Yeti Tundra cooler (45 qt, white in color). Deputies canvassed the area but could not identify a suspect. The investigation continues.

If you have any information regarding the aforementioned cases, please contact the Gulf County Sheriff’s Office at 227-1115, 639-5717, or remain Stoppers at 785-TIPS.

REVENUES

From Page B1

will bring sea turtle awareness to visitors while allowing them to get a photo-op with some pretty spiffy turtles around the county.”

The Sea Turtle Fountain in Port St. Joe counts among the first six hatchings, Godwin said.

The fountain is going up along Marina Drive.

Godwin said the TDC hopes to “hatch” another group of turtles in ensuing years.

Godwin said a ribbon cutting ceremony will be held next month to officially welcome the “Turtle Trail” and the TDC will establish a website page dedicated to the trail.

US Navy Band concert

The TDC will sponsor a concert by the “US Navy Country Current Band” over Labor Day weekend.

The band, one of several



Mary Hess starts to work. [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

traveling U.S. Navy bands, will play 6 p.m. ET Monday, Sept. 3 at Veterans Memorial Park at Beacon Hill.

Doors open at 5 p.m.

The concert is free.

Tickets may be picked up at the Gulf County Welcome Center or Duren’s Piggly

Wiggly.

“That will really be a cool concert,” Godwin said.

Concessions will be offered by the committee working to bring an Honor Walk to Veterans Memorial Park.

Bring your blankets and chairs.

US Navy Country Current Band Concert

Veterans Memorial Park at Beacon Hill
Port St Joe, FL



Monday September 3rd at 6pm ET
(Doors Open at 5pm ET)

• Pick-up your FREE tickets at the Gulf County Welcome Center or Duren's Piggly Wiggly •
• Concessions offered by Veterans Memorial Park Honor Walk Committee •
• Blankets & Chairs Allowed •

THE UNITED STATES
NAVY BAND
WASHINGTON, D.C.



A U.S. Navy traveling band will play a free concert here Labor Day weekend.

WATER

From Page B1

Roberts and Justices Anthony Kennedy, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sonia Sotomayor.

In a dissent, Justice Clarence Thomas, a Georgia native who was joined by justices Samuel Alito, Elena Kagan and Neil Gorsuch, argued the court had enough

evidence “to decide this case now.”

“Giving Florida another bite at the apple will likely yield no additional evidence, but it will be unfair to Georgia, which has already spent the time and resources to defeat the case that Florida chose to present,” Thomas wrote.

Florida Gov. Rick Scott called the court’s ruling “a huge win” for the state.

“I am glad that the court

ruled in Florida’s favor today and we look forward to further securing a healthy Apalachicola Bay while protecting the thousands of jobs that depend on this natural resource,” Scott said in a statement.

Attorney General Pam Bondi, whose office was directly involved in the litigation, said she was pleased by the decision “and will continue to fight to protect Florida’s Apalachicola Bay.”

But while the case heads

back to the special master, Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal said he remains “confident” in his state’s legal position, noting its legal team demonstrated “the ineffectiveness of draconian caps placed on Georgia’s water use as a solution” during the prior five-week trial before Lancaster.

Jonathan Williams, a former deputy solicitor general for Bondi who worked on the water case, said in an

interview with The News Service of Florida that Wednesday’s decision was a positive for Florida, but more litigation remains ahead.

“I think (it is) an important victory for Florida, but it’s too early to celebrate,” said Williams, who now works with Lash & Goldberg in Miami. “What it means is that Florida gets an opportunity to prove its case. But the court’s opinion doesn’t say whether Florida will prevail or not.”

TAX

From Page B1

The cost is estimated at \$170,000, according to an estimate in the agenda for last week’s regular meeting.

Likewise, the air conditioning problems at WHS are urgent and will cost an estimated \$150,000 out of this year’s budget as part of what Norton called a two-year approach to replacing the entire HVAC system.

A big ticket item is the purchase of four buses, which has been overdue and much-discussed the past three years as the district’s bus fleet piled up the mileage on already aging

vehicles.

Norton said the district spent so much on repairs and maintenance of the current buses over the past year the district could have purchased a new bus.

The four new buses will cost \$435,000.

The district had submitted a pre-application to Triumph Gulf Coast for the purchase of six buses, but the application was deemed ineligible by Triumph staff.

“We are going to buy four this year, two for (Wewahitchka) and two for Port St. Joe,” Norton said, “and next year we should be able to get back on a schedule of just buying one.

“Next year, I think we will be positioned to significantly cut

LCI. We just have a lot of needs right now.”

In addition to the buses, the district will outfit each with operational cameras.

Operational cameras are just one part of the effort to improve school safety, with the board approving several expenditures out of state school safety funding Thursday.

One was the approval of a contract with the Gulf County Sheriff’s Office to place five deputies in the schools beginning with the coming school year.

There will be a School Resource Deputy in each school with an additional officer operating as a supervisor.

Marked patrol vehicles will be in front of each school every

day in session.

In addition, the board approved the hiring of the two mental health counselors, one for each end of the county, which were funded under the state’s new school safety plan.

Toss in \$600,000 in LCI money, some of which will be reimbursed by the state, for, among other items, additional lighting, fire alarms, etc., at the schools district-wide as Florida and district seeks to “harden” schools.

The exact level of funding the district will receive to harden schools will not be known until the end of the year.

In total, under FEFP, state lawmakers determine two of the three main components for school funding during the legislative session each year.

The required local effort, that which the district must levy to receive any state funding, went down slightly in Gulf County, 4.9 percent by millage, 1.9 percent by dollars.

State lawmakers also provided an increase in the base funding per student of just 47 cents, diverting nearly all new education funding toward safe school initiatives in the wake of the Parkland school massacre in the middle of the session.

Much of that general fund money from Tallahassee also flows in categorical, further constraining any local flexibility on spending.

The discretionary funding component is uniform across all school districts.

Local school officials can only impact LCI funding.



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ARBOR OUTLOOK

Omaha Architecture and Wanting What We Have



Margaret McDowell

So what is Warren Buffett doing living in "only" an upper middle class, non-gated neighborhood? Someone worth \$87 billion can live wherever he chooses. Well, apparently Buffett likes the familiarity and feel of his long-time home. It's a classic example of wanting what we have. And of being satisfied with what is already ours, especially if it makes us happy.

"We always wanted a big two story house; back when we lived in that little two room shack... We wanted fame and fortune and we'd live life the way the rich folks do; we knew somehow we'd make it, together me and you..."

"Two Story House" as performed by George Jones and Tammy Wynette

On a recent journey to Omaha my husband utilized some free time to explore the city. Omaha is an

exceptionally attractive and clean place, its hilly, urban sectors punctuated by unique architecture, plenty of green space, and a thriving downtown restaurant district.

A few blocks from a main thoroughfare he found himself in a lovely, tree-lined neighborhood, with large lots and well-kept lawns, many featuring solid, brick homes built almost a hundred years ago. A realtor informed him that it was Warren Buffett's neighborhood. So, like millions of others, he drove by and took a photo of Mr. Buffett's house. So, sitting at my office desk and holding my phone, I find

myself looking at the primary residence of America's most famous investor.

The home certainly doesn't qualify as a mega-mansion, even though it is extremely spacious. It actually looks fairly similar to many of the other homes in the neighborhood. There have been additions to the house over the years, and plenty of remodeling work. But the bones are the same as when Buffett paid \$31,500 for it in 1958. It's now worth about \$650,000.

So what is Warren Buffett doing living in "only" an upper middle class, non-gated neighborhood?

Someone worth \$87 billion can live wherever he chooses. Well, apparently Buffett likes the familiarity and feel of his long-time home. It's a classic example of wanting what we have. And of being satisfied with what is already ours, especially if it makes us happy.

So many of us (myself included) aspire to acquire, simply for the sake of "moving on up" in the eyes of others. What most of us really seek is peace and quiet, familiarity and happiness. How many of us, for example, have traded in a perfectly good used car, one that runs well and suits our needs, just because its "newness" has faded? Glittery new purchases are often accompanied by burdensome price tags, and we can find ourselves stuck with difficult, expensive payoffs long after the shine of newness recedes.

I am not naive enough to

think that Mr. Buffett doesn't own other homes. He does, including an \$11 million house near the ocean in Laguna Beach, CA. It's instructive to note, however, that Buffett paid \$150,000 (in 1971) for the house, so it proved an excellent investment. That home is currently for sale, because he and his family seldom can gather to use it.

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.

14th Judicial Nominating Commission urging applications for judgeship

Special to The Star

The Fourteenth Judicial Circuit's Judicial Nominating Commission, pursuant to a request from Governor Rick Scott, and through Chairman Waylon Graham announced the process concerning the taking and reviewing of applications from members of the

Florida Bar who are interested in applying for the vacancy recently created when Circuit Judge James Fensom of Panama City announced his upcoming retirement. All those interested in applying for this vacancy should complete the appropriate application that may be downloaded from the Florida Bar's

website or the Governor's website. Then, the applicant should provide the original, along with seven (7) copies including 7 CD-R's containing a complete copy of the application, to the Law Office of Waylon Graham, located at 537 Harmon Avenue, Panama City, FL 32401.

The absolute deadline for

turning in these applications is 4 p.m. CT July 25. Any applications received after this date and time, regardless of the excuse, will be rejected and will not be reviewed by the Commission. The interviews of eligible applicants will take place on Friday, Aug. 17. The exact time of an applicant's appointment and the

location of the interviews will be announced at a later time. For further information, or if you should have any questions, please contact the office of the Chairman, Waylon Graham, at 763-6335. The other members of the Commission are Brandon Burg, Jeffrey Carter, William Lewis, Lee McArthur Scott, and Charles Weddle.



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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.

Dated this 12th day of June, 2018.

REBECCA L. NORRIS, Clerk Gulf County, Florida

By: Lynn M. Barnes Deputy Clerk
Pub: June 21, 28, July 5, 12, 2018

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

208075

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO. 16-62DR

TIMOTHY MARTIN SOUTHERLAND Petitioner/Former Husband, and

MADELAINE KRISTIEN BRYANT, f/k/a MADELAINE KRISTEN SOUTHERLAND, Respondent/Former Wife

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: TIMOTHY MARTIN SOUTHERLAND ADDRESS UNKNOWN

YOU ARE NOTIFIED 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 of this notice. You must file the original of your written defenses with the Clerk of the Circuit

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

20814S

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Florida Tax Lien Assets IV, LLC, 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

Application #2018-07 Tax Sale Certificate # 366
Name in which assessed: Charles Orndorf
R.E. No. 01656-010R
Date of Issuance: May 25, 2011

Description of Property:

Begin at the Old Cemetery Corner in Section 13, Township 4 South, Range 10 West, and run North for 664 feet for the POINT OF BEGINNING, thence run North for 75 feet, thence run West for 100 feet, thence run South for 75 feet, thence run East for 100 feet, to the POINT OF BEGINNING. Said land lying and being in Section 13, Township 4 South, Range to West,

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20937S

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION CASE NO. 17-37-PR

IN RE: The Estate of CAROL VLAHOS, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS OR DEMANDS AGAINST THE ABOVE ESTATE:

The administration of the estate of Carol Vlahos, deceased, File Number 17-37-PR, is pending in the Circuit Court for Gulf County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is P.O. Drawer 510, Marianna, FL 32447. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTI-

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Gulf County, Florida.

All of said property 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, 18th day of July, 2018.

DATED: June 11, 2018

REBECCA L. NORRIS CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY: Elaine Bland, Deputy Clerk
Pub June 14, 21, 28, July 5, 2018

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FIED THAT:

20947S

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO. 17000078CAAXMX

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Plaintiff,

v.

GREGORY A MITCHAM; JENNIFER A MITCHAM; UNKNOWN TENANT 1; UNKNOWN TENANT 2; Defendants

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered on June 21, 2018, in the Circuit Court of Gulf County, Florida, the clerk shall sell the property situated in Gulf County, Florida, described as:

ALL THAT CERTAIN PROPERTY SITUATED IN THE CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA, IN THE COUNTY OF GULF AND STATE OF FLORIDA AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN A DEED DATED 09/17/1998 AND RECORDED 09/22/1998 IN BOOK 218, PAGE 420 AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF THE COUNTY AND STATE SET FORTH ABOVE. PARCEL ID NUMBER: 01517-130R ALSO DESCRIBED AS: COMMENCE AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 3, TOWNSHIP 4 SOUTH, RANGE 10 WEST, GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA; THENCE RUN WEST 3,750.08 FEET; THENCE RUN NORTH 1,125.95 FEET TO THE INTERSECTION OF STONE CREEK ROAD AND THE CENTERLINE OF ANNIE AVENUE; THENCE RUN NORTH 61 DEGREES

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59 MINUTES WEST FOR 468.55 FEET ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF SAID STONE CREEK ROAD TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE NORTH 61 DEGREES 49 MINUTES WEST FOR 150.0 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 28 DEGREES 11 MINUTES WEST FOR 477.00 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE CENTERLINE OF STONE MILL CREEK; THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY ALONG SAID STONE MILL CREEK FOR 150 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO A POINT THAT IS SOUTH 28 DEGREES 11 MINUTES WEST OF THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE NORTH 28 DEGREES 11 MINUTES EAST FOR 492.00 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

TOGETHER WITH A MOBILE HOME LOCATED THEREON AS A PERMANENT FIXTURE AND APPURTENANCE THERETO, DESCRIBED AS: A 1993 LIBERTY MOBILE HOME BEARING IDENTIFICATION NUMBER 10L22841 AND TITLE NUMBER 63900397.

a/l'da 1518 STONE MILL CREEK RD, WEWAHITCHKA, FL 32465-2600

at public sale, to the highest and best bidder, for cash, in the front lobby of the Gulf County Court, 1000 Cecil Costin Blvd., Port St. Joe, FL 32456, on September 6, 2018 beginning at 11:00 AM. E.T.

If you are a person claiming a right to funds remaining after the sale, you must file a claim with the clerk no later than 60 days after the sale. If you fail to file a claim you will not be entitled to any remaining funds.

Dated this 22nd day of June, 2018

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Rebecca L. (Becky) Norris Clerk of the Circuit Court

By: BA Baxter Deputy Clerk

eXL Legal, PLLC 12425 28TH STREET NORTH, SUITE 200 ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33716
EFILING@EXLEGAL.COM
Fax No. (727) 539-1094
Pub: July 5, 12, 2018

20963S

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION File Number 18-39-PR

IN RE: ESTATE OF PAUL RONALD KEISER Deceased.

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

The administration of the estate of PAUL RONALD KEISER, deceased, whose date of death was May 9, 2018 and whose social security number is -9999, is pending in the Circuit Court for Gulf County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Gulf County Courthouse, 1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Blvd., Port St. Joe, Florida 32456. The name and address of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

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

All persons on whom this notice is served who have objections that challenge the validity of the will, the qualifications of the personal representative, venue, or jurisdiction of this court are required to file their objections with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

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

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LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

20963S

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION File Number 18-39-PR

IN RE: ESTATE OF PAUL RONALD KEISER Deceased.

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

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ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE BARRED.
NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this Notice is July 5, 2018.

Personal Representative:
Eric Langston
100 Harbor Street
Port St Joe, FL 32456

Attorney for Personal Representative:
Charles A. Costin
Florida Bar No. 699070
Post Office Box 98
Port St. Joe, FL 32457
Phone: (850) 227-1159
email:ccostin@costin-law.com
Pub: July 5, 12, 2018

20972S CITY OF PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA NOTICE TO RECEIVE SEALED BIDS
RFP 2018-13

Re-Bid of Waste Water Treatment Plant Repower

Sealed bids for the City of Port St. Joe for the WWTP Repower will be received at City Hall, 305 Cecil G. Costin Sr., Blvd., Port St. Joe, Florida 32456 up until 3:00 PM EST, Friday, July 20, 2018. Bids will be publicly opened and acknowledged, Friday, July 20, 2018, at 3:05 PM EST, in the City Commission Conference Room.

Bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope, plainly marked with bidder's name, address, date and time of opening, and "RFP 2018-13, Re-Bid of Waste Water Treatment Plant Repower."

DESCRIPTION OF WORK: Location- 455 CR 382, Port St Joe, Florida.
Install (1) 150 amp feeder from MDP panel board to existing 400amp panel GP (appx 525 ft.)
Install (1) 100 amp feeder from panel GP to panel HA (appx 300 ft.)
Install (1) 100amp feeder from panel GP to panel in the old office (appx 400 ft.)
Install (1) 100 amp feeder from panel GP to panel DP (appx 25 ft.)
Provide and install (1) 150 amp breaker and (3) 100 amp breakers.

All feeders are 3 phase 480 vac. Bids are to include electrical engineers stamped drawings of work. When work is completed, it will be inspected and

LEGAL ADVERTISING
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signed by the electrical engineer as approved.
For questions concerning this Bid, please contact Waste Water Treatment Plant Manager Kevin Pettis at 850-229-6395.

The City of Port St. Joe reserves the right to accept or reject any and all Statements of Bids in whole or in part, to waive informalities in the process, to obtain new Statements of Bids, or to postpone the opening pursuant to the City's purchasing policies. Each Statement of Bid shall be valid to the City of Port St. Joe for a period of sixty (60) days after the opening.

The City of Port St. Joe is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer.
Pub June 28, July 5, 2018

20976S IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR GULF COUNTY, CASE NO. 18CP-36 IN PROBATE

IN RE: The Estate of RONALD J. BORDELON, deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS OR DEMANDS AGAINST THE ABOVE ESTATE:

The administration of the estate of RONALD J. BORDELON, deceased, whose date of death was May 21, 2018, File Number 18CP-36, is pending in the Circuit Court for Gulf County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Gulf County Court-house, Probate Division, 1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Boulevard, Port St. Joe, FL 32456. The name and address of the personal representative and that personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

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

All other creditors of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against the

LEGAL ADVERTISING
1100

estate of the decedent, must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS OR DEMANDS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

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

The date of the first publication of this Notice is June 28, 2018.

Thomas S. Gibson Rish & Gibson, P.A. 116 Sailor's Cove Drive Port St. Joe, Florida 32456 (850) 229-8211
Attorney for Personal Representatives
FL Bar No. 0350583

CYNTHIA LYNN FERNANDEZ
144 Finch Lane Wewahitchka, FL 32465
Personal Representative

JONATHAN PHILLIP SULLIVAN
7502 SW 166th Terrace Palmetto Bay, FL 33157-3868
Personal Representative
Pub June 28, July 5, 2018

21034S NOTICE TO RECEIVE SEALED BIDS
BID #1718-21

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

Design of the 2019 Official Gulf County Visitor Guide

Proposals are due by Friday, July 13, 2018, no later than 4:30 PM ET

Proposals will be opened on Monday, July 16, 2018 at 10:00 AM ET

Please include an **Original and Two Copies** of your bid.

Proposals must be delivered to the Gulf County Clerk of Court Office at 1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Blvd, Room 149, Port St. Joe, FL 32456. Please indicate on the envelope **YOUR COMPANY NAME**, that this is a **SEALED BID**, and include the **BID NUMBER**.

Complete bid specifications may be obtained from the Gulf County Clerk's Office or from the County's website at www.gulfcounty-fl.gov. Questions concerning this bid should be directed to T.D.C. Executive Director Kelli Godwin at (850) 229-7800.

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1100

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY: /s/ SANDY QUINN, JR., CHAIRMAN
Pub July 5, 12, 2018

21039S IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR GULF COUNTY

CASE NO. 18CP-38 IN PROBATE

IN RE: The Estate of JOEL M. JOHNSON, JR., deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS OR DEMANDS AGAINST THE ABOVE ESTATE:

The administration of the estate of JOEL M. JOHNSON, JR., deceased, whose date of death was February 15, 2018, File Number 18CP-38, is pending in the Circuit Court for Gulf County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Gulf County Court-house, Probate Division, 1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Boulevard, Port St. Joe, FL 32456. The name and address of the personal representative and that personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

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

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

ALL CLAIMS OR DEMANDS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

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

LEGAL ADVERTISING
1100

DEATH IS BARRED

The date of the first publication of this Notice is July 5, 2018.

MATTHEW J. JOHNSON
424 Canning Drive Wewahitchka, FL 32465
Personal Representative

Thomas S. Gibson Rish & Gibson, P.A. 116 Sailor's Cove Drive Port St. Joe, Florida 32456 (850) 229-8211
Attorney for Petitioner
FL Bar No. 0350583
Pub: July 5, 12, 2018



3100-3350 MERCHANDISE

- 3100 - Antiques
- 3110 - Appliances
- 3120 - Arts & Crafts
- 3130 - Auctions
- 3140 - Baby Items
- 3150 - Building Supplies
- 3160 - Business Equipment
- 3170 - Collectibles
- 3180 - Computers
- 3190 - Electronics
- 3200 - Firewood
- 3210 - Free Pass It On
- 3220 - Furniture
- 3230 - Garage/Yard Sales
- 3240 - Guns
- 3250 - Good Things to Eat
- 3260 - Health & Fitness
- 3270 - Jewelry/Clothing
- 3280 - Machinery/Equipment
- 3290 - Medical Equipment
- 3300 - Miscellaneous
- 3310 - Musical Instruments
- 3320 - Plants & Shrubs/Supplies
- 3330 - Restaurant/Hotel
- 3340 - Sporting Goods
- 3350 - Tickets (Buy & Sell)

MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT
3230

Attached are photos of the 1973 John Deere 310D backhoe, serial No. 208958T. The hour meter shows 6,672 hours so despite the age it was hardly used. It was used sparingly over the years on a large piece of property in the area by one man. He liked to move dirt.

I have charged the battery and it turns over, but I was not able to start it. My experience with small Diesel tractors is that they have glow plugs and/or a compression release to aid in starting. If this thing has one I couldn't figure it out. I didn't notice any leaks from the engine or hydraulic system. Some of the hydraulic lines appear new. I am asking \$8,000. The machine is located in Eastpoint close to the bay. Open to offers.



MISCELLANEOUS
3300

College Student Offering Accelerated Introductory Piano Lessons.
Ages 7-11, twice a week, Ages 12+, three times a week \$25 per lesson Teaching in Port St. Joe. References available upon request.
(239)431-1848



4100-4130 EMPLOYMENT

4100 - Help Wanted
4130 - Employment Information

HELP WANTED
4100

Golf Course Maintenance Employees Needed
Full Time or Part time Applications available at the Club House 700 Country Club Rd
Drug Free Establishment Equal Opportunity Employer

Need a helping hand? Advertise in the Help Wanted Section in the Classifieds!
747-5020

HELP WANTED
4100

Veterinary Assistant/Technician Wanted Apalachicola Bay Animal Clinic

Full Time, Competitive Salary & Benefits, Animal/Medical Experience Preferred. Minimum Qualifications: High School Graduate, Stable Work History, Strong Community Ties, History of Proper Veterinary Care of Personal Pets, No Criminal History, Seeking Long Term Employment. Ability to Lift and Restrain Large Dogs, Available For Weekend Duty, Good Grammar/Writing/Math/Communication Skills, Team Player, Personable, Good References from Previous Employers, Ability to Work With Public.

Send Resume to: drhfulmer@yahoo.com
No phone calls or walk ins.

Turn to classified! You can bank on our bargains!



6100-6200 REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

- 6100 - Business/Commercial
- 6110 - Apartments
- 6120 - Beach Rentals
- 6130 - Condo/Townhouse
- 6140 - House Rentals
- 6150 - Roommate Wanted
- 6160 - Rooms for Rent
- 6170 - Mobile Home/Lot
- 6180 - Out-of-Town Rentals
- 6190 - Timeshare Rentals
- 6200 - Vacation Rentals

HOUSE RENTALS
6140

APARTMENT RENTALS
6110

Publisher's Notice

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians; pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-668-9777. The toll-free number for the impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



HOUSE RENTALS
6140

4 bedroom / 2bath on 5 acres with pond. 1 Year Lease. \$1800 per month \$750 deposit.
Call (850)370-6001

MOBILE HOMES FOR SALE
7160

Used Single Wides Zone Three, 2016 and 2017 Models. Call: 229-246-1218

MOVING/STORAGE
9512

MINI STORAGE In Port St. Joe
229-6200
Climate Controlled Units Available
NF-4527886

HOUSE RENTALS
6140

★★★★★
Let a little classified do a BIG job for you.
Small Price for Big Results!
The Star
850-747-5020
or visit us online at emeraldcoastmarketplace.com
For all your buying and selling needs.
★★★★★

APALACHEE CENTER
Adult/Child Care Manager needed to provide case management services in our Apalachicola and Bristol Florida Offices.
Requirements:
*Bachelor's Degree in Human Services field and 1 year of mental health experience with adults and children required. Bachelor's Degree in non-related field acceptable with 3 years of mental health experience with adults and children.
*Official transcripts required.
*Valid Driver's License with no more than 6 points over 3 years.
\$15.40 per hour (includes location differential)
Please apply at www.apalacheecenter.org or call Stephanie Luckie at 850-523-3212 or email at stephanie@apalacheecenter.org for details.

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Buy • Sell • Trade • Advertise
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And more!
All in one spot!
THE STAR To Advertise in the Classifieds
850-747-5020

Sandy Beach PROPERTIES
NEWLY RENOVATED!
(2) Lanark Village Apartments
2 bed, 1 bath Units
\$1200/ month, \$1200 SD
All Utilities Included
- NO PETS -
AVAILABLE JULY 1st
Lanark Village Apartment
3 bed, 1 bath
\$775/month, \$1000 SD
- Pets Considered w/ \$300 non-refundable pet fee -
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