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Triumph: Port focus expands beyond dry dock

By Tim Croft

The Port St. Joe Star
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There has emerged a Plan B regarding Triumph funding after all.

Discussions in the past two weeks have expanded the focus at the Port of Port St. Joe beyond a dry dock for Eastern Shipbuilding to a renewal of the effort to

dredge the federally-authorized shipping channel.

County and Port St. Joe Port Authority officials have met over the past two weeks with counterparts at the St. Joe Company and the Florida Department of Transportation as well as Triumph Gulf Coast staff.

From those discussions has emerged a strategy that as the focus remains on the dry dock, dredging the shipping

channel provides a potential fallback position for opening the port to development.

"We are working on all kinds of things related to the port," said Warren Yeager, Executive Director of the Economic Development Coalition. "There is an opportunity there."

"I think there is a feeling that everybody is trying to move in the same direction."

The dry dock project, for

which the county is seeking some \$28 million, is in the application review phase within Triumph Gulf Coast, the non-profit established to distribute more than \$1 billion within eight Northwest Florida counties over 15 years.

The county's projected share of that over the 15 years tops \$60 million.

The dry dock was the priority of the Board of County Commissioners, which

sought and received support from all other governing bodies in the county.

Triumph consideration puts an emphasis on projects approved by a county commission; the BOCC was focused on the dry dock.

Less than two months ago county officials told the Port Authority board there was no Plan B.

See TRIUMPH, A7

Preparing the path of construction



Turtle patrol volunteers have relocated 41 sea turtle nests laid in the path of a beach restoration project [COURTESY OF FLORIDA COASTAL CONSERVANCY]

Turtle relocation priority before restoration

By Tim Croft

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Before the sand comes down, the sea turtle eggs have to be brought up.

And then put back down three miles away.

A crucial but often overlooked aspect of undertaking a beach restoration project in the middle of the summer is that the work will also be performed at the height of sea turtle nesting season.

So, while it may not be a bustling season along St. Joseph Peninsula, the turtle patrol volunteers surveying that six-mile stretch of beach might be as busy as ever.

The reason: the projected August start of a beach restoration project.

To prepare, the turtle patrol has been charged with relocating turtle nests found in the construction zone north.

And, that is not nearly as easy as it was to type or say that sentence.

"We have relocated 41 nests in the construction zone to north outside of the construction zone," said Jessica Swindall, volunteer coordinator for the St. Joseph Peninsula Turtle Patrol.

"It is painstaking work."

Those 41 nests represent nearly half of the 85 nests found and marked along the peninsula beaches since the May start of nesting season.

See TURTLES, A8



The goal of the relocation: hatchlings in a few months [COURTESY OF FLORIDA COASTAL CONSERVANCY]

PSJ commissioners to take up park plan Tuesday

By Tim Croft

The Port St. Joe Star
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Port St. Joe commissioners, striving for elusive consensus on plans for the 10th Street Park for months, will try again during a Tuesday workshop.

The workshop is scheduled for 5 p.m. ET, immediately prior to the regular bi-monthly Commission meeting at 6 p.m. ET.

The central question, judging by several recent meetings and a workshop, is whether an hour will be enough.

It was not during the most recent meeting of the county parks committee pertaining to the project.

Three of the past four city meetings have had the park debate consume, on average, 60 minutes each round.

At issue is a conceptual plan, now on Version 6A, though it is technically the seventh draft, which in its varying forms has had little appeal for the most vocal critics of the plan, nearly all of whom live adjacent to the park.

Their argument, the park as it is, in its current footprint, is an attractive neighborhood park, though some local residences are prone to flooding in heavy rains.

In addition, some of those who participate in the softball and baseball, particularly the adults, have not always acted much like neighbors.

Those issues, mixed in with questions about traffic and safety if the park is expanded, have critics, particularly the neighbors, questioning the wisdom of park expansion.

See PARKS, A7

At issue is a conceptual plan, now on Version 6A, though it is technically the seventh draft, which in its varying forms has had little appeal for the most vocal critics of the plan, nearly all of whom live adjacent to the park.

Things to do this week

Star Staff Report

Okay, so it is not on a Thursday, but the latest edition in the "Thursdays the Theatre" concert series will sound just as sweet at 7 p.m. Wednesday when the Barry Fish Band takes the stage.

The motto for the night is "Smiles and Dancing Guaranteed."

The Barry Fish Band has backed Jimmy Buffett on tour and served as house band at several prominent regular establishments in the region, from Destin to Panama City Beach.

Tickets can be purchased at The Port Inn or Gulf County Chamber of Commerce on Reid Ave. in Port St. Joe.

Tickets are online at www.historicporttheatre.com and are \$15 for general admission and \$30 for VIP.

VIP translates into entry to a 6-6:45 p.m. ET meet-and-greet with the band; doors for general admission open at 6:45 p.m.

"Thursdays at the Theatre" is now in its second season and attracted a range of music and film presentations at the historic Port Theatre.

The Mexico Beach Farmers Market all weekend. The Mexico Beach Farmers and Craft Market will be held Saturday and Sunday this weekend in Parker Park. Summer hours are 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. CT. Shop for fresh, local vegetables and baked goods as well as gifts and goodies from local craftspeople. Parker Park is located at 2500 U.S. Highway 98. Vendor applications are available at mexicobeach.com under calendar of events.



Check out the Turtles and Trash exhibit at The Joe Center for the Arts. [FILE PHOTO]



Best views in town, climb the Cape San Blas Lighthouse [FILE PHOTO]



The Mexico Beach Farmers Market will be held Saturday and Sunday this month. [FILE PHOTO]



The Barry Fish Band plays the historic Port Theatre Wednesday. [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

Expanded summer hours to climb the Cape San Blas Lighthouse. Summer hours begin today at the Cape San Blas Lighthouse. Venture to George Core Park in Port St. Joe and climb to the top, nearly 100 feet high. The lighthouse is open 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. ET Thursday through Saturday. For adults 13 and over, the cost to climb is \$5 and for children under 12, but at least 44-inches tall, the cost for the climb is \$3.

Please, no flip-flops – climbers need sturdy shoes. In addition, the lighthouse is open, by appointment, for groups of 5 or more. The minimum charge is \$25. Contact 229-8261 to book an appointment for a group.

Turtles and Trash exhibit at arts center. The latest exhibit at The Joe Center for the Arts, located at 201 Reid Ave. in Port St. Joe, is a blend of art and science, opening the door to a conversation about taking care of our planet and coastal community. Among the artists are guest artist

Beth Appleton's lush microscopic view of the world and Joan Matey and her Fishy Fashions. This exhibition runs all summer; the Center is open Thursday-Saturday, with a grand

closing event featuring the music of The Recollections on Aug. 17. Every Thursday is Turtle Thursday, with a lecture, art workshop or a special treat, free and open to the public. Check

out our schedule online at: thejoecenter.com or on Facebook. The exhibit is in partnership with the Florida Coastal Conservancy and the Port St. Joe Library.

Port St. Joe Kiwanis Club 'Shoes for Kids' fundraiser

Star Staff Report

The Port St. Joe Kiwanis Club will sponsor a "Shoes for Kids" event

beginning 6 p.m. ET Thursday, July 19 at the Haughty Heron, part of the Heron's Third Thursday benefit series.

A low country shrimp boil gets things started at 6 p.m. and at 7 p.m. will come the Mullet Toss contest.

Live music will be playing throughout and there will be a 50/50 raffle.

All proceeds from the shrimp boil, mullet toss

and raffle will be used by the Kiwanis Club to benefit the children of the community, specifically providing shoes to

children of need. The Haughty Heron is located at 117 Sailors Cove Drive in Port St. Joe.

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Andrew Gillum. [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

Governor candidate Gillum to speak Friday

Rescheduled speech at Gulf/Franklin Campus

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, 7-9 p.m. ET Friday 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.



Data collection for new flood maps nears completion

By Tim Croft

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New flood maps for Gulf County are likely still a year away, but a review and analysis of new data should be completed in next 30-60 days.

And that updated data already appears to be paying dividends for the county, reducing the overall impacts, said Bo Spring, the local representative on the board of the Northwest Florida Water Management District.

Largely, that was due to the out-moded models being used.

Jerrick Saquibal with the water management district, provided an update on the work during last weekend's annual meeting of the Coastal Community Association of Gulf County.

He said the using the updated information, focused on actual changes in elevation, the district had reduced to fewer than 1,000 the potential coastal parcels, or lots, which could be impacted by the redrawing of FEMA flood maps.

"I can assure you that

"It's going to be a mess. As a contractor, my advice now is to build to the new elevations. It's going to be at least that."

Pat Hardman

this is a high priority, to minimize the effects and people affected," Spring said.

Flood maps, a property's presence in a flood zone, can have significant impacts on securing flood insurance as well as a federally-backed mortgage.

Andy Smith with Hannon Insurance said moving from a "X" zone to a "AE" or "VE" zone will likely require flood insurance as part of the mortgage package, but noted that "more companies are coming into the market" in recent years, expanding options.

If a home is within a Coastal Barriers Resource Act (CBRA) zone, land elevation is immaterial, flood insurance will be necessary.

"It's going to be a mess," said CCA president Pat Hardman of the upcoming changes. "As a contractor, my advice now is to build to the new elevations. It's going to be at least that."

The preliminary FEMA flood maps were released two years ago.

Those preliminary maps caused discomfort in the county due to the number of properties in Gulf County which would be moved from an "X" designation to "AE" or "VE."

That number was at least 1,377, said Saquibal.

The preliminary maps were seen as having a significant impact on insurance and new construction.

Gulf County would be significantly and negatively impacted if the maps had been adopted as released, said county planner Brett Lowry at the time that BOCC appealed the maps.

The Board of County Commissioners appointed a committee to act as liaison with the Northwest Florida Water Management District, which is assisting the county via the updating the maps.

"Our job is representing

our counties ... not the federal government," said Brett Cyphers, Executive Director of the NFWFMD.

Cyphers added that the district is held to FEMA standards, but the reality on the ground can be different than reflected in the new maps.

Once the county appealed the maps during the public comment period, the process halted as the NFWFMD decided to "re-evaluate" the accuracy of the maps.

"That put the process on hold," Saquibal said.

"We have not started the appeals and comments" portions of the process,

With grant funding, and partnering with U.S. Geological Survey, the water management district updated the LIDAR data for Gulf County, the St. Andrews watershed and parts of Holmes County.

LIDAR is far more accurate in mapping an area's topography.

The last LIDAR data was from 2007 and the models FEMA used in

crafting the new flood maps dated from the 1980s, Saquibal said.

In that time, for example, the number of transect lines in the area grew from 44 to more than 300.

"Lots of areas have changed," Saquibal said. "Some things have changed: 75 percent have not."

The new LIDAR data allowed the district to compare structures listed within the flood zone to understand fully changes in elevation.

That showed, as of current projections, that the number of impacted properties, which once numbered nearly 2,500, is likely fewer than 1,000.

In turn, the hope is that the end result is the restoration of an "X" designation to a number of properties which would have lost it.

Further, that fewer properties would be placed in the more stringent "VE" designation

The last LIDAR data was from 2007 and the models FEMA used in

Spring emphasized that once the water management district's work is complete, information will be disseminated to property owners.

"There has to be an outreach for this," Spring said. "I can assure that is a high priority."

There is no set timeline, however.

"We will take as long as it takes to make the flood maps as accurate as possible," Saquibal said. "Some properties are going to go in and out of flood zones."

"We will coordinate with the (citizens committee) what the changes are and how and who is impacted."

New maps, he said, are likely a year out.

The updated maps would also be placed back out for public review, though what shape that would take remains unclear given the point in the process at which a hold was placed.

The preliminary flood maps can be found at <http://portal.nfwfmd.com/floodmaps.com/>.

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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

OPINION

CRANKS MY TRACTOR

Mini thanks



BN Heard

For more than 20 years, in addition to my normal job, I have taught at various colleges and universities. Some have been good experiences, others have been an effort in dealing with educational bureaucracy. The one teaching job that I have always loved and will continue to do is that of teaching for a university on an Air Force base.

Saint Leo University is based in Saint Leo, Florida, less than an hour from Tampa. In addition to their main campus, they have education centers in seven states, including various military bases. I have taught for them for close to 20 years on an Air Force base within five minutes of my regular day job with the space program.

From the start, I found teaching military folks to be very rewarding. Unlike some of my experiences with other colleges and universities, all of my military students seem to "want" to be there. They work hard, they are appreciative and they are extremely respectful.

I often tell them in the classroom that being there is my most favorite time of the day – because it is. I teach college mathematics and statistics courses, helping students get both their two-year degrees through the Community College of the Air Force and their four-year degrees for promotions and life after their military careers.

Students come back from time to time to eat with me, show me their children and let me know that they have completed their degree. I consider them family and tell them this often. I share my childhood experiences and tell stories in the classroom. It makes it a little more interesting in my opinion.

My students know that my mathematical abilities started with my Daddy teaching my brothers and me math (and probability) with a pair of dice, a deck of cards or a box of dominos. He was a sailor, with a love of life and games of chance.

One of the stories that I often share with my class is about all the mini bikes I was around growing up. Popularized in the late 1960's, "Popular Mechanics" magazine had an article with plans on building a mini bike. All you needed was an engine from a lawnmower and a "neighbor with a welding torch."

Somewhere in the late 1960's and early 1970's, my Papa (grandfather) began collecting various mini bike frames, wheels and parts. He rarely had one that actually ran, but often had frames with two good wheels and no engine. In other words, you could ride it down a hill, but you had to push it back up. I would spend many Sunday afternoons at my grandparents in rural Alabama doing just that.

In the meantime, my Daddy usually had a mini bike for use to ride on. It was about as reliable as a Ford Pinto. I'm sorry that is not true – it was much less reliable than a Ford Pinto. If it started, the chain was always coming off or breaking or some other little issue that a little boy generally couldn't figure out.

Then again, it had an old lawn mower engine on it and generally a lot of rust.

I still loved the mini bikes, with or without an engine and regardless of whether it was running or not.

A "Chief Master Sergeant" is the ninth, and highest, enlisted rank in the U.S. Air Force. I've only had the pleasure of having one in classes through the years. He was finishing a degree for his children and his grandchildren. When he walked into a classroom, the Airmen were always in awe... He was a big deal, but you would never know it.

He was kind, he was caring and he was very intelligent.

See HEARD, A5

THE STAR

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HUNKER DOWN

Oscar knew where everybody lived!



Kesley Colbert

Two thoughts startled me awake this morning. One was Lyndon Baines Johnson. And the other was this ever growing idea in our nation today that life is not fair. I couldn't possibly think there could be a connection.

At least six people in the last week have shared their burden with me on the unfairness of life as they see it. Some was political, naturally. The government was either doing too little for them.....or regulating too much. Some was family infringement. Some was work related. You've heard the same stories.

I never met Lyndon Johnson of course. But I know for dead certain positive he was President in the summer of 1965. That's when Mr. Graden Featherstone, the postmaster of our little town, called Mom and told her to send me down to his office. I was mystified beyond words but I knew I was going to blame whatever it was on John Ingram or Bobby Brewer.....

"Young Mr. Colbert," Mr. Featherstone was always formal, straight forward and to the point, "I have a letter before me that states you have received a Presidential Appointment to work with us at the post office this summer. It specifically spells out that you must be enrolling in a college in the fall to be eligible."

Well, I couldn't think of nothing to say, formal or otherwise. The President didn't know me

from Adam's housecat and I'd never been appointed –

"Bailey Moore Wrinkle is listed as the local sponsor." Mr. Featherstone continued to read down through the fine print.

Mr. Wrinkle was high up amongst the Democrats in Carroll County and he really liked my Dad. I don't think he could have picked me out of a line-up. I had a job at Tommie Hill's DX Station. And I didn't know diddly-squat about the mail business.

"It says here that you are to be paid two dollars and fifty-six cents an hour."

"I will take it!"

Minimum wage in 1965 was whatever Mr. Hill said it was. And he was paying me five dollars a day. And I was out in the hot sun except for when I was fixing a rear flat tire on Mr. Ellis' big John Deere in the service bay. Before that I'd worked years at the swimming pool for fifty cents an hour. I didn't know the government had this kind of money. And I don't know exactly where they were getting it. And I didn't care!

There wasn't any decision here. Besides, I bet Buffalo Bill wasn't a mail aficionado his first trip with the Pony Express.

They put me to work unloading the mail truck. It arrived around 2:30 a.m. I didn't know there was time before chicken crowing. And you would not believe what "the mail brought in" that summer. I unloaded washers and dryers. Oriental rugs. Lots of lawnmowers. And one swing set. Now you tell me, who orders a swing set through the mail!

But mostly I unloaded heavy number 3 mail sacks full of letters, cards and magazines. I never got to "work the window" up front or "put up" the mail,

either in the p. o. boxes or the rural route delivery trays. That was left to Oscar Owen, Porter Dunlap and "Hot Shot" Lewis.

I was intimidated as all get out around these older gentlemen.....for about five seconds. That's how long it took for them to make me feel welcome. I never got a "what's this kid doing here" look. They never fussed, harangued, gave me an order or played some prank on me.

They helped me in every way possible. They asked about my life, baseball, college plans and my girlfriend. When I mentioned her daddy was a doctor, they all agreed I needed to keep her. When they found out about the bank, the hardware store, the farm and all the bottomland her family owned, they each tried to adopt me!

After a late baseball game, I'd slip into Mr. Featherstone's office and sleep on a stack of empty number 3 mail pouches. One of the men would wake me when the truck pulled in.

You talk about a wonderful summer. Oscar, Porter and Hot Shot took time for me, encouraged me, taught me.....cared about me. The money was great and it did help me with college, but the lessons I learned were priceless.

For years after that, if I got a letter that had gone through the hometown post office, it would have Porter or Oscar or Hot scribbled across the envelope somewhere. They didn't forget me. Nor me them.

I would have worked with those guys for nothing!

Sometimes life is not fair.....IN YOUR FAVOR.

Respectfully,
Kes

Prescribed burns and gross negligence

Dear Editor,

First, let me join the entire Panhandle in expressing our sympathy to the victims of the Eastpoint fire which was the result of a "controlled" burn by a company hired by Florida's Wildlife Commission. The Florida Agriculture Commissioner, Adam Putnam (current candidate for governor), stated that after investigation, the escaped fire which destroyed 36 homes and many people's livelihoods, was indeed the result of a prescribed burn nearby.

The Department of Agriculture along with the Division of Forestry are responsible for the rule-making process regarding prescribed burning. The importance of controlled burns to reduce excess fuel which if left to accumulate can lead to even more devastating wildfires is undeniable. One only has to look at the constant fires out west right now—destroying thousands of miles of land and homes to understand this need. Florida had a terrible drought in 1998 and had raging wildfires ourselves which burnt over 500,000 acres, and which led to a revision of the Prescribed Burning Act in 1999 to encourage more controlled burns in the State.

The main modification the law of 1999 made, was to reduce liability to the agents in charge of burns. In the 1999 Act, the level of negligence was changed from general negligence to gross negligence.

What does this mean to those who are the victims of fires that have escaped from a prescribed burn?

According to the Blacks Law Dictionary: gross negligence is "a failure to use even the slightest amount of care in a way that shows recklessness or willful disregard for the safety of others."

It is obviously almost impossible under this definition to

legally prove gross negligence—so will the burn company's insurance even pay? Why did Florida decide the gross negligence clause was O.K. to put into law? (We are one of less than a half dozen States that have such a low standard of responsibility for prescribed fires.)

Well, apparently the legislators of 1999 along with the Department of Agriculture and Division of Forestry decided that to meet the goal of increasing controlled burns they should reduce liability to controlled burners and instead require that they attend specialized training to become certified and require them to file detailed plans for burns. They determined this was better overall for public safety than trying to hold untrained persons civilly liable for any escaped fires.

As part of the rules instituted in 1999, a Certified Prescribed Burn Manager must be present from "ignition to completion of the prescribed burn."

My question is this: what is the "completion" of a prescribed burn?

I have been hiking a dozen times in the Panhandle and come across acres of smoldering brush with not a soul around—no State agents, no burn company workers, no landowners, no firefighters, nobody... I also have to wonder what exactly the requirements are in those burn plans that must be submitted.

Are they really to determine the safety to surrounding communities, or to cover butts if something goes wrong? Has it become a situation where if all the bureaucratic red-tape is met, nobody is responsible for anything? Have we become complacent about this vital but very hazardous management tool?

I don't know how many times I've driven by a prescribed burn with 20-30 mph winds blowing, so strong I wouldn't even

light a fire in my backyard—and again not a soul in sight.

Allegedly, this particular fire was started during a period when this Eastpoint neighborhood had experienced very high temperatures and very low rainfall for many days and was in a "high fire risk" category. Maybe these required burn plans should include surrounding inhabited regions, not just the area of the actual burn.

I advocate three changes our representatives and the agencies responsible for prescribed burning should make as a result of this tragedy.

1) If we are to continue to have "gross negligence" rules to encourage burns and protect the burn companies from liability, we need to strengthen the requirements to have people on the ground checking conditions and monitoring the entire area days before and after a burn if there are inhabited zones close by. Yes, that might raise costs, but maybe higher costs are needed to provide safety.

2) Similar to the "if you see something, say something" campaign for terrorism, we should institute a phone number to call and a public education campaign to encourage people to call it if they are concerned about any burn they see, especially if it is unattended. Then local FWC, forestry agents, firefighters, or law enforcement can be informed to check it out. I think many of us are so used to burns that we just walk or drive by figuring somebody must be watching it.

3) If we are to protect certified burners from liability, shouldn't the State assume that liability? Eastpoint was not an "act of God" it was an "act of Florida" and we should make it right.

Deb Mays
Port St. Joe

LETTERS

Follow-up on sentencing reform

Dear Editor,
In your June 28 edition, Miss Ann Tison writes about some hard truths. I'd like to piggyback my thoughts on the matter of incarcerated persons due to substance abuse. The estimates are 1 out of 10 suffer from drug or alcohol addiction. If you include the lives that the person addicted has adversely affected, that number grows exponentially. I myself have personal family experience with the effects of addiction. Somehow the chain needs to break, and

with the cuts to funding for treatment, the prospects for winning the battle against this disease are grim. Yes that's right I called it a disease!

We here in Gulf County are in path of destruction if we don't pull together and search for a cure. It's obvious that mass incarceration isn't really the best solution.

Now I've been a businessman in this county for 15 years and I know a little about supply and demand. If the demand is high, the supply will

always be there. So perhaps if we talked more openly about the issue of addiction in this county, we could start reducing the demand.

In other words let's treat the addict and alcoholic as sick people instead of criminals. Now that doesn't mean that people shouldn't be arrested, however, we really need to work hard with our citizens to help them to recover. I work in the trades, and every subcontractor I talk to has the same thing to say. Employees

are hard to find, and many who show up have addiction problems and don't last the week. This issue has motivated me to become more personally involved, and it is one reason I am running for Gulf County Commission.

There are other issues that I will address, however this one is a matter of life and death.

Thanks for your attention,

John Nagy
Member, Democratic Executive Committee District 1.

SEE MORE ONLINE AT STARFL.COM

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Port St. Joe will conduct a Fair Housing Workshop as a portion of the regularly scheduled meeting of the City Commission on July 17th. The meeting will start at 6:00 pm and the workshop will be conducted as soon as practicable after the start of the meeting. The meeting will be held in the City Commission Chambers at 2775 Garrison Avenue. The public is invited to attend and comment.

Port St. Joe is a Fair Housing / EEO community

Some things will never change

By **Samuel Moore-Sobel**
Special to The Star

We all understand the challenge inherent in starting anew. Of beginning again, whether personally or professionally. Even if the change is necessary, this hardly makes the transition any easier. Humans are creatures of habit, wedded to the established routine.

For as long as I can remember, my parents have been customers of AT&T. My father has flirted with the idea of securing cell coverage elsewhere. He has spent countless hours on the phone with AT&T in the past, trying to execute a breakup. Only to be convinced into staying each time, the incentives offered far outweighing any pre-conceived desire to leave.

This truly American company finds its roots in 1879. The company website claims the invention of the telephone by Alexander Graham Bell as "the foundation of the company that would become AT&T." Since then, the original corporation has changed, split up at the behest of anti-trust regulators during the Reagan administration.

The first of several reinventions over the last thirty years.

The allegiance held dear by its customer

base has eroded since those glory days. Hardly surprising, since brand loyalty has seemingly waned in significance over the last few decades. We no longer cling to name brands, instead eager to seek out the best deal. Perhaps this is due to the fast-paced world in which we now live. People are more transient, securing new jobs every few years instead of spending an entire career with one company.

The world has indeed changed, even if my cell phone coverage has not. I used to think my father's reluctance to end our family's relationship with AT&T was rather ridiculous. Until I make my own attempt to part ways with the cell service provider. I secure a cheaper plan with T-Mobile, determining to inform AT&T of my rejection of their service.

The AT&T customer service representative has other ideas. She immediately launches into a sales pitch, asking me about the deal I am receiving from T-Mobile. Promising she can match the price, or, better yet, beat it.

I have heard this line before, mind you.

Six months before, I had almost made the same move. Six months before, they promised to drop the price. Yet somehow, my bill was never lowered.

She insists this time

all will be different, informing me that insurance was previously added onto my plan. I respond by asking how this happened without my knowledge. Do trigger happy AT&T employees type their way into modifying records without customer consent?

It is moments like these that lead me to believe I have become my father. We spend our teenage and young adult years actively trying to avoid becoming like our parents. Until one day we wake up and realize we have become them. Traces of their influence can be detected in body language, speech patterns, even the things we buy. Perhaps even in the companies to which we remain loyal, regardless of any negative consequences, real or perceived.

Despite my assured acquiescence, I let the customer service representative sweat it out for a few minutes, allowing her to finish her spiel before entering into an agreement.

Switching would be a hassle anyway, wouldn't it? She points out the superiority of the cell coverage offered by AT&T in comparison to T-Mobile, an argument I have heard plenty of times before.

Perhaps I should stay. My reticence to leave may be due to a desire to fight against the cultural narrative currently

eschewing brand loyalty. Or because I am just like my father. Even more likely, my hesitation possibly a side-effect from the winds of change currently blowing in from every direction of my life. Stability is a good thing, especially in the face of upheaval.

Even if the upheaval is bringing a plethora of exciting, new adventures.

I hate the idea of wasting all this effort, only to end up with the same coverage I had before. We can all relate to the feeling of jogging in place, making little progress despite our feverish attempts to espouse something new. Yet sometimes, it is better to do nothing than to act.

My phone call ends with a victory notched for the customer service representative talking endlessly on the other end of the line. Maintaining my coverage with AT&T seems like the most prudent move. At least for now – until I decide to change plans again in six months, only to remain with AT&T.

Is it just my imagination, or was life easier before cell phones?

Samuel Moore-Sobel is a freelance writer. To have words of hope delivered to your inbox, subscribe to his blog by visiting www.holdingontohopetoday.com.

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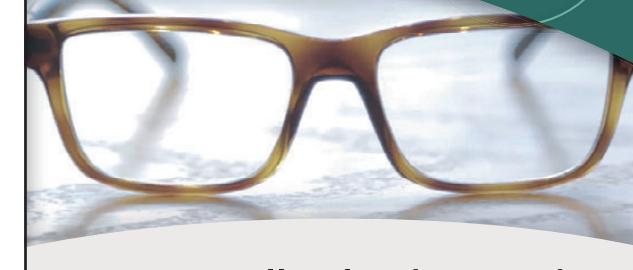
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Student loan rates make Advantage Education Loans better deal

Special to The Star

Louisville, KY – With the interest rate on Federal PLUS Loans jumping to 7.6 percent on July 1, college students and their parents can now save even more with Advantage Education Loans.

The interest rate on Advantage Education Loans

is as low as 5.04 percent with autopay (5.29 percent APR).

In addition, Advantage Education Loan borrowers don't have to pay fees. The federal government charges PLUS Loan borrowers a 4.26 percent origination fee. That means someone who borrows a \$20,000 PLUS Loan will only receive \$19,147 to help pay college costs. With

a no-fee Advantage Education Loan, borrowers will receive the entire \$20,000.

Over a 10-year repayment period, Advantage borrowers can save as much as \$4,093. The exact savings depends on their credit rating, the repayment plan they choose and if they use auto debit from a bank account.

HEARD

From Page A4

He was a just a few years away from retiring and was a joy to have in a class.

The other day, I was up at the board, doing what I do, teaching a class about various percentage calculations and having a good time. I noticed a crowd of people outside my door.

Folks from the university and other staff from the educational center where classes are held.

Sometimes folks will gather to hear my stories or laugh about my accent, but this was a bigger crowd than usual. One of the folks noted, "Someone is here to see you." I said, "Great, send them in."

It was the Chief Master Sergeant I had taught a few years back and he was pushing a mini bike into my classroom... A

mini bike that he had built with his own hands and it looked sharp. He was retiring in a couple of weeks and wanted to bring it by as a gift for what I had done for him and other Airmen.

I lost it... It was one of those moments in life that I will always remember... And yes, I took it home and filled it with gas and took it for a ride.

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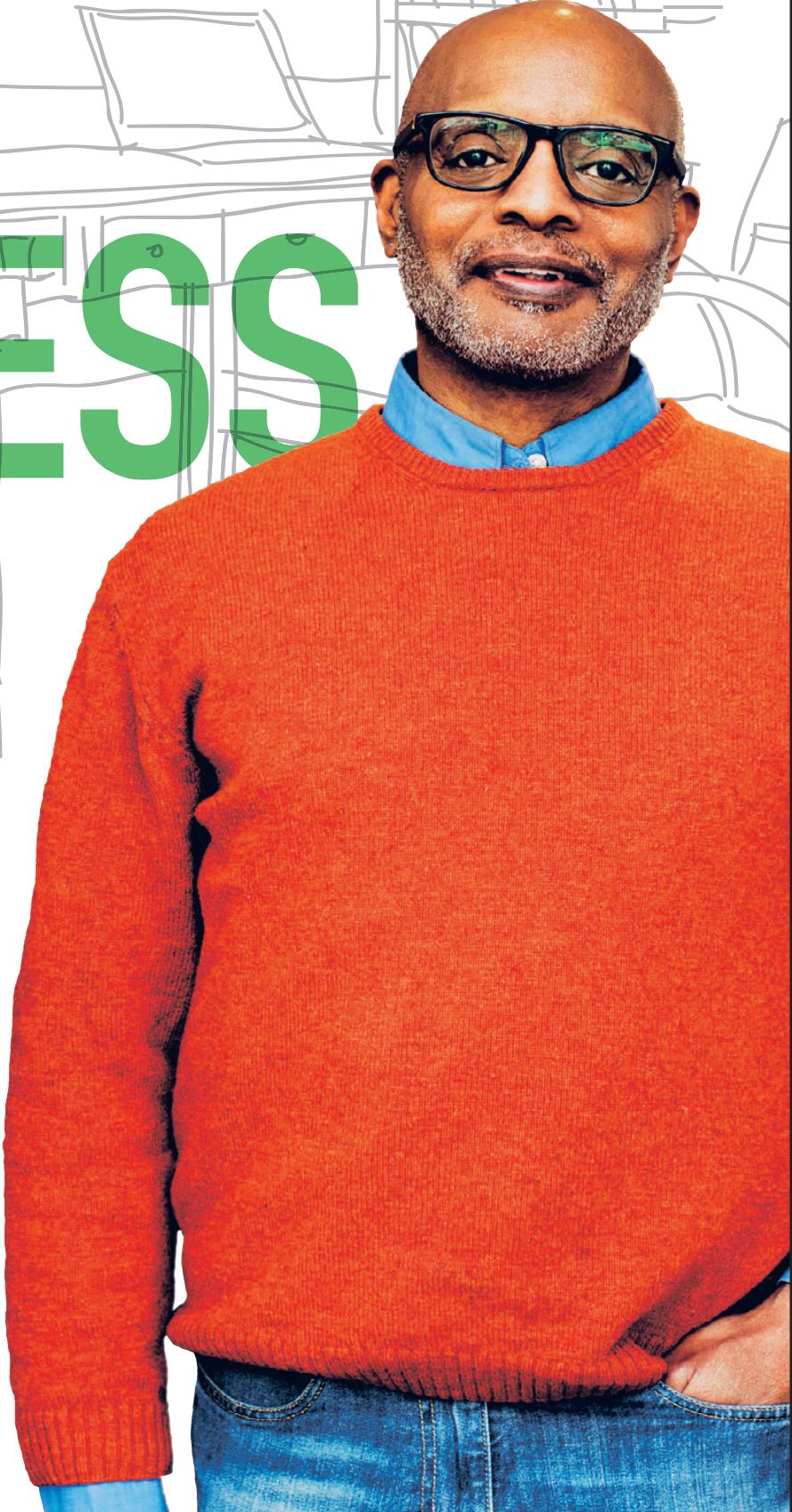
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Inter-agency team recovers cocaine near Pensacola

Special to The Star

NEW ORLEANS – The Coast Guard, Customs

and Border Protection and local agencies recovered approximately thirty-five kilograms of cocaine from the Gulf of Mexico, south of Pensacola on Sunday.

Coast Guard Sector

Mobile watchstanders received a notification about 6 p.m. Saturday from a good Samaritan

of a bale of cocaine floating in the water south of Pensacola.

The bale was recovered

the following morning after an investigation and search by law enforcement agencies.

TRIUMPH

From Page A1

Questions remain about the project as Triumph staff continues its review.

The likelihood, Port Authority chair Guerry Magidson said, is additional questions from Triumph staff and possible modifications to the project.

"The meetings went well," Yeager said, adding that the county is waiting for a decision from Triumph.

The full Triumph board meets next week.

Emerging from those meetings, participants said, were positive comments from Triumph and St. Joe about moving

forward – depending on the outcome of the Triumph decision on the dry dock project – concerning applying for dollars to dredge the shipping channel.

The Port Authority currently holds state and federal permits to dredge the shipping channel to the authorized depth of 35-feet, with an additional two feet around the turning basin.

The Port Authority has also long had an agreement for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to undertake the project once funding was secured.

Using a \$1 million grant from the Florida Department of Transportation, the Port Authority has also completed engineering for the infrastructure required to handle what would be the

moving of some 5 million cubic yards of spoil.

The cost estimate for the dredging is \$33 million, with another \$14-\$15 million for construction of spoil site infrastructure, primarily an extensive berm system.

Magidson said the Port Authority is working with the Army Corps on the dredging project with a goal of reducing costs.

To dredge the channel to 30-feet or 32-feet in depth, with an additional foot around the turning basin, has been considered and Magidson said a report on cost reduction is expected from the Corps.

Magidson said research indicates 80 percent of shipping vessels would still be able to access the port. "That would bring down

the costs of the berms, and we would only need to use one spoil site," Magidson said.

The Tier 1 site, the former paper mill site, would not be needed as the Tier 2 site, along the Intracoastal Canal, would be sufficient, he added.

"A couple of years down the road, once ships are coming in and the tonnage is going up, we can come back and dredge to the authorized depth," Magidson said.

Any Triumph funding that would be sought would be matched with what is hoped would be a state appropriation.

Five years ago, the state earmarked \$20 million for dredging; that money has been used elsewhere but

FDOT officials pledged the money would be available if and when needed.

The Port Authority is working with the FDOT and Florida Ports Council on potential paths forward.

Also, participants in the discussions said FDOT District III Director Phillip Gainer said he would recommend the state release some \$6 million earmarked at least five years ago for repairs to the rail line connecting the port to points north.

St. Joe and Genesee Wyoming have pledged to match that funding and St. Joe officials are eager to move ahead on the rail work, Magidson said.

"With the rail work done I think we will have multiple companies saying they

would step forward and ship through the port," Magidson said.

Development of the Port of Port St. Joe was one of the main priorities identified by a study to create a freight logistics zone between Gulf and Gadsden counties which was approved last year. Creating a working port in Port St. Joe has long been identified by regional economic development officials as a critical step not only in the transformation of Gulf County, but a four or five-county region.

"We are focused on the money for the dry dock, but our focus has expanded to money for the dredging," Magidson said. "I'm positive about the future for the port."

PARKS

From Page A1

And those concerns have been a major voice dividing city commissioners in what has become something of a warming potato for local elected officials, county and city.

For several months, former Commissioner Rex Buzzett urged city commissioners toward agreement on a plan to present to the county.

Waste time, Buzzett warned several times, and the county may just walk away from the idea.

Even though the concept of improving the 10th Street Park started a year ago with the Board of County Commissioners, wishing to focus away from a sports complex on Field of Dreams Drive while spending revenue from a fifth bed tax penny aimed at parks and recreation – and, initially, Field of Dreams.

That idea of more than a decade, a joint venture for a sports complex across from

the Gulf/Franklin Center, included in a wide-ranging interlocal agreement, was abandoned by both city and county officials after the Great Recession.

County commissioners will have the final say on whether or not it will spend more than \$800,000 of bed tax dollars on the project, but have put the burden of a final plan on the city.

And that is where the process had bogged since the first conceptual plan was unveiled, and unanimously approved by city and county, early this year.

SEE MORE ONLINE AT STARFL.COM

Notice of Public Hearing City of Port St. Joe, Florida Second Public Hearing Notice

The City of Port St. Joe plans to apply to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) for a FFY 2017 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) of \$650,000 in the Neighborhood Revitalization category. The activities, dollar amounts and estimated percentage benefit to low-and moderate-income persons are as follows:

Activity Name	CDBG Funding	LMI Benefit
Administration	\$52,000	N/A
Sanitary Sewers	\$350,000	89%
Street Paving	\$248,000	89%

The City will install approximately 700 LF of replacement sewer lines to serve homes on Avenue C between Martin Luther King Boulevard and Battles Street and 570 LF of trunk line replacement on Battles Street from Avenue C to Avenue A. Following sewer installation, the affected portions of Avenue C and Battles will be paved. If bidding allows additional work, the City would also construct 700 LF of replacement sewers on Avenue D between Martin Luther King Boulevard and Battles Street and 290 LF of trunk line replacement on Battles Street from Avenue D to Avenue C with repaving of those street sections. Additionally or in lieu of the additional sewer, excess funds might be applied to Section 504 ADA access deficiencies on City owned properties.

The City of Port St. Joe does not expect that anyone will be displaced due to these CDBG-funded activities. If any persons are displaced because of the planned activities, the City of Port St. Joe will assist them as described in the City's anti-displacement and relocation policy, which is available for review at City Hall.

A public hearing to provide citizens an opportunity to comment on the application will be held at the City Commission Chambers located at 2775 Garrison Avenue, Port St. Joe, FL as a part of the regular City Commission meeting scheduled to begin at 6:00pm on Tuesday, July 17th, 2018. A draft copy of the application will also be available for review during normal business hours in the Clerk's Office at City Hall by noon on July 12, 2018. Persons wanting to submit written comments on the application should send them to Charlotte Pierce, City Clerk, by e-mail at cpierce@psj.fl.gov or by mail to 305 Cecil G Costin Blvd, Port St. Joe, Florida 32456 no later than July 16th, 2018.

A copy of the final application will be available for review in the Clerk's Office at City Hall no later than August 6th, 2018. The application will be submitted to DEO on or before 5pm on August 13th, 2018. To obtain additional information concerning the application and the public hearing, contact Charlotte Pierce at the City Hall, or by phone at (850) 229-8261.

The public hearing is being conducted in a handicapped accessible location. Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in the hearing is asked to advise the City at least five days before the hearing by contacting Charlotte Pierce at the City Hall, or by phone at (850) 229-8261. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the City using the Florida Relay Service, 1(800) 955-8771 (TDD) or 1(800) 955-8770 (Voice). Any non-English speaking person wishing to attend the public hearing should contact Charlotte Pierce at the City Hall, or by phone at (850) 229-8261 at least five calendar days prior to the meeting.

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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.gulfcounty-fl.gov>, or you may request an application or additional information by contacting Joe Paul at 850-229-6125. Upon completion, applications must be submitted to Joe Paul, 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.

TURTLES

From Page A1

"We had a colder winter and historically after colder winters turtle nests are down the next season," Swindall said.

There is still roughly a month left for actual nesting, Swindall said, but nonetheless this "slower" season will likely not translate into the 200 or so nests found during recent seasons.

But the work of relocation has made the season seem much busier.

The construction path of restoration will begin near the Stump Hole rock revetment and continue to the southern boundary of Billy Joe Rish State Park.

When a nest is discovered along that 3.1 miles of beach, that nest and its precious residents, are being moved to beach north of Rish Park, near the boundary of the peninsula state park.

Depending on location of the original nest, that is trip of several miles.

"We have a little hatchery going out there," Swindall said with a laugh.

Getting there is something else entirely.

Swindall and two other volunteers underwent training for a month under the supervision of personnel from Ecological Associates.

When a nest is discovered, a careful excavation of the egg chamber takes place, with, for example, a 5-gallon bucket or similarly large container handy.

"We put some of the sand from the top of the nest at the bottom and then we very carefully take each egg and put it in the bucket," Swindall said, adding she and other volunteers are wearing surgical-type gloves.

The egg chamber, and a



In a slower than usual season, the peninsula has seen 85 nests as of Monday with roughly a month left in nesting season. [COURTESY OF FLORIDA COASTAL CONSERVANCY]

typical nest is roughly 60 centimeters by 25 centimeters, is measured to ensure that on the other side of Rish Park volunteers dig a similarly-sized chamber.

Each chamber, typically, will have 100-120 eggs.

While picking out the eggs, the volunteers will also carry as much as mom's mucous along the way with them; individual turtles pass on key nutrients to their offspring.

"We are changing our gloves with each nest because we don't want to cross-contaminate any nests or eggs," Swindall said.

Some of the sand surrounding and beneath the egg chamber is also carried away.

And once the chamber is cleared, on to north of Rish Park to reconstruct, as close to what mom's flippers created as possible, a new nest.

Once the sand and eggs are safely tucked back below the sand, the typical turtle patrol routine completes the work, wiring over the nest with wooden poles at four corners and crime scene tape.

"It is no joke, it is very hard work," Swindall said.

And every bit of it must be documented.

The nests will remain inside their new digs until



With each relocation, precise measurements must be taken to ensure a similar nest to the north. [COURTESY OF FLORIDA COASTAL CONSERVANCY]

the hatchlings emerge later this summer.

Swindall and the turtle patrol volunteers are not the only ones surveying wildlife

within the construction path of beach restoration.

Long-time environmental advocate and turtle patrol leader Barbara Eells is tasked

with surveying and documenting any impacts to the shore and water birds along the peninsula.

"My job this time of season will be to count all the birds on the shore, which includes existing nesting or brooding birds, new nesting endeavors and endangered and protected species," Eells said.

Eells, who has worked with county consulting engineer MRD Associates for years, does not relocate any nests or birds.

"As the sand is pumped I will work every day ... then two times per month except during nesting season and then once a month after renourishment," Eells said.

"Part of my job is to alert the project manager to the nesting areas and brooding areas for birds."

The beach restoration is scheduled to begin in early August, pending receipt of the \$2.8 million the county has coming through the RESTORE Act.

The county's spending plan and application for the money has been approved; the check is expected this month.

The work will begin near the Stump Hole and move north. The contractor, Manson, is estimating the work will span just 45 days.

Other than the beeping of vehicles moving in reverse, the prospectus for the job indicates the project will not "produce much sound."

The public will be prohibited from work area, which usually extends about 1,000 feet down the beach and moves with the project's forward progress.

Temporary fencing will surround the work area while assuring tourists and homeowners access to property.

Because the project will be advancing fairly rapidly, inconveniences should be experienced for only a short time, according to the scope from Manson.



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16 CHRYSLER 300C WHITE, 4DR, ROOF, PC5664	\$23,990
17 CHRYSLER 300C WHITE, 4DR, PC5664	\$24,990
17 CHRYSLER PACIFICA L 24K MILES, SILVER, LIMITED, PA5724	\$36,990
13 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY P0584A	\$12,990
11 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY SILVER, P0594A	\$10,990
17 DODGE CHALLENGER 23K MILES, BLACK, PC5710	\$28,990
16 DODGE CHALLENGER BLACK, P0132A	\$36,990
17 DODGE CHARGER RT YELLOW, LOADED, PC5780	\$38,990
18 DODGE CHARGER SX GRAY, 14K MILES, PC5768	\$25,990
18 DODGE CHARGER SX 21K MILES, BLACK, PC5769	\$25,990
07 DODGE DAKOTA QUAD BROWN, PC5534A	\$7,990
14 DODGE RAM BLACK, N0916A	\$35,988
15 DODGE CHALLENGER RED, PC5626	\$28,990
14 DODGE DURANGO LI GOLD, EC503242	\$29,998
15 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN RED, P0310A	\$17,998
14 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN RED, N0978A	\$16,990
17 DODGE JOURNEY CROSSROADS WHITE, PA5675	\$21,990
17 FORD EXPEDITION 14K MILES, WHITE, PA5733	\$39,990
16 FORD F150 SUPERCAB 15K MILES, GRAY, N0759A	\$28,990
14 FORD F150 SUPER CAB 4X4, GRAY, N0875A	\$28,990
15 FORD F150 SUPER CAB 4X4, RED, 19KMILES, N1047D	\$31,990
16 FORD F150 SUPER CAB 38K MILES, SILVER, N1471A	\$27,990
09 FORD F150 SUPER CAB 2WD, RED, P0300C1	\$11,990
17 FORD F150 SUPER CAB 17K MILES, BLUE, PA5683	\$38,990
16 FORD F150 SUPER CAB 34K MILES, GRAY, PA5744	\$36,900
16 FORD F150 SUPER CAB GRAY, PA5745	\$30,990

16 FORD F150 SUPER CAB GRAY, PA5757	\$36,990
17 FORD MUSTANG ONLY 500 MILES! WHITE, P0436A	\$27,998
12 FORD MUSTANG 52K MILES, BLACK, P0547A	\$12,990
16 FORD MUSTANG BLACK, PC5618A	\$20,990
17 FORD MUSTANG 15K MILES, SILVER, PA5747	\$27,990
16 FORD FUSION SE BROWN, PA5331	\$19,999
16 FORD F150 XLT 4X4 SILVER, PC5310	\$37,889
17 FORD F150 SUPERCAB XLT SILVER, AUTOMATIC, 17K MILES, PC5335	\$34,888
16 FORD F150 SUPERCREW BLACK, 4X4, PC5628	\$36,990
15 FORD F150 SUPER CAB BLUE, N1340B	\$33,998
16 FORD TRANSIT WHITE, PC5350	\$23,888
11 GMC SIERRA C15 GRAY, PC5511B	\$18,990
14 GMC SIERRA C15 SLT, BLACK, PC5657A	\$32,990
13 GMC TERRAIN SL GRAY, P0099A	\$12,950
16 GMC YUKON DENALI LOADED, REAL WHITE, P0604A	\$58,990
13 HONDA ACCORD EX-L BLUE, PC5777	\$18,990
17 HYUNDAI SONATA SE SILVER, PA5521	\$18,998
13 HYUNDAI SONATA SE BLUE, N1389A	\$15,998
15 HYUNDAI SONATA SPORT BLACK, N1269A	\$17,998
16 HYUNDAI SONATA SPORT BLUE, P0370A	\$17,990
16 HYUNDAI SONATA SPORT RED, PC5696	\$17,990
15 HYUNDAI SONATA SPORT BLACK, FH179501	\$18,998
15 HYUNDAI AZERA LIMITED LOADED, BLACK, PC5763A	\$19,998
17 JAGUAR XE PREMIUM RED, 13K MILES, PA5703	\$30,990
17 JEEP CHEROKEE 5K MILES, RED, P0537B	\$21,990
17 JEEP CHEROKEE 8K MILES, PA5538A	\$21,990
17 JEEP CHEROKEE 5K MILES, BLUE, P0575A1	\$31,990
17 JEEP CHEROKEE 8K MILES, BLACK, PA5679	\$28,990
17 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE 29K MILES, SILVER, PA5668A	\$33,990
16 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE 12K MILES, WHITE, PA5723	\$32,990
17 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE 8K MILES, BLACK, PA5679	\$39,990
18 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE 14K MILES, RED, PA5731	\$37,990
18 JEEP WRANGLER 575 MILES, WHITE, N1415A	\$31,990
16 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED, 25K MILES, PC5692	\$38,990
11 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE 67K MILES, BLACK, PA5479A	\$19,990
17 JEEP COMPASS SP WHITE, PC5583	\$16,990
17 JEEP COMPASS SP GRAY, PC5584	\$16,990
12 JEEP WRANGLER S RED, P0281A	\$22,990
15 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED BLACK, P0216A	\$32,990

08 JEEP LIBERTY BLUE, PC5573	\$9,998
17 JEEP PATRIOT WHITE, PC5562	\$14,998
10 LEXUS IS 250 COV. GRAY, P0628C	\$13,990
17 LINCOLN CONTINENTAL BLACK, PA5737	\$57,990
07 LINCOLN NAVIGATOR RED, PC5580A	\$11,998
14 LINCOLN NAVIGATOR BRONZE, N1018A	\$33,998
17 LINCOLN NAVIGATOR BLACK, PC5594	\$46,998
17 LINCOLN MKX RESERVE BLACK, PA5713	\$36,990
17 LINCOLN MKX RESERVE BLACK, PA5730	\$36,990
17 LINCOLN MKX RESERVE WHITE, PA5738	\$38,990
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16 LINCOLN MKX SELECT WHITE, PA5687	\$35,990
14 NISSAN MAXIMA S/S BLACK, PC5623	\$17,990
13 NISSAN TITAN S/S/V RED, 4X4, P0930C	\$26,990
PORSCHE BOXSTER S RED, N1415B	\$24,990
15 RAM 1500 LARAMIE RED, PA5714A	\$32,990
17 RAM 1500 LARAMIE RED, PA5722	\$36,990
16 RAM 1500 SLT BLACK, PC5379	\$33,998
16 RAM 1500 SLT SILVER, 4X4, N1408A	\$32,588
14 RAM	

OUTDOORS

CONTACT US
Email outdoor news to
tcroft@starfl.com

St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge 50th bash



Star Staff Report

The St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge celebrated its 50th anniversary as a Refuge last week.

On Thursday, the Friends of St. Vincent invited Refuge retirees and volunteers to a luncheon reunion.

The following day, the festivities continued with the public in on the fun.

In all, close to 350 attended. The party started with a trip on the government barge from Indian Pass to St. Vincent Island. Visitors were greeted by staff from St. Marks NWR and St. Vincent NWR where US Fish and Wildlife firefighters displayed equipment and had a drone exercise.

St. Marks staff brought natural hides and skull and scat replicas of native animals.

Other exhibitors included the Florida State Park Service, Florida Fish and Wildlife Service with a shorebird display and a live ghost crab in a tank, and the St. Joseph Bay Buffer Preserve had a native rare plant booth.

Hot dogs were served by St. Marks grill team.

Along the beach, Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve presented shells, a Loggerhead sea turtle laid a nest on the beach which has been protected



[COURTESY OF DEBBIE HOOPER PHOTOS AT JOEBAY.COM]



from predators by use of a special self-release cage.

Continuing on near the protected western "Point" area, spotting scopes were available for bird viewing. Everyone was able to explore and discover the beauty of the island.

While one family

brought bikes and made use of the oyster shell roads, many others partook with a splash in the pristine Gulf waters.

It was a day of appreciation of this most important uninhabited barrier island which is a haven for threatened and endangered birds, animals

and sea turtles. Friends of St. Vincent NWR is working to fund and develop an interpretive center to bring the island to the mainland for visitors and school educational opportunities with an expected opening winter, 2019. To learn more, visit: stvincentfriends.com.



Thanks for the festival success



[COURTESY FLORIDA COASTAL CONSERVANCY PHOTOS]



Special to The Star

The Florida Coastal Conservancy and Forgotten Coast Sea Turtle Center thanks everyone who made the 3rd Annual Forgotten

Coast Sea Turtle Festival a rousing success. Despite rain throughout the day, this year's event attracted a large number of locals and visitors to the area, and the crowds were inquisitive

and supportive of local sea turtles and coastal conservation efforts. This Festival could not have happened without the city of Port St. Joe, the Owners' Association at Marina Cove,

our volunteers, sponsors, vendors, and attendees, and we are deeply grateful for their support. Next year's Forgotten Coast Sea Turtle Festival will be June 30, 2019.

We have everything you need for outdoor Summer fun!

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FISHING REPORT



We have had a lot of rain and storms the last couple weeks and this has made fishing a little difficult having to outrun the storms or being run off the beach while trying to fish. Never the less fishing has not been bad on the Forgotten Coast. Flats fishing has not been bad but you have to be on the water very early and hit it hard with live shrimp or soft plastics. Trout and Redfish are being taken and plenty of slot fish out there. Flounder has been real good since spring and we've seen some nice fish. Our favorite bait is Bull Minnows but white or cream colored grubs will take fish as well. Off shore Snapper continues to be great with many very nice fish showing up. With only a couple weeks left for Snapper get out there anglers and make it happen. Keep in mind though that next month we'll move in to Scallop season if everything stays as it is the season will open Aug. 17 and run till Sept. 30.

SPORTS

Pickleball seeks its place among local sports

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

The headline here is a tad misleading.

Pickleball has already found at least a niche on the local sports scene.

Dr. Rod Riegler, who organizes local games, has some 50 names on his email list.

A group, averaging about 20-25 regulars, assembles three times a week on the tennis courts at Frank Pate Park.

On the other hand, those folks need more than a niche.

"That's why we are really trying to lobby to increase the number of courts" in the community, Riegler said.

Traction among local officials, who have been hearing about the burgeoning popularity for several years, has been iffy.

While there has been much talk about the popularity of the sport, and its foreignness for local officials, creating standalone pickleball courts in the county has yet to happen.

That appears to be slowly changing.

As part of an expansion of Salinas Park, four pickleball courts are slated to be added gulf side.

The city of Port St. Joe has allowed local pickleball aficionados to paint lines for courts on the Frank Pate Park tennis court, but have been unsuccessful in identifying or creating a spot for the sport.

The 10th Street Park



Pickleball is most often played with doubles. [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

expansion being proposed by city and county officials includes the construction of at least four pickleball courts, but the overall plan has been the subject of controversy.

And one of those criticisms, citing reports easily available online, center on the noise level of pickleball and its place in a residential neighborhood.

The game is louder than tennis and concerns have caused the industry to focus on producing even lighter, more sound-absorbing equipment, even a new generation of pickleball.

However, in the case of the

local park, Riegler considered the point somewhat moot.

"We don't play at night, we don't play early in the morning, typically," Riegler said.

It is little wonder the sport is bursting in popularity.

Considered the fastest growing sport in the country, there were nearly 3 million players nationwide in 2017, according to a study by the Sports & Fitness Industry.

Numbers have only grown since.

For a number of reasons, the sport is most attractive to, let us say, the more mature set.

The Villages in Central

Florida, a sprawling retirement community, has hundreds of pickleball courts and much of the sport's growth includes those who would be considered part of the Baby Boomer generation.

The game is played on a court one-third the size of a tennis court, 20-feet by 44-feet.

The ball is a light, plastic sphere, larger than a tennis ball and not unlike a whiffle ball, though it flies with none of the wobble of a whiffle ball.

The paddles, likewise, are very light.

"You don't get tennis elbow," Riegler said. "The

sport is much easier on the body."

There is little to no running or quick sprinting.

Pickleball combines elements of badminton, table tennis and other paddle sports, Riegler added saying it most resembles table tennis in that to score a player must be serving.

"It's much easier to pick up than tennis," Riegler added. "The court is one third the size, so there is not all the chasing of balls and the like."

Games are quick, roughly 15 minutes in length, the winner determined by the first to 11 points with at least a two-point margin.

The game can be played by people of all ages and skill levels and most players are in as much for the camaraderie as the sports.

And, in its most popular form, doubles is the norm, cutting down on the physicality and ramping up the camaraderie.

"You usually play doubles and it is a very social game," Riegler said. "A lot of people play for the social interaction."

Riegler has been playing about six years.

He picked learned of it from a resident of South Gulf who had lived in the Villages and brought his love of the sport north.

Riegler and partner were runners-up in the state tournament and a club operating out of Mexico Beach and Port St. Joe was recognized in 2015 by the United States Pickleball Association.

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SCENE AROUND



Capt. Terrell Adams coming in from a sunset cruise, causing a partial eclipse of the sun. [COURTESY OF JAMES MORPETH]



Enjoying scuba diving and seeing seahorses. [COURTESY OF KAREN AND GRIFF GAINNIE]



Waiting for the gallery opening at WindMark. [COURTESY OF OCIA RATLIFF]



Sunset. [COURTESY OF TAYLOR BOULANGER]



On alert. [COURTESY OF CAROL BUIKEMA]



Nature's patterns at low tide. [COURTESY OF RON RUDOLPH]

Community photography show Sept. 7-Oct. 4

Photographers of all skill levels are invited to enter their work into the Community Photography Show at The Joe Center for the Arts. A total of 5 photos may be entered in the following categories: Landscapes/Seascapes, Nature, Sunrises/Sunsets and Creative. Entry fee is \$30/member and \$45/non-member. Entry deadline is Aug. 20. A Prospectus with information regarding photo requirements and the entry form can be found at [www.TheJoeCenter.org](http://TheJoeCenter.org). Click on the Call for Entries tab.

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



A blazing sunset over St. Joseph Bay. [COURTESY OF LAURA AT DRAGONFLY PHOTOGRAPHY]

dragonfly
PHOTO DESIGN

COMMUNITY

'Honor Walk' campaign hits midpoint

By Tim Croft

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

The old fundraising adage holds the first \$150,000 is the easy part.

A fundraising campaign to build an "Honor Walk" on the bluff overlooking the Gulf of Mexico at Veterans Memorial Park on Beacon Hill is halfway to its goal.

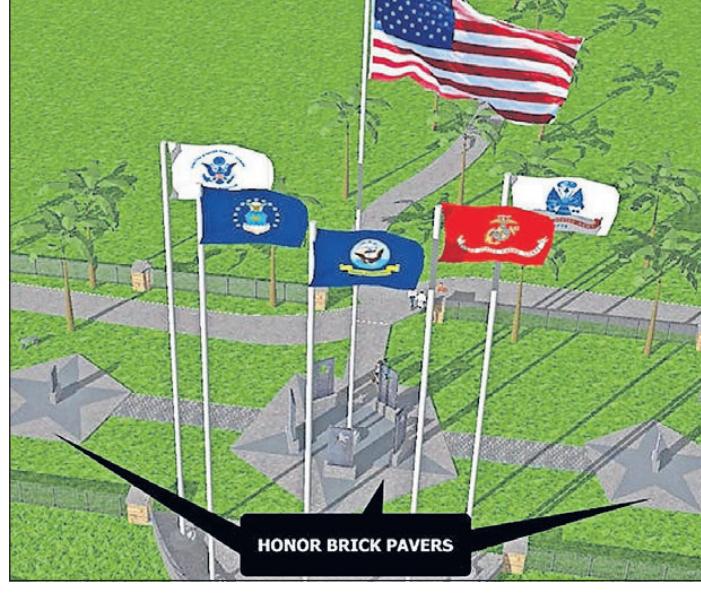
Pledging to seek \$300,000, the campaign, which began shortly after the dawn of the year, has reached \$150,000, said Rodney Herring, a member of the committee charged with shepherding the project.

"Pledging to seek \$300,000, the campaign, which began shortly after the dawn of the year, has reached \$150,000. I'm amazed we've come this far this soon"

Rodney Herring

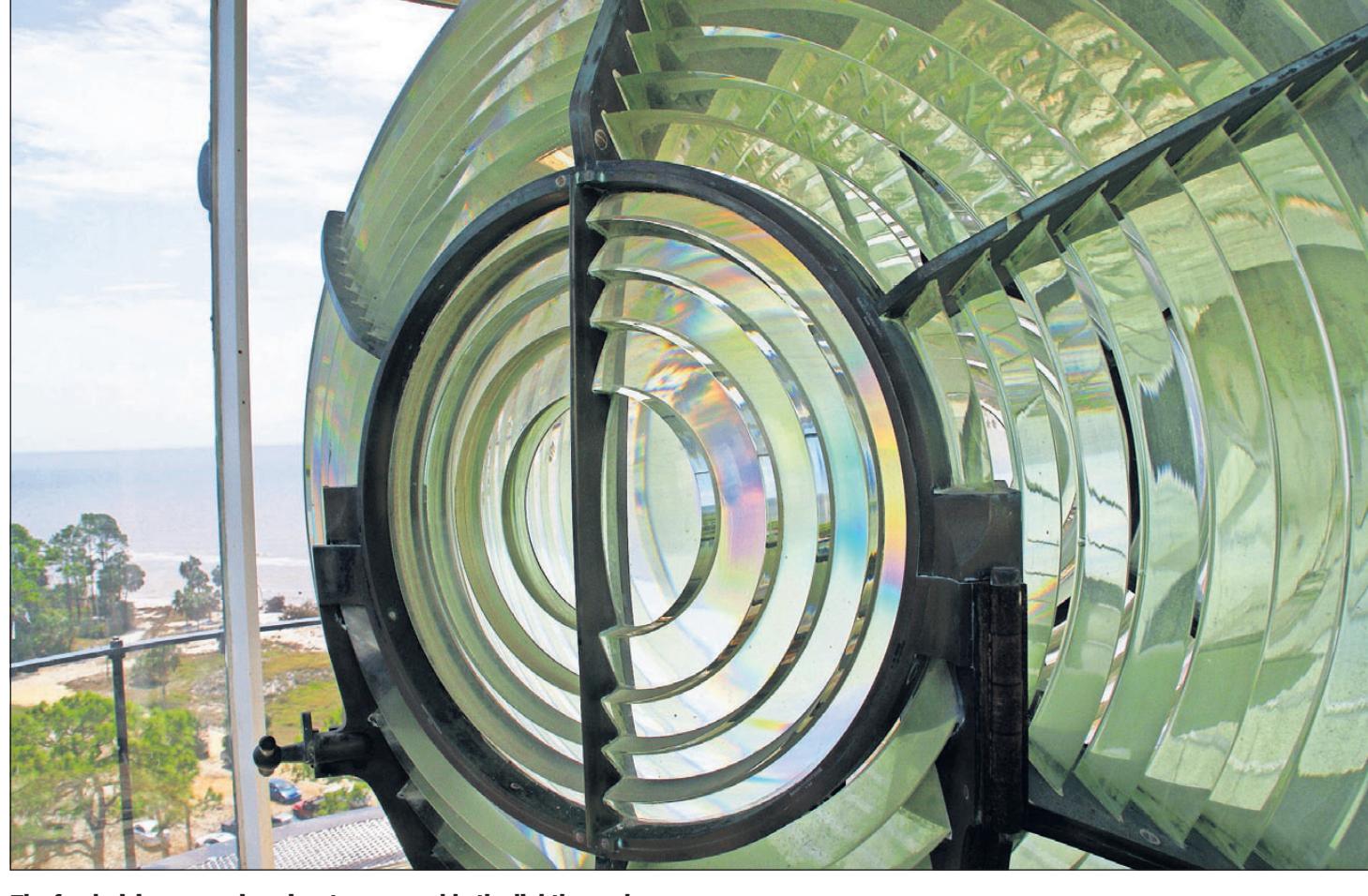
"I'm amazed we've come this far this soon" Herring said last weekend during the annual meeting of the Coastal Community Association of Gulf County.

See HONOR, B7



An artist's rendering of the proposed "Honor Walk" [FILE PHOTO]

Campaign underway to create lighthouse museum



The fundraising campaign aims to reassemble the lighthouse lens. [COURTESY OF BEN GIBSON]

By Tim Croft

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

Since its move to Port St. Joe four years ago, the Cape San Blas Lighthouse has been seen as the potential anchor for a broader expression of the local maritime history.

The Joseph Historical Society, a non-profit which has spearheaded efforts to save the lighthouse for decades, has taken the initial steps to make that vision tangible.

A fundraising campaign is underway to raise the money to bring the original lighthouse lens back to the community for display as part of a maritime museum.

The museum would ultimately be housed in what is known as the Eglin keepers' quarters, which has been restored in the past year.

The lighthouse gift shop is within the keepers' quarters known as "Sleeping Beauty."

See LENS, B7



The lens would be the anchor of a maritime museum. [COURTESY OF BEN GIBSON]

TRIVIA FUN

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

1. Whose quotes included, "It

does not make sense to hire smart people and tell them what to do; we hire smart people to tell us what to do?"

Henry Ford, Steve Jobs, Dave Thomas, George Eastman

2. What's the focus of the famed Patterson/Gimlin short film clip?

JFK assassination, Loch Ness monster, Alien being, Bigfoot

3. In 2017, the Postal Service

ordered more than how many million rubber bands?

18, 235, 412, 660

4. What was the first regularly appearing TV series of the late Dennis Hopper?

"JAG," "E-Ring," "24," "NCIS"

5. Which state has the town with the highest ZIP code number?

Alaska, Hawaii, New York,

Lighthouse Utilities addressing issues

Short- and long-term solutions in pipeline

By Tim Croft

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

Thus far, 2018 has not been kind to either Lighthouse Utilities or its customers.

Plagued by unforeseen "acts of God," the utility, which provides potable water to much of South Gulf, has experienced a series of issues that have impacted service.

Problems have become even more pronounced with the onset of the summer tourist season and the thousands that bulge the peninsula and Cape.

The utility has even had to tap into its interlocal agreement and purchase water from the city of Port St. Joe to maintain pressure and reserves.

"I apologize for the issues we've had in recent weeks," said owner Jay Rish last week during the annual meeting of the Coastal Community Association of Gulf County. "As the father of two young children who lives on the system, I am sensitive to the situation."

"It has not been fun ... We were, unfortunately, not able to foresee these events."

The problems began in February when a motor burned out and had to be replaced, but hit critical mass when the utility's auxiliary well was rendered unusable due to saltwater intrusion.

Toss in a lightning strike, a couple of fires and Memorial Day, Rish said, and the resulting drop in water reserves and pressure in the system, and one had a "worst-case scenario," Rish said.

Reserves, Rish said, are back up to acceptable levels and the purchases from the city have eased the strain on the system.

Those purchases have ranged, on average, to 50,000-60,000 per day, according to City Manager Jim Anderson; city commissioners approved the purchases early last month.

Rish noted the utility was paying more to the city per gallon than Lighthouse customers were being charged.

Rish said he decided to fix the auxiliary well despite recommendations otherwise.

The problem, he said, is about one-third of the way down the well, where a weakening pipe is causing the saltwater intrusion.

See ISSUES, B7

The utility has even had to tap into its interlocal agreement and purchase water from the city of Port St. Joe to maintain pressure and reserves.



Wilson Casey

Oregon

6. What does the "make" of a vehicle mean?

Rating, VIN, Manufacturer, Driver

ANSWERS: 1. Steve Jobs, 2. Bigfoot, 3. 660, 4. "E-Ring," 5. Alaska (Ketchikan 99950), 6. Manufacturer

SOCIETY**Troop 347 earns two troop, scout awards at camp**

Special to The Star

A little over a week ago Boy Scout Troop 347 attended scout camp at the Gulf Coast Council's Spanish Trails Scout Reservation in Defuniak Springs. Attending this camp were Andrew Sheppard, Aydan Davis, Gregory Dean and James Smith, all crossover scouts from Cub Scout Pack 347 headed by Cub Master Abby Cozine.

Also in attendance at this first camp of the year assisting Miss Abby and Mr. Bill were Assistant Senior Patrol Leader Fisher Van Der Tulip and Tenderfoot Scout Sam Farr.

During the weeklong camping program the younger scouts worked on rank advancement requirements to advance

in rank towards Eagle. All four scouts earned the rank of Tenderfoot and have almost completed Second-Class and First-Class requirements which they will complete within the next five months. These young scouts also received merit badges for First Aid, Astronomy, Art and Pioneering to help get them started towards their Eagle rank. The leaders were so proud that for the first time our first-year scouts all passed the BSA 100-yard swim test. Great job scouts.

Sam Farr completed Safety, Emergency Preparedness, Citizenship in the World and Leather Working merit badges.

ASPL Fisher Van Der Tulip Completed Archery, Safety, Digital Technology, Chemistry, Electronics,



[SPECIAL TO THE STAR PHOTOS]

Electricity and Life Saving merit badges.

These were not the only highlights of the week as the troop earned a few awards.

First, the scouts worked hard along with their leaders to be the best troop in camp and after working and competing on all

requirements they earned Honor Troop,

Not only did they earn this award for the first time in scouting history of Port St Joe the Troop earned the Caruso Award for its dedication and loyalty to our council camping program.

The troop will be

presented with a plaque from our council in August and our name will be placed on the wall of our council office in Pensacola. And to top it off we had two scouts earn top scout awards in the following areas: Aydan Davis received the top first-year Pathfinder award and

Andrew Sheppard earned the Top Scout in his troop as the individual who best exemplified what a scout is.

Congrats to the scouts and the Troop for their accomplishments and keep up the great work as you represent Port St Joe at the highest level.

Telling a story through decorations at Cross Shores Corner

By Shelly Cain

Special to The Star

How do you create a story? What do you have on your walls? At my house I have a few framed paintings my grandmother and my daughter painted and a few photos. It's minimal, but it's part of my story. My story tells you my love of horses as a child and my love of sand, water, and Easter Lillies. Some people like a lot of photographs, in frames, clustered together. Some enjoy prints of flowers or landscapes and decorative

items or words. Some people enjoy a theme. It all tells a story of who we are.

A lot of people call Cross Shores home. They want to bring their items from home to decorate their space. I enjoy visiting with everyone and it never ceases to amaze me just how different everyone is! Each decoration, each picture, each frog, each blanket or decorative pillow tells a story. We love getting to know our residents in a more personal way and they love to tell their stories.



[FILE PHOTO]

If you haven't assisted your friend or loved one with decorating I would encourage you to start soon! Tell us their story.

Make copies of those old family photos and create a small photo album or frame a few and hang on the wall. Maybe your

loved one was a huge sports fan and would like to theme their space! Maybe your loved one enjoys flowers. A canvas print of flowers would look pretty on their wall.

Our Care Center is looking for decorative items that tell a story from around the world. Maybe you have a pair of wooden shoes you don't know what to do with and would like to donate. We can pair that with a picture of Holland's tulips and we have a story. Do you have a cuckoo clock? Do you have a whimsical

decorative item? The Eiffel Tower? We would love your donations so we can decorate with stories from around the world. Once I saw an old Parcheesi game hot glued to a board and hung on the wall. Every time I passed by that game I remembered how my grandma loved to cheat playing Parcheesi. She was good at it! Any similar donation from around the world and home would be appreciated. Tell us part of your story! Remember to treat everyone with importance and be kind.

How to simplify your life explored at Lifetree Café

Special to The Star

Streamlining your life by reducing possessions and making purposeful choices will be discussed 7 p.m. CT Monday, July 16 at Lifetree Café.

The program, titled "Simplify Your Life: How a Hollywood Millionaire Walked Away From It All," features a filmed interview with Tom Shadyac, a feature film director best known for Ace Ventura, The Nutty

Professor, Patch Adams, Bruce Almighty, and I Am.

"There are certain ways we are expected to behave," Shadyac said in the interview. "You ask for as much money as you can get, you buy things when you have

that money, and you get a beautiful house to accentuate your success. As I walked in that model, I felt a hypocrisy, so I called it into question."

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.

Activities at the Senior Citizens Center

Special to The Star

- Monday: Gospel Singing at 10:45 a.m.
- Tuesday: Tai Chi at 9 a.m.; Bingo at 10:45 a.m.

- Wednesday: 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).
- Thursday: Sewing and Quilting at 9 a.m.; Bingo at 10:45 a.m.
- Friday: 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.

SEE MORE ONLINE AT STARFL.COM

PET OF THE WEEK

St. Joseph Bay Humane Society

Meet Alexa, a five year old black lab. She is very intelligent and knows several commands. Alexa was picked up as a stray and would love a home to call her own. She is great with all other dogs and does not seem to be bothered by the cats. Alexa walks great on a leash and loves to be by your side. She does well in her kennel, and only wants to please. She is here waiting to meet her new family. Come check her out, along with all of our other furry friends!

If you are unable to adopt at this time, perhaps you could foster or make a donation. All pets adopted from SJBS will be current on vaccinations and spayed/neutered. Please do not hesitate to email j.stricklandsjbs@gmail.com or call the St. Joseph Bay Humane Society at 850-227-1103. Online applications and pet photos are available at www.sjbhumane.org

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Local AA meetings

Special to The Star

Port St. Joe Serenity at First United Methodist Church, located at U.S. 98 and Monument Ave., 8 p.m. ET Tuesday and Thursday.

Surfside Serenity at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, 1500 15th Street in Mexico Beach; 7 p.m. CT Friday (closed discussion).

Wewahitchka Serenity

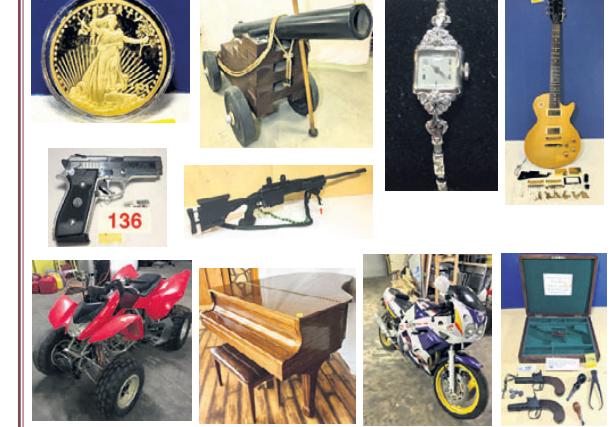
Group at Wewahitchka Community Center, 314 N. 3rd Street. 7 p.m. CT Monday, 7 p.m. CT Wednesday.

The local AA Hotline is 850-653-2000.

Al-Anon

Al-Anon meeting in Apalachicola, Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. ET, Trinity Episcopal Church Benedict Hall, 79 6th St.

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2017 PRINCIPAL
NAA

SCHOOL NEWS

DAR Essay winners

Star Staff Report

The local chapter of the DAR recently honored the winners of its annual essay contest. Over the coming weeks we will print those essays.

This week, the final essay, from ninth-grade home-schooled Morgan Lakey, who wrote about Christopher Columbus.

King Ferdinand and Christopher Columbus By Morgan Lakey

In 1484 I heard that a young Italian explorer named Christopher Columbus had asked King John of Portugal to sponsor his idea, to get to Asia faster, by sailing westward. Almost everyone thought this idea was insane since it was a belief that the earth was flat, and that sailing West would cause you to fall off the edge of the earth.

"They thought the earth was flat?" Asked the kids that gathered around me as I told the story of Columbus.

Yes, even though it sounded crazy, many people really believed that. However, King John didn't believe in this superstition and was very interested in his idea until Christopher told him his conditions for making the trip. Columbus wanted the title Admiral of the Ocean Sea and Governor of all the lands he conquered. He also asked for a percentage of all wealth he acquired for the crown. This was absolutely unheard of back then since the king usually took all land and wealth explorers found. King John agreed to form a committee to study his idea. They discussed this for a whole year before they declined him saying that it was too risky of an investment.

I didn't hear of Columbus again until 1486 when his friends contacted my wife, Queen Isabella. They asked if Christopher Columbus could meet her and pitch his idea about sailing west to Asia.

"Now, the Queen is a very smart woman and is very educated. That wasn't very common back then and I think Columbus was a little shocked that she understood his ideas," I chuckled. "She wanted to sponsor him right away," I continued, "but with so much money going into the war with the Moors (a group of people I was determined to get rid of once and for all), she didn't think it was prudent to give Columbus the money right then."

So, she formed a



[SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

committee to study his idea and gave him a little money to keep him waiting. I could tell she was excited to see his dream come true.

Columbus had to wait six years before we contacted him again. Queen Isabella and I were still fighting in the war with the Moors, but were trying to work out a deal with him through correspondence. We were not able to come to an agreement. In January 1492, Spain won the war against the Moors and I was finally able to meet Columbus in person. He knew the war was over and must have thought that we could now afford to give into his demands. He was cocky and asked the same conditions as he had with King John.

Now he also wanted these conditions passed down to his descendants.

This was utterly ridiculous to me and I declined him, saying that I would not reconsider. However, the Royal Treasurer told Queen Isabella and me that it would be worth the risk and money to get possible glory and wealth.

The Queen was all for sponsoring Columbus. While I wasn't sure that it was a good idea, I finally agreed in order to make her happy.

By the time the Royal Treasurer had convinced me to help Columbus, he had already left for Cordoba. We swiftly sent a messenger urging Columbus to come back to Spain. After months of negotiations, we finally settled all of the details. We agreed for him to become Admiral of the Ocean Seas and Governor of all lands he

discovered. These titles would also be given to his descendants. Columbus would collect 10 percent of all the wealth he gained for the crown. However, he would only be rewarded if he succeeded on his journey.

We decided to give him two of the three ships he asked for and let him pay for the third one. We gave him the Nina and the Pinta.

Columbus set out on his journey Aug. 3, 1492. He conquered many lands and people in the name of Spain. He also discovered many incredible things such as strange fruits and animals, large nuggets of gold and a type of red skinned people, he chose to name Indians. Columbus brought all of his discoveries to us when he returned to Spain, March 15, 1493.

Christopher was greatly honored for everything he discovered and went on many more expeditions for Spain. He even set up a Spanish settlement in the new world he discovered.

"Grampa Ferdinand," asked my grandson and heir, Charles, "why did you decide to hire Columbus instead of a Spanish sailor? Why would you hire a foreign explorer for such an important journey?"

All of the children looked at me inquisitively.

"Well," I replied, "he was a visionary and had ideas that were way before his time. Even though I hate to admit it, no Spanish sailor had ever come up with ideas like Columbus. Also, the benefits outweighed the risks.

He had a way for us to gain land and money that we had lost in the war. In addition, since he was volunteering to go, it saved me from sending Spanish explorers to unknown, possibly dangerous places."

Instead, Columbus hired ninety Spanish sailors for his trip. This way, he and his crew took responsibility for their own lives.

"However, the main reason is that your grandmother was determined to

sponsor him. She never doubted his idea would work," I said.

Even though there were many advantages to hiring Columbus, there were also some disadvantages that I had to consider.

I had to pay Columbus more as a foreigner than if he had been Spanish. Also, it looked bad to my subjects that I would sponsor an Italian man instead of my own people. Besides, it was very unlikely that his idea would actually work, and I stood to lose a lot of

money.

Even though I had my doubts, we ended up sponsoring Columbus. Fortunately, he didn't let us down. He discovered many new lands and made us more money than we had before. Looking back, I now realize that while it was nice to become rich, the most important aspect was that we made a new friend and played an important part in the discovery of our world."

I took a deep breath and stood up.

"Well, then, that's the end of my story. I better get back to work. I do have a kingdom to run, you know," I said jokingly.

They stood up, bowed and curtsied and ran off. I could hear them talking about Columbus and their dreams for the future. Smiling, I realized that was the fifth time I had told that story to my grandson and his friends this week. I never tire of telling the story of Christopher Columbus to the children of the castle,

in hopes that they will be inspired to pursue their dreams. I want them to believe that they can do anything even when the world is against them. I can only hope that hearing about Columbus' determination and perseverance will help them follow their own heart. Most of all, I hope someone believes in them enough to help their dreams come true.

Caitlin Godwin named to UA Dean's List

Special to The Star

TUSCALOOSA, AL -- Caitlin E Godwin of Port Saint Joe was named to The University of Alabama Dean's List for spring 2018.

A total of 11,347 students enrolled during the 2018 spring semester at UA were named to the Dean's List with an academic record of 3.5 or above or the President's List with an academic

record of 4.0 (all A's).

The UA Dean's and President's lists recognize full-time undergraduate students. The lists do not apply to graduate students or undergraduate students who take less than a full course load. The University of Alabama, the state's oldest and largest public institution of higher education, is a student-centered research university that draws

the best and brightest to an academic community committed to providing a premier undergraduate and graduate education. UA is dedicated to achieving excellence in scholarship, collaboration and intellectual engagement; providing public outreach and service to the state of Alabama and the nation; and nurturing a campus environment that fosters collegiality, respect and inclusivity.

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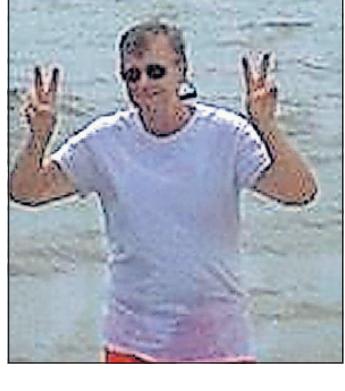
FAITH

MORE FAITH ON PAGE B6

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PHILIP GEORGE SCHOBORG

Philip George Schoborg, 65, passed away on December 6, 2017 after a two-year battle with cancer. His family will gather this summer to honor Phil at his favorite location in Cape San Blas, FL. He is resting in eternal peace with his parents William and Adelma Schoborg, his sister Barbara Schoborg Crawford and his cousin David Schoborg. He is survived by siblings Thomas and his wife Jodi, Martin and his wife Therese; his nephews Thomas Schoborg and Lauren Kulovitz, Christopher Schoborg, Michael Crawford and his wife Katie,



Marc Crawford and his wife Jill, Ryan Crawford and Annie Persson, Brian Jordan and Alan Jordan; cousins Pamela Knox, Terri Winterberg, James Schoborg and

Michael Schoborg. He especially enjoyed his time with his great nieces and nephews Patrick, John, Rory, Quinn, Reese, Sawyer and Elle.

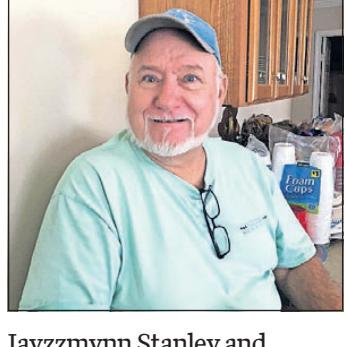
Phil was born in Erlanger, KY on October 16, 1952 and grew up on Sunset Avenue. He attended St. Henry High School, where he made many lifetime friends. Phil was a Star Trek fan, enjoyed astronomy and history. He was a loyal fan of the University of Kentucky and watched every UK game surrounded by his friends. He enjoyed many styles of music, but was especially fond of jazz music.

RONNIE LEE 'PLUG' STANLEY

Ronnie Lee "Plug" Stanley age 63 of Wewahitchka, Florida passed away on Monday, July 2, 2018.

Plug was born in Port St. Joe, Florida to Norma Jean Pippin and John W. Stanley, Sr. He graduated from Wewahitchka High School. He worked for Gulf Coast Electric CO-OP as a Journeyman Lineman and retiring as an Engineer after 38 years. Plug truly lived life to the fullest through simple pleasures. He had a love for Bog Truck Racing like no other. His bigger than life personality, laugh and love for his family and friends will continue to live on in us all.

Plug is preceded in death by his father, John Wilton Stanley, Sr., stepfather, Justin McDonald, granddaughter,



Jayzzmynn Stanley and grandson, Aaron Stanley.

He is survived by his fiance, Sheila McMillian; a son, Stephen Stanley (Victoria); a daughter, Kayla Stanley and Megan and Madeline McMillian; brothers, Johnny Stanley (Ann), Frankie Stanley, Lonnie Stanley (Debbie), and Greg Williams; parents, Tommy and Jean Cowart. As well as numerous

nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers: Stephen Stanley, Kayla Stanley, Jake Stanley, Josh McMullon, Tripp McMullon, Justyn Ferguson, and Rhett Gore.

Funeral services will be held at Dalkeith Baptist Church in Wewahitchka, Florida on Saturday, July 7, 2018 with Pastor Mike Dunn officiating. Visitation will begin at 10 a.m. with service to follow at 11 a.m. Graveside will follow at Roberts Cemetery.

The family of Plug Stanley wishes to extend our sincere thanks to the hospital staff at Gulf Coast Hospital for their unwavering compassion and support.

Services are under the direction of Comforter Funeral Home.

She is survived by her husband Henry (Boo) Johnson; two children, Anna (Billy Ray) Moore and George (Natasha) Whitfield, all of Howard Creek; one sister, Pinkie (Frank) Bell of Wewahitchka; one brother, David (Linda) Whitfield of Howard Creek; one granddaughter, Annabelle Whitfield of Wewahitchka; and numerous nieces and nephews.

ANNA LAURA (WHITFIELD) JOHNSON

Annie Laura (Whitfield) Johnson passed away at Emerald Shores Nursing Home in Panama City June 24, 2018. She was born June 20, 1946 to T D (Doc) and Nellie Whitfield of Howard Creek.

She was preceded in death by her parents T D and Nellie Whitfield; two brothers, Lawson and Roy Whitfield; one sister, Shirley (Whitfield) Wilhite.

LUCIOUS 'LUKE' IRA CARTER

Lucious "Luke" Ira Carter, 77, of Edison, GA passed away peacefully on Thursday, July 5, 2018 at his residence surrounded by loved ones. No funeral services will be conducted at this time.

Mr. Carter was born on January 28, 1941 in Eagle Lake, FL the son of the late John B. Carter, Sr. and Alice Thornhill Carter. He retired from the United States Marine Corps as a Master Sergeant after 20 years of distinguished service and after serving two tours in Vietnam.

He then retired from Publix in Lakeland, FL after 20 years. Luke was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather who truly touched the lives of many. He

was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Albert Carter.

Survivors include his wife, Dianna F. Carter of Edison; a daughter, Tracy Carter Mertz of Tallahassee, FL; three sons, Greg (Kathleen) Carter of Tallahassee, FL, Scott (Leah) Carter of Port St Joe, FL and Rocky (Stormie) Carter of Polk City, FL; two sisters, Betty Lou Roberts and Barbara Ann Carter both of Lakeland, FL; a brother, John B. Carter, Jr. of Morris, GA; 11 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Calhoun County Library at P. O. Box 365 Edison, GA 39846 in Luke's honor.

Lunsford Funeral Home Cuthbert, GA

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Krystal Terry
Director of Children's Ministries
Julie Hodges
Director of Youth Ministries

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

living water
church at the beach

WEEKLY SCHEDULE
SUNDAY - 8:00 AM - Worship at Sunset Park (on the sand)
9:30 AM - Bible Study at 1602 Highway 98
MONDAY - 7:00 PM - Lifetree Café. Join the Conversation
WEDNESDAY - 10:00AM to 2:00 PM Open House
6:30 PM Bible Study and
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Buddy Caswell, Minister of Music & Education
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New Service Schedule for First Baptist Church

Sunday Morning Schedule

Blended Worship with Choir/Praise Team...8:30 AM Dinner.....5:00 - 6:00 pm
Great Commission Sunday School.....9:45 AM AWANA.....6:00 - 7:30 pm
Contemporary Worship w/Band.....10:45 AM Surrender Student Ministry.....6:15 - 7:30 pm
Prayer/Bible Study.....6:15 - 7:30 pm
Nursery.....6:00 - 7:30 pm

www.fbcpsj.org

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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10:00 a.m. CST Contemporary Worship

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Worship Service.....10:00 am
Discipleship Training.....5:00 pm
Evening Worship.....6:00 pm
Wednesday Night.....7:00 pm

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

OPR827-2N

NF-4529562

Long Avenue
BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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(850) 229-8691

NF-4528062

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Bible Study
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The Reverend Lou Little
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www.StPetersAnglicanChurch-psj.com

NF-4528063

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

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

FAITHBIBLECHURCH
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9:45 a.m.....Sunday school

10:30 a.m.....Fellowship breakfast

11 a.m.....Worship service

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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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WHAT SOUTHERN FOLKS EAT

Clotheslines, watermelons and sprinkler-dances



Stephanie Hill-Fraizer

I was sitting on my porch this afternoon, rocking and enjoying the shade of a huge red oak tree in my yard, when I noticed a slight coolness in the breeze. Wait... isn't this mid-July? No complaints. The faintly cool breeze and the clear blue sky reminded me that this would be the perfect kind of day to hang sheets out to dry on a clothesline. Days like this lead to clean, fresh smelling dry sheets! I know most folks don't hang laundry out to dry anymore, but the memory of hanging clothes on the line with my mama brought a smile to my face.

Not that I loved doing it, believe me. When we would hang the linens and towels out on the clothesline to dry in our St. Joe Beach back yard, I grumbled at how the hot sun bore down on us, causing beads of sweat to form almost instantly. The line was put up for mama by dad, so she could use it when she wanted to, and it worked beautifully and effectively in that hot Florida summer sun, that is for sure.

Before the sun set, while it was still hot and humid, we'd go out to the line to take the now-dry laundry down. When I took down towels, I wondered why we would hang them out like that to turn into stiff, scratchy sheets of terry cloth when we had a perfectly good dryer. But that's just what many people in mama's era did, even if they had a dryer.

Admittedly, I did love the way it made the soft, cotton sheets feel; warm from the sun, bleached bright white by its hot rays.

I remember the relief we felt when we brought the baskets full of clean linen inside, reveling in the cool air and the whirring of the fans in each room of the house, a necessity for hot beach summers.

On those steamy summer days, mom or dad would stick a nice, ripe watermelon into the fridge, chilling it in anticipation of moments like that instant when you come in from outside, hot from the sun and the exertion of laundry or gardening or a lovely long day on the beach. They would pick one up as a special treat occasionally, bought from the Piggly Wiggly, Rich's IGA, or from a guy by the side of the road with a truckload of them, fresh from the Alabama soil.

When the melon was chilled, my little sister and I would happily spread out old newspapers on the kitchen table, and mama would get out her big knife, the one she received as a wedding gift, and give it to daddy. He would cut through the hard green rind, made crisp by the cold refrigerator air, pushing through it until reaching the soft flesh of the watermelon. He always made long, wedge slices for us, and then we'd be sent to the back or front porch with some paper towels to eat the sweet, pink melon, juice dripping down our little girl chins, and we'd spit the seeds to see whose would go farthest.

When we'd gotten as much off the rind as possible, we'd throw them away (mama didn't like them pickled, as some do) and rinse off the sticky-sweet juice in the water hose in the yard, squirting each other with it and squealing, and sometimes hooking the hose up to the lawn sprinkler to play in its spray for awhile before it got dark.

Remember how free you felt, dancing around the yard in the water sprinkler? Remember laughing and trying not to trip over it as you squealed with delight as the sprinkler hit your warm back with its cold spritz of refreshing water? Talk about childhood joy... that was the perfect distillation of it. Well, that and the cold, delicious watermelon.

Nowadays, as I bring home my small round watermelon with its seedless pink flesh, I still enjoy its deliciousness on my



Watermelon-Margarita salad. [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

front porch, rocking away, the little girl inside me still squealing with delight and longing for a water sprinkler to dance in, remembering those beautiful childhood days on my beloved St. Joe Beach.

Melon berry salad**Ingredients:**

- 4-5 cups watermelon chunks
- 1 cup sliced strawberries
- 1/3 cup crumbled feta cheese
- 1 package soft fresh mozzarella, cubed
- 1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
- 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/4 cup fresh basil leaves, torn into small pieces
- salt and pepper, to taste

Method:

In a large serving bowl, combine the watermelon and the strawberries. Add the cheeses and the basil, and toss well. Sprinkle the olive oil and vinegar over the salad, and toss again to distribute the dressing throughout the salad. Sprinkle with a teaspoon of salt and half teaspoon of pepper,

and toss gently to distribute. Chill for an hour or so while you make the rest of your meal, and serve!

Note: Best served day it's prepared, but I will use it again one day later if there are leftovers.

After that, however, the melon and berries release too much juice and the consistency is no longer optimal.

Refreshing Watermelon-Margarita salad**Watermelon-margarita fruit salad by Mama Steph****Ingredients:**

- 3 to 4 cups of cubed watermelon
- 2 cups fresh strawberry slices
- 2 cups seedless black grapes
- 2 cups fresh pineapple cubes (canned is ok in a pinch)
- fresh mint leaves, torn into very small pieces
- juice of four limes
- 1/2 cup agave nectar (honey, if you don't have agave)

Method:

In a Mason jar, mix together the lime and agave. If you really want to make this salad

"margarita-like," you can also add 1/4 cup tequila to this dressing for a grown-ups-only version. Put the lid on the jar, and shake well. Set aside.

In a large salad bowl, toss together all the fruit and the torn mint leaves.

Pour the dressing over the fruit, then gently toss again to distribute the dressing.

Chill for an hour or two before serving, if time allows.

Enjoy!

Note: I enjoy a little bit of crumbled Feta cheese over the top of my serving of this salad, to give it a salty tanginess. I don't add it to the whole bowl, as some don't care for it.)

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 young adult sons who are considerably taller than she is. You can find more of her recipes at what southernfolkseat.com.

Gulf County Sheriff's Office law enforcement summary

July 2-8

On July 2, Sgt. D. Sanders travelled to the Calhoun County Jail to arrest Eric Anthony Sims on a Gulf County warrant and transport him to the Gulf County Detention Facility. Sims was wanted for Violation of Probation on the original charges of Possession of Methamphetamine and Possession of a Controlled Substance.

On July 3, Deputy P. Young travelled to the Bay County Jail to pick up Tatiana Nicole

Davis (22) on a transport order and deliver her to Gulf County to attend judicial proceedings. Once her proceedings were complete, she was transported back to the Bay County Jail by Sgt. D. Sanders.

On July 3, Investigators S. Ferrell and P. Williams conducted a traffic stop on McGlon Drive in Wewahitchka. The vehicle was being driven by James Norman Lassiter (36). A driver's license check revealed that Lassiter had a suspended driver's

license. Lassiter was placed under arrest for driving with a suspended driver's license.

On July 3, Sgt. J. Williams went to the 400 block of Ponderosa Pines Drive to execute an arrest warrant on Soni Jo Rouse (38) for Fraudulent Use of a Credit Card. The warrant against Rouse came as a result of a credit card fraud investigation by Investigator J. Murnan that began on June 18. Sgt. Williams found Rouse and while effecting an arrest Rouse physically resisted him. Rouse was taken

into custody and additionally charged with Resisting Law Enforcement with Violence.

On July 6, Calvin Starlin Pryor Sr. (71) turned himself into his probation officer at the Wewahitchka Substation to be arrested for a Violation of Probation warrant. Pryor was on probation for two counts of Sale of Crack Cocaine. He was transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility.

On July 8, Deputy A. White was dispatched to a residence

on Yoder Street to investigate a report of a physical disturbance. Deputy White met with both parties Page 2 of 2 involved in the conflict and identified Sophia Joanne Ortiz (22) as the aggressor. Ortiz was placed under arrest and charged with Battery.

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

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.

Unemployment declines but wage growth stalls



Margaret McDowell

Hundred dollar car note, two hundred rent; I get a check on Friday, but it's already ready spent."

"Workin' for a Livin'" as performed by Huey Lewis and the News

In spite of low unemployment and a consensus that an economic recovery has taken place, wage growth continues to stall. If the economy is good, where are the high-paying jobs which can support a family?

Unemployment is at its lowest level in 17 years and is likely to remain below four percent for the foreseeable future. Wage growth has often been a byproduct of tight labor markets: employers have to pay more to get good employees, or for that matter, any employees, because there is such competition for labor. But while wages have grown at over three percent per year since 2015, the rate of growth has stalled significantly. Wage growth was at its lowest level since the Great

Recession (under two percent) in 2010, and has increased somewhat since then, but remains far below the five percent growth level achieved by the economy in 2000.

The Federal Reserve is raising interest rates periodically this year based partly on these low unemployment numbers. Simply stated, wage growth has traditionally accompanied low unemployment, and raising interest rates is a hedge against inflation.

So why aren't paychecks getting considerably larger? Let's consider two aspects of our current economy: an aging populace and hyper-globalization.

A large number of potential employees out there are growing older. But many business owners and employers are hesitant to hire and pay large salaries to older workers. We have shorter runways than our millennial peers. The median age in the U.S. is now over 38, more than a year older than it was only four years ago. The alternative, of course, is to hire to a younger person, a person with less experience but who may be willing to work for less. So unemployment remains low, but actual wage growth is stymied.

Secondly, international business competition is exerting forces on our economy that we haven't experienced

since the late 1800's. When a foreign company makes a competitive product, while paying its workers far less than U.S. workers are paid, it's difficult for American businesses to compete on price. So business owners save money by paying employees less and then pass those savings on to consumers in order to remain competitive in the international marketplace.

There's always been international business competition, but increasing hyper-globalization is creating a larger impact on our economy, and on the level of our wages, than at any time in American history. There's just no way around it.

It's complicated and confounding. The economy continues to improve; wages remain relatively flat.

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.

New pastor at FUMC of Wewahitchka

Special to The Star

There's a new Pastor at First United Methodist Church of Wewahitchka, located at 335 S. State 71 in Wewahitchka.

Pastor CJ Brown delivered his first sermon 11 a.m. CT last Sunday. CJ was born in central New York, grew up in a small town in Western Pennsylvania, and graduated from Geneva College in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania, in 2014, with a BA in Christian Ministries. He completed his Masters in Divinity at Asbury Theological Seminary in May of 2017. We are enthusiastic in welcoming CJ and his wife, Chelsey, to their first

church assignment.

Chelsey was born in Dothan, grew up in Opp, Alabama, graduated from Huntingdon in 2011 with a BA in Christian Education, served on staff at St. James UMC in Montgomery, and completed her MA in Spiritual Formation from Asbury in May. She is pursuing ordination as a Deacon and specializes in spiritual growth and discipleship.

Having both grown up in small towns, this vibrant young couple are looking forward to their ministry in our church and in Wewa. They enjoy cooking together, hiking, traveling, and spending time with friends and family.

WHITFIELD/JOHNSON FAMILY COT

The family of Annie Laura ((Whitfield) Johnson would like to thank everyone for their prayers after Annie's passing, and for everyone who attended the memorial Sunday, July 1, 2018 at the home of her sister Pinkie Bell. Thank you Bro. Dave Fernandez and his wife Myrna, the lovely tribute

that was sung by Samira and Darren, thank you, they were granddaughters to Mrs. Donna Whitfield and the late Mr. Freddie Whitfield. Thanks to the woman who prepared all the food.

The Family, Henry (Boo) Johnson, Pinkie (Frank) Bell, David (Linda) Whitfield

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Jay Rish, Broker

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* * *

LENS

From Page B1

The lens, a Barbier, Benard & Tourenne third-order bivalve Fresnel, was constructed in Paris, France in 1905.

That was the same year the lighthouse keepers' quarters were built.

By Coast Guard edict, a lens removed from a lighthouse, as the Fresnel was prior to the 2014 relocation off the eroding shoreline of Cape San Blas, it can not be reinstalled in the lighthouse.

However, the lens may be reassembled and displayed, per an agreement between Coast Guard, city of Port St. Joe and historical society, as part of the lighthouse complex.

The fundraising goal is \$75,000, with donation levels from \$10 to \$50,000.

All contributions are tax-deductible.

"This will provide for reassembling of the lens, establishment of a maritime museum with displays for the lens, relics from the lighthouse and keepers' quarters and items from the Cape San Blas Coast Guard station," said St. Joseph Historical Society president Charlotte

That structure was followed by construction of the keepers' quarters about 20 years later and the oil house, a brick structure built in 1918.

Pierce.

The museum will include an interactive exhibit focusing on the maritime history of the area.

A designated fund has been established at Capital City Bank.

There is nearly two centuries of history surrounding the Cape San Blas Lighthouse, which was first built in 1847 with \$8,000 appropriated by Congress.

The lighthouse served as an alert for a dangerous shoal off the coast.

Over the next 40 years or so, three lighthouse structures were lost to the eroding shoreline and major storms.

The current lighthouse structure was erected in 1885 and relocated once due to erosion.

That structure was followed by construction of the keepers' quarters about 20 years later and the oil house, a brick structure built in 1918.

The light was decommissioned in 1996 and two years later the keepers' quarters moved closer to the lighthouse and away from the vanishing shoreline.

In collaboration with the Board of County Commissioners, the St. Joseph Historical Society entered into an agreement to lease the lighthouse from Eglin Air Force Base in the early 2000s.

In 2012, the lighthouse and ancillary structures were moved further inland and two years later, citing the erosion in the area of the lighthouse, Eglin declared the land surplus.

The Department of Interior awarded the lighthouse to the city of Port St. Joe and in July 2014 the entire complex was moved the 12.1 miles to George Core Park, a sight to behold.

The Cape San Blas Lighthouse Complex was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2005, joining what is now the Garden Club Center on Eighth Street, the Old St. Joseph Cemetery on Garrison and Port Theatre on the list.

For questions or additional information contact Pierce at pierce_cm@hotmail.com or Linda Graham Wood of the historical society at lmwood1275@fairpoint.net.



The clock works which tripped the light on and off. [COURTESY OF BEN GIBSON]

HONOR

From Page B1

And Herring picked up a couple of checks at the meeting; the Port St. Joe Chapter of the DAR provided a check for \$1,000 and the CCA one for \$1,250.

The DAR's effort also continued, offering a free cookbook in exchange for \$10 donation.

"We should all be (walking) up to veterans, shaking their hands and thanking them for their service," said local DAR Regent Sherrill Russ.

The "Honor Walk" is intended as a county's figurative handshake and tribute.

The project would fill an

80-foot-by-140-foot area along the park's bluff, which offers some of the finest views of the ocean in the county.

The Board of County Commissioners broke ground on the project in May.

The BOCC approved the tentative plans for the "Honor Walk" last summer and established a citizens committee to spearhead finalizing the plans and raising funds.

The walk would be anchored by an American flag on a pole of 70 feet within a pentagon, the American flag surrounded by flag poles and flags honoring the branches of the military.

"The flagpole in front of Duren's Piggy Wiggly is 55 feet so that will give you an idea of the size of the central flag pole," Herring said.

The BOCC, as its contribution to the project, decided to expend Tourist Development Council bed taxes on the flag poles.

At each point of the pentagon around the American flag, five 8-foot-by-3-foot monuments for each branch of the military would be crafted, each inscribed with the Gulf County veterans who "paid the ultimate sacrifice," in battle.

There will be seating behind the flags and several areas for quiet reflection and brick and concrete walkways thread through the memorial.

The entire area would be surrounded by a 4-foot high fence with pillars spaced along the length of the fence.

Walkways will extend 20 feet from the center of

a monument in opposite directions.

Commemorative paver bricks purchased for the walkways, inside the center circle of the memorial and along both outer circles, will be engraved in the honor of or in memory of individual veterans.

Herring emphasized last Saturday that in the case of the pavers, the honorarium was not reserved solely for veterans.

Regardless, Herring said, the project is to honor all veterans, all who answered a country's call; not only a local memorial to veterans, but a regional tribute.

"The Honor Walk will complete the recognition of veterans in this park, recognition which is well-deserved,"

said George Duren, another member of the project committee.

"This will help remind everyone our freedoms have been willingly paid by our veterans. "We want people to drive by on (U.S. 98) and look up and say Gulf County respects its veterans. Our veterans deserve to be recognized."

The conceptual schematics were drafted by Dewberry|Preble Rish to allow the committee to pursue available grants to fund the work of creating the memorial.

There are several fundraiser options available and all donations are tax-deductible. To learn more go to: <http://www.VeteransParkHonor-Walk.org>.

ISSUES

From Page B1

The plan is to slide a steel sleeve down to bolster the weakened area and stop the

leakage. That should assist in the short-term in building reserves and maintaining capacity along the system.

He hoped that auxiliary well would be back online in the next 30-60 days.

A long-term solution will arrive sometime next year, Rish

said.

Working with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the State Revolving Fund, Rish said the utility had secured a low-interest loan package of some \$7 million.

That will allow for construction to increase the utility's

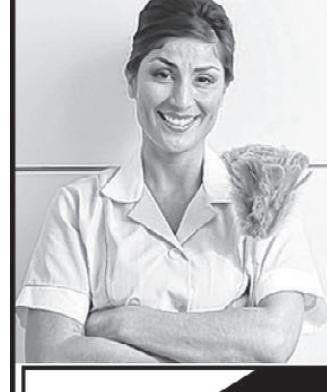
sources to three deep wells to build both capacity and reserves within the system.

Rish also pledged to establish a more efficient and comprehensive method of informing the customer base about issues and resolutions.

He acknowledged, after

questions from some CCA members, that boil water notices and other information about what was happening within the system was not being fully disseminated to the customers.

"We do need to do a better job of getting information out to the public," Rish said.



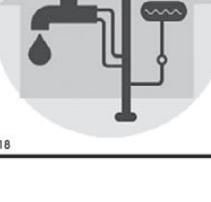
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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO. 16-62DR

TIMOTHY MARTIN SOUTHERLAND Petitioner/Former Husband, and

MADELAINE KRISTEN 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 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

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 this cause, 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 NORTH 1,25.95 FEET TO THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINE OF STONE CREEK ROAD AND THE CENTERLINE OF ANNIE AVENUE; THENCE RUN NORTH 61 DEGREES 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 150.00 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 28 DEGREES 11 MINUTES WEST FOR 477.00 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE CENTERLINE OF STONE MILL CREEK; THENCE SOUtheAST-ERLY ALONG SAID STONE MILL CREEK FOR 150 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO A POINT

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THENCE RUN NORTH 1,25.95 FEET TO THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINE OF STONE CREEK ROAD AND THE CENTERLINE OF ANNIE AVENUE; THENCE RUN NORTH 61 DEGREES 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 150.00 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 28 DEGREES 11 MINUTES WEST FOR 477.00 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE CENTERLINE OF STONE MILL CREEK; THENCE SOUtheAST-ERLY ALONG SAID STONE MILL CREEK FOR 150 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO A POINT

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THENCE RUN NORTH 1,25.9