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Thursday, July 26, 2018

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BOCC proposes to peel back LNT, RV ordinances

By Tim Croft
The Port St. Joe Star | 850-227-7827
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Acknowledging the difficulties in enforcing the ordinances as written, the Board of County Commissioners moved Tuesday to pull back on ordinances pertaining to Leave No Trace and RVs.

In the case of the RV ordinance, which the current

board expressed an interest in revisiting in recent months, commissioners seemed poised to follow a staff recommendation to strike it outright.

As for Leave No Trace, commissioners will hold a workshop prior to the next regular meeting.

Following that workshop, allowing those who wish to offer input on the issue, staff will present a proposed

amended version during the ensuing regular meeting.

“We’ve got to have common sense to come up with a resolution to (LNT),” said Commissioner Phil McCroan. “We’ve got to have some common sense on what we are doing on the beach.”

“We have to have control and we have to have common sense.”

See BOCC, A2

RV ordinance

Commissioners will take up a staff recommendation to strike the RV ordinance during the August regular meeting.

A public hearing will be held.

But Administrator Michael Hammond said his recommendation would be to return to the standards set forth in land development regulations allowing one RV per parcel.

He said the RV ordinance had created a controversial situation in Oak Grove because the ordinance does not allow RVs in any other area on the south end of the county.

Additionally, enforcement of permitting provisions and evacuation responsibilities within the coastal corridor was not feasible.

“The ordinance we have is not enforceable,” Hammond said. “We need to strike it.”



Jerry Stokoe, right, was the recipient of the DAR Citizenship Award several years ago. [FILE PHOTO]

‘We lost a good man’

By Tim Croft
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They have yet to construct the building that could hold all those whose lives were touched by Jerry Stokoe.

That is the first challenge for any celebration of the life of the community giant who tragically passed away this week, just weeks after the

death of his wife.

The second obstacle is how to put into any human expression, any outward gesture, to properly sum up whatever it was that filled that man’s heart and soul.

I have wrestled with that one for most of a week and am open to any suggestions.

Pam Martin of the local domestic violence task force may have summed it up best

as we chatted Monday.

“You never saw that man do anything that it wasn’t for somebody else,” Martin said.

Jerry, and I am going to find it impossible to use Stokoe so bear with me, would ask Martin if she needed anything anytime they passed in everyday life.

“I could go to him and

See STOKOE, A8

District talks teacher, driver shortage

By Tim Croft
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The Gulf County School Board last week established a tentative millage rate while setting the first public hearing on the budget.

Superintendent of Schools Jim Norton also informed board members of current challenges in filling in the employee ranks.

On the instructional side, the district remains, with less than three weeks remaining before students

arrive Aug. 13, in need of teachers; at least three at Port St. Joe Elementary, three to four at Wewahitchka Elementary and one at Wewahitchka Jr./Sr. High School.

“There is a true teacher shortage,” Norton said, noting school officials in Franklin, Calhoun and Bay counties are also scrambling to fill positions. “For the first time in the seven years I have been superintendent we have a real teacher shortage.”

“We’ve never been this

See SHORTAGE, A8



From left: Lori Price, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, School Board chair Brooke Wooten, Superintendent of Schools Jim Norton, Danny Collins with Duke Energy and Port St. Joe SeaPerch students Abby Evans, Nico Velenzuela and Caleb Zur Heiden. (See story B1). [TIM CROFT | THE STAR]

Triumph board makes first comments on dry dock project

By Tim Croft
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The comments were brief and referenced only communication between staff and Gulf County, but a proposed project to build a dry dock at the Port of Port St. Joe had first light during a Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. board meeting last week.

Triumph Gulf Coast is

charged with distributing some \$1.2 billion for economic development and workforce training in eight Northwest Florida counties over the next 15 years.

The Board of County Commissioners, with the Port St. Joe Port Authority, is seeking \$28 million in Triumph grant funding to construct a dry dock off the former paper mill site.

The dry dock would be

owned by the county and Port Authority and leased to Eastern Shipbuilding.

While the public comments were brief, county and Triumph staff have exchanged lengthy phone and written communication, with Triumph staff raising several key issues.

“As we discussed, Triumph staff perceive that there is interest among Triumph Board members is

(sic) supporting the project, but there are a number of concerns/issues that would need to be addressed in order to move the project forward toward a favorable funding decision,” wrote Rick Harper, Triumph’s economic adviser and Triumph program administrator Cori Henderson.

Among the issues cited: the project must be bid in a “competitive and transparent” process; assurance that

Gulf County residents be considered for jobs resulting from the dry dock; maintaining public ownership of the dry dock; and the high costs per job created, which Harper and Henderson wrote “are much more expensive than other projects (under consideration).”

In addition, Harper and Henderson wrote that the

See TRIUMPH, A2



BOCC

From Page A1

The current Leave No Trace ordinance, as noted repeatedly on Tuesday, was a slog to the finish line, taking five or six years from idea to an ordinance that could garner a majority of board votes.

Commissioners at the time wrestled with the enforcement provisions, the area of beach involved, to hours and circumstance under which items would remain on the beaches and tagging items for removal.

Frustrated with finding consensus on the details, commissioners took a more passive approach, emphasizing education on the various provisions.

That has been the approach over the past few summers.

Administrator Michael Hammond said until two weeks ago he and the Tourist Development Council had received just a handful of complaints.

But the phones have been buzzing since.

Hammond said in most of the instances, including photos on social media, he did not see that much of an issue, contending the beaches overall are clean.

A major issue, he said, resides at Barrier Dunes subdivision, which has the highest density of any development along the beach.

On a busy weekend, he said, there could be as many as 1,000 people staying within the subdivision while sharing 763 feet of coastal beach.

But, Hammond said, many who complained don't fully understand the provisions of the ordinance, especially timeframes and what is and is not allowed on the beach.

There are also complicating factors on the ground, he said.

During sea turtle nesting season, which spans all summer and fall, law prohibits the county to go onto the beach with vehicles or personnel in the morning before the turtle patrols have done their daily surveys.

Further, each area of the beach, 26-27 miles of county, is different, the peninsula much different from Indian Pass and Indian Pass much different than St. Joe Beach.



The county to consider amending Leave No Trace. [FILE PHOTO]

"The whole point, I was against it," Hammond said of LNT. "It was an overreach to claim the amount of area it did, the toe of dune to the water."

"We need a reasonable, common sense approach. There are good aspects of Leave No Trace ... We need direction from the board."

Hammond added that county personnel are on the beaches every day, a four-man crew, which parks director Billy Traylor said work seven days a week.

In the past year they have carted some 30 tons of trash off county beaches.

"The beach is cleaner than it's been in 10 years," Hammond said, adding that if the board wishes staff to step up enforcement staff will do so.

Kelli Godwin, executive director of the Tourist Development Council, said enforcement is a staffing issue which the TDC might have to

contract out.

Traylor added that 95 percent of the people on the beach are good people, paying a lot of money to have some fun on the beach. He also noted what bed taxes provide to the local economy, including jobs.

"I don't know how you enforce it," Traylor said. "I don't think you can enforce it totally."

Dr. Pat Hardman, president of the Coastal Community Association of Gulf County, said the 30 tons of trash from the beach "tells you something has to be done."

"Every other beach county enforces a leave no trace ordinance," Hardman said. "There has to be a way to do it here."

Hardman noted that property owners, residents, also pay taxes and contribute to the local economy.

"You have some rude, uncaring people who come down to that beach and trash it," Hardman said.

Hammond's recommendation was for commissioners to keep 30-40 percent of the ordinance, those portions pertaining to safety issues and the like.

"We want to keep the beach open, we don't want glass bottles on the beach or people burning pallets," he said.

But, he said, the local tax base was being driven by second-homes purchased to be rentals and some of those same people will be "run off" by stricter enforcement of Leave No Trace.

The prior board that approved the ordinance, completing the lengthy process, started down the path to promote Gulf County has a tourist-driven county, he added.

That has worked, the TDC has taken in record revenues for several years and, though it may inconvenience residents, tourist areas are bustling.

And, he cautioned the board, any attempt to revise the ordinance will be met with resistance.

"There will be a lot of folks who don't like this," Hammond said.

County attorney Jeremy Novak said Tuesday's decision was just the start of the process of amending the ordinance, with public hearings to be scheduled so that "everyone has the opportunity to speak on the issue."

TRIUMPH

From Page A1

Triumph board would likely insist on insurance that the dry dock, which will be portable, is not moved before promised job creation in Gulf County is realized.

And, they wrote, the board is likely to insist on some mechanism for "clawing back" grant funds in the event that pledged performance levels, i.e. local job creation, are not met.

Staff also sought additional information pertaining to the rail line that enters the port area and about permitting and dredging of the shipping channel and turning basin.

In response, Assistant County Administrator Warren Yeager wrote that the BOCC would agree to a competitive and transparent bidding process provided construction was in Gulf or Bay counties.

Additionally, the county will continue efforts to recruit and train a workforce, working with the regional workforce board, the county's Economic Development Coalition and Eastern, which has pledged to immediately open a local workforce and recruitment office, Yeager wrote.

But, as to the job creation and "claw back" issues, Yeager said the dry dock project is unique to other projects Triumph is considering.

The formulations from Triumph staff were by nature conservative due to the fact that the dry dock will remain in public ownership.

"Gulf County shall retain this vessel as a portable piece of infrastructure with a global demand and market for its value following its construction and immediate operation and utility as a regional job producer," Yeager wrote.

He added that the BOCC would likely not consider obligating future generations with a "claw back" provision, but "the vessel may serve directly as a 100 percent guarantee and secured collateral for the award."

Gulf County could ensure Triumph is the sole beneficiary in the event performance metrics were not met.

"It's been a good dialogue," Yeager said Tuesday. "It tells us they are trying to fund this project and we are interested in getting that funding."

The letters also mention what has always been an eventuality;

"It's been a good dialogue. It tells us they are trying to fund this project and we are interested in getting that funding."

Warren Yeager, assistant county administrator

that Triumph may not fund the entire project.

The board has chosen that path with several projects already awarded grants.

Yeager said Tuesday the county has applied for \$13 million from the governor's Job Growth Fund, established last year to help spur economic development in rural areas.

As for the maintenance yard Eastern seeks to establish along the mill site bulkhead, Yeager said the company is still two or three months from securing permitting.

"We are progressing well," he added.

Beach restoration

As if there haven't already been enough obstacles toward beach restoration, the county received one more last week and it will push the timeline back about three weeks, county staff said.

The U.S. Treasury communicated that the \$2.8 million in RESTORE Act funding could not be used in a Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) zone.

The issue, Yeager said, had come up during the initial application without much discussion.

But after the county amended the multi-year plan for spending direct allocation RESTORE dollars, due to changes in the beach restoration project, the Treasury, with input from U.S. Fish and Wildlife, decided the money could not be spent in the CBRA zone.

"We think we have it worked out," Yeager said, saying sand paid by the \$2.8 million county contribution would be used at the southern end, near the Stump Hole, where there is no development.

The sand purchased with money from other funding sources, including service taxes on coastal property owners and bed tax dollars for beach nourishment, will be used to finish the project.

The project will still bring new sand to the southern boundary of Billy Joe Rish Park, but the actual dredging and sand placement is now not likely to take place until late August, Yeager said.

The mobilization date is now Aug. 1.

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BOCC seeks tax reduction

By Tim Croft
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The Board of County Commissioners signaled Monday a desire to cut the millage rate which has been in place the past two years.

During the first meeting on the budget, administrator Michael Hammond presented the initial draft to commissioners, including requests from department heads, constitutional officers and outside agencies.

If all requests were met, the budget would grow by just under \$500,000.

Hammond told commissioners that the budget committee would have to find \$403,000 to slice out of the document to maintain the current millage.

That was insufficient for commissioners.

They requested that committee and staff dig deeper and seek to cut the budget next presented by nearly \$650,000.

"I move staff presents us with a balanced budget with the lowest possible millage rate," said Commissioner Ward McDaniel. "Take out the bells and whistles."

The motion was approved unanimously and without much additional comment by the board.

The millage rate is currently 7.2442.

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

According to Property Appraiser Mitch Burke, the BOCC realized an increase in the tax roll of just under 9 percent as property values climbed a fourth-straight year.

That increase, however, was somewhat balanced by

the \$115,000 gap between the current year's estimated property roll and the actual roll, said Clerk of Courts Becky Norris.

"You are starting out with the less than hoped for," Norris said.

McDaniel said, and commissioners agreed, that the target be 7.10 mills.

The board will meet next week to approve a tentative millage rate by the Aug. 3 deadline for submission to the property appraiser.

Once the tentative rate is set, it can not be raised, only lowered as the board moves through the process of public hearings in September and adoption of a final budget by Oct. 1.

Before considering a millage, commissioners reviewed the proposed budget and heard from constitutional officers.

The major budgets are, of

course, the sheriff's office and public works (up 2.3 percent).

Parks and recreation will also jump 7.5 percent and the county's commitment to the Port St. Joe Redevelopment Agency increased 15 percent to just over \$193,000.

The sheriff's office is seeking to upgrade technology and will also be undertaking a move to a new centralized location on State 71 in Port St. Joe.

A significant portion of the increase the sheriff's budget will be offset by school safety dollars as the number of school resource officers more than doubles.

The offices of tax collector and property appraiser are seeking dollars to upgrade a server the offices share.

But the major increase currently in the budget is an across-the-board 3 percent pay raise for employees.

The proposed budget would also include a new position in planning and zoning and in code enforcement, Hammond said.

In addition, the board's budgetary responsibilities will transfer from the Clerk of Courts to the BOCC.

Under the proposed budget, funding to outside agencies would remain flat, with no increases, but also no cuts, to the public library, humane society, senior citizens and health department.

McDaniel said the board had done a good job of building reserves since the national economic downturn of the last decade, and now was a good time to lower taxes.

"We don't want to get way down and have to come back up the next year because people don't remember the going down," McDaniel said. "We are trying to find middle ground here."

School Board approves tentative budget

By Tim Croft
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The Gulf County School Board last week established a tentative budget and millage rate for the fiscal year just underway.

Because school budgets are set by state lawmakers, school districts typically do not pass a budget until the

fiscal year, which begins July 1, has already begun.

The board had until Aug. 3 to establish a tentative budget, with the first public hearing set for 5:15 p.m. ET July 31.

The millage rate can not go up, only down, and for school board's the only area of flexibility resides within the Local Capital Improvement millage.

All other components of

the overall millage rate are established by state lawmakers each year, save the voter-approved one-mill additional operating levy.

The Required Local Effort (RLE), that which the state levies in order for the district to receive any state funding will go down by 5.25 percent, 0.21 mills, discretionary funding remained flat and uniform across the state.

As for the LCI component,

the board approved a millage increase just higher than the decrease in RLE, 0.28 mills, representing a 29 percent increase in dollars.

One of the major expenditures will be \$439,795 for four news buses and \$650,000 for lighting, fire alarms and other maintenance projects under new school safety guidelines.

The state will be a portion of those "school hardening" dollars, but how much will not be

known until late this calendar year or early the next.

The district is also earmarking \$320,000 for replacement of the heating/air conditioning at Wewahatchka Jr./Sr. High School and \$125,000 for new LED signs at each of the district's four campuses.

The overall millage rate, 6.646 mills, represents an increase of 0.11 mills, 1.66 percent.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Port St. Joe Planning Development and Review Board (PDRB) will hold a Meeting to discuss a request for a Special Exception on **Tuesday August 14th, 2018, at 4:00 P.M. EST.** The Public Hearings will be held in the City Commission Meeting Room at City Hall, 305 Cecil Costin Sr. Blvd., Port St. Joe, Florida 32456 for **Travis Monroe** located at **129 Bridgeport Lane, Parcel # 04587-105R.** The reason for the request is **Per Section 3.03 (9) of the Land Development Regulations to impede residential side setbacks.** The proposed plans can be reviewed at the Building Department located at 1002 10th St. and can be reached for questions at 850-229-1093.

All persons are invited to attend this meeting. Interested persons may attend and be heard at the public hearings or provide comments in writing to the Planning Development and Review Board, City of Port St. Joe City Hall, 305 Cecil G. Costin, Sr., Blvd., Port St. Joe, Florida 32456. Transactions of the public hearings will not be recorded. Persons wishing to appeal any decision made during the hearings will need a record of the proceeding and should ensure a verbatim record is made, including the testimony on which the appeal is based.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons wishing to attend needing assistance and special accommodations to participate in these proceedings should contact Charlotte Pierce, City Clerk, at City Hall, (850) 229-8261.

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OPINION

How to get involved

By Lee H. Hamilton
Special to The Star

Back in 1883, Teddy Roosevelt wrote an essay on what it takes to be a true American citizen. He did not mince words. “The people who say that they have not time to attend to politics are simply saying that they are unfit to live in a free community,” he wrote. “Their place is under a despotism.” He went on: “The first duty of an American citizen, then, is that he shall work in politics.”

I hope you’ll forgive his gender-specific language. He wrote at a time when women didn’t even have the vote. But his essay has been on my mind lately, because his sentiment — that living in a representative democracy demands work from all of us — is as timely now as it was then. A lot of people these days intuitively grasp that our system needs our involvement if we’re to safeguard it. So what should we do — especially if politics has to share space in our lives with family and jobs?

The first step is easy: look around your community and ask yourself what needs fixing or what can be done better. I don’t care where you live: ten minutes’ thought and you’ll come up with a healthy list of issues to tackle. This is how a lot of people get started: they see an issue they want to do something about. So they enter the fray, and often come to recognize they have more political power than they thought.

Of course, your chances of effecting change grow as you learn. You have to inform yourself about the issue: listen carefully as you talk to your neighbors and friends, and pay attention to what politicians, commentators, and those involved with the issue say. Participate, if you will, in the dialogue of democracy. It’s perfectly fine to personalize the issue as you seek to persuade others, but to be effective you’ve got to know what others think, too.

The same, really, goes for voting. It should be informed not just by what your gut tells you, but by what you’ve learned.

Focus your message so it’s clear, concise, and specific. Be polite but persistent.

Your system depends on citizens making discriminating choices on politicians and issues. Soy you want to educate yourself,

which includes talking with people whose opinions differ from yours. The world is complex, even at the neighborhood level, and to be effective we need to understand it.

When it comes time to act, you want to join with a like-minded group of believers. That’s how you amplify your strength. Numbers count. And both within that group and among the others you’ll encounter, you try to build consensus. There’s an old saying that if you want to go fast you go alone, if you want to go far you join together. That’s very true in politics.

Next, you have to communicate — with each other, with the media, and at the local, state, and national levels. You have to communicate with your representatives. You have to go to public meetings and speak up. Focus your message so it’s clear, concise, and specific. Be polite but persistent.

There’s another way of participating that’s a bit more arms’ length, but also important: contribute money to a party or politician of your choice. Doing it is as important as the amount, because money talks in politics, and it helps you expand your influence. For good or ill, it’s an important part of politics.

Finally, run for office yourself. If you are so inclined, get a circle of friends to support you. Start locally. Develop the issues you’re interested in, pick the office that will help you affect them, organize and build support, focus your message, raise money. If this isn’t to your taste, then support candidates of your choice.

All of these are ways of participating

See HAMILTON, A5

HUNKER DOWN

Born fifty years too early!



Kesley Colbert

Did you hear about the two guys from Texas who were caught stealing textbooks out of colleges in Wisconsin? They were selling them to some firm in Texas who was reselling them to students. It’s a case of high academic intrigue.

You know what I thought of immediately. Where were these guys in 1960? And why didn’t they take every English book in our junior high! I hated the grammar, I could not diagram a sentence and you won’t believe how many times we were forced to read about that “Harp-Weaving lady” who looked a lot like Edna St. Vincent Millay.

If Miss Mary Nell Bryant hadn’t a’takin’ a liking to me, I would never have passed seventh grade English! I don’t know which one of us was the proudest of that D minus. She patted me on the back the last day of school, “Kesley, it’s all right. Not everyone grows up to be a writer.”

Of course, when you think about it, a junior high English book in 1960 wouldn’t be worth a plug nickel — then or now. Who in the world would buy, or steal, a book on conjugating verbs, identifying subjects and predicates, how to isolate and rectify a dangling participle and contained a literature section full of poetry and short stories written by people you’d never heard of with funny names like Irving, Hawthorne, Poe, Lord Byron, Keats, Longfellow and

Ralph Waldo Emerson!

Halfway through the ninth grade I would have called these guys if I’d been wise to their scheme. I’d left the boiler room door open and turned a light on in Miss Clark’s English class. All I wanted in return was for them to haul off every copy of Charles Dickens’ “Great Expectations” they could get their hands on.

And you know, since they were in the building, (call it a crime of convenience) they could have snuck a few doors down the hall and loaded up those algebra books Miss Carter was so proud of. And if they had too much to carry off in one load.....at least snatch out the pages that had those awful bar graphs on them!

I don’t know much about stealing, but wouldn’t these two guys make more money robbing a convenience store. Or driving off with somebody else’s Lexus. Or selling fake Oakleys. Surely there are more conventional ways of larceny out there.

And why Wisconsin? Do they have smarter textbooks up there? Or less educational security? (I put in some incomplete sentences in honor of Miss Mary Nell) The news report didn’t really go into it, but I’m wondering what type of textbooks were taken. Are math books worth more on the black market than an economics book? Surely they weren’t taking anything related to nuclear physics — that would be aiming at a very small market.

We know for dead certain positive they didn’t take any poetry books!

All I can figure is these textbooks must have contained the answers. It’s the only solution that makes sense. There is no profit in it without the

answers — even a D minus student could figure that out!

And I can’t for the life of me see the profit here.

As soon as any professor worth his salt realized something was amiss, he would change the questions immediately. That’s what Miss Polly Rucker did.

She taught us senior English. And we were having this big multiple choice test on some literature stuff we’d been studying. We were supposed to match the author with his, or her, most famous work. Well, as you might imagine, me and Yogi and Buddy didn’t know Geoffrey Chaucer from Gilbert Keith Chesterton.

I’m not sure about the statue of limitations so I can’t tell you the name of the three boys who scaled the fire escape under the cover of darkness, eased into the third story room of Miss Polly and might have found, and copied, the answer key to the big literature quiz.

The glint in Miss Polly’s eye the next day should have been a tip off. She knew! The friendly, but diabolical smile, as she passed out the exams told us our goose was cooked. The multiple choice test had tuned into an essay quiz which contained one question: Compare and Contrast the Thought Process of James Fenimore Cooper with Henry David Thoreau and Explain How this Process was Manifested through their Writings.

People, I stared at the blank space for ten minutes without moving. I finally picked up my # 2 leaded pencil and wrote the only answer I had; d, b, c, a, d.....

Respectfully,

Kes

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Would you like a flat tire with that?



BN Heard

One of my favorite stories that my Daddy used to tell me involved his inability to make a \$25 car payment. He went to the bank with the car keys in hand and apologized to the banker, noting he couldn’t make the payment. It had a good ending, with the banker telling him that he didn’t want the car back and he knew he was good for the money. The banker told him to pay it as soon as he could.

Times have changed.

I’m not talking about the banker’s attitude toward not getting paid, but rather folks thinking that it’s no big deal not to work or have to pay for things. I understand that there are a lot of folks who can’t work for various reasons and I think we should be able to help them out to the best extent we can.

This was very evident to me the other morning I was sitting in a nice little mom and pop pancake house eating my Flat Tire Corn Beef Hash and Eggs. There were two pretty over easy eggs on the generous portion on corn beef hash. I call them “Flat Tire” because a flat tire was the only reason I was eating at this nice little place, being that it was directly across from the tire place where my vehicle was.

The décor was beautiful; it looked to be from the seventies. My server was a girl who had recently graduated college and was trying to establish residency in order to attend an in-state graduate school for physical therapy. I think I got “one of the good ones.”

Waiting on folks and serving them can be a tough job and it can be even tougher on restaurants and cafes to find good folks to work for them.

My table was close to the door, the cash register and the telephone, which looked like it was from the sixties and sounded like it was from the fifties. You know that nifty “da da ring” sound? I wish I could have heard it ring a couple of more times.

The owner (I assume) dealt with three different folks while I was sitting there appreciating my corn beef hash and eggs. The first was a fellow who was working for them. They called to the cash register area to discuss his schedule and availability to work.

The fellow was telling the owner about when he was available and when he was not. The owner was telling her employee that he needed to work when she needed to him to work and not just when he was “available.” I tended to side with the owner on this one. She was a bit rough, but she was right.

Folks seem to have a hard time with that these days. If you work for someone or for a company, you kind of need to show

up to work when they need you to work.

The next discussion took place over the telephone, so I only heard the owner of the restaurant’s side of the conversation. She answered the phone, after it rang so pretty like it did in Andy Griffith’s Mayberry or on “Leave it to Beaver.”

She told the person on the other end of the line, “Don’t bother with coming in now, your shift is half over. I expect you to work whole shifts, not just come in when you feel like it.”

It seemed very similar to the conversation she had just had with the employee who was there at work. I didn’t know what the other person/her employee was saying over the phone, but I still had to side with the owner.

I’ll quote myself again, “Folks seem to have a hard time with that these days. If you work for someone or for a company, you kind of need to show up to work when they need you to work.”

The third and final person was a young woman, maybe early twenties. She sounded to have a Russian-like accent, but I am not very good at identifying country accents (not talking rural here). Where I live, a lot of foreigners come in and out to work with the tourist and theme park industry. This young woman was definitely one of those folks who come here to work for three or four months

See CRANKS, A5



Published every Thursday at 135 W. U.S. 98, Port St. Joe, FL 32456

Editor: Tim Thompson
Publisher: Tim Croft

Circulation: 850-522-5197

SUBSCRIPTIONS
In county Out of county
1 Year: \$24.15 \$34.65
6 Months: \$15.75 \$21
Home delivery subscribers may be charged a higher rate for holiday editions.

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LETTERS

KEYBOARD KLATTERINGS

'Mad Dog' and the terrapin



Tim Croft

Last week I gleefully reported on the release of two turtles back into ocean waters.

I say gleefully for two reasons.

Any opportunity to get out from behind a desk and staring at a computer monitor is welcome, that it arrived first thing in the morning on the beach; well, pinch me.

The second factor for me was the turtles.

They are mysterious creatures, those hardbacks.

Even though I have expended numerous hours and effort on education about turtles, I am constantly amazed, with each event and opportunity to talk to researchers, how little remains unknown.

I guess those waters provide the perfect curtain.

In any case, a turtle release is always a joyful occasion, wildlife returned to the wild, but it turned out, as there so often is, I must spend some time borrowing a bit from the late Paul Harvey.

For here, is the rest of the story.

We begin with the

release, with a turtle named Paddy but Gulf World Marine Institute due to the March 19 date it was found, close to St. Patrick's Day, and rescued from St. Joe Beach.

The information provided was that the St. Joe Beach/East Bay Turtle Patrol had rescued the turtle for transport to Gulf World.

This, as far it went, represented the overview.

The, as I stated, rest of the story came this week.

Kathleen Jones of St. Joe Beach called and acknowledged she was a bit taken aback while reading the story.

Where in the world did "Paddy" come from?

Not from her group which actually found the turtle, though turtle patrol volunteers provided the big assist getting the little one from beach to rehabilitation.

She called the newspaper just to fill in some details, to, shall we say, peel the story back another layer or two.

Jones said her son and a friend were out on the beach.

As an aside, let us note that Jones and her family are among so many who found this part of paradise somewhat by happenstance.

Originally from Flagstaff, AZ, Jones has an aunt and uncle with a house in Mexico Beach.

She and her family

had visited a half-dozen times or so.

And when her husband retired, after serving in the Air Force, this was the spot they wanted to which they wished to settle.

Fast forward to March 19.

Her son had a friend visiting.

Not just a friend, but a man with whom a friendship had been forged in combat; hard to forge a stronger bond.

Both, has it were, are named Mike.

So, to separate the two in the course of any visit, Mike the friend goes by his nickname, "Mad Dog."

And it would come to be on March 19 that "Mad Dog" was out on the beach with a metal detector, not an uncommon sight.

"He just came up and said, 'There's a turtle down there,'" Jones said.

Sure, enough, struggling in the surf was a juvenile green sea turtle and it was in trouble.

"He just could not go in either direction," Kathleen said. "He also had a gash on his head and was bleeding.

"It almost looked like he was trying to get onshore."

Kathleen and her son reached out, through friends, to the local turtle patrol, and Bill Faust arrived and took some photos.

A woman they could

not identify took information about their find.

The next thing she knew, Kathleen was reading about the turtle's release and the turtle had been named "Paddy."

Kathleen noted that was not the name they had chosen.

To explain, let's return to "Mad Dog."

As with her son, "Mad Dog" had been in combat during multiple tours in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The two men emerged from the crucible of war, the "scars" remaining even after a decade, Jones said.

But there was also the fighting spirit, the commitment to survival, which Kathleen knew "Mad Dog" had demonstrated in his young life.

A spirit she saw in that turtle, which it turned out suffered a compression fracture.

"He had been out there fighting (for country) and working hard to survive," Kathleen said of "Mad Dog."

"That's what this turtle was doing, that's what his name should be."

Today, "Mad Dog" the terrapin is likely feasting along the sea grasses of St. Joseph Bay (again, researchers do not know) oblivious to any discussion of his name.

But, possessed of a life provided by the care of a "Mad Dog" and his friends who did the right thing.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

10th Street Park proposal

Dear Editor,
I don't live on the property around the ill-advised 10th Street Ball Park. However, I have lived all over the country and I have never lived in a town that showed such disregard for the will of its citizens as what's going on with this ball park proposal.

Putting this project in will not only destroy the peace and serenity of this entire side of town, but will result in flooding of the ball park and surrounding properties.

It will also destroy a beautiful park where people can take a walk with their kids or dogs, ride their bikes or just sit and enjoy the peace and quiet.

The most important problem with the placing it there is it will destroy the property values of the homes surrounding it.

Now, I am not

against the idea, but that is just not the place for it. I have talked to a lot of folks that do not live adjacent to the proposed site that are of the same opinion – not the right place.

I believe if you ask the citizens to vote on it, it would go down in flames.

It's not hard to imagine the possibility of a class action lawsuit if the city and county continue on this course. That is not a threat, but it is worth considering.

The insistence to continue in this direction makes some wonder if there isn't some other motivation at work here.

Especially since the plans for it had been ongoing for a long time before any citizens were aware of it.

Just some thoughts from a concerned citizen.

Howard Hackney,
Port St. Joe

HAMILTON

From Page A4

— and if you want more, search out The New York Times' guide, "How to Participate in Politics." The key thing, as President Obama said, is to show up. There are all kinds of ways to have an impact, but they start with one thing: Showing up.

It's the least we should do.

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

GULF COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE LAW ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY

July 16-22

On July 16, K-9 Deputy M. Peek was dispatched to assist a Mexico Beach Police officer on a traffic stop. The vehicle that was stopped was occupied by three subjects. The stop resulted in both passengers being arrested for active warrants out of Bay County and the driver being arrested for driving with a suspended driver's license. All three subjects were placed under arrest by Mexico Beach Police. The Mexico Beach Police Department is also investigating some illegal narcotics that officers found inside the vehicle. When he arrived, Deputy Peek could smell the odor of marijuana emitting from the vehicle. All three occupants were subsequently arrested with Deputy Peek transporting one of them to the Mexico Beach Police Station at the request of Officer Knobel.

On July 16, Dakota W. Jones (21) was arrested by Deputy D. House in Burgess Creek on an active warrant for Petit Theft. The warrant resulted from an investigation by Deputy D. House that began on July 7. That investigation revealed that Jones had stolen money from another person's wallet.

On July 17, Deputy A. White was dispatched to the Wewahatchka Substation in reference to a theft. The victim reported that a black and green, 18-inch, Poulan Pro chainsaw had been

taken from the 700 block of N. State 71. Anyone that may have information on the whereabouts of the chainsaw is encouraged to contact the Gulf County Sheriff's Office.

On July 17, Deputy J. Page was dispatched to Ridge Road in reference to a theft. The victim reported that a gas tank had been taken out of his boat along with another gas tank that was on his property a week or so ago. This investigation is ongoing.

On July 20, Sgt. D. Sanders responded to a report of a domestic disturbance on Scrub Oak Street in the Overstreet area. Gustave A. Sander (40) was arrested and charged with Domestic Battery after it was determined that he had grabbed another family member by the throat and pushed them. Sander was transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility by Sgt. Jerome Williams. On July 22, Sgt. D. Sanders arrested Charles Frederick Tiller on two Writ of Bodily Attachments for failure to pay child support out of Bay County. He was transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility to await extradition to Bay County.

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.

CRANKS

From Page A4

and get as many jobs as they can keep their eyes open for.

From what I have seen, they do a good job, work hard and go back

home with a pocket full of money.

The young woman asked the restaurant owner if she was hiring or needed help. The owner said, "No, we are good right now." I have never owned a restaurant, but my over easy eggs kind of lost their glimmer when I heard

her say that she didn't need any help.

Somewhere in the middle of my flat tire and my corn beef hash, there is something to be learned. Maybe it's something like this – "We need to appreciate this country and the opportunities we have with the fervor of a

foreigner who is experiencing our freedom and opportunity for the first time."

I'm not preaching, I'm just trying to find a little bit of my Daddy down deep inside of me.

Read more stories at www.CranksMyTractor.com.

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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

New Arthritis Painkiller Works on Contact and Numbs Pain in Minutes

New cream relieves arthritis in minutes after applying; uses the strongest approved dose of an anesthetic drug which numbs the nerves that cause crippling joint pain

By David Watson
Associated Health Press

BOSTON – Expectations are high for a new blockbuster arthritis drug. But unlike so many of the others, it comes in the form of cream, not a pill.

Initial users, including several clinical trial participants, say the relief is extraordinary and when you look at the science you'll see why.

The new pain relief cream numbs the nerves right below the skin.

When applied to an arthritic joint, or a painful area on the body, it delivers rapid relief that lasts for hours and hours.

Blocks Pain from the Brain

The powerful painkilling effect is created by the cream's active ingredient, a powerful anesthetic drug.

Anesthetics are highly regarded by physicians in the medical community. They block nerve signals from the brain so that patients don't feel pain and are incredibly effective.

"Those suffering with arthritis or joint pain can expect relief within minutes of their first application," explains Dr. Henry Esber, creator of the hot selling drug Apeaz.

"There will be a pleasant warming sensation that is followed by a cool, soothing one. This is how you know that the drug has reached the affected joint and tissue."

Works In Minutes

For arthritis sufferers, Apeaz offers impressive advantages over traditional medications. The most remarkable is how quickly it relieves difficult pain.

The cream contains the maximum approved OTC dose of an amazing anesthetic, which rapidly penetrates the skin to numb the area that's in pain. This relief lasts for several hours.

Published pre-clinical animal studies have shown that the other ingredients in Apeaz can also prevent further bone and cartilage destruction.

No Risk of Ulcers or Stomach Pain

There are also no negative side effects as seen with oral medications. Apeaz delivers its ingredients through the skin. Oral medications are absorbed in the digestive tract. Over time, the chemicals in pills can tear the delicate lining of the stomach, causing ulcers and bleeding.

A Low Cost Alternative That Works

There are also tremendous savings when switching over to a topical like Apeaz. When compared to other arthritis medications, Apeaz is a fraction of the cost. At less than \$2 a day, the cream quickly is becoming a household name.



NEW PAIN RELIEF DRUG WORKS ON CONTACT: Apeaz delivers its active ingredient, a powerful painkiller, through the skin, providing users with rapid relief without oral drug side effects

Rapid Relief Without Pills or Needle Injections

Many Apeaz users report significant improvements in daily aches and pain. Many more report increased flexibility, less stiffness, and decreased muscle soreness. They are moving with less pain for the first time in years.

"I've tried more pills than I can count. I've also had a handful of cortisone shots. Nothing is as effective as this product. With Apeaz, I get relief right away. I rub a little on my hands. It keeps the pain away. It also prevents the pain from getting really bad. It's completely changed my life," raves one user.

Apeaz™ is an FDA drug with approved claims for the pain relief of the following conditions:

- Temporary pain
- Simple back pain
- Strains
- Sprains
- Athletic injuries
- Muscle stiffness and pain
- Wrist, elbow, shoulder, hip, knee, ankle, foot, muscle or joint pain

A New Breakthrough for Arthritis

When applied to the skin Apeaz is absorbed in just minutes. It then penetrates through muscle and tissues, getting to the source of your pain, numbing the nerve endings.

"This is why Apeaz is so effective for people with arthritis pain. It reduces pain while adding an additional potential layer of joint support," explains Esber.

A Better Way to Treat Pain

A pre-clinical trial on Apeaz was carried out by Dr. Esber and his research staff shortly after its initial production.

The results were published in the *Journal of Immunology*.

The study found that Apeaz induced an instant numbing effect, which blocked pain for several hours.

It was also shown to decrease swelling and inflammation.

Even more remarkable, Apeaz was also shown to prevent the further destruction of cartilage, a major cause of arthritis.

"One of the most impressive things about the study was the various ways Apeaz was able to influence levels of pain. Many painkillers, and even creams, simply mask your pain. Apeaz is different. Since it is absorbed through the skin it deliver rapid relief and is able to deliver its ingredients directly to infected arthritic tissue" explains Esber.

A New Weapon for Arthritis and Joint Pain

With daily use, Apeaz helps users live a more vital, pain free relief without any of the negative side effects or interactions associated with oral drugs.

Through the use of a powerful anesthetic drug, Apeaz is able to numb pain at the source, specifically around joints plagued by arthritis.

Readers can now enjoy an entirely new level of comfort that's both safe and affordable. It is also extremely effective, especially if nothing else has worked.

Where to Find Apeaz

This is the official public release of Apeaz™. As such, the company is offering a special discounted supply to any joint-pain arthritis sufferer who calls within the next 48 hours.

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

Your Toll-Free hotline number is 1-800-460-0298 and will only be open for the next 48 hours. Only a limited discounted supply of Apeaz™ is currently available in your region.

Consumers who miss out on our current product inventory will have to wait until more becomes available and that could take weeks. Experience the guaranteed Apeaz™ relief already enjoyed by thousands of consumers. The company advises not to wait. Call 1-800-460-0298 today



The U.S. Navy Band will play here Labor Day weekend. [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

Navy band to play Sept. 3

Star Staff Report

Given the county's proximity to water, the Navy seems a natural fit.

The Navy Band, playing from the heights of Veterans Memorial Park at Beacon Hill, further fits the bill.

The United State Navy Band Country Current will be take the stage during a special Labor Day weekend event, play 6 p.m. ET Sept. 3 in the park.

The concert is free and open to the public.

Country Current is the Navy's country-bluegrass ensemble, renowned, according to a release from the Navy, for its versatility and phenomenal musicianship.

They perform a blend of modern country music and cutting-edge bluegrass.

And perform they do, as all sailors in the Navy Band are full-time professional musicians, almost of whom have undergraduate degrees in music; most have graduate degrees.

"For many years, Navy bands have been where it matters, when it matters, just like the rest of our Navy," said Capt. Kenneth Collins, commanding officer of the U.S. Navy Band.

"Today, we have sailors performing around the world, improving relations

with our allies abroad as well as telling the Navy story here at home."

The U.S. Navy Band is the flagship musical organization of the Navy, and one of 11 Navy bands located around the world.

The band, which has toured since 1925, is based at the Washington Navy Yard in Washington, D.C.

There are six performing ensembles within the band: the Concert Band, Ceremonial Band, Sea Chanters Chorus, Commodores jazz ensemble, Country Current country/bluegrass ensemble and the Cruisers popular music group.

They each tour nationally 12-15 weeks a year, performing for veterans, elementary schools and in support of active-duty sailors.

The Country Current 2018 tour, for example, will cover seven cities in four states and more than 850 miles.

The musical tours as one of the signature outreach efforts by the U.S. Navy.

Each of the Band's primary performing units tour each year throughout specified areas of the country, an opportunity to play for audiences that do not have such a chance otherwise.

The concerts are intended to be family-friendly events, entertaining to veterans, families, individuals and those interested in joining the Navy.

County unemployment rate jumps in June

By Tim Croft

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

The county's unemployment rate jumped in June, reversing a positive trend in the rate since January, according to statistics from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

The county's unemployment rate in June was 3.9 percent, the highest in the region which also includes Bay and Franklin County.

Gulf County's unemployment rate was 3.1 percent in May.

The unemployment rate in June 2017 was also 3.9 percent.

The county's unemployment rate is now nearly equal to that of February, when it was 4.0 percent.

The region's unemployment rate was 3.6 percent, with Franklin County leading the way with a 3.4 percent unemployment rate; Bay was 3.6.

A year ago, the region's unemployment rate was 4.0 percent.

The unemployment rate in Florida was 3.9 percent in June.

Out of a regional labor force of 104,804, which was up 2.2 percent, or 2,298 from last year, there were 3,779 unemployed.

"Regionally, we are doing incredibly well," said Kim Bodine, executive director of CareerSource Gulf Coast. "We have increases in almost every industry and the second highest job growth in the state.

Gulf County reported 11 permits for residential construction worth \$3.6 million during the month of June.

Another economic factor in Gulf County was the 39 percent increase in bed tax collections in May compared to the same month in 2017.

The average annual wage in Gulf County in 2017 was \$35,146, up 2.3 percent from 2016.

That sits between Bay County's average annual wage of \$39,305 in 2017 and Franklin County's \$30,667 average annual wage.

In Florida, the average annual wage was \$48,460 in 2017, up 3 percent year over year.

In June, non-agricultural employment in the Panama City MSA, which also includes Gulf County, was 88,400, up 2,400 jobs, or 2.8 percent, over the year.

The Panama City MSA had the second-fastest annual job growth among metro areas in Florida in the and trade, transportation and utilities (up 4.1 percent) sector in June.

In the professional and business services (up 8.5 percent) sector, which was up 7.9 percent, the rate of growth was third-fastest among metro areas in Florida in June.

The Panama City MSA grew faster compared to the state average in the following sectors: professional and business services; trade, transportation and utilities; education and health services (up 1.7 percent); other services (3.4 percent); and government (0.7 percent).

Industries gaining jobs over the past year included professional and business services (up 800 jobs); education and health services (up 200 jobs); leisure and hospitality (up 300 jobs); trades, transportation and utilities (up 700 jobs); government (up 100 jobs); mining, logging and construction (up 300 jobs); and financial activities (up 100 jobs); and other services (up 100 jobs).

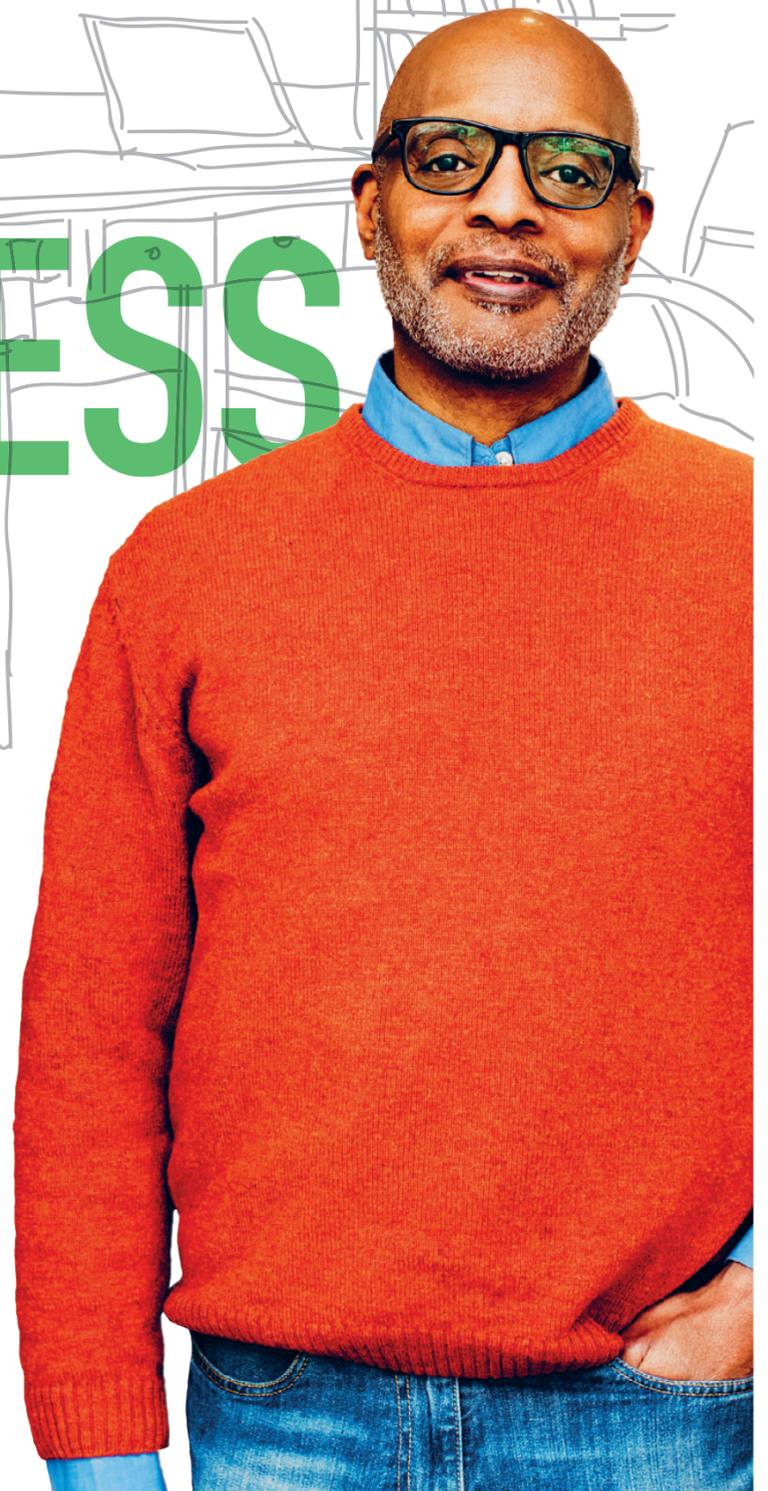
According to the DEO, the manufacturing (down 100 jobs), and information industries (down 100 jobs) lost jobs over the past year.

The other business sectors were unchanged.

The unemployment rate does not reflect those unemployed who are no longer receiving unemployment benefits nor does it include those who have stopped seeking employment.

CareerSource Gulf Coast operates offices in all three counties. Visit www.careersourcegfc.com to learn more about professional workforce development and job placement services, all offered free of charge.

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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

America is Hungry for Martha Stewart's New 30-Minute Dinner Kits

Consumers rushing to get Martha's delicious recipes and seasonal ingredients delivered to their doorsteps

For the next 48-hours, readers in Florida get 3 free meals and free shipping



Fast-growing Martha & Marley Spoon is shipping thousands of meals every week to hungry customers across the country.

Over 4 million dishes have been sold, and sales continue to skyrocket for the meal kit delivery service Martha & Marley Spoon.

"My kits make it possible for even the busiest of us to make delicious and easy meals. Customers love the fresh ingredients and the amount of time they save," said Martha Stewart.

A closer look at this convenience-enabling phenomenon suggests it was just a matter of time before sales took off.

A simple solution for Americans of all ages -- seniors in particular -- Martha & Marley Spoon is perfect for those who want to enjoy healthy, nutritious and fresh dinners in just 30 minutes a day. Martha & Marley Spoon sends Martha Stewart's trusted recipes and fresh, pre-portioned ingredients directly to your door.

Unlike other meal kit companies, Martha & Marley Spoon works with award-winning producers and purveyors so that you get fresh, healthy, and delicious ingredients in every meal.

Best of all, ingredients go from the farm to your table (instead of spending 2 weeks in a truck traveling to local supermarkets), food waste is reduced (Americans waste 187 pounds of fresh produce annually), and you can save hundreds of dollars per year (Americans throw away \$24 billion in produce alone each year).

Martha-Approved Meals In 30 Minutes A Day

The Martha & Marley Spoon culinary team is led by 14-year industry veteran Jennifer Aaronson, who earned her chops in the test kitchens of *Martha Stewart Living*.

Aaronson has condensed decades of experience into a once-weekly "meal kit" that lets consumers make delicious, restaurant-quality meals in just 30 minutes a day and at a fraction of the cost of eating out -- without planning, shopping, or kitchen stress.

With Martha & Marley Spoon, consumers eat delicious dinners, break bread with loved ones, and feel better about what they're eating.

Best of all is the simplicity of the service.

First, consumers choose from Martha's delicious 30-40 minute recipes. There are 7 new dishes and 3 customer favorites available each week, many of which come from the thousands of recipes Martha Stewart has shared through her television shows, books, magazines, and website over the years.

The team sends the recipes, along with all of the pre-portioned ingredients needed to cook them, directly to customers' doors in a chilled, insulated box. By delivering the exact quantities, there's never

any food waste or half-used ingredients rotting in the back of the fridge.

Fans of the product love that all they have to do is cook, relax, and enjoy the experience. Each recipe takes around 30 minutes, which enables households to eat well and have plenty of time for other important things.

As Martha says, "Save time to make time for everything else you want to do."

Why Americans Are Raving About This "Dinner in a Box"

The Associated Press calls Martha & Marley Spoon "the best meal kit," and the company has been featured in the *New York Times*, *USA Today*, *Fortune*, *The Today Show*, and more. In June alone, news of the service was covered by over 157 media outlets, seen and heard more than 600 million times.

What sets this meal kit service apart? We've boiled it down to 7 simple reasons:

- 1. Trusted, time-tested recipes.** While other companies offer unproven meal options, Martha & Marley Spoon sends you the best of Martha's 18,000+ recipes, so every meal you cook is a winner.
- 2. Time-saving cooking techniques.** Martha & Marley Spoon meals use Martha's smart cooking techniques so you can enjoy a delicious meal in as little as 20 minutes, with no planning or shopping whatsoever.
- 3. Choice and variety.** Martha & Marley Spoon offers 7 new recipes and 3 customer favorites to choose from weekly, with plans for both couples and families. It is the only service in America that provides total choice of what to cook for both families and 2-person households.
- 4. Thoughtfully-sourced ingredients.** Martha & Marley Spoon works with local suppliers to bring the very best to your table, including organic produce, artisanal cheeses and condiments, and ethically-sourced meats and seafood.
- 5. Timeless recipe cards.** Every box comes with beautifully-designed, sturdy recipe cards that are easy to follow and reuse.
- 6. Wholesome, balanced meals.** Recipes are designed for healthy weeknight cooking and eating, quick preparation, and they're a clear winner over take-out and frozen meals.
- 7. The freshest food around.** Martha & Marley Spoon focuses on fresh, local food that is sourced as little as 24 hours before shipping, meaning that

your food arrives at its best.

"I Absolutely Love What You Are Doing For Me"

Rod, one of thousands of happy customers says, "I just wanted to thank all at Martha & Marley Spoon. Quality, value, convenience, I could go on. Amazing, delicious, healthy, wonderfully orchestrated meals with a 1, 2, 3 cooking approach. By the way, I started by ordering this for my college daughter who never boiled water prior to December. She is now making herself amazing, healthy, fresh food. Yay!"

Another email writes "Praise to all, I love my meals. The Moroccan Spiced Chicken with Vegetables -- delicious. The spinach tortilla cannelloni -- spectacular! But the best so far is the Chicken Soup with Sweet Potato, Collards and Quinoa. I would describe it as light, sweet, and satisfying. I thank you once again for the exceptional standards."

And yet another says, "You are the best! I am amazed at how perfect your service is for me. I enjoy the offerings and quality put into each box, always easy and fun to prepare. I love the special gifts. This level of service is exceptional. I can't imagine life without Martha & Marley Spoon."

Martha & Marley Spoon's success -- and glowing customer reviews -- make it easy to see why sales are booming nationwide and why people can't stop talking about it.

How To Get 3 Free Martha & Marley Spoon Meals In Florida

Initial shipments of Martha & Marley Spoon have been snapped up after being featured on *The Today Show* and in *The New York Times*, *Associated Press*, and *The Washington Post*. With thousands of customers across the nation, and the 283,000+ global followers, it's clear households are "liking" what they see.

Starting at 7am today, local Florida residents can get 3 free meals, plus free 2-day shipping, as part of any order. Simply visit free.marleyspoon.com and order using code NEWS14 in the next 48 hours. Orders will be served on a first-come, first-serve basis and are subject to warehouse capacity limits.

Order online to beat the rush. If you have urgent questions, call toll-free 1-800-381-3617 on weekdays from 9AM - 9PM EST. Operators do not take orders by phone, but can walk you through ordering on your own computer or mobile device.

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If there was an effort to feed or clothe the needy, Jerry Stokoe (left) was typically a part. (FILE PHOTO)

STOKOE

From Page A1

say I had a client who needed to get food and here he would come back with some coupons from Piggly Wiggly, not another word," Martin said. "He was just a good man."

That is just the surface of the bottomless well of outreach that was Jerry Stokoe.

He was a smiling, light-jacket clad dervish testifying to the better nature of man, never needing to raise his voice because his passion filled every nook and cranny.

Big, small, Jerry was a force behind so many drives, so many events, aimed at helping those less fortunate, the elderly, the children.

And, in turn, to charming levels, so uninterested in personal attention or accolade he might blanch were he to see these words this week.

My favorite hymn as a youngster was "Onward Christian Soldiers."

I imagine Jerry at the helm of those troops, those volunteers who joined in the cause, and it was always, always a deeply important cause to Jerry.

"He really was a saint," said Mary Jo Walsh, who worked with Jerry on several of his projects.

Start with the bounty that was the holiday outreach.

Jerry had plenty of help, plenty of volunteers, and we'll get to them in a moment, but he was the fuel, the

bedrock faith, the soul, of the work to feed the hungry on Christmas and Thanksgiving.

In the most recent years, 800-900 households had a warm meal they would not otherwise have on those special days.

The behind the scenes work, lining up the food, the cooking, the plating, the transportation (and, my, don't you think Jerry and Prophet Billy Dixson are having a fine conversation right now), that was Jerry.

Constantly moving Jerry. Seemingly always on his way to something or somebody to assist.

This is how I came to know Jerry some two decades or so ago.

The newspaper was integral to him to disseminate the directives to his troops, the call, if you will, to arms.

And he was some kind of fastidious about how the information was provided, how prominent, how often.

Then, even more particular about ensuring that every volunteer's name was properly spelled and listed in the newspaper afterward.

If an individual was missed or misspelled, brother, we made sure it was correct the next week.

Of course, as technology arrived Jerry tried to give me a break.

Let us just leave it that while a great man, Jerry was less than spectacular in spelling and grammar.

His jottings took a bit of cleanup.

So, to receive it in a form of copy and paste, well, if we want to talk

about inside baseball about newspapers, this was a whole lost easier.

Jerry just couldn't get the hang of it, consistently frustrated.

He finally got it and I always knew the email was from Jerry because instead of a name or some familiar slug line, it would have an ampersand (@).

We always shared a good chuckle, though Jerry being Jerry he was horrified that he might have imposed on another.

Thing was, those holiday outings, as impressive, as uplifting as they were, happened to be just part of the DNA of Jerry Stokoe.

Raising money to buy children of need coats or gloves, raising money or donation for local food pantries, helping with utility bills, there was no detail too small for Jerry to lend a hand to someone in need.

He also did not care much about demographics beyond a need; north and south, black, white, Hispanic, Jerry, if he could be, would be there.

And he did it all as one of the most self-effacing, humble, spirit-filled human beings I, and many others around this county, have ever encountered.

I just always marveled at the sheer energy, the unflagging optimism of the man, always greeting people with a smile, kind word and often a "God bless."

"He helped a lot of people, fed a lot of people," said County Commissioner Phil McCroan. "We lost a good man."

Rest in peace, Jerry. You left gaping footprints.

SHORTAGE

From Page A1

down this late in the game."

As of Monday, Bay County still had more than 50 open positions.

The issue has been compounded this summer as three teachers from out of the county who accepted jobs had to back away due to the inability to find affordable housing.

At Port St. Joe Elementary growth is also adding to the headaches.

The board last week approved an additional kindergarten class as the school is over the class size limit with just the four kindergarten classrooms.

And that, Principal Joni Mock said, is before the typical late-summer increase in kindergarten enrollment.

At fifth-grade, Port St. Joe Elementary is right at the class-size limit which, depending on any changes as the school arrives, could necessitate

the creation of another class.

"We are at capacity, room-wise," Mock told the board. "We're trying to be creative."

Norton said the district is also facing a problem with insufficient numbers of bus drivers.

A bus and sign were placed at Port St. Joe Elementary School last week urging folks to call to be a bus driver.

"It looks like we are starting the year without the bus drivers we need to run all the routes we have," Norton said.

The district is looking at the potential some routes may have to be consolidated and Norton said they were also examining whether they might be able to tap any personnel from maintenance to drive some routes.

Triumph grants

The school district submitted three pre-applications to Triumph Gulf Coast, seeking grant funding from the board that is overseeing the disbursement of some \$1.5 billion in BP fine money

over 15 years.

Two of those pre-applications were approved by Triumph staff and the district has moved ahead on full applications.

One application seeks \$300,000 to establish a culinary arts program at Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High School, the other pursues \$125,000 to expand agricultural programs at Wewahitchka Jr./Sr. High School.

The third, seeking funding to purchase six buses, was not approved in the pre-application process.

But the district will also soon submit a pre-application seeking funding to establish a drone program at both ends of the county.

Norton said the costs would likely be into seven figures, but at this juncture the district is trying to get a handle of industry certification standards and requirements to understand what the scope of the program would need to be.

"I am glad we are pursuing these areas; we won't have this opportunity again," said board member John Wright.

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- 15 CHEVROLET SILVERADO GRAY, N0830B **\$27,300**
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- 16 CHRYSLER 300C WHITE, PA5680 **\$23,990**
- 17 CHRYSLER 300C WHITE, 4DR, ROOF, PC5664 **\$24,990**
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- 14 GMC SIERRA C15 SLT, BLACK, PC5657A **\$32,990**
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- 16 RAM 1500 SLT SILVER, 4X4, N1408A **\$32,588**
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- 17 RAM 1500 REBEL GRAY, PA5677 **\$42,990**
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- 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**
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OUTDOORS

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Blue water, big fish

Trolling for big game off the Florida Panhandle

By Frank Sargeant
Special to The Star

Offshore trolling requires a good imagination. If you can't visualize, every minute, that great spear of a giant billfish slashing through the water behind that 5-pound lure bouncing in the wake, it can become an exercise in boredom.

There's a whole lot of waiting between strikes most days when you go big game fishing. Sometimes, there are days between the billfish bites, in fact. Some days a yellowfin tuna, a wahoo or several high-flying dolphin-fish (mahi) may spice up the action, as well as the grill -- nothing like still-twitching fillets cooked at sea to whet the

appetite. But some days that purple-black sea seems as empty as the back side of the moon for miles and miles.

The only attraction for the fish out there is the interface between currents, where different speeds, densities or temperatures of water cause a rip, a seam in the water, along which the golden Sargasso weed along with all the ocean flotsam gathers, sometimes in slowly whirling drifts that extend for miles.

Beneath the sargasso are tiny fish of several kinds, and beneath them are often "chicken" dolphin weighing 2 to 5 pounds, sometimes even smaller wahoo and baby tuna. And far down below, the gamefish lurk, looking upward, always on the move, waiting to come up like a rocket, seize their prey and head

back down like a bolt of lightning. Flying fish, transparent butterflies, jump off the top of the waves and fly for hundreds of yards. It's their escape mechanism, but sometimes they seem to be doing it just because they can.

Occasionally mako sharks and blue sharks slide by, hoping for a wounded tuna or dolphin, a sick blue marlin. Oceanic dolphin -- they look similar to the inshore bottlenose dolphin but have white dappling and are a bit smaller -- sometimes show up in rolling schools of dozens at a time, sliding in close for a look at the strange visitors plowing up their turf.

But what there is mostly is a lot of empty water, a mile deep and more. The smart billfish skippers know how to cut their odds of straining all through this open sea to find productive spots, using the ROFF's sea surface temperature charts and other electronics to help them home in. But it's still a matter of covering a whole lot of water.

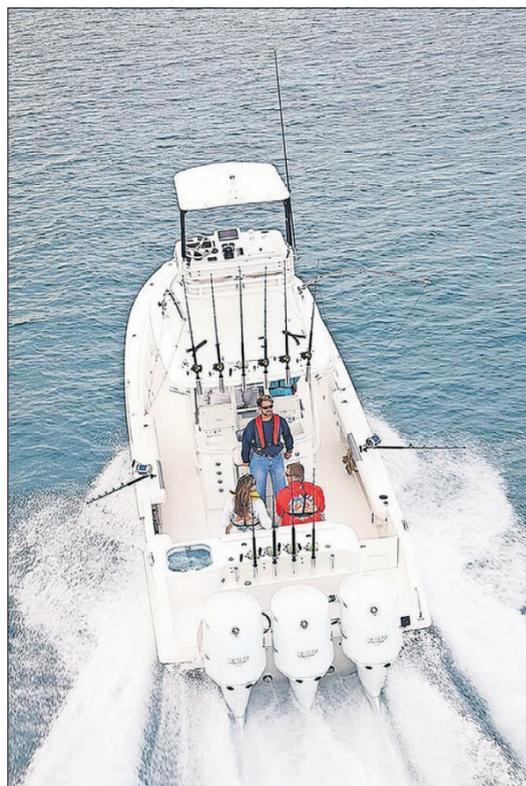
Some like pulling "Kona" heads, artificial lures that can be towed at speeds of 10 knots and more, allowing them to cover lots of water. The lures have a proven history of producing, particularly on marlin and wahoo. The strikes are violent beyond belief -- the combination of boat speed and the speed of the fish is a true test of tackle until the skipper gets things under control and the angler gets buckled up to the rod.

However, many serious bluewater fishers like either rigged dead bait, which skips from the outriggers in the wake, or live tuna that may weigh 7 to 10 pounds, rigged on a bridle behind a massive forged $\frac{3}{8}$ hook. The process covers less water, but if the boat is in an area where bait and billfish are abundant, it can actually be more effective than trolling an artificial because the fish are more likely to eat the real thing if they see it.

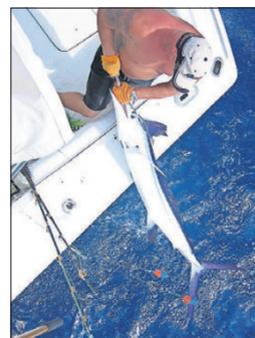
The big game menagerie

Waters off the Panhandle offer an impressive selection of big game fishes from April through October, with dolphin, sailfish, blackfin tuna and wahoo showing up in May and early June, blue marlin in June and July, and white marlin in September and October. Swordfish are around all summer, but are caught almost entirely at night on baits drifted deep.

The blue marlin is the premiere gamefish of the Gulf, and the Panhandle has produced some monsters, including the current Florida record of 1046 pounds,



A fully-rigged CC like this one can handle long trips offshore for up to six anglers. [COURTESY PHOTO/EVERGLADES MARINE]



A few white marlin are in Panhandle waters all summer, but a strong run usually shows up in September and October. [COURTESY PHOTO/SID RICE]

find themselves more at home on this type of fishing platform.

Selecting the right charter

There are many levels of capability among charter skippers. Some guys are always "lucky", and these are the guys you want to spend your money with.

And, as is the case with much in life, being lucky is a matter of preparation meeting opportunity in offshore fishing.

The "lucky" skipper will usually have a clean, well-maintained boat with quality tackle, the best baits and lures, and a well-trained, pleasant and efficient mate. He's going to keep tabs on the fish movements through Roff's and other current monitoring systems, and he's going to be dialed in to the dock talk of who is seeing fish where and when.

Fortunately, these days social media gives all of us a chance to grade our experiences, and to get an advance look at services we might want to use, as reported by those who have tried them.

Of course, you can't let one bad review put you off an otherwise great skipper -- some who hire a charter have completely unrealistic expectations. Complaining that you did not hook up with a "grander" in your 8-hour charter is not kosher. Complaining that you left the dock an hour late, that the bait was rotten, the reels corroded and that the head had not been cleaned for a month, on the other hand, is useful information.

Best bet is to select your top two or three skippers, then get them on the phone and discuss how they fish and what you can expect in a day on the water. The in-person conversation will tell you a lot more than many email and Facebook messages, so that there are no surprises when you get to the docks.

Last but not least, if you have doubts about whether offshore trolling is for you, it probably isn't. It takes a lot of patience and optimism, and there are more days that the billfish do not cooperate than when they do -- you might want to opt for a grouper-snapper trip instead, where the action is fast and you're just about certain to get a nice bag of fillets to carry home with you.

caught in 1985 in the Bay Point Invitational Billfish Tournament. Another fish estimated to weigh over 1,000 pounds has been caught and released since. Several over 600 pounds have been weighed already this summer.

Dolphin (mahi) are typically 15 to 20 pounds, but larger fish are caught regularly, while wahoo run anywhere from 20 pounds up. Sailfish are a lot lighter than they look, with fish of 40 to 75 pounds typical.

What it costs

Going billfishing in your own boat is generally not a good plan unless you're an experienced seaman with years of offshore operation under your belt. The specialized boats, gear and techniques required make this an expert's game, and you're by far better off hiring a good charter captain.

It obviously costs a lot of money to run a charterboat capable of fishing far offshore where the billfishes dwell. The boats get 1 to 2 miles per gallon on plane, and may cover over 200 miles in a day, not counting all the fuel they burn at trolling speed for many hours. They also have pricey dock fees to pay, commercial insurance costs, boat and tackle maintenance and of course what may be an astronomical boat payment, plus wages for a trained mate, essential for handling large gamefish.

So it's not surprising that it costs a lot of money to book a billfish charter. An 8-hour charter is typically around \$1200 for up to six anglers. Since it takes over an hour to get out to serious billfish country most of the time, you're better off booking 12 hours at \$1800 or so. Larger boats can carry more than six passengers if the captain has the right license, which allows splitting the ticket more ways.

There are two types of boats that run out to big game waters. The classic sportfisherman, which is typically a cabin boat with air conditioning, galley and full head, starts at around 45 feet. These are usually powered by inboard diesels, and they typically run at speeds around 20 to 25 knots, which is to say about 25 to 28 mph. They are wide-beamed and highly seaworthy, and some old salts say the sound of the diesel engines on some of them have a peculiar capability to "raise" fish or draw them to the baits.

The second type of boat fishing offshore is the center console, and these days some are being built in lengths approaching 50 feet. These are powered by multiple outboards, recently up to four 400's, and they can be very fast, with speeds of 50 and even 60 mph in calm seas. The obvious advantage here is that you get out where the fish are a lot faster, so get more fishing hours, fewer running hours, for your charter fee.

The disadvantage of the center console is that you are likely to get wet from spray or rain -- make that you are certain to get wet from spray or rain -- and there is no cabin and no AC to get away from the wind, sun, heat or rain, though there may be a small head in the console. Because they are open at the bow, they are less seaworthy than the express sportfisherman style.

They are nearly always limited to six passengers, so you can't split the ticket quite as much as on the larger sportfish boats, but the charter fees are sometimes lower. They are narrower across the beam than the big sportfish rigs, and have more vee to the bottom so they tend to roll more in beam seas. However, anglers who are used to fishing in open boats inshore or in freshwater sometimes

WEEKLY ALMANAC

Date	High	Low	% Precip
Thu, July 26	88°	77°	30%
Fri, July 27	88°	77°	20%
Sat, July 28	89°	77°	20%
Sun, July 29	88°	77°	40%
Mon, July 30	87°	76°	60%
Tues, July 31	86°	76°	60%
Wed, August 1	86°	76°	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
26	Th	9:09a 1.9		7:33p -0.1	
27	Fr	9:46a 1.8		8:01p -0.1	
28	Sa	10:23a 1.8		8:26p 0.0	
29	Su	11:01a 1.7		8:49p 0.1	
30	Mo	11:40a 1.6		9:06p 0.2	
31	Tu	12:20p 1.4		9:17p 0.3	
1	We	1:02p 1.2		9:16p 0.4	

APALACHICOLA BAY, WEST PASS

Date	Day	High Tide	High Tide	Low Tide	Low Tide
26	Th	5:30a 1.3	2:04p 1.5	9:20a 1.3	10:41p -0.1
27	Fr	5:53a 1.3	2:50p 1.5	10:03a 1.3	11:11p 0.0
28	Sa	6:13a 1.3	3:34p 1.5	10:41a 1.2	11:36p 0.0
29	Su	6:30a 1.4	4:18p 1.5	11:18a 1.2	11:58p 0.1
30	Mo	6:47a 1.4	5:03p 1.5	11:54a 1.1	
31	Tu	7:06a 1.4	5:51p 1.4	12:19a 0.2	12:33p 1.0
1	We	7:27a 1.4	6:44p 1.3	12:43a 0.3	1:16p 0.9

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FISHING REPORT



Snapper season has concluded and all indications are it has been fantastic. We should get numbers shortly from the bean counters and we'll have more information at that time. Let's talk about some inshore fishing this week. Man has it been hot and we keep saying over and over, get on the water early if you want to catch fish. Not 9AM but at daybreak, if your sleeping in, your missing fish. If you do fish later you'll want to fish the deeper holes and channels as the fish like humans are trying to stay cool. Also fish late in the evening about 2 hours this side of sun down. A very good method as of late has been to use live Pin Fish flat lined near or over some of the drop offs to deeper water. Trout and Redfish will readily hit this method. Just use several feet of leader with a split shot at the top and just your live Pin Fish hooked through the lips. Gently cast him out and let the bait do all the work. Live Pin Fish are generally not available at your local bait shops in this area so you'll have to cast net them or us a Sabiki rig to bait up. Until next week Happy Fishing!

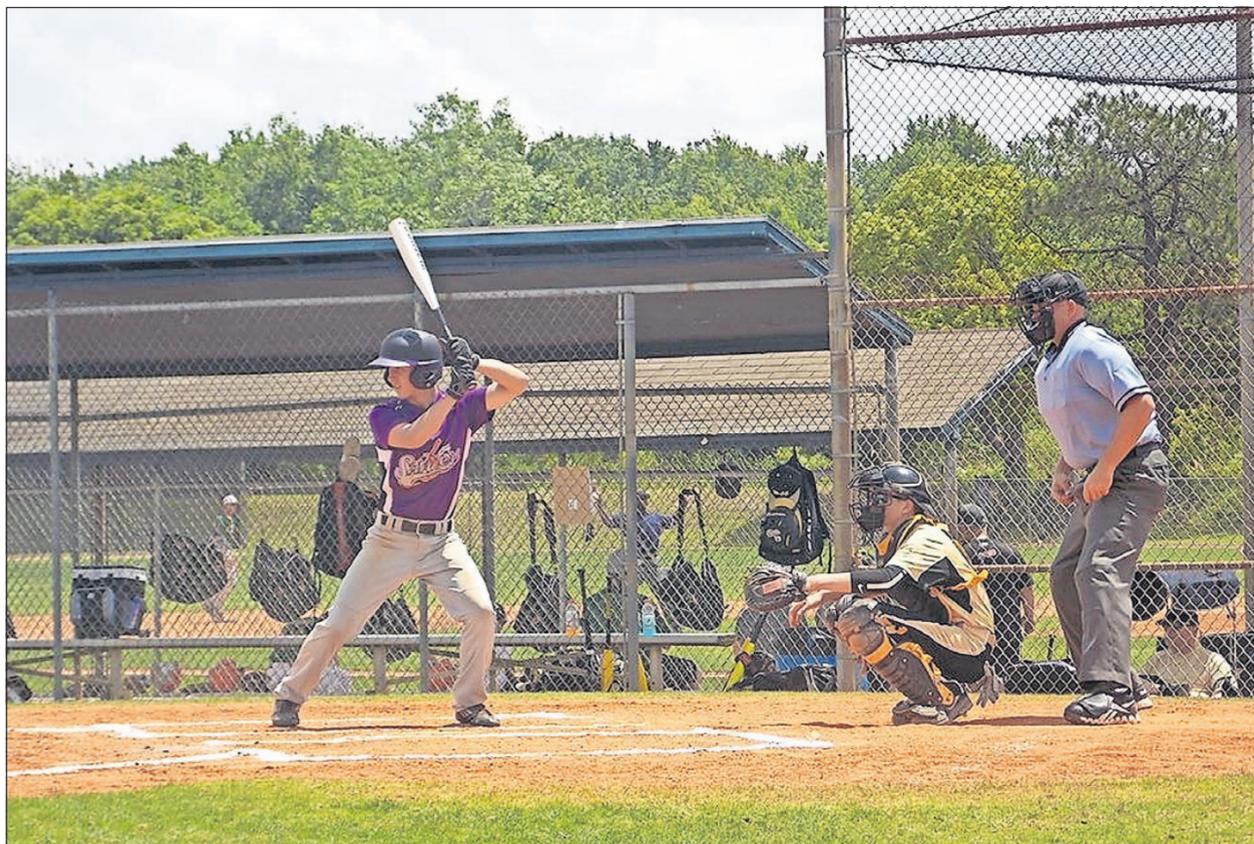
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SPORTS



Bryce Register played on the Tiger Sharks state title team. [PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

Register inks scholarship with Bishop State

By Tim Croft

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

The afterglow of a state championship continued for Port St. Joe's Bryce Register last week.

Register, part of the Tiger Shark baseball team that captured the state Class 1A championship this past spring, signed a full scholarship to attend Bishop State Community College in Mobile, Ala.

"It feels awesome, just a relief of the stress," Register said.

During his high school years, Register said he had expressed interest and had interest expressed in him by several area two-year schools, including Chipola and Gulf Coast State Colleges.

The attraction to Bishop State was mutual, particularly after Register had worked out for his new coaches.

"I've got a starting spot," Register said. "I loved it up there. It was real nice."

Register will play shortstop, his natural position in high school, for Bishop State, while pursuing a



Bryce Register will play shortstop at Bishop State.

general education degree with an eye on advancing to a four-year school in two years.

"I was very privileged to coach Bryce for the five months or so I had him," said Coach Ashley Summerlin, coming off his first season at Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High School. "They are getting a player who is very dedicated, a kid who loves the game and loves to practice."

"Just a good kid in general."

Register moved around a

bit this past season for the Tiger Sharks, who finished 18-12, a record that belies the hot streak they rode in the playoffs, especially the title game.

"He got hot just as we were getting hot."

For the season, Register hit .250 with a .650 combined on-base and slugging percentage.

He drove in 14 and scored 17 runs while hitting seven doubles, a triple and stealing two bases in four attempts.

On the mound, he was 2-1 with a 3.45 ERA in 12 appearances.

And, he said, he learned a broader lesson in during his senior season and the title ring he will soon own.

"I learned how to win, (Summerlin) taught me that, absolutely," Register said.

Bishop State went 15-31 last season, 9-21 in the Alabama Community College Conference.

"He can definitely help (Bishop State), whether it is on offense or in the field," Summerlin said.

"The thing I am proudest of is the young man he has become."

Register has also played summer ball for years.

During various summers, he has played for the Powermill Sports Facility, Orlando Stingers, Orlando Scorpions and Evosheid Florida.

PSJHS volleyball tryouts

Special to The Star

Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High School will begin tryouts and practices for volleyball on Monday, July 30. Junior Varsity (JV) tryouts and practices will be held at 9 a.m. beginning Monday the 30th. At the conclusion of JV tryouts on Tuesday, regular JV practice will continue the remainder of the week from 9-11 a.m. Varsity tryouts will begin at 3 p.m. on Monday, July 30. Tryouts and/or practice will continue the rest of the week at 3 p.m.

On Monday, Aug. 6, JV practices will begin at 3:15 p.m. until 4:30 and varsity practice will be from 4:30 p.m. until 6:30, Monday - Friday. Junior High (7/8 grades) volleyball practice schedule will be announced by Coach Summerlin. The first Junior High (7-8 grade) volleyball match will be August 21 and the first JV/Varsity matches will be on August 23. Schedules for Junior High, JV and Varsity can be found on the school's website at <http://psjhs.com/volleyball> and keep up with us on Facebook @TigerSharkVolleyball.

2018 HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCHEDULES

PORT ST. JOE

Aug. 24 - Wewahitchka
Aug. 31 - at Marianna
Sept. 7 - Bay
Sept. 14 - Rutherford
Sept. 21 - bye week
Sept. 28 - North Florida Educational
Oct. 5 - at Walton
Oct. 12 - South Walton
Oct. 19 - at Blountstown
Oct. 26 - Arnold
Nov. 2 - at North Florida Christian

WEWAHITCHKA

Aug. 24 - at Port St. Joe
Aug. 31 - at Lighthouse PCA
Sept. 7 - Christ School
Sept. 14 - Jay
Sept. 21 - at North Bay Haven
Sept. 28 - at Sneads
Oct. 5 - Liberty County
Oct. 12 - Cottondale
Oct. 19 - bye week
Oct. 26 - at Franklin County
Nov. 2 - FAMU

FWC approves new Florida saltwater fishing records

Special to The Star

Five new Florida Saltwater Fishing Records were approved in the past year, including an 826-pound, 8-ounce bluefin tuna caught by Rick Whitley off Destin, along with Capt. Joey Birbeck and mates, Dennis Bennett and Josh Goodson, of the vessel "You Never Know."

Whitley's impressive catch took the vacant bluefin tuna state record slot, filling the final vacancy in the conventional tackle category.

Other record catches approved in the past year include a 4-pound, 8-ounce hardhead catfish caught by Ethan Pillitteri; a 35-pound, 9-ounce almaco jack caught by Lewis Sapp; a 2-pound kingfish (whiting) caught by Raymond A. Hathorn, Jr.; and a 26-pound horse-eye jack caught by Sharon Kartrude Pryel. Saltwater record holders receive a certificate of accomplishment

and a prize pack, and beginning this year will be awarded a custom ink fish print to memorialize their catch, courtesy of Fish Print Shop.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) maintains state all-tackle records for the heaviest marine fishes caught in Florida waters, or in federal waters extending directly outward of Florida state waters, for 77 species in both conventional tackle and fly-fishing categories. There are still several vacancies left for anglers to fill in the fly-fishing tackle category.

To qualify for the Florida Saltwater Fishing Records program the catch must be weighed on a certified scale. The angler's signature on a completed application form must be witnessed by a notary.

Photographs of the angler with their catch are required. Species that are

difficult to identify must be confirmed by a qualified fisheries biologist. For more information and to view current records, visit CatchaFloridaMemory.com and click on "Programs" and "Florida Saltwater Fishing Records", or contact AnglerRecognition@MyFWC.com or 850-487-0554.

Florida Saltwater Fishing Records are part of FWC's Catch a Florida Memory - Saltwater Angler Recognition Programs. Anglers can gain recognition for catching record-sized fish and for participating in the Saltwater Fish Life List, Saltwater Reel Big Fish and Saltwater Grand Slams.

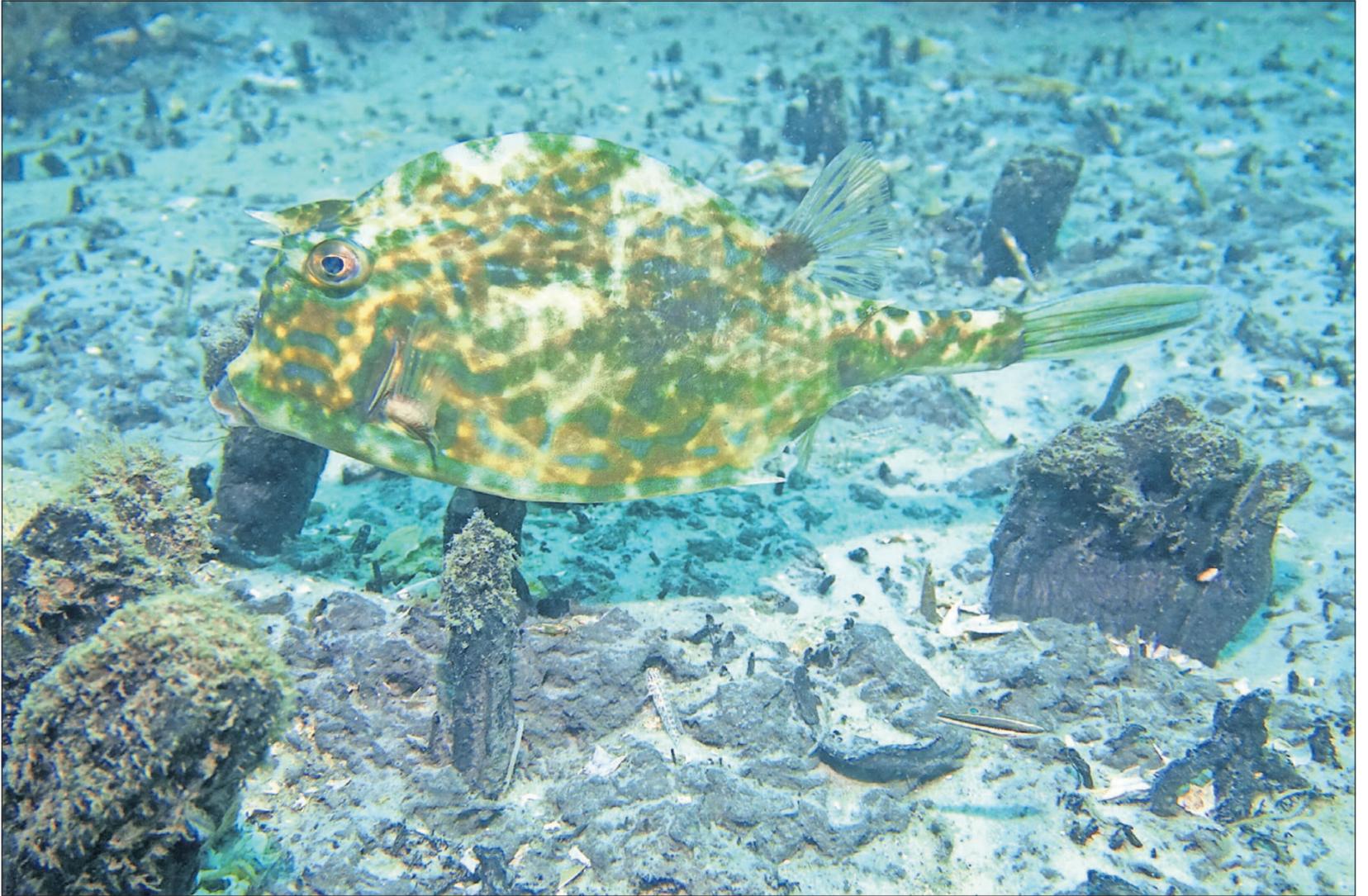
Programs recognize anglers for their fishing efforts, while encouraging them to target a diversity of species and strengthening marine fisheries conservation ethics.

To learn more and submit catches, visit CatchaFloridaMemory.com.



Rick Whitley and his record bluefin tuna, along with Capt. Joey Birbeck and mates, Dennis Bennett and Josh Goodson, of the vessel "You Never Know." Photo courtesy of Rick Whitley. [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

SCENE AROUND



A Cow Fish while scuba diving. [COURTESY OF KAREN AND GRIFF GAINNIE]



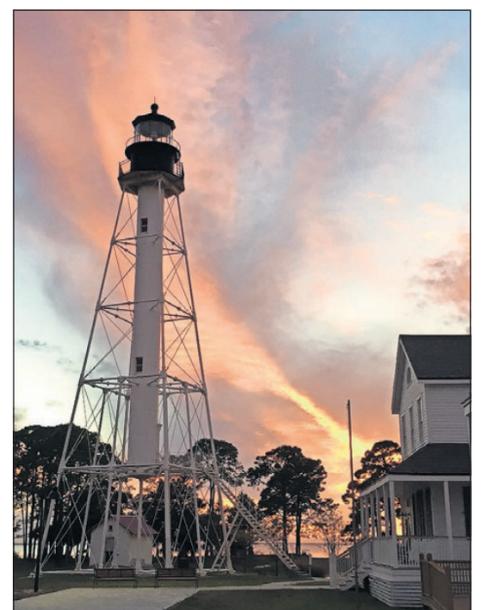
The sun ducks behind a cloud while fishing off Mexico Beach. [COURTESY OF CARRIE FULLER THARPE]



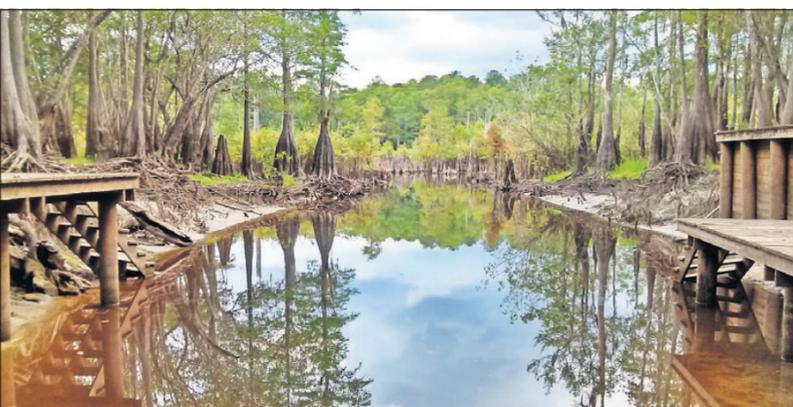
Sunrise over the Three Brothers shrimp boat on St. Joseph Bay. [COURTESY OF GREG MATNEY]



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



Sunset over the lighthouse [COURTESY OF SANDIE KENNEDY]



The boat ramp at Dead Lakes Park [COURTESY OF LINDA SEXTON]



Learning to kayak in the tidal pool along Indian Pass beach. [COURTESY OF MARIE ROMANELLI]

COMMUNITY

County to provide Turtle Center with a home

By **Tim Croft**

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

The Board of County Commissioners relieved one headache for Port St. Joe officials while compounding another.

County commissioners on Tuesday approved offering a home to the Florida Coastal Conservancy for its Forgotten Coast Sea Turtle Center.

And, commissioners further dug in their heels in

opposition to the city of Port St. Joe's pursuit of an extension of its redevelopment agency, hinting that litigation could be in the offing.

The new home for a turtle center, which will be the former public works building adjacent to the St. Joseph Bay Humane Society on 10th Street in Port St. Joe, arrives as discussions with city officials have reached a standstill.

The FLCC established a foothold two years ago in the back portion of the Sleeping

Beauty keepers' quarters adjacent to the Cape San Blas Lighthouse in George Core Park.

The toehold, crucially an address, allowed the FLCC to begin pursuing grant funding for various initiatives and creation of an educational center.

During the past two years, the FLCC has been in discussions with city officials to lease the Eglin keepers' quarters next to the lighthouse, renovated in the past

18 months, to expand the turtle center.

However, the St. Joseph Historical Society, which has spearheaded various efforts to save the lighthouse over the past several decades, is seeking to restore the lighthouse lens and create a maritime museum in the same space.

Efforts to reach an agreement on a lease which would allow the turtle center to expand until the historical society was ready to move forward have been fruitless.

The topic has consumed significant segments of several city meetings and left all parties frustrated as city officials failed to arrive at a final decision.

Enter County Commissioner David Rich, who said he had talked to FLCC members and all agreed that the former public works building would be a suitable for the FLCC to establish its office and educational center.

See **TURTLE**, B9

Donation boosts education grants for local classrooms



Once assembled, students the ROVs are put to work under the water. [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

By **Tim Croft**

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

An underwater robotics course, and other innovative teaching efforts in Gulf District Schools, was fueled last week through a donation from the Duke Energy Foundation.

Duke provided a \$12,000 grant to the Education Foundation of Gulf County, Inc., a grant that assists in expanding the instructional offerings in the public schools.

In particular, SeaPerch, an underwater robotics course available to eighth-graders at Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High School.

"There is not anything like (it) in the counties we serve," said Danny Collins, regional representative for Duke Energy, of the robotics course.

Duke Energy provided a similar amount last year.

And in effect, the donation



The robotics class includes hands-on learning in operation of tools [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

was \$24,000.

The Education Foundation of Gulf County is a member of the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations.

That foundation manages state match dollars, funded by the Florida Legislature

and based on district student enrollment.

The local foundation must raise the equivalent, which each year is about \$12,000, in private donations to be

See **DONATION**, B9



Grant funding has brought the robotics course to Port St. Joe eighth-graders. [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]



Sunset Walk. [COURTESY OF RICHARD TRAHAN]

'Community Photography Show' Call for Entries

Special to The Star

A Community Photography Show will be hosted by The Joe Center for the Arts, 201 Reid Avenue, Port St. Joe from Sept. 7 until Oct. 4. This show celebrates how we all see the paradise we call the Forgotten Coast. Whether you are a professional, an amateur, an enthusiast, or just an occasional weekend photographer, we know that you have some fantastic photos in your collection that we all want to see. The Joe invites photographers of all skill levels who celebrate what they see through a camera lens to submit up to five (5) photos for jury consideration for this show.

There are four categories for photos: Landscapes/Seascapes, Nature, Sunrises/Sunsets and Creative. Ribbons will be awarded for Best of Show, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd

place in each category, plus eight Honorable Mentions. All photographers who enter will also get to vote for a "Photographers Choice" Award.

The jurors/judges for this show are Debbie Hooper and Richard Trahan. Debbie, a well-known local photographer, has been an active member in PAPA (Professional Aerial Photography Association) where she has judged many aerial photography contests. She loves to photograph nature from above and from the ground. Her work can be seen on postcards and notecards as well as local magazines and in The Star. Some of her favorite events to shoot are the Ghosts on the Coast and Blast on the Bay in October.

A retired Professor Emeritus from the

See **ENTRIES**, B9

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. When an acre of forest absorbs 6 tons of carbon dioxide, it puts out about how many tons of oxygen?
1, 4, 6, 12
2. In auto-racing flags, what color with yellow-diagonal stripe means "move to

the outside"?

Red, Blue, Black, Green
3. Who has been the heaviest of all U.S. presidents?

Hayes, Coolidge, Taft, Eisenhower

4. Whose address is 1 E. 161st St., Bronx, NY?

Trump Tower, Empire State Building, Central Park, Yankee Stadium

5. What poet was known as "The Canadian Kipling"?
Service, Kirby, Henry, Wilshire

6. Whose Latin name is "Gallus domesticus"?

Cat, Dog, Hamster, Chicken

ANSWERS: 1. 4, 2. Blue, 3. Taft (William Howard, more than 350 lbs), 4. Yankee Stadium, 5. Service (Robert W.), 6. Chicken

SOCIETY/SCHOOL NEWS

Knights of Pythias elect new officers

Special to The Star

Frankie Fennell, Sr. was elected Chancellor Commander and Eddie Nicholas elected Vice-Chancellor Commander R.A. Driesbach, Sr. Lodge #77, Knights of Pythias. Fennell replaces Clarence Monette who served as Chancellor Commander for the past nine years.

Fennell was recently presented the Chancellor Commander of the Year Award at the Annual Knights of Pythias Grand Lodge Session held in Jacksonville, Florida. Also receiving honors at the Grand Session, Raymond Rogers, Jr. - Knight of the Year.

Other Executive Officers elected were: John Crosby, Master of Exchequer; David Lewis, Master of Finance and Kenneth M. Monette, Keeper of Records and Seal.

R.A. Driesbach, Sr. Lodge members are involved in many charitable events in the community. Their three signature projects: Bikes for Boys and Girls Program that provides bikes for boys and girls who would not normally receive a bike at Christmas; Scholarship Program that provides scholarships to



[COURTESY OF CLARENCE MONETTE]

graduating Port St. Joe High School Seniors and Collecting and Publishing Historical African American Obituaries of Port St. Joe and Surrounding Areas.

R. A. Driesbach, Sr. Lodge #77, Knights of Pythias is 501 (c) (3) not for profit fraternal

organization located in Port St. Joe, Florida. Our Motto is: Friendship, Charity and Benevolence (F.C.B.) with the primary objective of promoting friendship among men, upholding the right; protecting the weak; and relieving the distressed.

Darsey Norton earns degree from UA

Special to The Star

TUSCALOOSA, AL -- Darsey G. Norton of Port St. Joe has received the following from The University of Alabama: Bachelor of Arts Communication. UA awarded some 5,436 degrees during spring 2018 commencement May 4-6.

With a beautiful campus, dozens of challenging academic programs, expert and world-renowned faculty and numerous opportunities for

service and growth, The University of Alabama is a place where legends are made. UA offers its students a premier educational, cultural and social experience with more than 200 undergraduate, graduate and professional programs. The campus gives students the opportunity to interact with nationally renowned faculty performing cutting-edge research.

The University of Alabama, the state's oldest and largest public institution of higher

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

Woodmen provides pizza to local firefighters

Special to The Star

Woodmen Life Chapter 913 of Port St Joe treated local Fire Fighters to a Pizza Night on July 23 at the Fire Station.

"Woodmen Life is dedicated to helping others and giving back to the community," said Carol Dixon, Sales Representative, of Woodmen Life.

"We value our first responders who give back every day, and we want to recognize them for the heroic work they perform. Our community is better for having them here."

Woodmen Life is a

different kind of insurance company - a not for profit. The organization has a dual mission: to help ensure financial security for members and their families, and to provide our members opportunities to help others in the community. Honoring first responders is one way Woodmen Life demonstrates its shared commitment to family, community and country.

For more information about Woodmen Life, or about the recognition ceremony, contact Carol Dixon, field representative, at 625-5530.

PSJHS Class of 1988 reunion

Special to The Star

The Port St. Joe High School Class of 1988 is preparing for its 30-year reunion.

The group has a Facebook page, PSJHS Class of

1988, and events are being planned for Friday, Oct. 12, which is Homecoming.

Those interested in receiving more information should call or email Melissa at 615-579-1041 or PortSt Joe1116@yahoo.com.

Rebecca Kerigan named to Dean's List

Special to The Star

VALDOSTA, GA -- Rebecca Lynn Kerigan of Port Saint Joe has earned a spot on the Spring 2018 Dean's List at Valdosta State University.

Students who achieve a semester grade point average of 3.50 or higher on nine or more semester hours with an institutional

grade point average of 3.00 or higher are recognized by being placed on the Dean's List. Developmental studies, transients, and graduate students are not eligible for Dean's List status.

Valdosta State University is proud to announce that more than 1,500 students earned a spot on the Spring 2018 Dean's List.

GCSC 'Super Saturday' for current and prospective students

Think college isn't for you? Think again! We're here to help!

Special to The Star

PANAMA CITY -- Gulf Coast State College is hosting "Super Saturday" 9

a.m. until 12 p.m. CT Aug. 4 at the Advanced Technology Center on the Panama City Campus. It's an all-encompassing event for prospective students who are interested in enrolling for the Fall 2018 semester and for current students who need to register for

classes. Gulf Coast is an open-access, open-enrollment institution, which means you only need a high school diploma or GED to enroll.

The \$20 application fee will be waived at this event.

Academic program advisors and specialists

from Admissions, Advising, Enrollment Services and Financial Aid will be available to provide one-on-one assistance and guide attendees through the enrollment and registration process. Staff from Career Development, Veteran Services, TRiO and Student

Accessibility Resources will also be on-hand to answer questions, and students can get their student IDs and parking decals.

For more information, please visit bit.ly/GCSC-SuperSaturday or contact Merissa Hudson at 769.1551, ext. 4888.

PET OF THE WEEK
St. Joseph Bay Humane Society

This is one of several litters of kittens that are now available and all are ready for adoption. Mossy and her kittens are all very loving, and adore attention. Healthy and happy to play for a bit and then sleep away the day. There are so many, you can choose your favorite color - or two! Come visit with them, and all of the other sweet babies waiting to find their fur-ever home!

If you are unable to adopt at this time, perhaps you could foster or make a donation. All pets adopted from SJBHS will be current on vaccinations and spayed/neutered. Please do not hesitate to email j.stricklandsjbhs@gmail.com 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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NOTICE OF PROPOSED TAX INCREASE

The Gulf County School Board will soon consider a measure to increase its property tax levy.

Last year's property tax levy

- A. Initially proposed tax levy \$11,920,585
- B. Less tax reductions due to Value Adjustment Board and other assessment charges \$103,616
- C. Actual property tax levy \$11,816,969

This year's proposed tax levy .. \$12,956,580

A portion of the tax levy is required under state law in order for the school board to receive \$ 6,784,849 in state education grants. The required portion has increased by 1.07 percent, and represents approximately six tenths of the total proposed taxes.

The remainder of the taxes is proposed solely at the discretion of the school board.

All concerned citizens are invited to a public hearing on the tax increase to be held on July 31, 2018 at 5:15 p.m., at the Gulf County School Board, 150 Middle School Road, Port St. Joe, Florida.

A DECISION on the proposed tax increase and the budget will be made at this hearing.

NF-4529491

NOTICE OF TAX FOR SCHOOL CAPITAL OUTLAY

The Gulf County School Board will soon consider a measure to continue to impose a .962 mill property tax for capital outlay projects listed herein.

This tax is in addition to the school board's proposed tax of 5.684 mills for operating expenses and is proposed solely at the discretion of the school board.

The capital outlay tax will generate approximately \$1,800,431 to be used for the following projects:

MAINTENANCE, RENOVATION, AND REPAIR

- Reimbursement of the maintenance, renovation, and repairs paid through the General Fund as permitted by Florida Statute
- HVAC Systems
- Lighting
- Fire Alarms
- Port St. Joe Elementary
- Port St. Joe Jr. - Sr. High School
- Wewahitchka Elementary
- Wewahitchka Jr. - Sr. High School
- District Office
- Adult Schools
- Upgrade Bathrooms
- Replace Doors
- Replace Flooring
- Replace School Signs

MOTOR VEHICLE PURCHASES

- Purchase of 4 school buses

NEW AND REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT, COMPUTER AND DEVICE HARDWARE AND OPERATING SYSTEM SOFTWARE NECESSARY FOR GAINING ACCESS TO OR ENHANCING THE USE OF ELECTRONIC AND DIGITAL INSTRUCTIONAL CONTENT AND RESOURCES, AND ENTERPRISE RESOURCE SOFTWARE

- School Furniture and Equipment
- Data Processing Equipment and Software
- Communications Equipment
- Maintenance Equipment
- Enterprise Software
- Safety Equipment

PAYMENT OF PREMIUMS FOR PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE NECESSARY TO INSURE THE EDUCATIONAL AND ANCILLARY PLANTS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Insurance premiums on district facilities

All concerned citizens are invited to a public hearing to be held on July 31, 2018 at 5:15 p.m. at the Gulf County School Board meeting room, 150 Middle School Road, Port St. Joe, Florida.

A DECISION on the proposed CAPITAL OUTLAY TAXES will be made at this hearing.

NF-4529492

BUDGET SUMMARY

THE PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET EXPENDITURES OF GULF COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ARE 4.2 PERCENT MORE THAN LAST YEAR'S TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES. FISCAL YEAR 2018 - 2019

PROPOSED MILLAGE LEVIES SUBJECT TO 10-MILL CAP:

Required Local Effort		Additional Millage	
(Including Prior Period Funding Adjustment Millage)	3.9360	Not to Exceed 4 Years (Operating)	1.000
Local Capital Improvement(Capital Outlay)	0.9620		
Basic Discretionary Operating	0.7480		
		TOTAL MILLAGE:	6.6460

ESTIMATED REVENUES:	GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL REVENUE	DEBT SERVICE	CAPITAL PROJECTS	TOTAL ALL FUNDS
Federal Sources	135,000.00	2,059,503.31			2,194,503.31
State Sources	7,329,954.00	9,750.00	11,550.00	93,303.00	7,444,557.00
Local Sources	10,888,386.00	230,290.00		1,800,483.00	12,919,159.00
TOTAL SOURCES	18,353,340.00	2,299,543.31	11,550.00	1,893,786.00	22,558,219.31
Transfers In	937,780.37	125,000.00			1,062,780.37
Fund Balance (July 1, 2018)	1,939,797.33	22,290.37	2,810.20	320,587.09	2,285,484.99
TOTAL REVENUES & BALANCES	21,230,917.70	2,446,833.68	14,360.20	2,214,373.09	25,906,484.67
EXPENDITURES					
Instruction	11,093,023.70	875,563.91			11,968,587.61
Pupil Personnel Service	1,068,212.00	142,576.00			1,210,788.00
Instruction Media Service	318,133.12	0.00			318,133.12
Instructional & Curriculum	180,323.00	195,956.58			376,279.58
Instructional Staff Training	421,937.00	106,351.00			528,288.00
Instruction Related Technology	44,384.00	36,800.00			81,184.00
Board of Education	221,276.00	0.00			221,276.00
General Administration	763,094.00	60,296.00			823,390.00
School Administration	1,371,614.00	2,000.00			1,373,614.00
Facilities Acquisition & Construction	0.00	0.00		1,272,030.53	1,272,030.53
Fiscal Service	434,530.00	0.00			434,530.00
Food Service	0.00	991,600.00			991,600.00
Central Service	241,296.00	0.00			241,296.00
Pupil Transportation Service	1,158,245.96	14,959.82			1,173,205.78
Operation of Plant	1,533,937.00	0.00			1,533,937.00
Maintenance of Plant	1,527,984.00	0.00			1,527,984.00
Administrative Technology Services	83,896.00	0.00			83,896.00
Community Service					0.00
Debt Services	11,400.00	0.00	11,840.00		23,240.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	20,473,285.78	2,426,103.31	11,840.00	1,272,030.53	24,183,259.62
Transfers Out	125,000.00	0.00		937,780.37	1,062,780.37
Fund Balance (June 30, 2019)	632,631.92	20,730.37	2,520.20	4,562.19	660,444.68
Total Expenditures, Transfers & Balances	21,230,917.70	2,446,833.68	14,360.20	2,214,373.09	25,906,484.67

THE TENTATIVE, ADOPTED, AND/OR FINAL BUDGETS ARE ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED TAXING AUTHORITY AS A PUBLIC RECORD.

NF-4529633

NF-4529693

FAITH

COMFORTER FUNERAL HOME
 W. P. "Rocky" Comforter
 L.F.D.
 (850) 227-1818

OBITUARIES

JACKIE HEYSER

Jacquelyn Glass Heyser, of Apalachicola, went to be with her Lord and Savior on Monday, July 23, 2018.

She was born Nov. 14, 1931 in Apalachicola. She attended Chapman High School and received her baccalaureate degree from Florida State University. After graduation, she became an elementary school teacher.

On June 12, 1954, Jackie married Air Force 1st Lt. Richard Stephen Heyser, her childhood sweetheart. They later went on to live in several states, including Hawaii, and brought three boys into the world.

Jackie was an accomplished organist and choir director.



She played for services beginning at an early age at St. Patrick Catholic Church, Apalachicola. Her music was enjoyed by many thousands of Catholic parishioners in several states where she lived. After her husband "Steve" retired from the Air Force in April 1974 with 30 years' service, they returned to Apalachicola where she

resumed directing choir and playing the organ.

Jackie is survived by her sister Joan Porch; her three sons, Richard J. Heyser, Robert S. Heyser and Matthew W. Heyser; as well as eight grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated at St. Patrick Catholic Church on Saturday, July 28, with Father Roger Latosynski officiating. The wake for the family will begin at 10:30 a.m. The Mass will follow at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, please contribute to the church or charity of your choice.

The family would like to extend its heartfelt love and appreciation to the entire staff at Cross Shores Care Center in Port St. Joe.

BILLY CHARLES DIXSON SR.



Prophet Billy Charles Dixon, Sr., 68, of Port St. Joe, passed this earthly life on July 1, 2018.

Billy worked at Apalachicola Northern Railroad for 26 years.

He also owned and operated Dixon & Sons Taxi and Limo Service.

Public visitation was held July 7, 2018 at the funeral home.

Funeral services were held 3 p.m. Et Sunday, July 8, 2018 at Body of Christ Jesus Church in Port St. Joe. Interment followed at Forest Hill Cemetery.

Battle Funeral Home
 Panama City

Being Thankful, from the Family of Billy C. Dixon Sr.

On behalf of our family, we want to thank each of you for all the prayers and love that was shown during the passing of my husband. Your thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated during this difficult time. Please continue to keep us in your prayers.

God Bless,
 Alice Faye Dixon
 and Family

REMEMBERING BOB CRAIG JR.

There will be a celebration of the life of R. Marion Craig, Jr., 5-7 p.m. ET Thursday, Aug. 2 at the St. Joseph Bay Golf Club.

Bring photos and memories in this event to remember the Port St. Joe High School graduate and son of coaching great R. Marion Craig.

Everyone is invited to this



special event.
 Craig passed away in

Bristol, VA on July 17. He graduated from PSJHS with the Class of 1965 and played football at Clemson University as was the case with his father. According to his obituary published in the Bristol Herald Courier, Craig loved to read, loved music and loved contact sports. "(Bob) will be remembered always as a quiet scholar, a gentleman and a little bit of a wild horse rider."

Send obituaries to The Star by emailing Editor Tim Croft at tim.croft@starfl.com

FAITH BRIEFS

Men's fellowship breakfast

New Life Christian Center, located at 504 Sixth Street in Port St. Joe, will host a Men's Fellowship Breakfast 9-11 a.m. ET Saturday, July 28. The speaker will be Rev. Sebastian Roullhac from The Flow Church.

CHURCH of CHRIST
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WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY - 8:00 AM - Worship at Sunset Park (on the sand)
 9:30 AM - Bible Study at 1602 Highway 98

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

WEDNESDAY - 10:00AM to 2:00 PM Open House
 6:30 PM Bible Study and Mid week worship

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MINISTRY SCHEDULE

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

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

1601 Long Ave Port St Joe, FL 32456
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First United Methodist Church of Mexico Beach
 111 North 22nd Street • Mexico Beach, FL 32410

Sunday Worship Services:
 8:30 a.m. CST Traditional Worship
 10:00 a.m. CST Contemporary Worship
 Thursday - 6:30 p.m. CST Bible Study

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FAITHBIBLECHURCH
www.faithbiblepsj.net
 801 20th Street, Port St. Joe, FL (850) 229-6707

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

Home of Faith Christian School
www.faithchristianpsj.net

St. Peter's Anglican Church
 "An Unchanging Faith In A Changing World"

Morning Prayer & Holy Communion
 (Sunday 10 a.m.)

Bible Study
 (Wednesday 6 p.m.)

3449 Garrison Ave.
 Port St. Joe, FL 32456

The Reverend Lou Little
 (850) 227-5242

www.StPetersAnglicanChurch-psj.com

First Baptist Church
 102 THIRD STREET • PORT ST. JOE
 Dr. Boyd Evans Pastor
 Buddy Caswell, Minister of Music & Education
 Bobby Alexander, Minister to Students

New Service Schedule for First Baptist Church

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

www.fbcpsj.org

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PORT ST. JOE

1001 Constitution Dr.
 850.227.1724
www.psjumc.org

Sunday Schedule

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

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

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 (850) 229-9596

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

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

TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN
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www.stjamesepiscopalchurch.org

oak grove church

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

Schedule of Worship Services

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

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

Nursery provided for all services

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 Pastor Josh Fidler

School Times

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

Good news for a big snake

20 eastern indigo snakes released to begin year two of the north Florida recovery

Special to The Star

TALLAHASSEE

Twenty federally threatened eastern indigo snakes have just been released in northern Florida at The Nature Conservancy's Apalachicola Bluffs and Ravines Preserve (ABRP) as part of a collaborative endeavor to return the native, nonvenomous apex predator to the region. The release of the snakes marks the second year in a row of the reintroduction effort, and furthers the long-term joint plan of multiple nonprofit, agency, and academia partners to restore this important species to the region.

The Nature Conservancy, Central Florida Zoo's Orienne Center for Indigo Conservation, Auburn University, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Orienne Society, Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center, Gulf Power, Southern Company through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida are dedicated to supporting the recovery of this species. The eastern indigo snake is the longest snake native to North America and an iconic and essential component of the now rare southern longleaf pine forest. The partners have worked together for decades to restore and manage the habitat required by the snake, and many other species, to make the release possible.

The eastern indigo serves a critical function to balance the wildlife community – it consumes a variety of small animals including both venomous and nonvenomous snakes. At over 8 feet long, this impressive snake often relies upon gopher tortoise burrows for shelter. The snakes were historically found throughout southern

Georgia, Alabama, eastern Mississippi, and throughout Florida, though their range is now far more restricted.

Largely eliminated from northern Florida due to habitat loss and fragmentation, the indigo was last observed at ABRP in 1982, until 2017 when 12 snakes were released to the preserve. This year's annual release is part of a 10-year commitment to the species' recovery and continues a focus on establishment of healthy ecosystems through collaborative land, water and wildlife conservation efforts.

"We continue our dedication to creating a healthy, balanced, and restored longleaf pine ecosystem at the Conservancy's Apalachicola Bluffs and Ravines Preserve and throughout the region, to encourage the recovery of the eastern indigo snake and support many other important plants and wildlife," said Temperince Morgan, Executive Director of The Nature Conservancy in Florida. "This second annual release results from the teamwork of an incredible group of partners."

ABRP is the only site in Florida currently designated for indigo reintroduction. The 6,295-acre nature preserve in northern Florida's Liberty County protects a large longleaf pine landscape carved by numerous seepage streams. Located in the Apalachicola Bay region along the Apalachicola River, the preserve lies in the center of one of five biological hotspots in North America. This treasure trove of species diversity is unique to Florida and home to a disproportionate number of imperiled species. The preserve is a living laboratory for the development of novel restoration techniques and land management excellence, dedicated to natural community restoration, preservation of biodiversity, and education and training.

The longleaf pine ecosystem is one of the most



[SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

diverse ecosystems globally, yet only 5 percent of this precious landscape remains. Over the past 30 years, The Nature Conservancy has employed science and technical expertise to develop the state-of-the-art groundcover restoration process that is now used by state, federal and private partners across the southeast to restore longleaf pine habitat. This restoration, combined with the Conservancy's robust prescribed fire program, has resulted in improved longleaf habitat on over 100,000 public and private north Florida acres in recent years.

Longleaf pine restoration is also a top priority at places like the Apalachicola National Forest and Torreya State Park – both neighbors to ABRP and supported by the U.S. Forest Service and Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Bred and raised by the Orienne Center for Indigo Conservation, the world's foremost comprehensive-based conservation organization dedicated to reptiles and amphibians, the 20 young snakes – 12 males and eight females – have most recently been living in outdoor enclosures that allowed them to be exposed to a more natural environment in preparation for their release. The snakes have been implanted with radio transmitters by

Remembering Dr. Joe

As Marie Romanelli noted, the late Dr. Joe Collins would be so happy about this. Collins, a world-renowned herpetologist who performed annual surveys on St. Vincent Island always wanted to try releasing grown Eastern Indigo Snakes on St. Vincent. Many years ago they released babies and they were too young to survive in a new habitat. The grown ones would be a lot smarter and avoid the pigs and other predators.

eastern indigo snakes into places they no longer occur. The Society works to conserve critical ecosystems for imperiled reptiles and amphibians, using science, applied conservation, and education.

Auburn University's Alabama Natural Heritage Program continues to bring knowledge to planning reintroduction efforts and expertise in onsite monitoring of the reintroduced snakes. Using radio telemetry, researchers can track the animals' movements, habitat selection and behavior. One of the eastern indigo snakes that was released in 2017 traveled over a mile from where it was initially released. The monitoring program is supported in part by The Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center, whose mission is to understand, demonstrate and promote excellence in natural resource management and landscape conservation in the southeastern coastal plains.

The indigo reintroduction efforts are supported by grants and other funding, including a Conserve Wildlife Tag Grant from the Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, funded through purchase of Conserve Wildlife Florida license plates and designated for conservation of non-game species and the habitats that support them.

"The release of 20 eastern indigo snakes is another step forward toward our

goal of reestablishing this iconic imperiled species back into the habitats of northwest Florida," said Kipp Frohlich, the FWC's Director of Habitat and Species Conservation. "It's a testament to what can be accomplished working together with many committed conservation partners."

Additional funding to support the reintroduction has been provided by Gulf Power, and Southern Company through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

"All of the pieces have come together – the protection and management of the landscape, the advancement of the animal husbandry expertise to raise young snakes for release, and the development of the science necessary to make good decisions and monitor project success. This project is an exceptional example of a strong partnership dedicated to success," said David Printiss, North Florida Program Manager of The Nature Conservancy in Florida. "The restoration is complete, the snakes are flourishing, and the monitoring program is well equipped and ready – all systems are go!"

Throughout the state, the Conservancy continues to pursue conservation projects and support policy that protects natural systems for people and wildlife. Next year's snake release will be scheduled for summer 2019 – stay tuned.

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION NOTICE OF CONSENT ORDER

The Department of Environmental Protection ("Department") gives notice of agency action of entering into a Consent Order with Lighthouse Utilities Company, Inc. pursuant to section 120.57(4), Florida Statutes. The Consent Order addresses the exceedances of trihalomethanes and the five haloacetic acids at 406 Marina Drive, Port St. Joe, in Gulf County, Florida. The Consent Order is available for public inspection during normal business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays, at the Department of Environmental Protection, Northwest District Office, 160 West Government Street, Suite 308, Pensacola, Florida 32502-5794, or the Northwest District Panama City Branch Office, 470 Harrison Avenue, Panama City, Florida 32405.

Persons who are not parties to this Consent Order, but whose substantial interests are affected by it, have a right to petition for an administrative hearing under sections 120.569 and 120.57, Florida Statutes. Because the administrative hearing process is designed to formulate final agency action, the filing of a petition concerning this Consent Order means that the Department's final action may be different from the position it has taken in the Consent Order.

The petition for administrative hearing must contain all of the following information:

- The OGC Number assigned to this Consent Order;
- The name, address, and telephone number of each petitioner; the name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner's representative, if any, which shall be the address for service purposes during the course of the proceeding;
- An explanation of how the petitioner's substantial interests will be affected by the Consent Order;
- A statement of when and how the petitioner received notice of the Consent Order;
- Either a statement of all material facts disputed by the petitioner or a statement that the petitioner does not dispute any material facts;
- A statement of the specific facts the petitioner contends warrant reversal or modification of the Consent Order;
- A statement of the rules or statutes the petitioner contends require reversal or modification of the Consent Order; and
- A statement of the relief sought by the petitioner, stating precisely the action petitioner wishes the Department to take with respect to the Consent Order.

The petition must be filed (received) at the Department's Office of General Counsel, 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS# 35, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000 within 21 days of receipt of this notice. A copy of the petition must also be mailed at the time of filing to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Northwest District Office, 160 West Government Street, Suite 308, Pensacola, Florida, 32502-5794. Failure to file a petition within the 21-day period constitutes a person's waiver of the right to request an administrative hearing and to participate as a party to this proceeding under sections 120.569 and 120.57, Florida Statutes. Before the deadline for filing a petition, a person whose substantial interests are affected by this Consent Order may choose to pursue mediation as an alternative remedy under section 120.573, Florida Statutes. Choosing mediation will not adversely affect such person's right to request an administrative hearing if mediation does not result in a settlement. Additional information about mediation is provided in section 120.573, Florida Statutes and Rule 62-110.106(12), Florida Administrative Code.

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

Sacred Heart offers online scheduling

Can be used for physician and emergency room visits

Special to The Star

The primary care doctors of Sacred Heart Medical Group are now offering convenient, online scheduling for consumers across seven counties of Northwest Florida – including Gulf and Franklin county. Patients can go online to

view available appointments with 95 healthcare providers at 35 locations and select a time that fits their busy schedules. Appointments can be scheduled for regular check-ups, physicals, or sick visits.

Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf also now offers InQuicker, a convenient, online service for scheduling a visit to the hospital Emergency Department.

This free, easy-to-use service allows patients to choose a designated treatment time

online and then wait in the comfort of their own home.

Sacred Heart Medical Group is part of Ascension, the nation's largest non-profit and Catholic health system.

The addition of online scheduling with primary care providers is part of a nationwide effort by Ascension to provide easy access to compassionate, personalized care close to home.

"This is just another way the care teams at Sacred Heart are making it easier

for patients to get the care they need, when and where they need it," said Justin Labrato, chief operating officer of Sacred Heart Medical Group. "This will mean that consumers will be able to schedule their own appointments online with family medicine and internal medicine doctors, as well as advanced practice providers."

Patients can visit www.getshheartcare.com to schedule a primary care, urgent care or emergency

room appointment.

Sacred Heart Medical Group is Northwest Florida's largest non-profit network of primary care providers and physician specialists. The Sacred Heart network includes offices in Port St. Joe and Apalachicola, Destin, Miramar Beach, Panama City Beach, Pensacola, Pace, Gulf Breeze and Crestview.

For more information about Sacred Heart Medical Group, visit sacredheart-medicalgroup.org or call 850-416-2337.

ARBOR OUTLOOK

Heat Waves, Dust Storms and Summer of '34



Margaret McDowell

"Old man depression, you are through, you done us wrong..."

"We're in the Money" as performed in the film "Gold Diggers"

In the summer of 1934, the entire country was sweltering with record heat and suffering on multiple weather fronts. Three years of dust storms had culminated on an April Sunday when the country was hit by the worst dust storm in history. Dust bowl conditions

prevailed from Minnesota to Texas, and food production declined significantly.

That summer saw 29 consecutive days with temperatures hovering in triple digits. By year's end, 75 percent of the country was suffering from drought conditions. In north Texas, the cicadas were too thirsty to chirp.

Americans were dying from both heat and hunger. In an attempt to bring relief to working class farmers, Congress passed the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act, which raised taxes on 900 imports. But the import tariffs caused an international trade war and the global economy hit a wall. The Great Depression then picked up speed and spread beyond our borders.

What many may not remember is that before Smoot-Hawley, there was a

tentative economic recovery afoot and unemployment numbers had temporarily leveled. The Tariff Act helped negate the fledgling recovery and thrust the U.S. and the world further into depression.

Tariff costs are almost always passed on to consumers. Makers of cars, appliances, and other products, when hit with tariffs, will often simply tack on that cost to consumers. The U.S. recently imposed 20 percent tariffs on the first 1.2 million washing machines imported this year. After that, there's a 50 percent tariff on machines, which is expected to take effect sometime in the fall; the United States imports over 3 million washing machines a year. The result? Between February and May of this year prices rose 16.4

percent, the largest three month increase in prices ever.

Washing machine sales are a small part of the overall economy. If the tariff talk stops here, consumers would hardly notice. But investors rightfully fear what could be next.

For example, if automobiles, which are a much larger chunk of U.S. GDP, are tarified at that same 20 percent rate, it would likely raise the price of a new car by at least \$5,000. This would hit a major domestic industry hard at a time when sales are flagging.

These price increases will likely show up full force in the CPI data later this year and early next year, just as the corporate sugar high from the recent tax cuts is starting to wear off. Beyond the headlines, what worries

me most as an investor is that this will almost certainly speed up inflation data at a time when the Federal Reserve has a hair trigger and is primed to raise interest rates. Raising rates into an already slowing economy tends to equal downturns. Rinse and repeat if you dare.

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

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For more information, contact:

<p>Jay Rish 850-227-5569 jay@floridagulfcoast.com</p>	<p>Blake Rish 850-381-0700 blake@floridagulfcoast.com</p>	<p>Billy Joe Smiley 850-340-1213 bj@bjsmiley.com</p>
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WHAT SOUTHERN FOLKS EAT

Blueberry delights



By Stephanie Hill-Frazier
Special to The Star

"Teaching kids how to feed themselves and how to live in a community responsibly is the center of an education."

Food writer Alice Waters

I did not grow up visiting farmers markets. This isn't because my parents wouldn't have wanted to go, but simply because there wasn't a market near us in Gulf County then. We still ate plenty of vegetables, not only from the grocery store, but also from neighbors who had gardens and shared the bounty, demonstrating what "community" is all about.

I remember my dad frequently coming home from work with a bushel of beans to shell or peas to snap. They were usually the gift of a generous client on his insurance route, as were tomatoes, mullet, or corn, at times. And, though my fingers grew weary of doing the jobs of shucking corn or shelling peas, I always felt pleased with the end product: a large stainless steel bowl full of shelled peas, for example, that I then looked forward to eating for dinner, or a hot ear of corn dripping with melting butter.

Another way we were blessed with fresh produce was the generosity of friends. For example, I remember Bro. Ron Wagner bringing my mom a beautiful bounty of blueberries that he and Mrs. Shirley had picked from the bushes on their property. Mom was always so very proud of those berries, and loved making pancakes, cobblers, and tender breakfast muffins with them. She was thrilled at the prospect of saving the extra berries in the freezer, just waiting for inspiration to strike. (The Wagners and my mom are reunited now in Heavenly places! What a thought.)

Well, not everyone has those opportunities anymore, whether it be because neighbors don't know each other as well as they used to, or

perhaps because they don't have time to garden with today's more hectic lifestyle. That's where the farmers market comes in!

During the spring and summer, in addition to locally-owned grocery stores, I visit the farmers market as often as I can. Since the produce at a farmers market is grown by a family or individual in your area, he or she likely picked it the day before, or even the day of, the market. That freshness pays off in several ways: nutritionally, because nutrients and enzymes have more opportunity to develop while the fruit or vegetable is still on the vine, and also in flavor, because ripening on the plant leads to a much fuller taste in the end product than does something picked green and shipped hundreds of miles.

But it's not just about the tasty, nutritious foods (and the wide variety of them) that farmers markets offer that I love. It's that word again: community. Community develops around a farmers market.

If you go to your local market every time the farmers gather, you will begin to know the farmers, who will tell you how to prepare the produce, especially when they bring some interesting new item to sell that you may not have tried before. They'll tell you about their farm, and about when things were picked, and anything else you might want to know.

Not only that, you'll get to know the other customers who gather each time the farmers arrive. I smile each time I overhear the conversations of people catching up with one another over a table of beautiful bell peppers and green tomatoes; the "how's your mama and them?" kinds of conversations we get too busy to have sometimes. Within the cheerful, friendly atmosphere of a farmers market, those conversations just seem to flow more easily.

And parents may notice that when children help pick out the fruits and vegetables from the tables and bins at the market, they're more interested in eating what they chose, and may even want to watch or participate as it is prepared in the kitchen. It's beneficial for them to be involved in learning these life skills of healthy eating and cooking for themselves, at home, in the family kitchen.

When I was at the SaltAir market in St. Joe last summer, I saw more than just gorgeous produce, of course. There was a musician playing his guitar and singing, and there were artisans,



Steph's Blueberry-Peach Coffee Cake. [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

including one woman from whom I bought a lovely pair of earrings she made out of tiny shells. There were handicrafts, preserved foods, baked goods, and pieces of art, as well. There is nothing I love more than grabbing a coffee from a nearby coffee shop and strolling through the market, looking and listening and smelling the scent of fresh peaches or berries or warm, fat tomatoes. That's entertainment!

When you are able to buy peaches and berries in season, I hope you'll try my easy and delicious coffee cake recipe. I love the way the tender, moist cake contrasts with the warm, sweet peaches and berries. It's wonderful with coffee for breakfast, or with a scoop or two of vanilla ice cream for a luscious dessert.

Steph's Blueberry-Peach Coffee Cake

- 1 cup all purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 stick unsalted butter, softened
- 1 cup sugar
- ½ teaspoon vanilla (or ¼ tsp almond extract, if you prefer, or a blend of both)
- 2 large eggs
- 1 ½ cups blueberries, rinsed, picked over and drained (thaw and drain first if using frozen berries)
- 1 small- to medium-sized peach, halved, pitted, and cut into slices
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice

Method:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease and flour (or spray with Baker's Joy) a 9-inch round cake pan, then line the bottom with parchment paper. Alternatively, use a 9-inch spring form pan, and grease and flour the inside of pan.
2. In a medium-sized mixing bowl, combine 1 cup of flour with baking powder and salt; set aside.

3. Using a mixer, beat the butter on medium high speed for 2 minutes. Then add the sugar and vanilla and beat until light and fluffy, about a minute more.

4. Add the eggs one at a time and beat until well-blended. Reduce mixer speed to low and gradually add the flour, beating until smooth, but don't over-beat. A minute should be adequate.

5. Pour the batter into the prepared cake pan.

6. Combine the berries and peaches with a teaspoon of flour and the lemon juice in a bowl. Spread the fruit mixture over the top of the cake in a single layer.

7. Bake on middle rack in oven at 350°F for about an hour, or until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean. Remove from oven and let the cake cool in the pan for 10 minutes.

8. Use a butter knife to slide around the edges of the cake to loosen it from the pan. Transfer the cake to a cake plate, berry side up.

You could sprinkle the cake with powdered sugar before serving, or drizzle with a powdered sugar glaze, or even with maple or blueberry syrup at breakfast.

Let me know how you like this one! Enjoy!

Stephanie Hill-Frazier is a writer, food blogger and regional television chef, whose on-air nickname is "Mama Steph". She grew up in Gulf County, on St. Joe Beach, a place she will forever call home. She is married and has three sons who are considerably taller than she is. You can find more of her recipes at WhatSouthernFolksEat.com, and she'd love to hear about your own favorite recipes via email at Steph@whatsouthernfolkseat.com.

Real Estate Picks

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Contact **TOMMY LAKE** with Cape San Blas Realty 850-227-8388 TLake@CapeSanBlasRealty.com

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Jay Rish, Broker
Gulf Coast Real Estate Group, LLC
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Contact Robin (850) 227-7847

Capital City Bank named among 'Best Companies to Work For'

Special to The Star

TALLAHASSEE – Florida Trend has listed Capital City Bank among its 2018 “Best Companies to Work For in Florida.” Out of the 100 small, medium and large companies recognized, Capital City Bank ranked 25 in the “Large Companies” category. The 2018 issue is the tenth annual “Best Companies” edition, and the seventh year that Capital City Bank has participated.

“Capital City Bank associates are what set us apart,” said Bill Smith, Capital City Bank chairman, president and CEO. “I’m proud of our team of bankers and honored to be recognized for the seventh consecutive year.”

The only statewide employer recognition program, the annual “Best Companies to Work For” list was created by Florida Trend and Best Companies Group. Participating companies underwent an exhaustive evaluation of their workplace policies, practices, philosophy, systems and demographics. The process also included a survey to measure employee satisfaction. The combined scores determined the top companies and the final ranking.

In order to be considered for the “Best Companies” list, the firm must be a publicly or privately held for-profit or not-for-profit business.

The entity must have been in business a minimum of one year, have a facility in the state of Florida and a minimum of 15 full or part-time employees in the state.



David R. Aronoff, M.D.
Urologist

*Diplomate, American Board of Urology
Fellowship, Cohen Children's Medical Center of New York Hofstra North Shore-LIJ School of Medicine
Residency, University of Cincinnati*

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THE STAR THE APALACHICOLA TIMES

DONATION

From Page B1

eligible for the state match money, said teacher Donna Thompson.

This year, donations from Duke Energy and the Tapper Foundation exceeded the required match.

SeaPerch is sponsored by the Office of Naval Research and teaches students how to design and build an ROV, or underwater Remotely Operated Vehicle.

The major hurdle, or only hurdle, rather, that school has encountered is how to keep class-sizes manageable.

The curriculum adheres to a straightforward idea; students learn better by doing, according to the grant application submitted by Thompson.

Working in teams, students build an ROV from a kit of low-cost, easily-accessible parts, the curriculum teaching the STEM quadrangle, science, technology, engineering and math behind a focus on marine engineering.

Grant funds purchase everything required, including the robotic kits and program materials.

In addition to learning engineering concepts, the students will also learn about design skills, problem-solving and teamwork.

"I like doing this kind of stuff instead than book work," said student Dakota Deathridge.

Toss in lessons that touch on ship and submarine design, buoyancy and displacement, propulsion, vectors, electricity/circuits and switches, waterproofing, depth measurement, physics in motion and the curriculum checks many of the boxes to provide, pardon the pun, out-of-the-box learning.

Students will also learn soldering and tool safety, ergonomics and light while constructing their ROVs.

"Overall, I think the girls in particular were exposed to different skills, tasks that they have never tried," said teacher Becky Lacour, noting cutting and soldering metal, drilling, and stripping wires.

Erica Ramsey was singled out as the top solder-er in the class by Lacour.

"Most seemed to really enjoy and were better and were more interested in it than the boys," Lacour added.

Once students have



The students work in teams to build their ROVs. [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]



The robotics class is just one of the innovative projects supported by the Education Foundation of Gulf County, Inc. [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

constructed their ROV, the vehicles are tested, students working together to improve designs and will also deploy them on missions.

To assert the course has real-life applications would be tarrying in understatement.

In addition to exposing students to STEM ideas, in a hands-on environment, students have interaction with professionals in the STEM fields and learn and explore the potential of STEM careers.

"The program will also support the demand for STEM-educated workers which continues to grow exponentially each year," Thompson wrote in the grant summary.

The students even begin to develop reading and writing skills for a STEM career, keeping an engineering notebook, conducting and documenting their experiments, writing STEM-based reports and working as a team to build an ROV and provide presentation on their project.

In addition, the course aligns with national education

standards for science.

The course will be offered to all Port St. Joe eighth-graders during the coming school year, but, in the application, Thompson noted that with 96 students currently enrolled in that grade, the challenge will be maintaining class size.

That could require a co-teaching classroom with a pair of instructors to accommodate "the learning needs of diverse learners and students with disabilities."

But, as Thompson noted, SeaPerch is just one of the many innovative programs made possible through the Education Foundation.

Each year, the foundation manages a blind, competitive system in which teachers and principals can apply for grants to fund various educational initiatives.

The initiatives depend on who applies and is awarded dollars; last year seven programs were funded.

This year, Thompson said, the foundation hopes to award approximately \$17,000 in grant funding; the deadline for teachers or principals to apply is Oct. 1.

TURTLE

From Page B1

"This will be an asset to the community," Rich said.

A proposed lease, county administrator Michael Hammond suggested two years, will be presented to the BOCC next month.

CRA

The BOCC is not likely to stand by idly while the city of Port St. Joe pursues an extension of the redevelopment agency, the original boundaries of which are to expire in the next two years.

The county has already expressed by letter opposition to extending the CRA, but city commissioners have been as adamant that they would pursue a 30-year extension despite the county's opposition.

"It is important for the county to stop this," Hammond said. "We are going to be attentive and keep you informed."

Hammond said extending the CRA would mean

taxpayers around the county would be subsidizing the business growth in downtown Port St. Joe.

The extension of the boundary would cost the county \$15 million in tax revenue; the county's portion this year was just under \$200,000.

Hammond noted that Bay County put a stop, in court, to plans by several cities to establish redevelopment areas and that he hoped the issue would not end up in a lawsuit.

Bay County currently pays more in CRA money than the budgets of several constitutional offices combined, Hammond said.

Commissioner Ward McDaniel said he would not support any movement that would result in folks in his district, including those on fixed incomes, subsidizing "millionaires" in Port St. Joe.

The city has taken the stance that the county has no say in moving ahead with an extension of the CRA.

The city has already taken initial steps in a process the city's attorney has estimated will take about a year.

ENTRIES

From Page B1

University of Northern Colorado, Richard has had a life-long interest in Photography. Taking advantage of the digital revolution, he has worked to blend new photographic technologies with traditional photographic forms. He has exhibited his work and won awards at various regional and national competitions, judged photo shows and taught classes in digital photography.

The prospectus with additional information regarding photography submissions and the entry form can be found

on The Joe's web page: www.TheJoeCenter.org Click on the "Call for Entries" Tab.

Upcoming shows include Fantastic Fiber Art and The Forgotten Coast Festival of Trees. Look for more information about these shows coming soon.

The Joe is a new community art center whose mission is to educate, exhibit, partner and inspire through the Arts. Renovated in 2017, The Joe is a climate-controlled gallery, which includes classroom space and handicap accessible bathrooms. The Joe Center for the Arts is sponsored by the Forgotten Coast Cultural Coalition (FCCC).

See more online at www.starfl.com



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21203 NOTICE UNDER FICTITIOUS NAME LAW PURSUANT TO SECTION 865.09, FLORIDA STATUTES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of:

Amazon Realty

located at 140 Gulf Pines Drive, in the County of Gulf, in the City of Port Saint Joe Florida, 32456 intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida.

Dated at Port Saint Joe, Florida, this 17th day of July, 2018.

Denis Palmisciano
Pub: July 26, 2018

21108S
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

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

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

Description of Property:

Lots 18 and 19, Block 6, Lake Alice Subdivision, Wewahitchka, Florida, according to a recorded plat in the Clerk's Office, Port St. Joe, Florida.

All of said property being in Gulf County, State Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate will be sold to the highest bidder in the front Lobby of the Gulf County Courthouse, 1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Blvd., Port St. Joe, Florida at 11:00 am E.T., Wednesday, 22nd day of August, 2018.

DATED: July 16, 2019

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

BY: Elaine Bland,
Deputy Clerk
Pub July 19, 26, August 2, 9, 2018

21110S
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION
File Number 18-44-PR

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

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

LEGAL ADVERTISING
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____-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.

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

All other creditors of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against the decedent's estate must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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

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.

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

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

Personal Representatives:
George G. Weston
321 N. Diana Street
Wewahitchka, FL 32465

John M. Weston
4403 Bayou Oaks Drive
Panama City, FL 32465
Pub July 19, 26, 2018

21184S
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID:

The Gulf County School Board is entertaining the idea of replacing the existing school signs with LED signs. There will be a mandatory pre-bid meeting on August 1, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. est. The meeting will be held at the corner of Hwy 71 and East River Road in Wewahitchka, FL.

A bid package may be picked up at the Gulf County School Board, Maintenance Department, 150 Middle School Road, Port St. Joe, Florida 32456. Bids may be e-mailed by contacting Woody Borders at wborders@gulfk12.fl.us or faxed by calling 850-229-8369. Pub July 26, August 2, 2018

21235S
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION
File Number 18-45-PR

IN RE: ESTATE OF BARBARA JEAN ROSEN Deceased.

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

The administration of the estate of BARBARA JEAN ROSEN, deceased, whose date of death was June 28, 2018 and whose social security number is

____-0381, 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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PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.
All other creditors of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against the decedent's estate must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE BARRED.

The date of first publication of this Notice is July 26, 2018.

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

Personal Representatives:
Linda Roben
6364 E. Quail Track Cr.
Scottsdale, AZ 85266
Pub: July 26, August 2, 2018.

21253S
POTENTIALLY INELIGIBLE REGISTERED VOTER'S NOTICE

The Gulf County Supervisor of Elections has received information the person(s) listed below is potentially ineligible to be registered to vote. Failure to contact this office within 30 days after this notice is published may result in a determination of ineligibility by the supervisor of elections and removal of the registered voters' name from the statewide voter registration system. You should contact this office by calling 850-229-6117 to receive information regarding the basis for the potential ineligibility and instructions on how to resolve the matter, or request additional assistance if needed.

An administrative hearing will be held regarding the potential ineligibility of these persons on August 27, 2018 at 9:00 AM EST in the Supervisor of Elections Office - 401 Long Ave, Port St Joe, FL 32456.

The Supervisor of Elections will make a determination no less than 30 days after this published notice and will notify the voter of the determination and action taken.

Bonnie E. Hysmith
1141 S. Hwy 71
Wewahitchka, 32465

Stephen B. Johnson
130 Selma Street
Port St. Joe, FL 32456

Shirley A. Lucas
P. O. Box 1097
Wewahitchka, 32465

Kimberly D. Rhames
P. O. Box 763
Port St. Joe, FL 32456
Pub: July 26, 2018

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The City of Wewahitchka is looking to hire a Maintenance 2 worker. Must have graduated from High School /equivalent GED or any equivalent or combination of training and experience. Must have a valid Florida driver's license. To request an application email: connieparish@fairpoint.net. You can pick up an application at the City Annex 318 S 7th St. Wewahitchka, FL 32465 from 8-4 central time.
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NF-4529641

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St Joseph Bay Golf Club seeks a part-time worker to perform outstanding customer service to the patrons of the St Joseph Bay Golf Club to include Pro Shop, Restaurant and Bar. Candidates should have experience in computer operations, cash register operations, food preparation, handling and cooking. Candidate must have excellent customer service skills, be able to work independently, processing sales, handling money, cleaning facility, stocking merchandise and knowledge of golf course rules. Candidates must apply in person, applications available at the St Joseph Bay Golf Club Pro Shop

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Publisher's Notice
All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.
This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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