



TURTLE TOTES | B1

Thursday, July 19, 2018

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City tables 10th Street park decision

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

Port St. Joe commissioners passed the park back to the county Tuesday night.

After another two-plus hours of sprawling, often contentious, discussion, commissioners decided to table a resolution of support for plans, any plan, to improve the 10th Street Park.

Even though a majority of the board stated they had arrived to move the process, bogged down for months over a conceptual plan, forward, they deferred to a motion from newly-elected Commissioner Scott Hoffman.

Hoffman asked to table a resolution presented for approval and motioned to put the onus on a plan for 10th Street Park back on a county committee formed to hone the project.

In addition, he urged that the city propose to County Commissioner Sandy Quinn, Jr., chairman of the 10th Street Park committee, to increase committee membership by four; one each representing youth softball and baseball, two as representatives of the residents living adjacent to the park.

"I am not sure why we have to come up a plan tonight instead of the committee coming up with a plan to

present to us," Hoffman said.

Commissioner David Ashbrook expressed skepticism either proposal would go anywhere or alter the dynamics, but the motion to table was met by widespread applause from the packed meeting room.

"Please don't rush into this," said resident Jill Beebe. "You've had a lot of ideas tossed out."

Mayor Bo Patterson, who along with Commissioners

Brett Lowry and Eric Langston, expressed a desire to move ahead, was the lone dissenting vote.

While Tuesday may have included the first city "workshop" on park plans, after two more hours of debate commissioners have now expended meeting time over the past few months equivalent to a healthy chunk of a working day solely on the 10th Street Park.

See CITY, A3

HOMeward BOUND

Two green sea turtles released

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

Much like a box of Cracker Jacks, Tuesday's turtle release near the county line came with a surprise inside.

More than 50 people showed up for the scheduled release of one turtle along the beaches across from the Lookout Lounge, but the folks from Gulf World Marine Institute (GWMI) arrived with two.

It was worth the roughly 15-minute delay due to traffic snarls in Bay County.

The turtles were both juvenile turtles, roughly 5-10 years, said Lauren Albrittain, stranding coordinator for GWMI.

Until they are older, it is nigh impossible to discern the gender of a turtle.

The turtles, which seemed to have opposite reactions to all the fuss and the approach of home waters, arrived at GWMI under far different circumstances.

Paddy was supposed to be the sole attraction Tuesday.

Rescued by a turtle patrol volunteer (Gulf County and East Bay Turtle Patrol) on the south end of St. Joe Beach,



Paddy was rescued on St. Joe Beach, found with a compression fracture. [TIM CROFT | THE STAR]

Paddy arrived March 19, just after St. Patrick's Day, hence the name.

Paddy had a compression fracture of the head, caused by a blunt force from an unknown source, Albrittain said, and swelling around the left eye.

A wellness check at GWMI, Albrittain added, revealed that the turtle was "not doing anything he was supposed to be doing."

Not eating and thin, unable to dive.

See TURTLE, A3



Bird is among the last of the turtles rescued during a January cold-stun to be released. [TIM CROFT | THE STAR]



McGlon announces School Board run

Special to The Star

Denny McGlon announced last week his intent to run for the District 1 seat on the Gulf County School Board.

Denny is a lifelong resident of Wewahitchka where he resides with his wife of 17 years, Tracy, and 14 year old daughter, Anna. He has been employed with the State of Florida Department of Corrections for the last 19 years. Growing up in this community, graduating from WHS, and now having a daughter in school has driven his interest in serving on the Gulf County School Board. Denny has a passion for his community and a desire to be a servant leader.

Denny stated, "With all elected positions comes great responsibility; responsibility to be a voice and advocate for the community; responsibility to collaborate with others for a common goal; and responsibility to act with integrity at all times. These are responsibilities that I will not take lightly."

"The community of Wewahitchka, my community, has given so much to my family and myself over the years. I am looking for ways to give back," stated Denny, "and I would appreciate your support on Election Day."

Denny will be visiting homes in District 1 and looks forward to speaking with members of the community.

District makes administrative changes

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

They say change is the only constant in life.

In a small school district, that administrators must wear several hats and cross-training is also a reality.

Therefore, the new school year beginning next month will see some administrative changes within Gulf District Schools.

"To be a principal or an administrator ... requires a set of standards and credentials," said Superintendent of Schools Jim Norton. "I think this is a good opportunity to cross-train some of our administrators."

The most noteworthy change will occur at Wewahitchka Elementary School.

Tracy Bowers, the school's principal the past four years after being named District Teacher of the Year, is moving to the district office

to take over assessment and testing duties.

Assuming the reins at the elementary school will be Billy Hoover, who has been supervising the district's adult school and alternative programs as well as new safety initiatives.

"Tracy has gotten tremendous results," said Superintendent of Schools Jim Norton.

The school has improved FSA scores and school grades and for the past three years a

teacher from the school has been named District Teacher of the Year.

However, Norton said, Bowers possesses talents to bolster the district as it strives to improve overall school and district scores as well as grades.

"She has real gifts for the very technical and raw data of testing," Norton said. "She is being given an opportunity to apply those skills."

See DISTRICT, A3



Things to do this week

Star Staff Report

Turtle Talk at The Joe. 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. This exhibition, "Turtles and Trash" runs all summer through Aug. 17; the Center is open Thursday-Saturday. Every Thursday is Turtle Thursday, with a lecture, art workshop or a special treat, free and open to the public. Today's special Turtle Talk will come from Jessica Swindall with the Florida Coastal Conservancy, who will talk about the danger of plastic to sea turtles, at 3 p.m. ET. At 5 p.m. ET there will be art making. Check out the schedule online at: thejocenter.com or on Facebook. The exhibit is in partnership with the Florida Coastal Conservancy and the Port St. Joe Library.

'Shoes for Kids' fundraiser. The Port St. Joe Kiwanis Club will sponsor a "Shoes for Kids" event beginning 6 p.m. ET tonight 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. ET and at 7 p.m. will be 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.

Shop the SaltAir Farmers Market. The Port St. Joe SaltAir Farmers Market, in its 11th year, is held the first and third Saturdays of the month

at City Commons adjacent to Port St. Joe City Hall, at the intersection of Reid Ave. and Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Blvd. The market is held 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. ET. At the market you may find fresh seasonal produce, jewelry, tie dye, carved woodwork and much more.

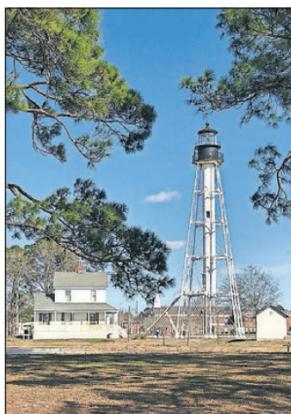
Fundraiser for Addison James. Addison James is 8-years-old and has already had two brain surgeries to remove a malignant tumor. She is undergoing radiation and chemo treatments. The fundraiser, to assist with medical expenses, will be held 2-8 p.m. CT Saturday at Living Water at the Beach Church, 1602 U.S. 98 in Mexico Beach, across from the El Governor Motel. Barbecue dinners with a drink will be available for \$8, there will be a raffle for a new kayak and a silent auction, with an array of items, including local art work, fishing trips, restaurant gift certificates, jewelry, Engle cooler, a Penn rod and reel combo and more. For more info call Living Water Church at 850-705-1255 or Joan Lovelace at 527-2560.

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.

Growing tomatoes and the art of great salsa. Want to learn more about how to



Fundraiser for Addie James Saturday. [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]



Expanded summer hours to climb the lighthouse [FILE PHOTO]



Kiwanis fundraiser for "Shoes for Kids" tonight. [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

grow and care for tomatoes? Want to learn how to make great salsa? Please join the Gulf County Extension Office and find out what varieties will grow best in the



Turtles and Trash continues at The Joe Center for the Arts. "Turtle Talk" today. [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]



Salt Air Farmers Market Saturday. [FILE PHOTO]



Learn how to grow tomatoes, make great salsa Monday. [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

Panhandle, learn the requirements needed for a plentiful harvest and how to make delicious salsa. The event will be presented by Gulf County Extension Agents, Ray Bodrey

and Melanie Taylor, 12-1 p.m. ET Monday at the Corinne Costin Gibson Memorial Library in Port St. Joe. The event is free. Call 229-8879 for more information.

TCC (Verizon) to donate backpacks full of school supplies Sunday

Special to The Star

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

That includes the Port St.

Joe store located in the Port City Shopping Center.

"We are thrilled to support the education of our youth in our communities," said Scott Moorehead, CEO of Round Room, parent company of TCC. "By providing families across the country with essential school supplies, we're easing the back-to-school shopping burden and helping set children up for success."

More than 1,200 participating TCC and Wireless Zone stores across the U.S. are inviting local families and their children to visit select locations on Sunday, July 22,

between 1-4 p.m. to pick up a backpack filled with various school supplies, including pencils, paper, a pencil box, folders and glue. One backpack per child present will be given away on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last.

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

According to the National Retail Federation, families with school-aged children plan to spend an average \$687.72 each, an 8 percent increase, for a total of \$29.5

billion, on school supplies this year. With nearly one of every five school-aged children in the U.S. living in poverty, TCC is working to alleviate the rising costs of school supplies through this annual program.

TCC makes ongoing investments in the local communities where it operates through its Culture of Good movement.

Earlier this year, the company donated supply packs to more than 5,000 teachers across the country and 3,000 care kits to senior living communities. In 2017, TCC donated 172,000

backpacks with school supplies to children; 3,000 care kits to senior living communities; and supply packs to more than 5,600 teachers and 2,500 veterans across the nation.

Supporters of the School Rocks Backpack Giveaway are encouraged to use hashtags #SchoolRocks and #BetterTogether on Instagram and Twitter to help spread the word.

To learn more about TCC, visit www.TCCRocks.com. Customers can also connect with the company at www.facebook.com/tcc-talk and www.twitter.com/tcc-talk.

FREE HEARING PROFILE

FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

Like the aging process, hearing loss is usually a gradual occurrence that very often goes undetected by the affected person. People mumbling, asking them to repeat, missing key words, turning the TV volume too loud are all symptoms of hearing loss. If you notice one or more of these symptoms call today for your appointment.

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The turtles were put in the water; they are likely headed to St. Joseph Bay. [TIM CROFT | THE STAR]

TURTLE

From Page A1

"After some time, with therapy and antibiotics, (Paddy) is doing everything he is supposed to be doing, diving, foraging," Albrittain said.

Paddy picked up weight, still has vision in both eyes and was determined healthy enough for release by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Bird, on the other hand, arrived at GWMI in January, nearly six months ago

to the day.

The turtle, likely older given its larger size compared to Paddy, was among the roughly 1,200 turtles, nearly all from St. Joseph Bay, transported to GWMI after a cold-stun event.

Of those 1,200, all but about 30 were released immediately after the warming of body and bay waters.

"Bird is one of the last to be cleared for release," Albrittain said. "He was just cleared. He just needed a little more TLC."

Maybe, if little is known about turtles, the spectators could discern which

had been away from home the longest.

Paddy seemed almost apathetic, a few "meh" flipper gestures while carried to the water and diving below the surface.

Bird, once brought out of the tub used to carry the turtle to the beach, put the flippers on energizer, as if gesturing for everybody to just get out of the way.

Although nothing is known for scientific fact, being juvenile green sea turtles the two are likely headed to St. Joseph Bay, a home to a sizable population of such turtles due to the fertile seagrass beds.

DISTRICT

From Page A1

"She will be a real asset to the district office."

Hoover's duties will be split between two other administrators.

His work overseeing the rollout of the district's school safety programs in response to state legislation passed early this year will be taken over by Bill Carr, the Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs.

Meanwhile, Duane McFarland, who has been overseeing testing in the district, will take over at the adult school.

McFarland has also served in several other administrative roles, including two stretches as principal at Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High School.

"He has vast and varied experiences as an administrator that makes him well-suited to the position and I am confident he will do well there," Norton said.

Norton said Hoover was excited about the opportunity to return to a school site.

"He is excited to death," Norton said. "He is very passionate about his new position."

"His energy and optimism are certain to have a positive impact on what is already a wonderful school climate. I think administrators moving from the district office to a school setting bring newness and passion."

The changes, Norton said, are simply part of the process taken during the summer, as the district reboots to a new year.

In part, it is also a realization that many district

administrators, including Carr, McFarland and Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Lori Price, are in the deferred retirement program, DROP, and will retire in the next five years.

Financial officer Sissy Worley is also in DROP.

The need for new blood within the administration, requiring a degree of cross-training among personnel, is simply part and parcel for a small school district.

"In a growing, thriving district, change is inevitable," Norton said. "But it is our choice how we choose to embrace that change."

"I truly feel these changes are in the best interest of our district. The changes take place immediately so that we can be assured of a smooth transition and start up to the new school year."

CITY

From Page A1

For the record, commissioners on Tuesday held a one-hour workshop which spilled over into the regular meeting and then spent more than hour of meeting time discussing, or rather having residents further discuss, the park plans.

And after rehearsing and rehashing turf that has become all too familiar, some things seem painfully clear: somebody is going to walk away unhappy, as Langston has repeatedly said in urging the process forward.

First, any plan that includes an expansion of the 10th Street Park will face fierce pushback from residents in the neighborhood.

The process, too many residents, was rigged from the outset and their contention that expanding the park is counter to the neighborhood aesthetics has found traction in the broader populace.

Several residents who do not live near the park spoke Tuesday to urge commissioners be more sensitive to the concerns of neighbors.

"The city did not do its due diligence" regarding neighboring property owners, Hoffman said. "We should take a step back."

The outcry from those residents has resulted in

the county committee all but washing its hand on a decision on a conceptual plan for the park, and holding just one meeting since the citizens rose in protest over existing plans.

At that point, the committee had already met 10 times.

County attorney Jeremy Novak was present during Tuesday's workshop and meeting and reiterated that the committee, and Quinn, were seeking a plan, proposed budget and other specifics from the city.

The Board of County Commissioners will have the final decision on spending bed tax money for the project.

The second fulcrum for the discussion remains Field of Dreams or other potential areas for expansion of sports opportunities.

To many residents, despite the county and city walking away from the project in 2010 over cost concerns, Field of Dreams is a viable option.

As some noted Tuesday, with a estimated cost of over \$2.1 million, the park project will have to be performed in phases.

That will be a disruption to the ball leagues that lose fields and space while construction was ongoing and there remain widespread concerns among neighbors of the park over drainage and flooding.

Why not, several residents wondered, apply

the \$850,000 or so in bed tax dollars to a phased approach of constructing a sports complex on Field of Dreams?

And, certainly, those cost estimates from 2010, \$6 million for construction, \$250,000 for annual maintenance, could be brought down by smart planning?

Additionally, Peters Park on the north side of the city, has an existing field, room to expand and could be used if the goal is to attract tournaments.

"We have to consider what we are doing city-wide," said resident Chester Davis.

The final reality is that at some point, decisions are going to have to be made, with city now looking to a county committee while the committee looks to the city.

"We have beaten this to death," Patterson said.

While there is no deadline for spending the bed tax dollars, the county is going to seek an extension of the fifth-penny of bed tax when it sunsets in about two years; action with the funding could be a consideration.

And a process which was full steam ahead as 2018 arrived, and both city and county approved a conceptual plan, has halted, feelings have been bruised and tempers flared.

As Davis noted, the entire debate has brought a level of acrimony which has made meeting nights heated affairs which eclipses other issues.

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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

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OPINION

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

RVs: an open letter to PSJ

Dear Editor,
What is wrong with RVs? There has been a lot of venom recently against having RVs on lots with maybe just a pole barn and no permanent house structure. I know a lot of homeowners will be (angry) at this opinion, but I think it is time someone presented a different view. First of all, I will say that I am a Gulf County homeowner and live in the Jones Homestead area—one of those areas targeted to run out the RVers.

The first argument against RVs in our community seems to be that they don't pay their fair share of property taxes since they don't have a permanent structure on the lot. (You always gotta follow the money, huh?...). That may be true, but think about it guys.

They spend thousands to buy a lot, more to fix it up with utilities, pole barns, fences, landscaping and of course the RV itself and then COME to Gulf County to spend money. Lots of money, in our restaurants, grocery stores, gas stations, gift shops, and of course bait shops. Why are we discouraging this! Yes, they could stay in one of our RV parks for \$700-1,000 a month and then they may just choose to stay elsewhere where they are more welcomed in the future!

If they buy a lot in our community they will come back HERE. Are we a tourist town or not? Many of these RVers have another home elsewhere but spend months here with us. (I got to wonder if it is the RV park owners, motels, and vacation rental industry that might be behind this whole push).

A second major charge against them seems to be that they cause the property values to go down.

I'm sorry, but I would much rather have somebody with a \$100,000 RV next door to me than some of these run-down houses and trailers around here. RVs are much easier to move if they are abandoned and fall into disrepair and the land then sold for new and better uses.

A more "permanent" abandoned trailer or cheaply built house often becomes an eyesore for the neighborhood for many years. There are some places in Jones Homestead where a single wide trailer has become so unlivable, in such a state of utter disrepair, that they have simply set up a second one (just as run down) on the same lot leaving the gutted abandoned one as a piece of yard junk that has got to be a health and fire hazard.

If these people had RVs at least they could move off (even sell) the junk ones easier.

To be fair, I don't think a single residential lot should be turned into a mini RV park either. (I'm in favor of a One lot /One house rule.) I would much rather the county and city spend their time and money on creating/enforcing a junk ordinance rather than create new zoning issues to just single out and pick on RVs—many of which are far nicer than many homes and trailers in an area. I mean we live in Florida. RV heaven! Why are we trying so hard to chase them out? Just askin'!

Deb Mays

Jones Homestead

A more "permanent" abandoned trailer or cheaply built house often becomes an eyesore for the neighborhood for many years. There are some places in Jones Homestead where a single wide trailer has become so unlivable, in such a state of utter disrepair, that they have simply set up a second one (just as run down) on the same lot leaving the gutted abandoned one as a piece of yard junk that has got to be a health and fire hazard.

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HUNKER DOWN

Counting alien feet...



Kesley Colbert

I took it to be a coiled up serpent at first. But it was a little too green. At sixty-nine miles an hour you had to look quick! And by the time I figured out it was a garden hose, I was already by it. Nine or ten mile markers flashed by as I pondered on how a perfectly rolled up garden hose got left in the middle of the interstate.

It was actually more like three fourths of a hose. The metal ends where it could be attached to something were missing. You'd think it fell off a truck, maybe heading to a garbage dump. But it could never have withstood the fall, bounce and slide..... and still been coiled so tightly. Plus, with today's strict refuge rules, what landfill is so far away that you've got to travel down an interstate to get to it.

I could think of only two logical explanations: It was put there by aliens to spy on the driving habits of earth people OR I had unknowingly entered The Twilight Zone.

Either rationalization was fraught with possibilities. We all know aliens exist in some form or fashion. I remember the Halloween Leon got "taken" up into the flying saucer. He escaped and staggered home convinced their technology was far advanced over ours. Maybe they metamorphose into garden hoses to study our migration patterns.

I don't know a thing about

space, time and dimensions. But I remember as a kid Rod Serling coming on TV each week and taking us someplace where the paranormal was routine. If this Twilight Zone could have vacant cities where cigars were found still smoking or apelike men walked on airplane wings at 20,000 feet or coffee pots boiled in empty cafes.....a garden hose laying in a highway for reasons known only to Rod would be a snap.

It does make life more fun!

I'm always amazed to see the lone shoe abandoned on the side of the road. And I say single shoe because you never see the mate. My mind goes into overdrive. There can't be that many one legged men in America! What could cause a guy to kick off one shoe and not the other? What could be chasing him? Is there some sinister tale that begins "It was a dark and stormy night...." that accompanies every solitary shoe on the side of a road.

All this footwear could not have dropped off garbage trucks! Maybe a child in the back seat wanted to see if a flip flop would fly. Perhaps an angry motorist threw an Ecco at the guy who was following too close. It could be an old hound dog drug one of Bubba's steel toed Husky boots off the front porch.

I've seen a Nike Air Max in cattle country. And an eighteen inch Justin cowboy boot resting comfortably in downtown Indianapolis. I try to guess the size every time. And of course, my mind goes to conjuring up a story of how one shoe makes it to this particular spot on this particular day at this particular road. I wonder if "left" or "right" is

the more dominate one dropped, lost, forsaken, thrown away....

Do you reckon anyone ever stops and tries a shoe on? Who eventually picks these things up? Is there a national one shoe lost and found?

You know, it could be that aliens only have one foot.

I saw a pillow less than a mile from the house just this week lying in the middle of Knowles Road. I thought it a strange place to take a nap. Even if you were from another planet! It was the ever plentiful gray pillow with the white and blue stripes.

Again, you can believe the garbage theory if you want to. But I prefer to think of some lost soul pilgriming across America, down to his last nickel. A big Cadillac pulls up beside him and offers a ride. It's his girlfriend who had been searching for him since 2011. Her daddy struck oil outside of Lawton, Oklahoma. They, and he, were millionaires! Shoot, the last thing he needed now was an old pillow.

If it had been full of feathers I would have picked it up.

I don't remember shoes, pillows or old hoses being cast out by the highway when I was learning to drive. Those were way too valuable to discard, or lose. Mostly things left in the road back then were dead raccoons or a scraggly opossum scattered here and there. No imagination needed with these road kills; and certainly not worthy of a clandestine story or Twilight Zone material for sure.

We did stop and see if the body was still warm.

Respectfully,
Kes

CRANKS MY TRACTOR

God, sweat and beers



BN Heard

We are often invited to meetings, gatherings or parties based on who we know and what we know and the value we add. "They're from Alabama, let's invite them," is not necessarily the type of reason you normally hear, but it was just fine by me. I'm proud of where I am from and how I grew up.

Of course I was lectured on how I was to behave and how I was not supposed to talk. It seems that as my children grow up, go to college and move on, I am the one who gets the lectures on how to act and how to keep my mouth shut.

Usually for an invitation to dinner, I get told not to add anything to my already Southern twang. I have been accused of adding layers to my accent and embellishing stories when it comes to dealing with folks who want to spend an evening with someone "from the South."

Promising nothing other than that I would wear shoes, I looked forward to this evening with friends and the fellow's father, who was kind of like the guest of honor. Perhaps, I should stop and note here that this fellow was a preacher or minister or reverend. I like saying preacher, so I will call him "Preacher." Having recently lost his wife after many wonderful years of marriage, the Preacher was visiting his son and daughter in law, who are our friends and they invited us over. Some people outside of my house find me entertaining, thus that is what I attributed the invitation (entertainment value).

I like these folks and like the food they put on the table. I never

turn down an invitation from someone who throws good food. This fellow is always making beer and wanting me to "taste" it for him. I am very capable of helping with that task also. On top of that, they always have at least one dog around. Another clincher for me—dogs understand me and like me...

Meeting this new fellow, the Preacher, I liked him immediately. Evidently, while growing up and living in the Bronx, he had a friend or acquaintance from Alabama living close by. There was my connection, he knew a fellow from Alabama way back when and he liked him (so maybe he would like me).

The Alabama gentleman was a truck driver who had a very colorful life it seemed. This was back in the 50's and I'm sure everybody knew everything about folks in their neighborhood. I'm pretty sure they even talked to each other.

Mr. Arnold was the truck driver's name and he had a wife that would take five buses to get to Orchard Beach to do her sunning in the summer. Going to the beach seemed kind of out of the norm for the 50's and New York. I've always had this picture in my mind of women not getting out in the sun "back then."

The Preacher described Mr. Arnold's wife as having very "leathery" skin when tanned, almost like it had been saddle-soaped. The Preacher should have been a writer, he had a way with words. The Preacher also had fond memories of Mr. Arnold's son, noting that he wanted to be a chemist or an inventor or something. His best memory of the Arnold boy was that of the "kitchen explosion"—a result of one of his chemistry experiments. It was the talk of the neighborhood and not the "explosion" has made its way south almost 70 years later.

Before long, I understood that

I was meant to be here talking to this insurance fellow turned preacher, because he told good stories and had a lot of good advice mixed in with all of them.

During this dinner conversation, I was sweating, water running off the top of head and nose and everything else. This fellow's specialty is Thai food and it can be spicy at times. The kind of spicy that makes me sweat just looking at it. For the record, I like it.

We continued to talk, listen to real country music by the likes of Waylon, Willie, George Jones, Patsy Cline, Hank Williams, Jr. and Conway Twitty. This Preacher appreciated and knew good country music. Of course, I had to throw in the fact that Brenda Lee was my cousin, be it third, fourth or fifth. He was impressed (as he should have been).

We talked kids, country music and the Bible. I enjoy talking to preachers. This one was a very wise one. I minded my manners. I didn't put any extra Duke's Mayonnaise on my Southern accent and I didn't comment about the wine being from Bull Run (rather than Manassas).

I found out that the Preacher had actually made his decision later in life to preach the Gospel. He had been in the insurance business and got the call as folks do. The best part of the night was when he told about where he went to seminary and that "Billy Graham actually signed his diploma."

I didn't say it outloud, but I thought to myself, "That's bigger than Brenda Lee being my cousin."

He reached to shake my hand when I left, I hugged him and told him that I appreciated him. We often are given gifts in the form of the pleasure of meeting folks we needed to meet. I appreciate those gifts most of all.

Read more stories at www.CranksMyTractor.com.

LOCAL

Resurfacing and repaving for Reid Ave work to begin Aug. 5

By Tim Croft

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

The resurfacing and repaving of Reid Ave. in downtown Port St. Joe will begin Sunday, Aug. 5.

Bill Kennedy, executive director of the Port St. Joe Redevelopment Agency, said the work would be done at night, 10 p.m. until 7 a.m., and should only impact, in minor fashion, two businesses.

Kennedy said the work would take 2-3 weeks to complete, depending on weather.

How the work will unfold, he added, will not be fully understood until the contractor is on site.

Complicating the effort will be that some blocks of Reid will need deeper resurfacing than others; for example, the

As the city seeks to extend the CRA, Commissioner David Ashbrook asked his fellow commissioners to consider the "direction" of the PSJRA and whether citizen representation on the board should be increased.

two middle blocks are particularly rutted.

The work will be funded via a \$200,000 loan to the PSJRA from the city of Port St. Joe.

The money is road bond funding, with the PSJRA reimbursing the city.

The PSJRA will also move ahead with a plan to extend the existing community redevelopment area designation, which will sunset in the next few years.

The immediate task is drafting a written plan detailing the city's goals with the DRA and potential actions to meet those goals.

"The plan is very comprehensive," Kennedy said,

much like the 2009 master plan for the PSJRA.

The plan would have to be approved by the PSJRA board, which is comprised of city commissioners and two citizens filling at-large seats, before being forwarded to the City Commission.

Extending the CRA designation will take about a year, Kennedy said.

As the city seeks to extend the CRA, Commissioner David Ashbrook asked his fellow commissioners to consider the "direction" of the PSJRA and whether citizen representation on the board should be increased.

TIF funding

This year, the expanded PSJRA boundaries, which include much of the neighborhood of North Port St. Joe, realized a positive revenue flow from Tax Increment Funding.

The TIF, which earmarks a percentage of any increase in base property values within the redevelopment boundaries, provides the PSJRA funding.

This is the first year since the boundaries were expanded that the expanded area was in the positive on TIF; the amount is \$10,000 of the overall \$40,000 increase in TIF dollars, Kennedy said.

"It came a little sooner than expected," Kennedy said.

During the regular city meeting later Tuesday, commissioners decided to

earmark a portion of that \$10,000 to fund the initial tasks in implementing the plan to rezone Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

City budget

During the Tuesday regular city meeting, commissioners approved a tentative millage rate of 4.5914.

For most of the past decade, city commissioners have set a tentative rate to allow flexibility in crafting a budget; the millage rate has always returned to 3.5914.

Taxing authorities must establish a tentative millage rate by Aug. 1.

At that point, the millage rate can not be increased; it can only be lowered.

A mill is equal to \$1 for every \$1,000 of taxable personal property.

Gillum, candidate for governor, visits Gulf County

Special to The Star

Tallahassee Mayor and Democratic candidate for governor Andrew Gillum talked with voters last Friday at Gulf Coast State College Gulf/Franklin Campus about topics ranging from investing in public education to transforming Florida's economy.

As mayor of Tallahassee, Gillum has overseen the fastest-growing economy per capita in Florida and led on environmental issues, including opening a 120-acre solar farm that tripled Tallahassee's solar production.

"Leaning in to the green economy" is part of his vision for building an economy for Florida with higher-paying jobs.

"We ought to be showing the rest of the world how to deal with the impacts of global climate change," he told the crowd. "We ought to be leading on solar energy as the Sunshine State. We ought to be leading in the kind of innovations that can be created and exported to other parts of the country and, indeed, other parts of the world."

Gillum credits his own success to a quality public education and wants to strengthen Florida's public education system by funding public schools over charter schools, expanding access to early childhood education, ending high-stakes testing and increasing teacher



Andrew Gillum, Democratic candidate for Florida Governor, visited Gulf County last Friday. [PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

salaries.

"You value and you pay for what you consider to be worthy," he said. "Our kids are worthy. Our communities are worthy. Their futures are worthy."

We need a Governor who understands their worthiness and makes those investments and I want to be that Governor."

He also urged voters to pass Amendment 4 in November to restore voting rights to Floridians with felony convictions after they have completed all terms of their sentence.

"We deserve a forgiving state where once you have committed your crime, and you've paid your debt to society and you've reentered it, you ought to have



Gillum had prepared remarks and met individually with voters.

"We ought to be showing the rest of the world how to deal with the impacts of global climate change. We ought to be leading on solar energy as the Sunshine State. We ought to be leading in the kind of innovations that can be created and exported to other parts of the country and, indeed, other parts of the world."

Andrew Gillum

your civil right to vote. You ought to get back your right to participate."

Gillum faces former U.S. Rep. Gwen Graham, former Miami Beach mayor Philip Levine, Palm Beach real estate developer Jeff Greene, and Orlando businessman Chris King in the August 28 primary election. Early voting begins Aug. 18.

The Gulf County Democrats hosted the event.

"The Gulf County Democrats are happy to welcome to our public monthly meetings candidates seeking all levels of political office," said Chair Shannon Stallings.

Candidate for Florida's 2nd Congressional district Brandon Peters will speak at the Aug. 13 meeting.

Florida Health Day is set for August 3

FDOH-Gulf County to host park event

By Tim Croft

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

To understand the array of services provided by the Florida Department of Health in Gulf County, pencil in Aug. 3, which is a Friday, on the calendar.

That day the health department will host "Florida Health Day" from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. ET in Port St. Joe's Frank Pate Park.

Consider Florida Health Day to be something of an amalgam of what the health department does every other

"We participate in many community events throughout the year and these have always been great opportunities to highlight national observances, seasonal topics or a specific program. Florida Health Day will offer that one-stop shop experience for residents to learn about their health department and meet public health staff serving their community."

Sarah Hinds

day of the year, said Sarah Hinds, Executive Director of the Florida Department of Health in Gulf County.

"We participate in many community events throughout the year and these have always been great opportunities to highlight national observances, seasonal topics or a specific program," Hinds

said.

"Florida Health Day will offer that one-stop shop experience for residents to learn about their health department and meet public health staff serving their community."

The event, free to the public and a first for the county health department,

will include educational booths set up by each program or department within the health department.

There will be educational materials and giveaways while residents have the opportunity to learn about the programs such as environmental health, tobacco prevention, Healthy Families, Healthy Start, the health department's clinic, Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and much more.

"We are working on a variety of projects to increase awareness of public health programs in our communities," Hinds said.

Among the events the health department participates in to raise that

awareness is the Tupelo Honey Festival, safety day, health fairs and faith-based health projects, such as screenings.

"The health department provides a variety of services to individuals and families and we also work closely with community organizations to improve health where people live, learn, work and play," Hinds said.

"That's why we seem to be everywhere throughout the community."

But lest one think that Florida Health Day is all business, no play, the event will also include sno-balls, door prizes, and a coloring station for the youngsters and free health screenings.

SEE MORE ONLINE AT STARFL.COM

Gulf County Sheriff's Office investigating arson attempt

Star Staff Report

Gulf County Sheriff's Office investigators are seeking assistance after

an attempted arson in Wewahitchka.

On Tuesday, July 10, at approximately 1:47 a.m., the Sheriff's Office

received a report of two male subjects seen fleeing the Highway 22 Bar located at 1747 State Road 22 in Wewahitchka.

Deputies responded to the scene and found that the inside of the business was saturated with gasoline. Investigators

are actively investigating what appears to be a failed arson attempt.

Anyone with information is asked to contact

Sgt. Larry Dickey with the Gulf County Sheriff's Office at 227-1115, or Crime Stoppers at 785-TIPS.



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NF-4529627

FWC helps support educational lionfish exhibits

Special to The Star

We are excited to announce the opening of a new Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) program. The 2018-19 Lionfish Educational Exhibit Program offers public facilities the opportunity to apply for financial assistance in creating educational exhibit displays about the lionfish invasion. The goal of the program is to increase awareness and ensure consistent, accurate messaging.

Facilities with existing lionfish educational exhibits or an interest in creating one are



[COURTESY OF BOB AND CAROL COX]

encouraged to apply. Approved applicants may be eligible for up to \$2,499 in assistance for the creation of educational displays about lionfish.

To learn more and apply for the program,

visit MyFWC.com/Lionfish. Applications will be accepted from now until March 29, 2019. We hope you will participate in this exciting program and help increase public awareness of the lionfish invasion.

Recreational red snapper season closes July 21 in Gulf state and federal waters

Special to The Star

If you haven't made it out yet, the red snapper season for recreational anglers fishing from private vessels and for charter captains who do not have a federal reef fish permit is open through July 20, closing July 21. The federal season for for-hire operations with federal reef fish permits is open through July 21, closing July 22.

Share your real-time catch data with us by downloading and using the iAngler Gulf Red Snapper app for private anglers or the iAngler Gulf Red Snapper Charter app if you are a charter

operation. These new smartphone apps were designed specifically for voluntary reporting of red snapper catch information and are available via your phone's app store.

Don't forget to add Gulf Reef Fish Angler on your license (includes those that are exempt) before you go fishing for reef fish from a private recreational boat in Gulf state and federal waters (excluding Monroe County). You can get this printed on your license at no cost at GoOutdoors-Florida.com or by visiting any location where you can purchase a license.

For-hire operations that do not have a federal

reef fish permit are limited to state waters only for red snapper fishing and must have State Gulf Reef Fish Charter on their license to target red snapper and other reef fish in Gulf state waters (excluding Monroe County). This can be done at no cost at a local tax collector's office.

To learn more about the 40-day recreational red snapper season in Gulf state and federal waters, including season size and bag limits, visit MyFWC.com/Snappers.

Federal fishery managers are expected to announce an Atlantic red snapper season for federal waters soon. Learn more at sero.nmfs.noaa.gov.

Real Estate Picks

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- 14 RAM 1500 SLT RED, N0782A **\$26,990**
- 17 RAM 1500 LARAMIE WHITE, PC5511A **\$36,990**
- 15 RAM 1500 LARAMIE BLUE, PC5650 **\$34,990**
- 17 RAM 1500 LARAMIE GRAY, PC5721 **\$29,990**
- 16 RAM 1500 LONGHORN SILVER, PC5729 **\$39,990**
- 16 RAM 3500 4X4 DIESEL, MEGACAB, DUALLY, LARAMIE **\$58,990**
- 17 RAM 1500 REBEL GRAY, PA5677 **\$42,990**
- 13 RAM 1500 ST RED, N0873A **\$17,990**
- 15 RAM 2500 LARAMIE MEGACAB, 4X4, PA5764 **\$47,990**
- 18 RAM 2500 LONGHORN DIESEL, 4X4, SILVER, PA5743 **\$65,990**
- 17 RAM 2500 SLT DIESEL, 4X4, WHITE, PC5630 **\$42,990**
- 06 TOYOTA 4RUNNER SR BLUE, PC5553A **\$11,990**
- 15 TOYOTA 4RUNNER SR 44K MILES, BLACK, N1413A **\$29,990**
- 16 TOYOTA 4RUNNER SR 22K MILES, BLACK, P0373A **\$31,990**
- 16 TOYOTA 4RUNNER SR 32K MILES, BLACK, N1095B **\$34,990**
- 14 TOYOTA TUNDRA CREW CAB SILVER, N0931A **\$22,998**
- 08 TOYOTA TUNDRA DOUBLE CAB RED, N1197C **\$10,998**
- 17 TOYOTA RAV4 XLE SILVER, PC5799 **\$24,990**
- 14 TOYOTA SCION FR-S GRAY, P0590B **\$12,990**
- 06 TOYOTA SEQUOIA SILVER, PC5533A **\$9,998**



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OUTDOORS

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Shark bites



[SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

Special to The Star

The Gammons family from Jackson, TN nabbed some sharks while fishing July 7 with Capt. Joey and St. Vincent Island Shuttle.

July 'Outta' the Woods'



Tony Young

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) 2017 Landowner of the Year Award winner, Cal Cooksey, annually plants dove fields on his family's Gadsden County property, and for the past few years has hosted youth dove hunts through the Youth Hunting Program of Florida.

"The future of hunting hinges on finding fun and exciting ways to attract new people to the outdoors and keep them engaged. Taking someone dove hunting for the first time is a great way to accomplish this," said Cooksey.

When asked what the best thing a new hunter can do to prepare for a dove hunt, he said to shoot trap or sporting clays at a local shooting range. To find a public FWC-managed shooting range near you, go to MyFWC.com/Ranges.

"Trap shooting so closely imitates dove hunting, and the same way you have to lead that clay before pulling the trigger, it's the same as with a dove in flight," Cooksey said.

When Cooksey puts a group of hunters in one of his planted dove fields, he makes sure to space them a good, safe 150 yards apart. He says it's best if a new dove hunter can sit alongside an experienced hunter, so they can pick up tips on identifying doves. He also said there's a lot of great information available on the internet to learn how to identify doves as well as how to field dress and cook them.

"I love being able to share with others what I've had all my life, and see people get excited when they have a successful hunt and start learning about conservation," Cooksey said.

Dove Club

Because dove hunting is one of the best ways to introduce new people to hunting and enjoy time afield with friends and family, the FWC created its Special-Opportunity Dove Club Program. It offers hunters the chance to experience dove hunting on the state's best public dove fields.

Dove Club permits enable one adult and one youth (age 15 or younger) to hunt all scheduled dates of a dove field, and each hunter gets to take a

When Cooksey puts a group of hunters in one of his planted dove fields, he makes sure to space them a good, safe 150 yards apart. He says it's best if a new dove hunter can sit alongside an experienced hunter, so they can pick up tips on identifying doves. He also said there's a lot of great information available on the internet to learn how to identify doves as well as how to field dress and cook them.

daily bag limit of birds. Hunters have the choice of applying as a "group" with up to three adult hunters, or they can apply as an individual. Permits cost \$150 per adult hunter. All hunts take place on Saturdays from noon until sunset. Scheduled hunt dates and number of hunts vary between fields.

This coming season, there will be the same five special-opportunity dove fields as there were last year.

Five fields to choose from

Frog Pond North Public Small Game Hunting Area in Miami-Dade County has historically been a top producer of harvested doves. This year, there will be 23 Dove Club permits available to hunt 120 acres planted in Japanese millet, dove proso, browntop millet and sorghum.

There are 13 Dove Club permits available to hunt the 100 acres of browntop millet at Allapat-tah Public Small Game Hunting Area in Martin County, east of Lake Okeechobee.

Hilochee Wildlife Management Area in Lake County has 15 Dove Club permits available to hunt on 80 acres. This year, the field will be planted in Japanese millet, dove proso, browntop millet and sorghum.

Putnam County's Caravelle Ranch Wildlife Management Area has three fields that total about 125 acres, and 30 Dove Club permit holders will be able to hunt over browntop millet, Japanese millet, dove proso, sorghum, buckwheat and sunflower.

The remaining field is at Tenoroc Public Small Game Hunting Area in Polk County, with 13 Dove Club permits available to hunt the 50 acres. Planting on this field is currently delayed due to wet field conditions.

How to apply

Dove Club permits will be issued by random drawing during Phase I. That application period runs from 10 a.m. EDT on July 6 through July 16.

After obtaining the correct application

worksheet by going to MyFWC.com/License and clicking on "Limited Entry/Quota Hunts," you can apply for these season passes by filling out a single worksheet (with up to five dove field choices) and turning it in at any county tax collector's office, license agent or by applying online at GoOutdoors-Florida.com. During Phase I, hunters may be awarded a permit for only one dove field.

You can check the drawing results as early as July 20 by logging into your customer account at GoOutdoorsFlorida.com, and a pop-up message will let you know if you were successful. And any applicant who provides an email address will also be notified by email. If you are successful in getting drawn, you can pay for it online by clicking on the "Claim" link in the "Permit Applications" section of your customer account, or at any of the above-mentioned license agents by July 30.

Dove hunters online update

Brochures on these areas are available online at MyFWC.com/Dove. You can find tips and regulations on dove hunting there as well. Also at that web address, beginning in late September, hunters will be able to find the most up-to-date harvest information on these special-opportunity dove fields. The website is updated weekly throughout dove season.

St. Vincent Island whitetail hunts

St. Vincent Island is a wonderful place that remains unchanged from what old Florida looked like. The undeveloped barrier island in northwest Florida's Franklin County offers two white-tailed deerhunts on the 12,490-acre national wildlife refuge.

The first deer hunt is Nov. 15-17 and is an archery hunt. Only vertical bows may be used, unless a hunter has a Disabled Crossbow Permit, in which case a crossbow may be used as well.

During the second white-tailed hunt,

hunters may use bows, crossbows and muzzle-loaders. That hunt is Jan. 17-19, 2019. There are 250 permits available for each of the two hunts at a cost of \$27.50 each.

If you'd like to experience the thrills and solitude of primitive hunting on St. Vincent Island, all you have to do is buy a permit in July.

Accessing the island

You can only get to St. Vincent Island by boat, and if you don't bring your own, you can make a deal with one of the local charter captains to take you to the island and bring you back after the hunt. For a list of boat captains that offer this service, contact the Apalachicola Bay Chamber of Commerce at 653-9419.

Did I mention it's primitive?

The island has no electricity, so it's all about primitive camping for three days. You're allowed to have a small campfire, using only wood you bring with you or deadwood you find on the ground. And it's recommended that you bring a bicycle to get to and from your hunting spot.

If you harvest any game, however, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff will pick you and your animal up in one of their trucks. In addition, transportation to and from hunting spots and accommodations is available to hunters with disabilities.

How to get a permit

If you'd like to purchase a permit for one or both of these primitive hunts, get the appropriate worksheet by going to MyFWC.com/License and clicking on "Limited Entry/Quota Hunts." Once you've completed it, you may buy the permit at GoOutdoorsFlorida.com or from any county tax collector's office or retail outlet that sells hunting and fishing supplies, beginning 10 a.m. EDT on July 12. But you had better be quick, 'cause these permits are being offered first-come, first-served until they're gone.

If you're looking for a great hunt in a truly beautiful remote place and don't mind roughing it a bit, you will really enjoy St. Vincent Island. But make sure you're prepared for inclement weather because you never know what Mother Nature might throw at you.

WEEKLY ALMANAC

Date	High	Low	% Precip
Thu, July 19	87°	76°	60%
Fri, July 20	88°	77°	60%
Sat, July 21	89°	79°	60%
Sun, July 22	90°	78°	60%
Mon, July 23	90°	79°	60%
Tues, July 24	89°	77°	60%
Wed, July 25	89°	77°	60%

TIDE TABLES MONTHLY AVERAGES

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

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

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

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

ST. JOSEPH BAY

Date	Day	High Tide	High Tide	Low Tide	Low Tide
19	Th	6:04a	1.0	7:48p	0.7
20	Fr	5:50a	1.2	3:50p	0.4
21	Sa	6:08a	1.4	4:34p	0.2
22	Su	6:40a	1.7	5:15p	0.0
23	Mo	7:16a	1.8	5:54p	-0.1
24	Tu	7:53a	1.8	6:30p	-0.1
25	We	8:31a	1.9	7:03p	-0.1

APALACHICOLA BAY, WEST PASS

Date	Day	High Tide	High Tide	Low Tide	Low Tide
19	Th	9:15a	1.4	9:58p	1.0
20	Fr	9:46a	1.4	11:59p	1.0
21	Sa	10:21a	1.4	4:16a	1.0
22	Su	2:12a	1.0	11:00a	1.5
23	Mo	3:38a	1.1	11:44a	1.5
24	Tu	4:27a	1.2	12:31p	1.5
25	We	5:02a	1.3	1:18p	1.5

**SPONSOR THE WEEKLY ALMANAC
CALL TODAY! 227-7847**

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 to 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.

We have everything you need for outdoor Summer fun!

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SPORTS

Port St. Joe tracksters bring home the medals

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

The Port St. Joe summer track club competed in the Ernie Sims Invitational last weekend in Tallahassee with the intent on securing medals.

The athletes hit the mother lode.

The Port St. Joe club sent nine athletes, all competing in multiple events, to the meet in Tallahassee and came away with 25 medals, with each individual winning at least two medals.

Medals were awarded for the top three places in each event in each age group.

“We went hunting for medals,” said Coach Keith Chiles. “We have been focusing for three weeks on each one’s events and what they were going to do to win a medal.”

“They did a great job.”
And did so while



Nine Port St. Joe track athletes won 25 medals over the weekend
[COURTESY PHOTOS/KEITH CHILES]

demonstrating impressive versatility.

Where to start?
How about the youngest, Summer Dickey, who, competing as a 10-year-old, won the high jump and finished second in the shot put.

Or, at the other end of the spectrum would be recent high school grad

Celeste Chiles, who took first in the discus and second in both the high jump and shot put?

Or, as another option, consider the busiest; Lily Wockenfuss won the pole vault, which is becoming something of a habit, took third in both the high jump and shot put and won second



Isaac Wockenfuss earned multiple medals.

in the discus.

Kristen Bouington was nearly as busy, winning third in the pole vault, high jump and discus while taking fourth, just out of the medals, in the shot put.

Bladen Levins, not yet in high school, won both the pole vault and discus and was third in the shot put and

London White was first in the pole vault and third in the high jump.

Catherine Bouington won second in both the high jump and discus and took fourth in the shot put; Leelyn Rollins added a second in the high jump and third in the discus.

Rounding out the team’s count, Isaac Wockenfuss competed in the shot put, discus and high jump, taking third in each event.

Coming up, Chiles will be taking three pole vaulters to Jacksonville for a unique event.

Lily Wockenfuss, Celeste Chiles and Dyson Kent will take part in an event called “Zoo Vault” co-sponsored by the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens.

The three will be among a field of vaulters who compete within the boundaries of the zoo.

Chiles has previously taken vaulters to a similar event held in a shopping mall.

PSJ girls 10U all-stars finish second

Star Staff Report

The Port St. Joe Girls 10U Dixie Youth Softball all-star team traveled to Sneads last month for the district tournament.

The girls played for five days and finished second among the seven teams, losing only to eventual

district champion Altha. Altha went on to win the state title this past weekend, making the Port St. Joe team’s accomplishments even more impressive. “Port St. Joe softball has a bright future with these young ladies,” said Coach Steve Newman.

The team roster: Nijah Quinn, centerfield; Hailyn

Levins, right field; Sunny Shearer, pitcher; Elli Newman, third base; Hailey Green, shortstop; Krissy Maxwell, left field; Hallie Mize, second base; Lyriq Larry, pitcher, first base; Brooke Peacock, catcher; Fenix Grogan, catcher; Brooke Bishop, pitcher; Lauren Brant, left field.



[SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

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SCENE AROUND

Star Staff Report

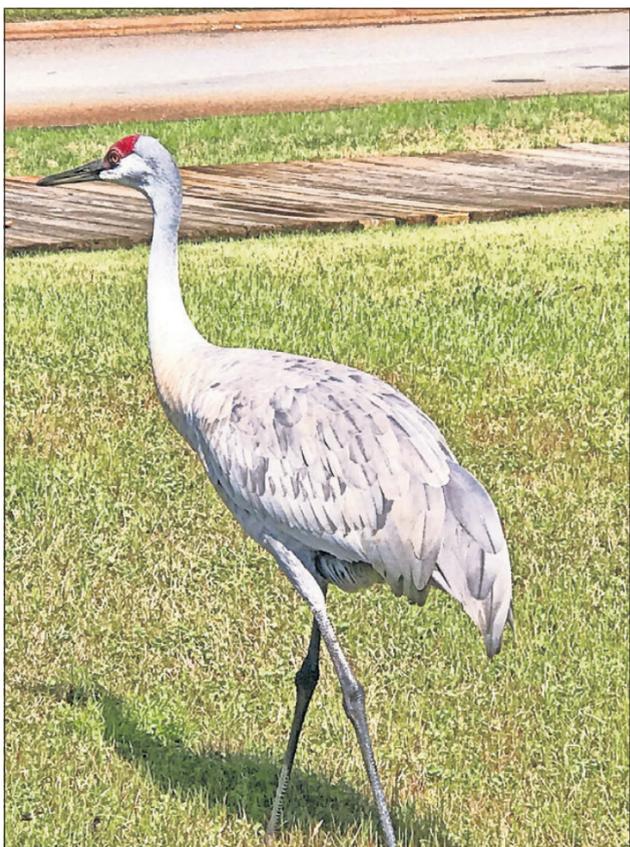
Photographers of all skill levels are invited to enter their work into the Community Photography Show at The Joe Center for the Arts. A total of 5 photos may be entered in the following categories: Landscapes/Seascapes, Nature, Sunrises/Sunsets and Creative. Entry fee is \$30/member and \$45/non-member.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



A rainbow appears while eating breakfast at the Sand Dollar Café [COURTESY OF KEN PAULK]



Sunrise fishing on St. Joseph Bay. [COURTESY OF SARAH FREER]



A Sandhill Crane on its way north. [COURTESY OF CAROL AND PHIL DOHMEN]



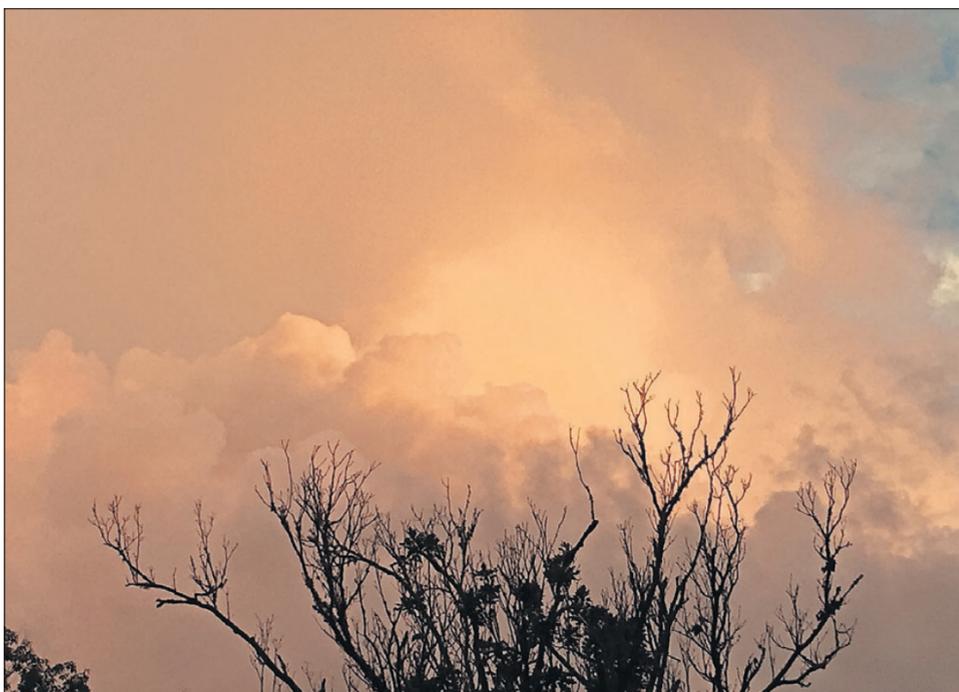
Night diving. [COURTESY OF KAREN AND GRIFF GAINNIE]



A Green Heron fishing among the water lilies at George Core Park. [COURTESY OF DEB MAYES]



Magnificent morning on Cape San Blas. [COURTESY OF DANA JEAN FROM MCKINNEY, TX]



Just before the storm. [COURTESY OF RON RUDOLPH]

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.

COMMUNITY

While spotlighting, a solution

Arts Center offers alternative to plastic shopping bags

By **Tim Croft**

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

The Turtles and Trash exhibit at The Joe Center for the Arts is spawning something of a product line.

That might be carrying it away a mite, but after a campaign to do away with plastic straws launched just as the exhibit was opening last month, the Center is now providing another solution

for the trash that ends up in the world's oceans.

Canvas bags to replace those ubiquitous plastic shopping bags.

"The canvas bag was something to offer solutions to people when you are asking them to change their habits," said Nancy Jones, a volunteer with the non-profit Center.

"I thought it was a great idea and just perfect with the show."

The show, Turtles and Trash, is a blend of art and science, bringing a spotlight to the damage done daily to the world's oceans; waters altogether by trash.

(As an aside, the show,

which is free, is well worth a visit and there is a schedule of interactive activities. Regardless if you take in the ancillary events, the show alone is worth the visit to the Center during opening hours.)

Much like the paper straw campaign, which has discovered traction at several local establishments, the effort to cut down on plastic bag usage found purchase in observation, Jones said.

Jones was noting during a recent visit to a local retail store the number of items going into plastic bags.

See **BAGS**, B7



Sales of the bags will benefit the arts center. [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

Popular PSJES teacher reinstated

By **Tim Croft**

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

Krissy Gentry, a popular teacher at Port St. Joe Elementary School and one deemed "high impact" by the Florida Department of Education, has been reinstated.

Gentry was suspended without pay in April for the remainder of the 2017-18 school year by the Gulf County School Board, at the recommendation of Superintendent of Schools Jim Norton.

She was suspended over allegations ranging from the use of a cell phone in the class to gross insubordination.

She was forced to undergo a "fitness for duty" evaluation before returning to the classroom.

"I am convinced she is fit for duty," Norton said Monday. "It is my recommendation she be reinstated."

Gentry, who has taught several grades at PSJES and was teaching fourth grade during the last school year, will return to a third-grade classroom.

She had been suspended just prior to the spring break and just as the district was poised to undertake Florida Standard Assessment testing.

Her suspension without pay is the subject of complaint by Gentry now in binding arbitration with the district.

A hearing date has yet to be set.

The acrimony and controversy over Gentry's suspension has been cited by district officials as possible one factor in the school receiving a "C" grade from the FDOE last month.

Norton said the elementary school is a "B" school at least and has contended since grades were released that Port St. Joe Elementary School will be an "A" school within the next two years.

The allegations against Gentry originated in a March 15 weekly journal entry by Florida State University student-intern.

The intern wrote of concerns about Gentry's classroom teaching and questioned her decisions regarding adhering to lesson plans and subject matter.

She wrote that Gentry had only passing core subject instruction during the week in question, teaching "life lessons" during which "she rambled on about life."

That "life lesson thing" continued over two days, with Gentry talking about guns, shooting animals and people.

According to the intern, Gentry cautioned students not to tell anyone what had been discussed in class as it would upset parents or the principal.

Much of the classroom discussions were against the backdrop of the Feb. 14 massacre at Parkland School in South Florida.

See **TEACHER**, B7

Leaving a trace



Just north of the Trading Post, 6:50 a.m. July 6. [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

Enforcement, or lack, of LNT raises concerns

By **Tim Croft**

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

There was little mistaking one of the most pressing issues discussed during the recent annual meeting of the Coastal Community Association of Gulf County.

Actually, there was little discussion, only a spate of questions directed at a representative of the Gulf County Sheriff's Office.

And those questions, at least five of the first six asked, though answers were elusive, focused on enforcement of the county's Leave No Trace ordinance.

With each question, the answer was the same; the sheriff's office does not oversee enforcement of Leave No Trace and doesn't have the manpower to do so.

With just three patrol officers on any 12-hour shift to cover the entire county, the ability to enforce beach

cleanliness is out of reach, the representative said.

Maybe it was the arrival of the height of the summer season or a step back along a path that seemed to some to find traction the past two years, but the outcry from some corners concerning the ordinance has increased.

"There is no enforcement and it is getting worse," said Cape resident Rosalie Tritsch.

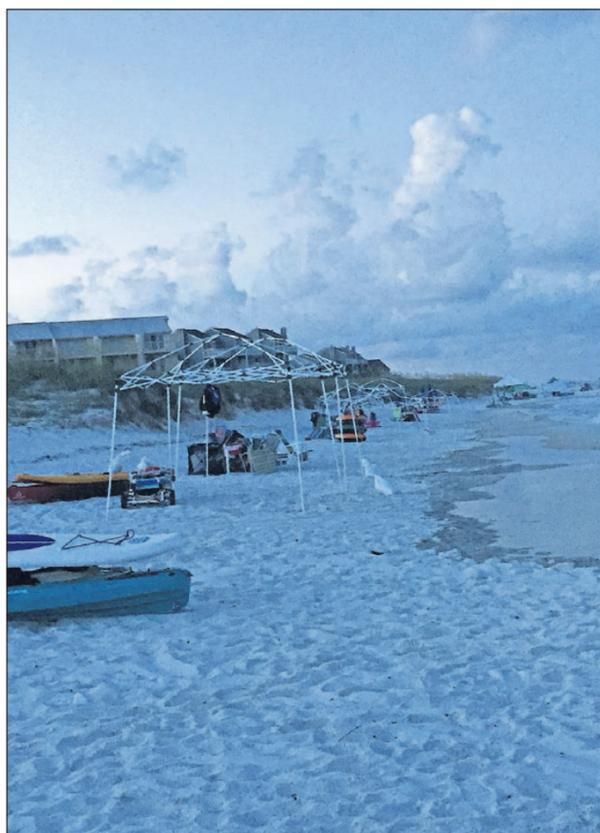
An Indian Pass business owner was asked at the CCA meeting about whether visitors were cleaning the beaches along that stretch at night.

They laughed, adding, "They never do."

Kelli Godwin, Executive Director of the Gulf County Tourist Development Council, said she and her staff could count the number of complaints this summer about Leave No Trace on one hand.

But, she added, "I have seen the pictures" and noted that "we know this is our heaviest time of year (on the beaches)."

See **LNT**, B7



In front of Seacliffs and Barrier Dunes at 6:20 a.m. July 12 [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

TRIVIA FUN



Wilson Casey

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

1. 1902's "Le Voyage dans la Lune" often is considered to be

the first film of what genre?

Horror, Comedy, Science fiction, Romance

2. Where is the only country in the world that ends in the letter "K"?

South America, Scandinavia, Polynesia, Caribbean

3. Which Major League Baseball team plays its home games at 100

Main St.?

Reds, White Sox, Padres, Orioles

4. The Yellow Coach Co. later became what brand of trucks?

Peterbilt, GMC, Mack, Kenworth

5. Which singer is/was called "Little Miss Dynamite"?

Dolly Parton, Petula Clark,

Brenda Lee, Patsy Cline

6. In auto-racing flags, what color means "finish"?

Black, White, Checkered, Green

ANSWERS: 1. Science fiction, 2. Scandinavia (Denmark), 3. Reds (Cincinnati), 4. GMC, 5. Brenda Lee, 6. Checkered

SOCIETY

PSJ Garden Club receives grant for repairs of center

Special to The Star

Caretaking of a building on the National Register of Historic Places has its responsibilities, challenges and rewards. No one knows this better than the members of the Port St. Joe Garden Club. Its 93-year-old historic building is the heart of the club's community activities and is in need of repairs to its interior and exterior structure.

With support of a \$46,854 grant to the Port St. Joe Garden Club from the trustees of the Jessie Ball duPont Fund, the building will receive these updates. The grant was among 29 awards, valued at \$1.7 million, made by the trustees during their summer meeting.

The Garden Club's building is the oldest surviving church in Port St. Joe. Because it is used for a wide range of activities, maintaining the appearance and functionality of the building is essential for continued use and expansion of these community events.

Showing dedication to



[FILE PHOTO]

this project, Garden Club's members voted to share in the funding of the repairs by matching a portion of the project's direct costs. Others are donating their time as in-kind contributions. Repairs to the building's steeple, driveway, floors, lighting, wiring and signage will be done by local tradesmen, thus promoting financial investment in the community.

The Garden Club anticipates an increase of 20 percent in

events hosted at the building, once completed. The additional rental income will help sustain ongoing improvements to the historic structure.

The Jessie Ball duPont Fund works to expand access and create opportunity by investing in people, organizations and communities that were important to Jessie Ball duPont. The Fund has assets of \$309 million and has awarded more than \$376 million in grants since 1977.



Dr. Wesley Grace turns 95

Special to The Star

You are cordially invited to attend the 95th birthday celebration for Dr. Wesley Grace from 2-4 p.m. ET Sunday, July 22, at the Great Hall at First United Methodist Church in Port St. Joe. The celebration is given by his daughters and the FUMC Church Choir. Please come and wish Wesley a happy birthday. No gifts please.

My GULFCare celebration of health

Special to The Star

MyGULFCare had their annual Celebration of Health at the Public Library on July 12. Clients, staff and community partners had an opportunity to come together and share their stories of the challenges they have faced trying to establish healthier lifestyles.

One client shared that she has tried "every diet known to man" with the usual yo-yo success. Not until she found acceptance and support to simply be healthier, did she find a way to improve her health that has included slow and steady weight loss. Another client proudly revealed that one year ago he weighed 377 pounds and was suffering from severed lung issues, high blood pressure and long-term effects of smoking. Today he weighs 245 pounds, is a non-smoker, and is able to walk a mile daily for exercise. He still has health issues and says he feels more confident in his ability to manage his concerns.

One of the highlights of the event was presentation of the Lilly Journey Awards to clients who have successfully managed Type I Diabetes.



[SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

Jacquelyn Stevens received a 50-year award and said she has never considered herself "a diabetic," but always "a person with diabetes." She appreciates the person-centered approach she received from Care Management.

Anita Kemp, also a 50-year award winner, said she shares the honor with her dad. He too had Type I diabetes and she lost him when she was 11. She has dealt with Diabetes since she was a toddler and says he was her hero, helping her to realize diabetes is just part of who she is. Melissa Clements, also an award winner, was unable to

be there. Another client who survived the tragedy at the World Trade Centers on Sept. 11, 2001, shared how suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder affected her management of other chronic health conditions.

Other client stories flowed throughout the event and made it a true celebration of health. An overview of the program and the services provided was given by Debbie Maulding, RN Care Manager.

MyGULFCare began its service to the community in 2012. For more information about MyGULFCare and Care Management please call 229-5606.

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder discussed at Lifetree Café

Special to The Star

The impact of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder will be explored 7 p.m. CT Monday, July 23, at Lifetree Café.

The program, titled "Wounded Warriors: When War Comes Home," features a filmed interview with a military veteran who battled PTSD after returning home from the Iraq war.

"When I came back, I was on edge every second of the day, whether I was at home or driving," the veteran said. "All of the curtains were always closed because I was so paranoid. I felt like I was still in Iraq in my own

home."

The Lifetree program offers helpful resources and strategies for coping with PTSD.

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

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

PET OF THE WEEK
St. Joseph Bay Humane Society

This is Domino, a domestic medium hair cat about 2 years old. She was picked up by animal control and had a litter of kittens with her as well. She is extremely loving and enjoys being held. Playful and sweet she loves to be around people. Domino is litter box trained and waiting to find a forever home! Come visit her and the other sweet animals all waiting for someone to give their love to.

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

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SCHOOL NEWS

‘Café Conversation’ on schools Tuesday

By Tim Croft

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

Consider Tuesday to be something of the second bell.

An effort to foster more community involvement in public education, sponsored by the Gulf County Education Association, the roundtable series “Cafe Conversation” will continue 5:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. ET Tuesday in Building A on the Gulf/Franklin Campus of Gulf Coast State College.

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

The official title of the event is “Community Round Table Conversation on Public Education

in Gulf County.”

The event is free and the public is encouraged to attend.

“We want everybody to come out and become involved in and support the public schools,” said Krissy Gentry, president of the GCEA, the union which represents all school employees.

“The idea is to brainstorm some of the very topical issues, all of which are important to the public schools right here.”

The first roundtable last month was considered a success, with more than two dozen people in attendance and offering a host of ideas and creating some momentum.

“This was one of the most productive meetings I have ever attended,”

commented Susan Kotelman, a parent of several children in district schools.

“Solutions and plans of how to get the best learning environments for our students was the focus. No pointing fingers, just genuine concern followed by a plan of action.”

This month’s roundtable will include a presentation from Jason Shoaf, Gulf County’s representative on the board of Triumph Gulf Coast.

The focus will continue a discussion from last month concerning the value of vocational programs.

Shoaf has approached the Gulf County School Board and Superintendent of Schools Jim Norton about the potential

provided by Triumph to expand programs without adding to the local tax burden.

The district, in turn, has since filed pre-applications for three separate Triumph grants; one to purchase new buses, one to establish a culinary arts program and another to expand agricultural programs.

The district is already in line to receive RESTORE Act funding to expand the welding program to Wewahitchka Jr./Sr. High School.

“(Vocational) students will be able to go out into the workforce as soon as they graduate from high school,” Gentry said. “Everyone will be contributing to the economics of our community.”

“Having vocational programs in place will help our students become productive citizens.”

Other issues have also been part of the roundtable discussions from last month and will certainly continue to be, Gentry said.

Student motivation was discussed at length last month, as one example.

“We have to find a way to make our students excited about coming to school,” said Sheria Griffin, executive director of Miracle Strip Services Unit, which represents public school employees in Gulf, Bay and Walton counties.

The overarching goal, to foster community engagement in public schools.

“We are asking the community to come up with solutions to the challenging problems we are facing in public education,” Griffin said.

In addition, general and group discussion focused on school safety, parental involvement and other issues.

“It is time for our community to come together as one and rally around public education,” Gentry said. “The ultimate goal of these meetings is to provide the best educational opportunities for the students of Gulf County.”

“We want this to be a positive thing for the community, to come together and discuss how the community can support the public schools and the children.”

FSU boasts best four-year graduation rate in state

Special to The Star

TALLAHASSEE — Florida State University now has the best four-year graduation rate of any public university in Florida, according to the latest data reported in the State University System’s 2018 Accountability Plan.

The university’s four-year graduation rate is 68.4 percent, nearly three points higher than the previous year’s cohort, placing FSU first among all State University System of Florida institutions. More significantly, it’s the highest four-year graduation rate in the State University System’s history.

“That’s a very big deal,” said Sally McRorie, provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs. “That’s among the Top 15 public universities nationally.”

Florida State’s upward trajectory in student success hasn’t happened overnight. The four-year graduation rate has steadily risen in recent years as a result of careful and strategic investments

in areas such as academic advising, tutoring and academic coaching.

“We made the decision that student success was our primary goal and the key fulfillment of our mission,” McRorie said. “This success is a return on those investments, which have been major for a university that has the second-lowest state tuition in the country.”

Of the freshmen who entered the university in 2013, 68.4 percent graduated in four years. By comparison, only 49.3 percent of freshmen who started at FSU in 2005 graduated in four years.

“This wonderful news is the result of hard work and creative thinking by faculty and staff across campus,” President John Thrasher said. “They are putting students on a path toward earning a degree while providing them with a strong undergraduate experience that prepares them to be successful after graduation.”

With more limited resources than most public universities,

Florida State has used both broad-based and targeted approaches to increase graduation and retention rates.

The broad-based approaches include academic mapping and the Take 15 initiative. Academic mapping gives students a guideline for planning courses along their journey to earn a degree, while Take 15 encourages students to carry at least 15 credit hours per semester, which keeps them on track to graduate in four years.

Florida State also targets unique and at-risk populations through programs developed to address their particular interests and challenges, such as the Center for Academic Retention & Enhancement. CARE is a nationally recognized program that provides first-generation and underrepresented students with the necessary tools, resources and support network they need to flourish in the collegiate environment.

Graduation and

retention rates for CARE students are regularly above those of the general population.

“We’ve shown that regardless of background, students can thrive in higher education,” McRorie said. “We’ve virtually erased graduation rate gaps between all categories of underrepresented and traditional student populations.”

Another way FSU continues to increase its graduation rate is through the newly created Graduation Planning

and Strategies Office, which provides support for undergraduate students with high credit hours who may not have a plan for graduation. The three-person team seeks these students out and assists them in developing goals for graduation and beyond.

Florida State’s high-impact practices for student success are turning heads across the nation. Last summer, McRorie spoke to the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities

about Florida State’s student success strategies, and in April, she was invited to present on undergraduate success at the TIAA’s 100th anniversary celebration.

“People are starting to pay attention nationally,” McRorie said. “Our profile in terms of these student success measures — which to me are among the most important for an institution — is rising.”

The Accountability Plan is pending confirmation by the full Board of Governors.

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 auto pay (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

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.

savings depends on their credit rating, the repayment plan they choose and if they use auto debit from a bank account.

To qualify for an Advantage Loan, the student must:

- Be attending a participating college.
- Be the age of majority by the date of application.
- Be a U.S. citizen or a non-citizen with a proof of residency card.
- Have an acceptable credit history or an approved cosigner.

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- Have a child attending a participating college.
- Be the parent or stepparent of an undergraduate or graduate student, as determined by the Free Application

for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

- Be a U.S. citizen or a non-citizen with a proof of residency card.

- Have an acceptable credit history or an approved cosigner.

Advantage Education Loans are available for students attending eligible colleges and universities. People who want to consolidate their student loans can apply for the Advantage Refinance Loan.

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RONNIE LEE "PLUG" STANLEY FAMILY CARD OF THANKS

We lost our bigger than life loved one and know he was special to many people. No words can express our gratitude for all of the food, flowers, cards, calls and visits. We, as his family are deeply touched by the

overwhelming amount of support that has been shown to us during this time. May your wonderful memories of him live on for eternity.

Love,
The Family of Plug Stanley

CORE FAMILY CARD OF THANKS

Lowell Core and Kitty Core Morales would like to thank everyone for your love and support during the recent illness and death of our beloved mother, Jessie P. Core. Your outpouring of love through your prayers, texts, phone calls, food gifts, floral arrangements, cards and visits lifted our spirits and sustained us during this difficult time. Thank you to the members of the Faith, Hope and Love Sunday School class at Long Avenue Baptist Church for serving as

honorary pallbearers. Mama loved each of you dearly. We offer our special thanks to Reverends David Fernandez and Eli Prine for your uplifting eulogies at her graveside service.

The luncheon sponsored by the Long Avenue Baptist Bereavement Committee was delicious. Your donations of Bibles through the Gideons in Mama's memory will help spread the gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Core Family

WITH MUCH GRATITUDE

We, the family of Kawana Fisher Lawrence, deeply appreciate your thoughtfulness and thank you sincerely for every act of kindness shown to us during one of our most difficult and saddest moments. As we mourned her untimely death, you, our friends and families demonstrated what it means to love, support, and care for one another.

The greatest comfort during our sorrows was your prayers, visitations, the food you brought, and so many other acts of kindness too numerous to list. You really showed the true spirit of Port St. Joe. God bless you now and forever!

The Okito Lawrence, Kimberly Owens, and Emmanuel Fisher Families

Diocesan bishop to visit St. James Episcopal Church

Special to The Star

The Right Reverend Russell Kendrick, bishop of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast, will make his annual congregational visit to St. James Episcopal Church on Sunday, July 29, in Port St. Joe.

After a morning meeting with Vestry members, Bishop Kendrick will preside over the 11 a.m. ET Holy Eucharist service followed

by a congregational meeting during a luncheon hosted by the St. James Episcopal Church Women.

"We are always excited when Bishop Kendrick comes to St. James. We are one of the last congregations to the east in the diocese, so for him to make the trip to be with us is greatly appreciated," said Father Tommy Dwyer, Rector of St. James. "Not only is he a wonderfully engaging speaker, on

this visit, Bishop Kendrick will be sharing updates from the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church which was conducted in Austin, TX just last week.

"Also, Bishop Kendrick's visit nearly coincides with the Feast of St. James on July 25 which is a significant event for our church community that celebrates the life and deeds of James, one of Jesus' first disciples."

FAITH BRIEFS

Summer revival at Philadelphia Primitive

Philadelphia Primitive Baptist Church will host its summer revival July 18, 19 and 20. Services will start at 7:30 p.m. ET each night with the Bishop Russell Wright of Panama City as the Evangelist.

Everyone with a desire to be blessed is cordially invited to attend. The church is located at 261 Avenue D.

Revival, healing at Lighthouse Ministries

Lighthouse Pentecostal

Ministries will be having revival and healing services July 23-25 at 7 p.m. ET nightly. Everyone is welcome.

Come and let us worship the Lord in praise, worship, the Word, and expecting miracles. Each night we will pray for the sick (James 5:14) and any other needs you may have.

The church is located at 5746 State Highway 71 in White City.

Youth Day at Zion Fair cancelled

Due to a scheduling conflict, the Annual Youth Day

Program at Zion Fair Missionary Baptist, scheduled for this Sunday, has been cancelled.

Over 55 Bunch at Beach Baptist

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

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MONDAY - 7:00 PM - Lifetree Café. Join the Conversation

WEDNESDAY - 10:00AM to 2:00 PM Open House
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 10:30 a.m. Fellowship breakfast
 11 a.m. Worship service

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 Evening Worship - 5:00

WEDNESDAY:
 Family Dinner - 5:30
 Prayer Meeting - 6:30
 Student Ministry - 6:30
 Children's Ministry / Choir - 6:30
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 Wednesday Night.....7:00 pm

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New Service Schedule for First Baptist Church

Sunday Morning Schedule

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

Wednesday

Dinner.....5:00 - 6:00 pm
 AWANA.....6:00 - 7:30 pm
 Surrender Student Ministry.....6:15 - 7:30 pm
 Prayer/Bible Study.....6:15 - 7:30 pm
 Nursery.....6:00 - 7:30 pm

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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

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 Psalm 29:2

Sunday School.....10 a.m.
 Sunday Morning Worship11 a.m.
 Sunday Evening Worship6 p.m.
 Wednesday Evening Service6 p.m.

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Schedule of Worship Services

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

Wednesday
 Mid Week Bible Study 6:00 PM
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 Thursday - 6:30 p.m. CST Bible Study

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What Southern Folks Eat: Let us eat cake



Stephanie Hill-Fraizer

Where there is cake, there is hope. And there is always cake.

Dean Koontz

Cakes have long been associated with celebrations, large and small. From a child's first birthday, when he is allowed to dig in from the safety of his high chair and smear himself with the delicious frosting while a parent takes his picture, to weddings, where elaborate, expensive cakes are the highlight of a reception and the wedding photos, cake is nearly as necessary to family events as the family itself...nearly.

Since cake is so important in our culinary experience, let's learn a little about it before delving into the delicious recipes I have for you.

Europe is credited with the invention of modern cakes, which were round, yeast-y, and topped with a boiled icing, not the luscious buttercream (or the bland tasting but beautiful fondant) used today. However, by the 19th century, the soft, sweet cakes made using baking powder instead of yeast became popular, as did buttercream icing, and people began to love cake even more.

Now let's move forward into the 20th century. Cake mixes became available

when P. Duff and Sons patented a cake mix for use by "the modern housewife" in 1933, according to Bon Appetit Magazine. John Duff sweetened the mixes with lots of dried molasses, which worked well for the spice cake and devil's food cake in his company's product line.

By the 1950s, many other companies had introduced their own version of the cake mix, including Duncan Hines and Pillsbury. In the '30s, the companies used dehydrated eggs in the mixes, but by the '50s they decided that people wanted to be more a part of the creation of the cake, so they removed the dehydrated eggs and had the purchaser add fresh eggs at home, according to the BA article. Making a cake became easier, and the finished product was delicious.

While it is a badge of pride for many people to make a cake from scratch, no mix involved, let's be honest. A cake mix is a handy way to make a dessert and is almost fool-proof. Cakes from scratch can turn out coarse, dry, crumbly...or perfect. One never knows. But a cake made from a mix is almost always perfect, assuming that the baker follows package directions, and doesn't let little boys run loudly into the kitchen to open the oven door. (I've been there! We ate the fallen cake, anyway.)

Certain cakes in my life have had a prominent place during special occasions, and that may be true for you, as well. For example, as a little girl, I always



Chocolate cake. [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

wanted, and received, a pink strawberry cake made in mama's kitchen for all my friends to share as they gathered around our dining room table. I don't remember a single gift I received, but I remember that glorious pink cake. It was made from a mix, and she used fresh strawberries in it and in the frosting sometimes. I loved it mostly because of the pretty color, I recall.

Christmas meant two kinds of cake for our family gatherings. One was coconut cake, with white cake layers and a fluffy white powdered sugar icing, topped with sweetened, tender coconut flakes. The

second kind was a yellow cake covered with chocolate frosting and topped with pecan halves. I still make that one now in my own home at Christmas, and I will always associate the beautiful white coconut cake with my dad, as he has always loved it so much. Those are special memories for me.

As famous television cake baker Buddy Valastro said, "Cakes are special. Every birthday, every celebration ends with something sweet, a cake, and people remember. It's all about the memories." I could not agree more.

Now, if you want to try

some new cake recipes, I have a couple of them to share with you. But first I'll share my favorite chocolate icing recipe which I learned by watching the talented Ina Garten. It's the perfect icing to use on a yellow cake!

Ina's Chocolate Icing

24 ounces semisweet chocolate chips (if you're not a fan of semi-sweet, try milk chocolate chips)

1 ½ cups heavy cream
2 tablespoons light corn syrup
½ teaspoon pure vanilla extract (Ina & I agree that one should only use REAL vanilla extract)

4 tablespoons (½ stick) unsalted butter, at room temperature (very important that it be room temp)

Method:

First, place the chocolate chips and heavy cream in a bowl set over a pot of gently simmering (not boiling) water, stirring, until the chips are completely melted. The more you stir, the shinier the icing will be.

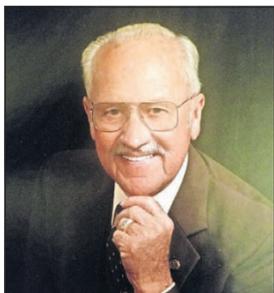
Off the heat, add the corn syrup and vanilla and allow the chocolate mixture to cool to room temperature. In the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with the whisk attachment, whisk the chocolate mixture and softened butter on medium speed for a few minutes, until it's thickened.

Spread on a completely cooled cake. This made enough icing to cover the 9x13-inch sheet cake I made with about ¾-inch of icing. If you would like to, feel free to top the icing with pecans, as my family does.

OBITUARIES

THOMAS JAMES COWART

Thomas J. Cowart, age 86, of Wewahitchka, Florida, passed away July 11, 2018, at Covenant Hospice with loving family by his side. He was born March 22, 1932, in Baker County, Florida, to the late Arthur W. Cowart and Willa Mae Crews. Tommy left the Okefenokee Swamp when he was 12 years old to go live with his aunt in Macclenny, FL. He was given a shoe shine box by a friend and he shined shoes to help support his family. He had the honor of shining the shoes of Johnny Mack Brown and Tex Ritter. Tommy worked several jobs until he decided to move back to Jacksonville and join the Air Force. He fought in the Korean War where he was shot, but refused a Purple Heart. He had several different duty stations before he was sent to Vietnam with his K-9 companion, Barr. He suffered a severe back injury when Barr went on alert and pulled them both off the side of a mountain. Again, he refused a Purple Heart. After many duty stations he retired while at Tyndall Air Force Base as a Staff Sergeant in 1972. He then worked Civil Service for 10 years, with Gulf County Public Transportation for 3 years and finally J Trans Public Transportation for several years.



He was a member of Eastern Star Chapter #229, Tupelo Masonic Lodge #289, Panama City Scottish Rite and Shaddai Shrine Temple. As well as a member of the Shaddai Cruisers.

Tommy was preceded in death by his father, mother, step-father, sons, Thomas Earl Cowart and Ronnie Lee Stanley; brothers, Alvin and Art Cowart; sisters, Gertrude Taylor, Louise Bright and Mildred Leonard; granddaughter, Deanna Galloni; grandson, Matthew Stanley, great-granddaughter, Jayzmyynn Stanley and great-grandson Aaron Stanley.

Tommy is survived by his loving wife of 45 years, Norma Jean Cowart; sons, Johnny Stanley (Ann), Frankie Stanley, Lonnie Stanley (Debbie), Greg Williams, and daughter; Gabriele Spence; grandchildren, Bryce Stanley (Karen),

Chasity Ferguson (Travis), Kyle Stanley (Jennifer), Missy Gore (John), Frankie Stanley (Sherry), Jason Hurst (Trina), Tabitha Evans (Rusty), Michael Cowart (Harley), Stephen Stanley (Victoria), Kayla Stanley, Stevie McLemore (Jean), Greta O'Dell (Eric), Beth Ann Hurst (Ben); 24 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren; a very special niece, Anna Gail Pippin, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services for Tommy were held Saturday, July 14, 2018, at 11 a.m. at Westside Baptist Church in Wewahitchka, FL, with Pastors Derrick Gerber, Mike Dunn and Johnny Newton officiating. Interment will follow at Jehu Cemetery.

Arrangements are under the care of Comforter Funeral Home in Port St. Joe, Florida. Asked to serve as pallbearers are his great-grandsons, Josh McMullon, Jacob Stanley, Josh Stanley, Aydin Ferguson, Tripp McMullon, Justyn Ferguson and Rhett Gore.

The family would like to send a special thanks to Covenant Hospice, Dr. Ortega, Dr. Ramos, Dr. Trantham, Dr. Bataineh, Dr. Hurst, Dr. Finney, Dr. England, Dr. Kovaleski and Dr. Minga.

DEBRA LYNN DAVIS

Debra Lynn Davis passed away on Saturday July 14, 2018. She was born in Port Saint Joe, Florida on January 25, 1957 to Joseph and Shirley Nixon.

She attended school in Port Saint Joe and also attended Gulf Coast State College. She would later on work as CNA and Correctional Officer.

Debra is survived by her loving husband of forty-one years, Glenn Davis, who loved her beyond measure.

She is also survived by her children Richard Davis, Chris (Bogey) Nixon, Leigha (John) Thursby, Michael (Sharon) Davis, and Kristi Davis.

Debra has many grandchildren that were her whole world; Alyssa, Jessica, Kristen, Cole, Garrett, Luke, Joseph, Hope, and Jaxon.

She also leaves behind her mother, Shirley Nixon, her brothers, Michael (Liz) Nixon and Bruce (Wanda) Nixon, a multitude of family and friends, and one very special Aunt Ailene. Debra is preceded

in death by her father, Joseph Nixon.

Debra and Glenn lived, worked, and worshipped the Lord here in Port Saint Joe. She and her husband, Glenn, pastored Hope Family Worship Center since March of 2008.

Her husband saw her when she was young and thought she was the most beautiful girl. He asked the Lord to give him a girl just like her and the Lord answered his prayers. She would later on become his loving wife.

They would go on to spend the next forty-one years side by side. Debra loved and cared for Glenn throughout their marriage from raising babies, to keeping their house a home, to being his biggest supporter.

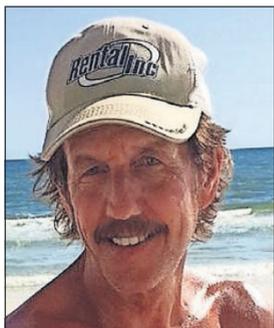
Services were held Tuesday, July 17, 2018 at Hope Family Worship Center.

Visitation will be at 10 a.m. est., Funeral began at 11 a.m. with interment to follow at Holly Hill Cemetery.

Services are under the direction of Comforter Funeral Home.

MARK DAVID KILBOURN

Mark David Kilbourn passed away on July 10, 2018, at Southeast Alabama Medical Center in Dothan, Ala following a brief illness. Mark was the second of three children born to Charles "Binky" and Mary Agnes Kilbourn on September 29, 1961 in Port St. Joe, FL. He graduated with the Class of 1979 and lived a full and active life here



in Port St. Joe. He always said he would never want to live anywhere else because, this place is the best to be.

Mark was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents Jim and Kate Kilbourn, his maternal grandparents J.C. and Agnes Culpepper, his father Charles Vincent "Binky" Kilbourn, Sr., and his older brother Charles

Vincent Kilbourn, Jr. He leaves behind to cherish his memory his mother Mary Agnes Kilbourn-Stephens, his daughters Katie and Miranda Kilbourn, his younger brother Michael Kilbourn, and the many wonderful friends he loved so dearly.

A casual graveside service was held at The Pavilion in Holly Hill Cemetery,

Port St. Joe, 10 a.m., EST, Saturday, July 14, 2018.

In lieu of flowers, if you wish, please donate in Mark's memory to his favorite charity, The Wounded Warriors. Expressions of sympathy may be viewed or submitted at www.southerlandfamily.com

Southerland Family Funeral Home Panama City, FL

Sedge and Kyllinga thriving in dog days of summer

By Ray Bodrey

Gulf County Extension Director
UF/IFAS
Special to The Star

Vibrant green patches of grass have been popping up in yards across the Panhandle of recent. Although this grass mimics a healthy stand of turf, it's actually a group of weeds known as sedges.

Sedges and sedge-like plants, known as kyllinga, are species that emerge in late spring and thrive in summer months in warm, moist climates.

Excessive irrigation or areas with poor drainage create a very hospitable environment for these weeds. Sedges are annual grass-like plants have an elaborate flower bearing stems.

Sedges have a triangular stem, which sets them apart from most weeds. Yellow and purple nutsedge are the most common species. Yellow nutsedge has a light green appearance with yellow-gold inflorescence (flowers/seed heads). Purple nutsedge is darker green with red-purple inflorescence. Kyllingas have smaller leaves and are less vertical.

Sedges and kyllinga often resemble a winter rye grass in an immature stage of growth.

However, this is very unlikely regarding identification, as winter rye grass will not survive in summer temperatures.

Sedges have a triangular stem, which sets them apart from most weeds. Yellow and purple nutsedge are the most common species.

Yellow nutsedge has a light green appearance with

yellow-gold inflorescence (flowers/seed heads). Purple nutsedge is darker green with red-purple inflorescence. Kyllingas have smaller leaves and are less vertical.

Kyllingas can infiltrate turfgrass and form dense patches, which are difficult to eradicate. Sedges and kyllingas are fast spreading, and reproduce through seed and rhizomes, or underground tubers. How do you control these species? Herbicides

are only effective on active growing plants. Therefore, May through August are the prime application months. However, long-term control is futile, if drainage issues are not resolved. Herbicides containing Imazaquin or Halosulfuron are effective controls.

Some products are actually marketed as "nutsedge killer." Imazaquin also controls some broadleaf weeds and grasses along with sedges and kyllingas.

Always follow the label directions and precautions. Hand removal is an effective measure. However, you must remove all rhizomes of the plant, or it will simply grow back.

For more information on sedge species, please contact

Gulf County Extension at 639-3200.

Supporting information for this article can be found in the UF/IFAS EDIS publication, "Sedge Biology and Management in Turf" by Darcy E. P. Telenko, Ramon Leon, J. Bryan Unruh and Barry J. Brecke: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/EP/EP49200.pdf> & the UT Institute of Agriculture document, "Nutsedge and Kyllinga Species" by Mathew T. Elmore, James T. Brosnan and Gregory K. Breeden: <http://www.tennesseeturfgrassweeds.org/Lists/Fact%20Sheets/Attachments/23/W260up-dated2015.pdf>

UF/IFAS Extension, An Equal Opportunity Institution.

Cobots, Robots and Recreating the Fab Four



Margaret McDowell

"With every mistake we must surely be learning..."

"While My Guitar Gently Weeps" as performed by The Beatles

Recently I read about a fast food restaurant chain that is investing millions into computerized food service. The customer programs his food selection, then robots make each hamburger to order, adding desired condiments and even slicing whole pickles with millimeter precision.

Artificial intelligence has also been utilized recently in an attempt to recreate a Beatles song. Critics called the final product somewhat "emotionless",

Cobots work in tandem with human workers and can help boost productivity, which then increases overall employment. Designed to shut down if a person crosses their path, cobots minimize worksite injury. Most require no sophisticated coding and are generally lighter and more mobile than traditional robots. Just under a quarter million global industrial robots were sold last year, and only 5 percent of these were cobots.

and noted that it sounded more like the Beach Boys than the Beatles, but the very fact that we've got the technology to attempt such an endeavor is disconcerting to human artists.

Our ability to control, regulate and direct AI represents a significant signpost toward a healthy economy in the 21st century. So the viability of using cobots, or collaborative robots, in the manufacturing sector is especially encouraging. A 2016 study by the International Federation of Robotics reveals that fewer than 10 percent of jobs can be completely automated. Of course, that statistic suggests that 90

percent of tasks can be at least partially automated. Most of those jobs are currently filled by low wage, low skilled workers.

Traditional robots require extensive programming. They are often cumbersome, relatively immobile and dangerous for nearby workers, and many perform their functions locked away from employees. Perhaps most importantly, their presence was a threat to employees because they replaced human hands.

Cobots work in tandem with human workers and can help boost productivity, which then increases overall employment. Designed to shut down if a person

crosses their path, cobots minimize worksite injury. Most require no sophisticated coding and are generally lighter and more mobile than traditional robots. Just under a quarter million global industrial robots were sold last year, and only 5 percent of these were cobots. But cobots, sometimes called flexible robots, could soon become an important component of the profitability of small manufacturing plants.

As economist Gary Schilling has written, "Collaborative robots that work alongside humans... are getting cheaper and easier to program.

And they're safer and more user-friendly than earlier models that had to be caged to protect humans... Cobots are being used in warehouses and are much cheaper in moving goods than miles of conveyor belts."

Integrating technology like cobots into industrial

manufacturing makes imminent sense to me, from a human standpoint. We simply cannot afford to invent and program ourselves into a state of high unemployment. But using technology as a complimentary feature on the factory floor is an evolved solution that can simultaneously assist us in achieving maximum efficiency and high employment.

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.

Gulf County Sheriff's Office law enforcement summary

July 9-15

On July 9, Deputy P. Young conducted a traffic stop on State 22 near the intersection of Jarrott Daniels Road. Deputy Young identified the driver, and sole occupant, as Bobby Lynn Tipton (46). A driver's license check revealed that Tipton's license was suspended and was classified as a habitual traffic offender. Tipton was placed under arrest for driving with a suspended license. While affecting the arrest, Tipton was found to be in possession of Oxycodone without a prescription. Tipton was additionally charged with Possession of a Controlled Substance.

On July 9, Deputy M. Manley was dispatched to the area of Old Panama Highway and Freeman Rouse Road in reference to female running around in the road with no clothing on. Deputy Manley found the female and made arrangements to get her clothed. Her mental state was unstable so she was taken into protective custody and transported to a treatment facility,

On July 9, Deputy M. Manley conducted a traffic stop on Big Daddy Nook Drive near the intersection of Lake Grove Road in Wewahitchka. Deputy Manley made contact with the driver, and a passenger, and explained the reason for the stop. While speaking with the driver, who identified as Lawrence Odus Jacks (56), Deputy Manley could smell an odor of marijuana

coming from inside the vehicle. A search of the vehicle revealed approximately 10 grams of marijuana hidden in a compartment inside the cab of the vehicle. Jacks took ownership of the marijuana and he was charged accordingly. Jacks also has a suspended driver's license so was additionally charged with DWLSR.

On July 10, at approximately 1:47 am, the Gulf County Sheriff's Office received a report of two male subjects fleeing the Hwy 22 Bar, located at L741 State 22 in Wewahitchka, after hearing what sounded like gun shots. Deputies responded to the scene and found the back door ajar. Deputies entered the building and found that the inside was saturated with gasoline. Due to the suspicious circumstances, criminal investigators responded to the scene and are actively investigating the incident. Anyone with information pertaining to this event is encouraged to contact the Gulf County Sheriff's Office.

On July 11, Deputy A. White was dispatched to the 9000 block of C30-A in reference to a report of a theft. It was reported that someone had stolen a Briggs and Stratton, gas powered, generator from underneath a pole barn on the property. The theft remains under investigation.

On July 11, Deputy A. White took a report of a theft at the Scallop Cove located in

the 4000 block of Cape San Blas Road. Two white males were reported walking into the store and stealing two flashlights. Both men were captured committing the theft on video surveillance. Once they are identified, both subjects will be facing theft charges.

On July 12, the Gulf County Sheriff's Office received a tip regarding the location of a stolen vehicle out of Bay County. The vehicle was spotted at the Creek Stop Deli at State 71 and Stone Mill Creek Road. Deputy A. White responded to the area and confirmed the vehicle as stolen. He identified the driver of the vehicle as Benjamin Lee Russell (38). It was revealed that Russell's driver's license was suspended so he was taken into custody and charged locally with McCurdy had an active warrant for Failure to Appear on the charges of Felony Domestic Battery or Felony Battery.

On July 13, the Gulf County Sheriff's Office was assisting the Apalachicola Police Department locate a vehicle being driven by a suspect who had pulled a gun on a subject in Apalachicola. Gulf County deputies located a vehicle matching the description of the suspect vehicle traveling West on U.S. 98 toward Port St. Joe, from Franklin County. Deputies stopped the vehicle and identified the driver as Richard C. Jones, Jr. (23). Jones was detained and a firearm was found in

his vehicle. Jones was confirmed as the suspect and will be facing criminal charges in Franklin County. The incident in Franklin County involved him and a subject who has a protection order against him. The protection order prohibits Jones from possessing a firearm so Jones was charged locally with Violation of an Injunction for Protection Against Domestic Violence (Possession of a Firearm).

On July 14, Deputy V. Everett was dispatched to the 200 block of N. 4th Street in Wewahitchka in reference to a criminal mischief. It was reported that someone had broken into a barn and vandalized the contents of the barn, including the horses. A horse saddle and an equine medical kit was also stolen. The suspects tainted the horse feed with insect spray and painted graffiti around the barn in red paint. The horses were also painted on. Anyone with information regarding the case is encouraged to contact Sgt. John Murnan with the Gulf County Sheriff's Office.

On July 14, Deputy V. Everett was dispatched to the Gulf Correctional Institution to assist Gulf C.I. staff in reference to a visitor being caught smuggling contraband into the prison. Keisha Brianne McClenton (26) was caught by Gulf C.I. authorities attempting to introduce cocaine and synthetic cannabinoids into the prison. McClenton was placed

under arrest and charged with Possession of Cocaine, possession of a Controlled Substance and introduction of Contraband into a State Correctional Institution. McClenton had with her, two small children. The Department of Children and Family Services was called and they responded to take custody of the children.

On July 15, Deputy M. Manley was assigned to investigate a report of a burglary in the 8000 block of Hwy 98 in St. Joe Beach. A rental home was entered (no forced entry) and two televisions and miscellaneous electronic goods were taken. Deputy Manley continues to investigate.

On July 15, Deputy Manley was dispatched to Harrison Drive in Wewahitchka in reference to a burglary. It was reported that someone had entered into the a screened in portion of a porch and took a coffee can full of single dollar bills. The victims truck was entered into also. There the suspects took twenty to thirty dollars' worth of change and two packs of cigarettes. A half-gallon of Kentucky Deluxe whiskey was taken from the vehicle also.

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.

LNT

From Page B1

And, she said, the photos are taken during the daytime, when items are allowed on the beaches.

Godwin noted that her small staff, particularly the beach patrols and parks crew, have their hands full with servicing the more than two dozen parks in the county and the beaches.

"Our guys are out on the beach, every mile of beach, trying to educate people on Leave No Trace," Godwin said. "We just haven't had the staff (for enforcement)."

Additionally, the TDC has not been instructed by county administration to undertake enforcement.

The prior three summers, the county approached Leave No

Trace with an education component but no enforcement.

The goal was to ensure the information was out and readily available regarding the provisions of Leave No Trace.

In addition, last year, the Board of County Commissioners placed the discretion of enforcement in the hands of the county administrator.

Once last year, early in the season, TDC was instructed to tag items left on the beach overnight in violation of Leave No Trace.

However, the next step, actually removing the items, was not taken and this year there has been no tagging.

Among the first folks on the beaches each morning May to November, the volunteers with the St. Joseph Peninsula Turtle Patrol, have noticed a difference this year. "We have seen an increase of stuff left on the beach and it's sad, we were on a pretty good path," said Jessica



North of the Trading Post, 6:45 a.m. July 6. [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

Swindall, volunteer coordinator with the peninsula turtle patrol.

Over the prior two years, Swindall had repeatedly noted an improvement in the cleanliness of the beaches, a plus for nesting turtles that flock to local beaches each year.

She had repeatedly found that the education program, which

her team was a part of, was finding some traction.

Now, she said, one violator leads to more.

"It kind of like a snowball effect, people will see one person who has their stuff out and the ordinance isn't being enforced and they figure why not," Swindall said.

Another commenter, who wished to remain anonymous out of fear of the impact on their business, said the state of the beach "saddens" them.

"It is still better than Panama City Beach," they added. "Don't me wrong, we love the area.

"But it lost a little special with the mess..."

BAGS

From Page B1

She talked a bit with the store's employee and owner about the costs and viability of replacing plastic with paper shopping bags, which they had researched and found out of reach.

Paper bags, it turned out, were more expensive than plastic.

But Jones had moved to Gulf County in the past 18 months and reusable shopping bags were already part of daily life.

Another volunteer with the Center, Irene Schmolter, joined the effort, bringing her expertise from the retail field in Arizona to the fore, undertaking to identify the appropriate canvas bag and subsequent ordering.

The Center provided the funding.

The bags are on sale at the Center for \$15, with the

Turtles and Trash exhibit logo on the side.

"We are selling them as part of the show," Jones said. "We're just trying to ask people to kick plastic bags, offering easy things to do to make a difference.

"One of the easiest and most impactful changes you can do to help the environment is to switch from plastic bags to reusable bags. They are modestly price, I think."

Plastic bags are challenging to recycle, are lethal to wildlife and release toxic chemicals into the soil when buried in landfills, Jones said.

Plastic bags are one of the leading contributors to the plastic pollution of the oceans.

According to a 2015 study conducted by a scientific working group at the University of California at Santa Barbara's National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis, every year eight million metric tons of plastic end up in the oceans.

That is equivalent to five

grocery bags filled with plastic for every foot of coastline in the world.

By 2025, that annual input is estimated to double, so the cumulative input for 2025 would nearly 20 times the eight million metric tons, 100 bags of plastic per foot of coastline in the world, according to the study.

Jones said the canvas bags on sale at The Joe are "roomy and nice, with a square bottom, easy to manage and easier to balance than a plastic bag."

Turtles and Trash closes Aug. 23; the bags will be on sale at least until then, as long as they remain in stock.

"We'll sell them until we run out," Jones said.

And, if they sell out, Jones said, who knows, maybe another order.

All proceeds from the sale of the bags will benefit the non-profit The Joe Center for the Arts.

The Center is located at 201 Reid Ave.



Turtles & Trash Tote 2018

Item #1001-29 Cotton Canvas

Quantity: 100

Unit Cost : \$4.95

Suggested Sale (which will be a donation) \$15 at show \$20 after show

New canvas shopping bags are being sold by The Joe Center for the Arts during the tenure of its Turtles and Trash exhibit [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

TEACHER

From Page B1

According to the district's investigation, teachers had been instructed not to delve into the school shooting.

The intern's concerns were taken to Principal Joni Mock, who took them ultimately to

Norton.

Norton, alarmed by allegations that Gentry had told students not to tell anyone about classroom discussions, said he was duty bound to investigate.

The investigation was turned over to a Tallahassee attorney.

After conducting interviews and reviewing documents, the attorney

sustained the allegations against Gentry; in several cases basing conclusions solely on body language and responses he concluded indicated Gentry was not being truthful.

The attorney issued a 12-page report outlining the allegations and his findings.

After hearing 30 minutes of praise for Gentry during an April meeting,

the board followed Norton's recommendation.

As speaker after speaker stated, Gentry was "well-loved" and "well-respected" within the school and community.

Gentry has twice been voted by her peers the school's teacher of the year in the past seven years and was deemed "high impact" by the state, one fewer

than 10 district teachers so ranked.

Gentry has also been instrumental in establishing student organizations to address bullying.

Further, as many noted in the spring, Gentry is the current president of the Gulf County Education Association, the union representing teachers and all district employees.



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WITNESS MY HAND and seal of this Court on July 3rd, 2018.

Rebecca L. Norris
Clerk of the Circuit Court

By: B A Baxter
Deputy Clerk

Law Offices of Damian G. Waldman, Esq.
PO Box 5162
Seminole, FL 33779
Pub: July 12, 19, 2018

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

CASE NO.: 2017-CA-000067

CADENCE BANK, N.A., Plaintiff,

V.

THE UNKNOWN PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ESTATE OF LINDA D. GREEN, et al., Defendants.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Comian X Tax Lien Fund, LLC, the Certificate Holder of the following Tax Sale Certificate, has filed said Certificate for a Tax Deed to be issued thereon. The Tax Deed Application number, Real Estate number, Certificate number, Date of Issuance and Name(s) in which it was assessed are

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Application #2018-08
Tax Sale Certificate #2010-519
Name in which assessed: Estate of Edith M. Nations
R.E. No. 02166-000R
Date of Issuance: May 28, 2010

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

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

CASE NO.: 23-2016-CA-000114 DIVISION:

NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE, LLC, Plaintiff,

vs.

GINGER TAYLOR BERNAL, et al, Defendant(s).

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NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

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

CASE NO.: 2017-CA-000067

CADENCE BANK, N.A., Plaintiff,

V.

THE UNKNOWN PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ESTATE OF LINDA D. GREEN, et al., Defendants.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN Pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated June 28th, 2018, and entered in Case No. 23-2016-CA-000114 of the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit in and for Gulf County, Florida in which Nationstar Mortgage, LLC, is the Plaintiff and GINGER TAYLOR BERNAL; JOHN PAUL BERNAL; JAE J. PATE; LAURA M. TAYLOR; MARLEN E. TAYLOR; THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS CLAIMING BY THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST ALFRED EDWARD JOINES, DECEASED; AND ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE HEREIN NAMED INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST IN SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS, re defendants, the Gulf County Clerk of the Circuit Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in/on the front lobby, Gulf County Clerk of Court office, 1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Blvd., Port St. Joe, FL 32456, Gulf County, Florida at 11:00 A.M. Eastern Time on the 2nd day of August, 2018, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment of Foreclosure:

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LOT TWENTY-TWO (22) IN BLOCK EIGHTY-FOUR (84) OF UNIT NO. 1, OF ST. JOSEPH'S ADDITION TO THE CITY OF PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA, ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL MAP THEREOF, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 28, PUBLIC RECORDS OF GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA.

A/K/A 1002 GARRISON AVENUE, PORT SAINT JOE, FL 32456

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Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the Lis Pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.

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If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney.

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If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator by mail at P. O. Box 1089, Panama City, FL 32402 or by phone at (850) 747-5338 at least seven (7) days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than seven (7) days. If you are hearing impaired, please call 711 or email ADARequest@jud14.flcourts.org.

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ITNESS MY hand and official seal of this Honorable Court, this 5th day of July, 2018.

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Rebecca L. Norris
Clerk of the Circuit Court

By: B A Baxter
Deputy Clerk

Sirote & Permutt, PC,
1201 S. Orlando Ave,
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floridaservice@sirote.com
Pub: July 12, 19, 2018

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

CASE NO.: 2018-08-000071

TRINITY FINANCIAL SERVICES, LLC, Plaintiff,

VS.

DAVID A. TRUNZO, et al., Defendant(s).

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NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned Clerk of Court of Gulf County, will on the 2nd day of August, 2018, at 11:00 AM EST at in the lobby of the Gulf County Courthouse, 1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Blvd., Port St. Joe, FL 32456, offer for sale and sell at public outcry to the highest and best bidder for cash, the following described property situate in Gulf County, Florida:

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LOT 5, BLOCK B, PARK POINT AT SECLUDED DUNES, ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 4, AT PAGE 39, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA.

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PROPERTY ADDRESS: LOT 5 BLOCK B PARK POINT, PORT ST JOE, FL 32456

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pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered in Case No. 232017CA000071CAAX/VIX of the Circuit Court of the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit in and for Gulf County, Florida, the style of which indicated above.

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Application #2018-08
Tax Sale Certificate #2010-519
Name in which assessed: Estate of Edith M. Nations
R.E. No. 02166-000R
Date of Issuance: May 28, 2010

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Comian X Tax Lien Fund, LLC, the Certificate Holder of the following Tax Sale Certificate, has filed said Certificate for a Tax Deed to be issued thereon. The Tax Deed Application number, Real Estate number, Certificate number, Date of Issuance and Name(s) in which it was assessed are

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forcement violations For the following location:

103 Monica Drive Gulf County Parcel 03060-000R 3:00 p.m.

302 16th Street Gulf County Parcel 05219-080R 4:00p.m.

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All persons are invited to attend these hearings. Any person who decides to appeal any decision made by the Special Master with respect to any matter considered at said hearing will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. The Code Enforcement Special Master of the City of Port St. Joe, Florida will not provide a verbatim record of this meeting.

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IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, persons needing special accommodations to participate in this proceedings should contact Charlotte Pierce, City Clerk, City of Port St. Joe, at City Hall, Telephone No. 850/229-8261.

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IN RE: ESTATE OF ANTHONY DAVID SHULER File Number 18-44-PR Deceased.

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NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

The administration of the estate of ANTHONY DAVID SHULER, deceased, whose date of death was June 9th, 2018 and whose social security number is -0855, is pending in the Circuit Court for Gulf County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Gulf County Courthouse, 1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Blvd., Port St. Joe, Florida 32456. The name and address of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

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

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The date of first publication of this Notice is July 19, 2018.

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Attorney for Personal Representative:

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Charles A. Costin
Florida Bar No. 699070
Post Office Box 98
Port St. Joe, FL 32457

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Telephone: (850) 227-1159
email:ccostin@costinlaw.com

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Personal Representative:
Shirley Shuler
9323 Olive Avenue
Port St. Joe, FL 32456
Pub July 19, 26, 2018

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21112S IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION File Number 18-41-PR

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IN RE: ESTATE OF CLAUDE RANDOLF WESTON, JR. Deceased.

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NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

The administration of the estate of CLAUDE RANDOLF WESTON, JR., deceased, whose date of death was July 24, 2017 and whose social security number is -9239, is pending in the Circuit Court for Gulf County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Gulf County Courthouse, 1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Blvd., Port St. Joe, Florida 32456. The name and address of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

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The FY 2018 Continuum of Care (CoC) NOFA has been released and can be found on www.hudexchange.info/programs/cof/. Any organization, including those that are not currently funded through the NWF CoC, may submit new project applications for the DV bonus in the amount of \$78,384 and/or Rapid Rehousing bonus in the amount of \$45,831. Please visit www.doorwaysnwfl.org for more information and timelines. If you have any questions, please contact 850-481-5446. Pub July 19, 2018

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

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Garage/Yard Sales
3230

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Port Saint Joe
310 4th Street
Sat. July 21
8am - till
Johnnie's Trim Shop Moving Sale
Furniture, Remnant Fabrics, Old Retro Tables, Some Tools, Revolving Display Racks, Old Bicycles & Parts (Some New), & misc.

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HELP WANTED
4100

LEGAL ADVERTISING
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4100

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Attorney for Personal Representative:

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