



RETURN VISIT, B1

Thursday, August 2, 2018

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## 'Scallop Rodeo' continues restoration efforts

### Rodeo sign-in at four locations Saturday

By Tim Croft

The Port St. Joe Star | 850-227-7827  
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Time to round 'em up in order to preserve them.

Bay scallops that is, out of St. Joseph Bay, and destined for cages in the middle of the bay as the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission continues population

restoration efforts now in their third year.

The FWC will host the inaugural "Scallop Rodeo" in the bay this weekend, inviting members of the community to assist in bringing back to life a population deemed to have "collapsed" in 2016.

Check-in begins at four locations at 7 a.m. ET.

The locations are the Highland View Public boat ramp, the boat ramp at Frank Pate

Park, Presnell's Marina in Simmons Bayou and T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park.

Participants must check in and will receive a waiver allowing them out on the water to collect scallops.

All scallops, which must be kept alive in a bucket of water and volunteers are limited to 50 scallops per person.

Live scallops must be brought to the check-in location by 6 p.m. ET.

Volunteers can wade into the bay to hunt or go out by boat.

There will be plenty of law enforcement on hand, shore and water; if a volunteer checks in, receives their waiver and does not check back in law enforcement will be notified.

Anyone on or in the water in possession of scallops must have a waiver.

See SCALLOP, A5



[SPECIAL TO THE STAR]



Firefighters found the structure engulfed in flames when they arrived just after midnight Sunday. [COURTESY OF PADGETT PRODUCTIONS]

## 'Thank them for ... unselfish service'

### South Gulf Fire/Rescue handles second major fire of summer

By Tim Croft

The Port St. Joe Star | 850-227-7827  
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A fire destroyed one home and threatened several others last Sunday in Money Bayou.

There were no injuries reported, but one structure was completely destroyed.

South Gulf County Volunteer Fire and Rescue crews responded minutes

after midnight Sunday to 201 Lee Street and found a fully-involved three-story structure near the beach access point at Money Bayou.

One other home had already sustained minor damage to its roof and several other structures were threatened.

The family living in the home had managed to escape the fire unhurt, though they lost all their belongings, including vehicles, according to reports.

See FIRE, A5



Fire crews fought the blaze for more than two hours while protecting neighboring structures. [COURTESY OF PADGETT PRODUCTIONS]

## Restoration project (likely) delayed again

By Tim Croft

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Unless an event occurs in the next day or so that has not occurred in more than a year, the waiting on beach restoration project along St. Joseph Peninsula is likely to continue.

The contractor for the project notified the consulting engineer Wednesday that absent a verification that a grant for \$2.8 million in RESTORE Act fund has been approved by Friday, the contractor will mobilize for another job.

That would mean a delay of at least 45 days, likely closer to 60, assistant county administrator Warren Yeager said.

Considering the county has been tussling with the U.S. Treasury over the release of the RESTORE Act funds from the county's direct allocation for more than a year, an approval in the ensuing 48 hours, county officials indicated Wednesday, seemed a long shot.

And a project that was, finally, scheduled to begin this month is now likely to be undertaken until at least October.

"It looks like the project will be put back into October," Yeager said.

The direct allocation RESTORE funds were initially prioritized for the beach restoration project some two years ago, and were initially approved within the county's multi-year spending plan.

A subsequent grant application, required to receive the funds, had to be amended, however, due to changes in the project's scope.

See PROJECT, A5

## State grant to bolster election security

By Tim Croft

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One might think that a small elections office in Gulf County would not be much of a target for cyber security intruders

One would be wrong.

Supervisor of Elections John Hanlon said his system, as with just about every elections system in Florida, has almost daily contact between firewall and mischief makers.

They are not specifically targeting the elections office,

per se, rather looking for an opening.

"None of them are successful, but every day we have IP addresses bounce off the firewall, people looking for a weakness, anywhere that is vulnerable," Hanlon said.

Hanlon added what might be a tad of an understatement: cyber security is "on the forefront of every Supervisor's mind."

Last week, Hanlon's office was one of 49 to be selected by the Florida Department of State to receive a grant to

bolster physical and cyber security.

"We are going to use the money to harden the systems we already have in place," Hanlon said. "This money will allow us to harden our systems even more than they are."

"We had to submit a plan and while they didn't fund all of our plan, they funded most of it. We want to make our systems even harder."

The money comes from \$19 million in federal funding set aside to secure Florida's election.

The state has fielded and approved grant applications for \$10.3 million of those funds, according to the office of Secretary of State Ken Detzner.

"As Florida prepares for the upcoming election, nothing is more important than our work to ensure secure elections," said Gov. Rick Scott. "This funding will help local Supervisors of Elections enhance their security so they can administer another smooth round of voting."

See ELECTION, A5



# Things to do this week

Star Staff Report

## Turtle Talk at The Joe.

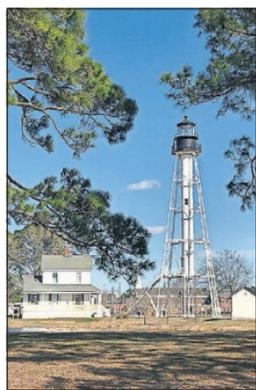
The latest exhibit at The Joe Center for the Arts, located at 201 Reid Ave. in Port St. Joe, is a blend of art and science, opening the door to a conversation about taking care of our planet and coastal community. The exhibition, "Turtles and Trash" runs all summer through Aug. 17; the Center is open Thursday-Saturday. Every Thursday is Turtle Thursday and today will feature a 3 p.m. ET Turtle Talk with Jessica Swindall with the Florida Coastal Conservancy. 3 p.m. ET. In addition, come paint your own canvas with Marjorie from the Sea and Soul Gift Shop (there is a fee to cover materials and instruction). The shop is at 106 Reid Ave. Marjorie is going to be at The Joe from 3:30-5 p.m. ET right after Jessica's talk. Please pre-register at [www.MermaidsCanvas.com](http://www.MermaidsCanvas.com). We will be painting sea turtles! Check out the exhibit schedule online at: [thejoecenter.com](http://thejoecenter.com) or on Facebook. The exhibit is in partnership with the Florida Coastal Conservancy and the Port St. Joe Library.

**Bob Craig, Jr. celebration of life.** There will be a celebration of the life of R. Marion Craig, Jr., 5-7 p.m. ET tonight 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



**Take in the loftiest view in the county in George Core Park in Port St. Joe**

[FILE PHOTOS]



**Florida Health Day is Friday in Frank Pate Park**

[SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

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."

**Florida Health Day Friday.** Get a glimpse of the array of services provides by the Florida Department of Health in Gulf County Friday, 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. ET at Frank Pate Park in Port St. Joe., pencil in Aug. 3, which is a Friday, on



**The Salt Air Farmers Market is Saturday in Port St. Joe City Commons.** [FILE PHOTO]



**Memories and photos will populate tonight's celebration of the late Bob Craig.** [FILE PHOTO]

the calendar. The free event will include educational booths set up by each program or department within the health department. There will be educational materials and giveaways while residents have the opportunity to learn about the programs such as environmental health, tobacco prevention,



**While "Turtles and Trash" continues at The Joe, two events, a talk and some painting, are scheduled today.** [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]



**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  
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Healthy Families, Healthy Start, the health department's clinic, Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and much more.

The event will also include sno-balls, door prizes, and a coloring station for the youngsters and free health screenings.

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

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

# Bed taxes spike again, record in sight

By **Tim Croft**  
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After several record-breaking years, the Gulf County Tourist Development is adding a gold edition to the count.

Bed tax revenue for the month of June increased 14.69 percent, according to numbers from the Gulf County Tax Collector.

That spike, on top of the 15 percent increase in June 2017, continued a winning streak on bed taxes that dates to five years ago.

Consider just the month of June.

In the fiscal year 2013-2014, bed tax dollars totaled just under \$217,000; bed taxes in June 2018 surpassed \$444,589.

Yes, a fifth penny was added along the way, but since that penny was implemented and first collected, June receipts have grown from \$291,242 to \$444,500.

"With June, we are getting into our biggest collection months," said TDC executive director Kelli Godwin.

For the fiscal year that

began October 2017, bed tax revenue is up 14.36 percent compared to the same juncture in the prior fiscal year.

Even more impressive is that 10 months into the fiscal year, the TDC has had just one month which finished down compared to the same month the prior year.

In comparison, during fiscal year 2016-2017, which finished up 7.06 percent to the prior year, there were five months that came in down compared year over year.

"We are holding

steady," Godwin said. "Everyone we've talked to said that July was also up."

The only question about July is to the extent, if any, bed tax collection reports will be impacted by the June 30 date of check-in for the Fourth of July holiday weekend.

In terms of dollars, bed taxes are at \$1.388 million for the year, up \$174,291 from last year when collections exceeded \$2 million for the first time.

It was just five years ago, fiscal year 2012-2013, that the TDC brought in over \$1

million.

## Turtle Trail

The TDC "Turtle Trail" is in the home stretch, with a ribbon cutting on the project scheduled for 9 a.m. ET Aug. 14; artists and sponsoring businesses will be recognized during the event.

The "Turtle Trail" includes six steel turtles fabricated by local artist Alex Henderson, who modeled the turtles after the centerpiece of the sea turtle monument he is constructing on Marina Drive for the Florida

Coastal Conservancy.

The smaller turtles were painted by local artists who applied to decorate the turtles, with the TDC seeking Gulf County-themed artistry.

Local businesses signed up to sponsor the turtles, the first "hatching" of what the TDC hopes will be an annual event as the trail is expanded.

All turtles have been painted, with final coats going on last week and this, Godwin said.

Posts are also up for installation in several local parks, from Dead Lakes to Salinas Park.

# Teachers head back Monday, students in a week

By **Tim Croft**  
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## What happened?

As many teachers and students wonder where in the world the summer disappeared to, the 2018-19 school years ramps up Monday.

"I'm excited about the school year," said Brooke Wooten, chairman of the Gulf County School Board.

The most notable difference to be noticed as the school year dawns is the increase in security.

Under an agreement with the Gulf County Sheriff's Office each school will now have a School Resource Officer on site, with a vehicle at each school.

In addition, Sgt. Stacey Strickland, the veteran SRO in Port St. Joe schools, will act as supervisor, roving among the county's four public schools.

In addition, there will be changes in entering schools. Wewahitchka Elementary School had already "harden" the entrance, forcing all visitors to enter the school office before continuing into the school.

Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High School now has a similar entrance; the only way in is into the front office.

"We did away with

those eight doors in the front, anyone could just come in," said Assistant Superintendent of Business Bill Carr. "The only way in is through the office."

The most visible administrative change is the transfer of Tracy Bowers, formerly principal at Wewahitchka Elementary, to the district offices with Billy Hoover taking over at WES.

Teachers and all school district employees will kick the year off Monday with a celebration at the Honeyville Community Center.

The kickoff proved to be something of a bone

of contention Tuesday when Port St. Joe Elementary teacher Krissy Gentry asked if custodial employees could attend.

Superintendent of Schools Jim Norton said the teacher's union, of which Gentry is president, was trying to improve union membership after state legislation approved earlier this year mandated unions meet certain membership thresholds to maintain certification.

The bill's particular targets were unions representing public employees, including teachers.

"They are trying to bolster these numbers,"

Norton said.

However, Sheria Griffin, executive director of the union representing teachers and school employees, said the custodial crews could not be part of the bargaining unit because they work for a contractor.

Gentry said she was making the request "from my heart because several told me last year they were hurt they were not invited."

Norton said the focus is on instructional staff and urged union representatives to discuss such an issue in private with him.

## 2018-19 budget

The Gulf County School Board Tuesday held the first public hearing on the budget, which includes an increase of 7.27 percent above rollback, that millage which would bring in the same dollars as the prior fiscal year.

In essence, the board has sway over one component of the budget, capital outlay dollars, while all other funding flows from the Florida Legislature, except the voter-approved one mill operational 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 capital outlay dollars, 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 new buses and \$650,000 for lighting, fire alarms and other maintenance projects under new school safety guidelines.

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

## Hunter Safety course in Gulf County

Special to The Star

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is offering free hunter safety courses. Students who have taken the online course and wish to complete the classroom portion must bring the online-completion report with them.

All firearms, ammunition and materials are provided free of charge. Students should bring a pen or pencil and paper. An adult must accompany children younger than 16 at all times.

Anyone born on or after June 1, 1975, must pass an approved hunter safety course and have a hunting license to hunt alone (unsupervised). The FWC course satisfies hunter-safety training requirements for all other states and Canadian provinces.

In Gulf County, the course will be available 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. CT Aug. 25 at Gulf Correctional Institution.

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# OPINION

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Gulf County's future

Dear Editor,  
I am writing in reference to the excellent coverage of the recent BOCC meeting concerning revoking the RV ordinances and beach clutter ordinances in Gulf County. I believe most of us long-time Gulf county residents have noticed large increases in the number of people visiting our beaches and bays this summer, as well as more and more people making Gulf County their permanent residence. I think most of us are excited by this trend. With this increase comes other issues, however, and I would like to address several of these.

First, I think it is essential to understand why more people are visiting and moving into our county. Is it because of the unique natural beauty of our beaches and bays, our friendly and Godly community, and our more relaxed way of life, or is it because they believe that eventually we will become more like Panama City Beach, with more people, more traffic, and more stress? Most of us believe it is the former, not the latter, and want to encourage slow, responsible, sustainable growth for ourselves and future generations.

While I understand the county staff's frustration at enforcing these important ordinances, it is important to remember that our county's revenues, and the county Staff's very paychecks, depend on clean beaches and maximizing property values. As I stated in the letter to The Star I wrote in January 2015 supporting the RV ordinance, "The challenge for us is to come up with a fair balance of protecting the rights of these inhabitants, and your OBLIGATION as stewards of our county to protect and improve the revenues of the county so we can continue to enjoy it's services and provide jobs for it's fine employees."

What is your vision for Gulf counties future? Is it strip malls, pole barn fish camps, unregulated beach and bay usage and a complete change of our way of life, or is it neighborhoods, families, and a preservation of what makes our county a great place to live. Because today it may only be recreational vehicles and Beach clutter, but tomorrow when a developer rolls into town with a big bankroll and needs the height restrictions removed and our density requirements changed it will not be that difficult to do it!

It is now essential for each citizen of Gulf county to contact his or her commissioner and ask what your commissioner's vision for Gulf County is, and don't accept "jobs and happiness for everyone."

Ask them to specifically describe their vision, and whether they are committed to the rules and regulations that will keep our county a nice place. We are at a crossroad, and in ten years we will look back and say, "if only we would have done something THEN. Well, THEN IS NOW, AND IF NOT YOU AND I, THEN WHO?"

Sincerely,

Frank "Dusty" May, DMD, Port St. Joe

### Monkey business

Dear Editor,  
In viewing the July 24 BOCC meeting via website I appreciate the views expressed by Gulf County resident Mr. Roland Wilson. His presentation was in regard to a certain lack of transparency by the board. The fact that meetings were not published in The Star due to the expense when we are paying for a parks director to do the work of our Public Works Dept. defies logic. Mr. Wilson addressed the issue of morning meetings which the Board initiated some time ago as being inconvenient for many. What was disturbing was the impolite snap back by Mr. McDaniel. He stated that morning meetings actually have a larger attendance than evening meetings. That may be true but what he failed to

See LETTER, A5

## HUNKER DOWN

# Once in a lifetime ... was one too many



Kesley Colbert

Here's another one you can file under "you ain't going to believe this." And I hope you are sitting down.....and holding on to your hat! Last week I paid forty-seven dollars for lunch. And I didn't feed the whole family. Nor did that include my first wife. I laid down 47 bucks for one single noon day meal! I told Cathy if she wanted to eat, she'd have to fork over her own money.

As the tuxedo clad maître d' was ushering us to our seat I grabbed him by the arm, "Hey, Boris, I can't hardly wait to sink my teeth into some pickled pigs feet." I knew for the price I was paying there wasn't going to be nothing but the good stuff here.

This story actually started three years earlier. Jill Hendrickson and Gabi Bowditch were bicycling across America. They had started with the rear tire dipped in the Atlantic near Jacksonville Beach and they pedaled into our lives late one afternoon as they journeyed toward the setting sun.

They looked tired. And hungry. And I can tell you for sure, both were in dire need of a bath. We fed them, encouraged them to linger in the shower and spent a wonderful evening listening to "their story". They were college buddies from Michigan and they now worked together on some island out in Lake Huron. They laughed easily and often. Their enthusiasm

was catching. And they loved life, adventure, America and this island of theirs.

They headed west the next morning as our newest lifelong friends. And they did not forget us. They graciously included us on the trip via pictures and notes as they traveled across Louisiana, Texas and climbed the mountains of New Mexico. Cathy and I cheered from three thousand miles away when Jill ran her front wheel into the Pacific Ocean.

They have been pleading ever since for us to come to visit them on their precious Mackinac (pronounced Mackinaw by most everyone up there—but that's another whole story) Island. We figured three years was long enough. We packed up and broke out a roadmap. "Holy Cow, Son of a Gun, Mother Maybelle!"—this place was in Canada! We threw in another case of Nekots and headed north.

The island is actually located at the eastern end of the Mackinac Straits between the Upper and Lower Peninsulas of Michigan. It's still far enough north to have a Jack London sighting.

The ferry ride over takes twenty minutes. We were about half way across when Cathy spied the Grand Hotel. "Oh," I thought she was going to swoon. "it's where they filmed 'Somewhere in Time.'" By the reverence in her voice I knew it was a tear-jerking chick flick.....and I tossed the tour guidebook overboard.

Gabi and Jill filled us in. "The Grand Hotel is the nicest, most elegant place on the island. The main porch is the longest of any hotel in the world and the food is fabulous. They filmed the movie, starring Christopher Reeves and Jane Seymour, here in 1979."

As the girls turned to go to work, Cathy fairly flew up the hill. "I don't think there's any need for speed." I yelled after her. "Chris and Jane have more than likely checked out by now."

As our personal white gloved waiter seated Cathy with much pomp and circumstance and laid the lace encrusted napkin in her lap I leaped to my seat and stuck out my hand. I didn't want nobody laying anything in my lap!

The buffet table in this gigantic dining room would have stretched from Cheboygan to Hoboken. I didn't waste time or belly space on salads, bread or vegetables. I went for the shrimp cocktail, smoked tuna, baked swordfish, prime rib and barbequed pork. The buffet was so long that by the time you got a plate load and trekked back to your seat, you were hungry again. Dessert consisted of fruit parfaits, crepes, truffles, bread pudding and an assortment of cakes and pies. I laid to anything with a sprinkling of chocolate in it smothered, of course, with vanilla ice cream. I can proudly say I left no éclair unturned.

According to the tall case clock over behind the piano player, we ate for an hour and fifty-three minutes.

As we were waddling out the door Boris asked how I liked the pickled pigs feet. I shook my head in wonderment and disbelief. I hadn't seen any pigs feet. "Oh sir, I am so sorry," he seemed genuinely saddened, "It was down at the far end of the table between the pork shank and the sautéed possum innards."

Respectfully,

Kes

## CRANKS MY TRACTOR

# The mouse in the blue pajamas



BN Heard

Being in a different, smaller church, for a few months now, I've gotten to know a lot of new folks and children. Watching children in church reminds me of the many Sundays I would hide under a pew and be handed Cheese Nips and Vanilla Wafers to keep me quiet. Every once in a while, a fellow a couple of pews up would shout, "Amen," and I would bump the top of my head on the underside of the pew.

These days, we have folded chairs and the sanctuary can easily double as a dining hall. The bottom line is that I am very happy in my new church home. After spending all those years working the "left door" of my old church, I was surprised to find that my new church's left door seems to kind of lead out into the woods and folks don't use it.

In other words, my left door skills are not as needed here. I'm considering throwing my hat in the ring or the pulpit or whatever as a coffee-making fellow (CMF). The pastor said we needed help and you didn't even have to have "Barista" experience - I had to look that up. He was being funny, but I don't normally hang out at the high-dollar coffee places and don't use the term "barista." The bottom line was, I could learn to serve coffee or attempt to get some raccoons, rabbits and deer in the left door.

So, as I was considering my resume for serving church coffee, we started singing a hymn. Unlike when I was a little boy,

there were no Baptist Hymnals being used. We shoot the words of the songs up on the front wall for everyone to see.

A little girl up and to the right of me was holding a stuffed animal up where it could see the words on the wall. It made sense to me, but I could not tell if the little gray mouse with blue-striped pajamas was actually singing. This was because the mouse's back was to me.

I never figured out if the mouse was singing, but I did realize that the gray mouse in the blue-striped pajamas was from a book I had read my children many times, what seems like many years ago.

Margaret Wise Brown wrote the book, "Goodnight Moon," that had the little gray mouse in the blue-striped pajamas. In the children's book, which is not very long, the mouse is mentioned twice, about the same as the other "main characters" such as the red balloon, the cow jumping over the moon and the bowl full of mush.

In addition to "Goodnight Moon," Margaret Wise Brown wrote many other children's books such as "The Runaway Bunny."

She was not what you would expect a children's book writer to be like. And again, I'm not real sure what a children's book writer should be like. Maybe an older woman who has worked at the library for many years, teaches Sunday School and drinks Welch's Grape Juice instead the hard stuff for communion.

Margaret was a "free spirit" some people liked to say. I say "was" because she passed away in 1952 at age 42 of an embolism.

I read where Margaret spent her first check for writing on an entire cart full of flowers - I kind

of like that. I also read where she had a lot (they emphasized) of "love affairs." Again, she wrote good stuff and wrote a lot about dogs, she couldn't be all bad. And I'm not saying "love" is bad either.

She was a nice looking woman. Can a man still say that? I suppose so. Looking back at the pictures of her in the 40's and 50's, she looked the opposite of Welch's Grape Juice Drinking Librarian Children's Book Writer.

I have nothing against librarians, bookish-looking or bespectacled people - I love them. And I am sure there are a lot of great writers who don't look like writers... But, "Goodnight little house... And goodnight mouse... Goodnight comb... And goodnight brush... etc." just seems to be something a mother would write.

Margaret was known to be a "beagler" and was noted for her abilities to keep pace on foot with the hounds. Goodnight (and I don't mean to the moon)... A woman who can keep up with the hounds - had to have been something else.

I will now go and find a one of Margaret's dog books to read. "Mister Dog" is about a dog and a boy's mastery of their own lives and it's a "Little Golden Book," like "The Poky Little Puppy" and "Scuffy The Tugboat." Dogs and little boys do seem to have mastered their lives best of all.

Well, I would also have to include little girls who hold their stuffed gray mouse with the blue-striped pajamas up in the air so it can see the song words projected on the wall at church pretty much have it figured it out also.

Thanks Margaret and good-night noises everywhere.

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



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## LOCAL

### SCALLOP

From Page A1

The effort is an enlargement of what has occurred each of the past two years as FWC researchers, staff from the Tourist Development Council, and selected volunteers collected scallops prior to the opening of the harvest season.

Those scallops have either been caged or sent to a hatchery.

"We have been doing a similar event the past two years on a smaller scale and we decided to open it up," said Jennifer Granneman, a scallop researcher with the FWC's research institute in St. Petersburg.

"We also initiated the scallop sitter program which has been very successful. I've been extremely impressed with the community's engagement in our restoration efforts."

The sitter program

involved local volunteers who maintained and monitored caged scallops during the spawning season.

And there has been much success, at least in terms of scallops collected.

Last year, 2,500 scallops were collected from St. Joseph Bay and, combined with similar efforts in St. Andrews Bay, the number of healthy scallops increased by more than 5,000.

"They doubled our population," Granneman said.

Two weeks ago there was a "scallop rodeo" in St. Andrews Bay.

"We had a good turnout," said Granneman, adding the effort resulted in the collection of 500 scallops.

Scallops are caged to facilitate spawning.

Scallops spawn in the water column, the close proximity is believed to foster better spawning results.

The scallop harvest season in St. Joseph Bay, the last to open this year as the

state focuses on regionally-centric seasons, will begin Aug. 17.

The extent of the traction restoration efforts have made the past two years will be known in the next two weeks.

"It's still too early to tell," Granneman said.

With the season pushed back into August, researchers, she said, were able to perform more extensive surveys of St. Joseph Bay.

Those adult population surveys are typically completed in June.

The results of those surveys, she added, should be posted no later than the end of next week.

In the first year, there was traction, though as Granneman noted, the count had nowhere to go but up after the collapse in 2016.

Surveys last year indicated the adult population had increased three-fold: again, after beginning near zero.



Several neighboring structures were threatened; the neighborhood could have been lost. [COURTESY OF PADGETT PRODUCTIONS]

### FIRE

From Page A1

Given the complete destruction of the home once they arrived on scene, firefighters quickly focused on neighboring structures, evacuating several residents.

"The priority is, in order, life-safety, exposure and extinguish," said Mike Barrett, deputy fire chief for South Gulf Fire/Rescue.

"Once we determined everybody was safe, we went to the closest exposure."

That was the house next door, which had already sustained some roof damage. Barrett said crews went "three deep" or three houses away to set up battle lines.

"We were able to get our folks between the primary structure and the other structures and we held our ground," Barrett said. "We were lucky again."

South Gulf Fire/Rescue was aided by several units from other county departments

assisting under the mutual aid agreement that binds the county's volunteer forces.

"These are ordinary men and women doing extraordinary work," Barrett said. "Gulf County is blessed with men and women willing to serve the community at their own personal risk."

Firefighters finally brought fire under control after roughly two-and-a-half hours, Barrett said.

The situation, said Dr. Pat Hardman, president of the Coastal Community Association of Gulf County, could have been so much worse without the response from local volunteer firefighters, especially South Gulf Fire/Rescue.

All one had to do is look at the recent television news broadcasts and the horrors taking place in California.

"Without the quick response from our volunteer fire department, the entire neighborhood would likely be gone," said Hardman.

The fire is under investigation by the State Fire Marshal.

For Barrett and Chief Vince Bishop, the important number was zero, the number of casualties, civilians and firefighters.

"My main mission is life-safety and thankfully nobody was hurt," Barrett said. "Although the structure was a total loss, all firefighters went home alive; I consider that a win."

Last week's fire was the second major structure fire of the summer season, the first destroying a home on Catamaran Drive.

As with last week's fire, there were no casualties beyond the loss of property.

"If you haven't kept our fire department volunteers in your prayers for their safety, haven't personally thanked them for their dedication and unselfish service, or haven't sent them a donation for safety equipment and other needs, here is compelling reason to do so," Hardman said.

South Gulf Fire/Rescue, according to the latest statistics, handles more calls each year than all the county's other departments combined.

### PROJECT

From Page A1

Those changes, which narrowed the scope of the project, came about after initial bids were well above available funds, forcing the county to rebid.

A re-bid of the project narrowed the project's scope to the southern end between the Stump Hole rock revetments to the southern boundary of Billy Joe Rish Park.

Once the low bidder was awarded the contract the hope was that the project would begin Aug. 1.

That would be well over two years since the consulting engineer stood before county commissioners and warned unless sand was on the beach within two years structures would be threatened.

That warning proved prescient, structures in several areas are under imminent threat.

However, the Treasury,

given input from U.S. Fish and Wildlife, said the county could not spend the RESTORE funds in a Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) zone, holding up the process again.

The county agreed to use sand purchased with the \$2.8 million solely on the south end, near the Stump Hole, where there is no development.

Treasury, while indicating that was sufficient, has yet to approve the grant and make the funds available to the county.

#### Budget

The Board of County Commissioners on Wednesday approved capping the millage rate for the 2018-19 fiscal year at 7.10 mills. That is a reduction from the current millage of 1.442 mills. A mill is equal to \$1 for every \$1,000 in assessed property value.

To reach the lower millage, staff reduced the initial budget, largely a wish list from county departments

and constitutional officers, by some \$650,000, said county administrator Michael Hammond.

The county had until Friday to submit to the property appraiser a tentative millage rate.

At that point, the county can not go higher, but can further lower the millage rate, so in effect the BOCC capped the millage at 7.10.

"I think we need to hold the road for a year," said Commissioner Sandy Quinn, Jr. "We owe taxpayers a little break."

Sheriff Mike Harrison asked commissioners to reconsider the cuts to his office's budget, particularly as it pertained to replacement of aging vehicles.

The board and executive director of Gulf County Senior Citizens also pleaded for an increase in its budget to expand services at a time when there are 61 seniors on the agency's waiting list for in-home services.

The BOCC will hold two public hearings on the budget next month.

### ELECTION

From Page A1

Detzner's office said additional grant applications will continue to be reviewed and approved for funding.

Hanlon's office will receive \$60,541, and there was a significant caveat to receiving the funds: they had to be spent this calendar year.

For Gulf County, the dollars will provide for real-time tracking of voter information, additional firewall protection and a server to monitor all electronic traffic within the office.

In addition, a multi-factor identification system will provide an additional work-station specific layer

of protection.

In short, a hacker "getting into the building would have another level of security to access a work station," Hanlon said.

The focus is less on election results, Hanlon said, and more protecting the privacy of voter information.

Florida's elections are not entirely performed and counted with technology.

Sometimes the good old fashioned methods provide their own version of backup. "Florida is a paper ballot state, so we not worried as much about changing the voting outcome," Hanlon said. "It really is more about protecting voter information."

#### Upcoming primary

The voter registration book for the Aug. 28 primary closed Monday.

It is too late to register to vote in the primary.

Early voting in the primary is Aug. 18-25, save the Sunday that falls in that span.

In addition, there is a new precinct this year, No. 10, for voters in Highland View to WindMark Beach.

Those voters, who will be notified by Hanlon's office regarding the change, previously had to drive to the St. Joe Beach Fire Station to cast their ballots.

Their precinct is now in the Highland View Fire Station.

At one time, roughly a decade or so ago, the county had 14 precincts.

That was reduced to eight in a cost-cutting more before the Board of County Commissioners added a ninth. This past year they approved the Highland View precinct.

passing on the chair to Ms. Bryan when it was her turn as has always been the tradition.

Mr. McDaniel also noted that Bay and Franklin boards have morning meetings.

Well guess what, we don't live in those counties and could care less about their schedules.

On another note county-wide voting has been a desire of our voters for years but the board has little interest in upsetting the status quo so how about adding another district?

District 6, western boundary the intersection

of U.S. 98 and SR 30, the district line being the entire area south of 98 to the county line at the east. Heavy duty taxpayers in that area who are outnumbered by District 5 city voters.

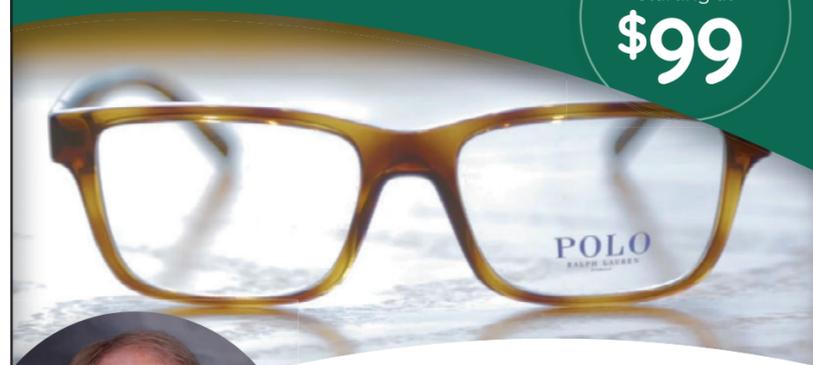
In the last election we had a highly qualified candidate in Dr. Hardman who lost out to Mr. McCroan, the son-in-law of Mr. Barnes, appointed by Gov. Scott at the urging of the board to take Mr. Yeager's seat. That worked out real nice for the boys.

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# Gulf County Sheriff's Office law enforcement summary

July 23-29

On July 23, while on patrol conducting security checks, Deputy P. Young observed a white female walking on East River Road. Deputy Young made contact with the female subject, who appeared to be in a distraught state of mind. The female stated that she was in a physical altercation with her boyfriend, Jeffrey A. Devine (56), at which time he physically threw her on the floor causing her to strike her head. Deputy Young observed some minor injuries and requested EMS for further evaluation. The victim stated that Devine left their residence in her car and provided Deputy Young with a description of it. Deputy Young located the car and initiated a traffic stop. He identified the driver as Devine and detained him for further investigation. It was determined that Devine did commit Domestic Battery and was placed under arrest for Domestic Battery.

On July 23, Deputy V. Everett was dispatched to Wide Water Circle in reference to a possible burglary. This incident was reported by a lawn crew after they noticed the back door to the residence open. The property owners live out of state so contact was made with them by phone and upon checking the residence it was determined that fishing equipment, fishing tackle and a cooler were missing. No arrests have been made but a suspect has been identified. The case remains under investigation. If you have any information please contact the Gulf County Sheriff's Office.

On July 23, the Gulf County Sheriff's Office received a 911 call from Deerfield Road, in Stone Mill Creek, in reference to a suspicious person in someone's yard. The complainant was home alone with her two children and was becoming very concerned for their safety as the subject lingered outside the home. The suspect was described as a thin white male, wearing a gray shirt and riding a yellow three wheeled ATV. He had gotten off the ATV and was walking around the residence as if looking for something. As deputies were responding to the area, the complainant advised GCSO communications that the suspect had taken a wheel and tire from the property, placed it on the ATV, then left the area. Investigators P. Williams and S. Ferrell also responded to the area and were able to locate the suspect who was identified as Eugene Phillip Allen (31). Allen was driving a yellow three-wheeler with a car wheel on it so Allen was detained while Deputy V. Everett conferred with the victims. It was determined that Allen did not have permission to be on the property, nor did he have permission to take the wheel. Allen, who was identified by the victim, was placed under arrest for Trespassing on Property Other Than Structure or Conveyance and Grand Theft. He was transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility for booking.

On July 23, Deputy Les Greenwood was dispatched to the Dead Lakes Park in reference to a missing

flag off the flagpole near the park entrance. Upon inspection of the flagpole, it appeared that the rope had been cut. If you have any information about this case you are encouraged to contact the Gulf County Sheriff's Office.

On July 24, Deputy Mike Manley responded to a report of a physical disturbance in the 2600 block of South State 71 in Wewahitchka. Deputy Manley arrived on scene and observed a white male pacing in the front yard of the residence and it appeared that he was very agitated. Deputy Manley identified him as Ronnie Ray Boone (59). Boone stated that he found a meth pipe on his property and that's what led him to become angry and confrontational with his girlfriend. The victim stated that Boone had jumped on her while she was sitting in a chair and violently shook her and held her down against her will by putting his hands on her shoulders, neck and face. The victim had minor injuries which were consistent with her report. Boone was placed under arrest and secured in the patrol car for transport to the Gulf County Detention Facility. While en route to the booking facility Boone complained of a medical illness so EMS was called to treat Boone and transport him to the hospital. A deputy stayed with Boone at the hospital until he was released hours later. Boone was then transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility where he was booked for Domestic Battery.

On July 26, Deputy A. White travelled to a construction site on Pebble Beach Avenue and arrested Richard Wesley Gates (51) and Christopher John Girscht (39) on warrants

for petit theft. The warrants were the result of an investigation from a previous report of shoplifting at Scallop Cove. The two men were captured on video surveillance stealing flashlight. Deputy White investigated the theft and during his investigation both men admitted to stealing the flashlights.

On July 26, Deputy D. House was dispatched to Jim Rish Street in reference to a verbal disturbance. Upon arrival deputies learned that Johnny Jones "Jr" (30) had gotten into a verbal altercation with a subject at the residence. Deputy House tried to deescalate the situation but he could not reason with Jones because Jones' words were not making any sense. Jones' demeanor was hostile and belligerent so Deputy House requested additional units because it was apparent that Jones would need to be taken into protective custody. Deputy A. White, Deputy C. Harvey and Sgt. J. Williams arrived to assist but no one was able to calm Jones down or get him to cooperate. A conducted electronic weapon, commonly known as a Taser, was deployed to get Jones to comply but it was not effective. Deputies were able to get Jones restrained and he was transported to the Gulf County EMS Facility for evaluation. Jones was charged with Resisting Law Enforcement with Violence and transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility. Jones was taken to a mental health facility on July 27 to be evaluated.

On July 26, Deputy G. Desrosier travelled to the Bay Correctional Facility and transported Haley Elizabeth Kent (24) to the Gulf County Detention Facility on Gulf County Warrants for Possession

of a Stolen Credit Card and failing to appear in court on prior charges for Possession of a Controlled Substance and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

On July 28, Deputy Les Greenwood was dispatched to Glennwood Street in reference to a request for assistance from Probation and Parole. Probation and Parole officers had conducted a home visit to the residence of Kimberly Rhames (46) and located narcotics during the visit. It was determined that marijuana was found and Rhames admitted the substance to be hers. Rhames was detained by Probation and Parole Officers upon the arrival of Deputy Greenwood. Rhames was charged with Violation of Probation and additionally charged by Deputy Greenwood with Possession of Marijuana and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. On July 29, Deputy V. Everett went to Catalpa Street in Wewahitchka and served a Writ of Attachment on John Floyd Deeson (46) for failure to pay child support. Deeson was transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility by Sgt. Burkett.

On July 29, Deputy M. Manley conducted a traffic stop on CR 386 near Shell Road. During the course of the traffic stop, it was revealed that the driver, Robert Louis Phillips (33) was in possession of a pipe used to smoke marijuana. Phillips was placed under arrest and charged with Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

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.

## FDOH emphasizes back-to-school shots

Special to The Star

The Florida Department of Health in Franklin and Gulf Counties encourages parents to have their children immunized as the new school year approaches.

Local county health departments statewide are providing free immunization services for eligible children who are entering school for the first time and those who are returning to class in the upcoming school year.

Parents of kindergarten and 7th graders are encouraged to review their children's immunization record to ensure they are ready for the upcoming school year. Students entering college are also encouraged to ensure their immunizations are up to date.

"Immunizations are available by appointment at our health department locations in Franklin and Gulf Counties," said Sarah Hinds, Administrator of the Florida Department of Health in Franklin/Gulf. "We encourage parents to get their children immunized before the school year begins. Call today to schedule your appointment, Franklin County: 850-653-2111, Gulf County: 850-227-1276."

Vaccines help develop immunity to many serious infectious diseases by enabling the body to recognize and fight vaccine-preventable diseases. The following vaccines are required for children entering preschool and grades K-12: diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), measles, mumps, rubella, polio, varicella (chickenpox) and hepatitis B. Students entering college should check with the health services at their college regarding immunization requirements.

Florida SHOTS is a free, statewide, centralized online immunization registry that helps health care providers, parents, and schools keep track of immunization records to ensure that patients of all ages receive the vaccinations needed to protect them from dangerous vaccine-preventable diseases. Florida SHOTS makes it easier to keep up with your child's immunization history—even when moving or switching doctors.

The registry is endorsed by the Florida Academy of Family Physicians, Florida Association of Health Plans, Inc., Florida Medical Association, Florida Osteopathic Medical Association, and the Florida Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics.

If your child is due for a vaccine, please visit your family health care provider or one of our health department clinics.

Visit ImmunizeFlorida.org to learn more about immunizations your child may need or call your local county health department to find out locations and times for immunization services available near you.

### MEXICO BEACH PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Mexico Beach Planning and Zoning Board will hold a regularly scheduled meeting on **Tuesday, August 7, 2018, at 6:00 p.m.** in the Mexico Beach Council Chambers located at 105 N. 31st Street, Mexico Beach, FL. The proposed agenda will include the following public hearing items:

MEXICO BEACH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (Legislative) – Consideration of text amendments to the Comprehensive Plan.

Persons wishing to review the files on the above projects may do so on the City website at [www.mexicobeachgov.com](http://www.mexicobeachgov.com) or at the Mexico Beach City Hall located at 201 Paradise Path, Mexico Beach, FL. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing assistance in obtaining any information from the City or attending the public hearing should contact the City by calling 850-648-5700 ext 205, at least 48 hours prior to the hearing. If any person decides to appeal any decision made with respect to any matter considered at such public hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be used.

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- 95 CHEVROLET CAMARO Z28 ONLY 45k MILES, PC5636B ..... **\$8,990**
- 13 INFINITI JX35 BASE 3RD SEAT, DVD, NAV, LOADED! PC5779A ..... **\$23,990**

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# OUTDOORS

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## Tarpon Time in the Florida Panhandle

By Frank Sargeant  
Special to The Star

Tarpon take their time about showing up in the Panhandle, usually arriving months after they first show in the famed tarpon spots along southwest Florida like Boca Grande or Egmont Pass. But, when they do arrive in force, typically in July, they suddenly seem to be everywhere, and they hang around for months, giving anybody who's willing to take them on a great chance to see the silver king in action.

Tarpon are not eaten in the U.S., and there's now a \$100 permit required to possess one, so the species is virtually catch-and-release. Since 2013, the regulations have been particularly tight:

- All harvest of tarpon is eliminated, with the exception of the harvest or possession of a single tarpon when in pursuit of an International Game

Fish Association record and in conjunction with a tarpon tag.

- Tarpon tags are limited to one per person, per year except for properly licensed charter boat captains and fishing guides.

- Transport or shipment of tarpon is limited to one fish per person.

- There is a one-fish-per-vessel limit for tarpon.

- Gear used for tarpon is limited to hook-and-line only.

- Multiple-hook rigs with live or dead natural bait cannot be used to target tarpon.

- People can temporarily possess a smaller tarpon for photography, measurement of length and girth and scientific sampling. All tarpon more than 40 inches must remain in the water.

- Tarpon regulations extend into federal waters.

As you'd expect, these



Sight-fishing for tarpon from small boats is often possible because they roll frequently at the surface, allowing alert anglers to locate them. (PHOTO CREDIT RAY MARKHAM)

regulations mean there are more and more tarpon every year, and that the average size is steadily increasing. Given that the larger females may live more than 50 years, they've got time for a whole lot of growing.

Twenty years ago, the average tarpon weighed around 80 to 90 pounds. These days, catching one that's "a buck-fifty", as the guides like to say, 150 pounds, can happen to anyone on any given day. The species is known to get up to over 250 pounds, so even bigger tarpon are probably in our future. (The IGFA all-tackle record is 286-pounds, 9 ounces, for a fish caught off the west coast of Africa, if you're wondering.)

The big attraction in tarpon fishing is hooking up to a fish that comes up to look you over. Adult tarpon are noted for jumping 6 to 8 feet out of the water and doing it a bunch, especially when hooked in the shallow water where they sometimes prowl.

They're also noted for unstoppable runs, ripping off 200 yards of line and more in seconds.

Those are the fun parts of tarpon fishing, the parts that keep us coming back.

A lot less fun is trying to lift all that weight and drag it close enough to the boat for a quick photo before release, a process that can take hours if you're not geared up right and don't take the fight to the fish.

Fly-rod guides used to tell me that the typical angler took a minute per pound to whip a tarpon, that is, a 90-pounder might take an hour and a half. Really good anglers who know how to push their tackle to the limit and who hook up in shallow water, like Stu Apte, routinely bring 100-pounders in under 15 minutes.

The arrival of braided line and heavy weight spinning gear greatly changed the tarpon game in recent years; the no-stretch braid allows

hauling the fish in much faster than with mono or fly-line, and fight times of around 30 minutes for hundred-pound fish are about the norm. This is a good thing both for the angler, who will be frazzled after hauling on the rod for that long in the August heat, and for the fish--the shorter the battle, the better the chance of a successful release.

### Where to find Tarpon

The easiest place to find tarpon is along the beaches, where schools of them travel anywhere from 100 feet to a mile off the sand at this time of year. Spotting them is not difficult--they "roll" frequently, with the mouth actually coming above the surface to gulp air, and that along with their large size makes them easy to locate so long as waves are moderate.

They also like to hang around the jetties and in the major passes at Pensacola, Destin and St. Andrews, the point and the elbow at Cape San Blas, in Indian Key Pass and at both ends of St. George Island as well as at Bob Sykes Cut.

As the summer progresses, good numbers of tarpon also prowl into the bays and cruise around the grass flats, particularly if there are schools of bait along the edges. The fish can usually be found in water 4 to 10 feet deep. Again, rolling is the most obvious tell, but sometimes there are just a few "burps" or bubbles. Occasionally, the fish will lay up right on the surface as though sleeping, with just fins and tails showing.

### How to connect

The classic gear for tarpon is a 12-weight fly rod and a cockroach or brown/black streamer fly about 3 to 4 inches long on a 2/0 to 3/0 extra strong hook. If you can cast 80 feet or so--and that's not nearly as easy as the pros make

the flats, and then as the fish get into range you put the bait or lure at least 20 feet ahead of them and let them swim up to it.

Some smart guides have gotten on to trolling live baits far behind the boat and gradually letting them back into a school that's following the boat. This allows keeping the bait in their faces much longer, and usually results in a hook-up.

It's not necessary to see tarpon to catch them, however. In areas where the fish are noted to hang out--around jetties, in the passes, around the deep-water bridges--it's possible to put out a spread of baits and wait for the fish to arrive. Tarpon take cut bait as well as live bait in this scenario, and the more baits you put out, the more scent in the water and the more likely you'll score. (Of course, you'll catch more catfish on the cut bait, too, but that's part of the game.)

Once a tarpon takes, all the excitement is usually over in the first five minutes. Then the fish settles down and begins to pull, and that's when smart use of gear pays off. By maneuvering the rod to pull directly against the direction the fish is trying to swim, the battle-time can be cut significantly over simply pumping straight up and down. This is another advantage of spinning gear, which is lighter and more maneuverable than the star-drag tackle used in the past.

Once the fish is at the boat, the skipper puts on gloves and grabs the fish by the lower jaw. This can be a mano a mano moment with larger fish--muscle up and be ready for a brief but intense wrestling match.

The fish can then be stabilized at boatside and a couple of quick photos made. Remember, fish over 40 inches--which will be almost all of them--must remain in the water. They can't legally be pulled into the boat, even for a minute. This is a good rule--researchers found it usually damaged the organs and resulted in the fish dying after release.

Once the photos are made, the fish is revived by easing the boat along at walking speed as the tarpon is held head forward, water flowing through its mouth and over the gills. When it starts to swim again, it's pushed out and down, and usually gets its motor started.

One caveat in all this handling at the boat is the arrival of sharks, which are frequently attracted to splashing tarpon. Big bulls can be dangerous not only to the fish, but also to the guy handling the fish--keep your eyes open and be ready to get out of the way if you see jaws headed your way!



Live bait is a sure way to connect with tarpon off the beach, with threadfins, sardines, finger mullet and menhaden all good baits. (FRANK SARGEANT PHOTO)



Plastic swimbaits like the DOA Baitbuster are effective at fooling tarpon, particularly in the backbays in late summer. (FRANK SARGEANT PHOTO)

### WEEKLY ALMANAC

Date	High	Low	% Precip
Thu, August 2	84°	74°	60%
Fri, August 3	87°	75°	60%
Sat, August 4	87°	75°	50%
Sun, August 5	88°	75°	40%
Mon, August 6	89°	75°	20%
Tues, August 7	89°	76°	40%
Wed, August 8	88°	76°	60%

### TIDE TABLES MONTHLY AVERAGES

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

Cat Point	HIGH	LOW
	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:

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

### ST. JOSEPH BAY

Date	Day	High Tide	High Tide	Low Tide	Low Tide
2	Th	1:46p	1.0	8:54p	0.7
3	Fr	5:04a	1.0	7:44p	0.7
4	Sa	4:57a	1.2	2:34p	0.6
5	Su	5:17a	1.4	3:25p	0.2
6	Mo	5:52a	1.7	4:15p	0.0
7	Tu	6:38a	1.9	5:06p	-0.2
8	We	7:30a	2.1	5:57p	-0.3

### APALACHICOLA BAY, WEST PASS

Date	Day	High Tide	High Tide	Low Tide	Low Tide
2	Th	7:51a	1.4	7:47p	1.2
3	Fr	8:19a	1.5	9:05p	1.1
4	Sa	8:51a	1.5	10:48p	1.0
5	Su	9:28a	1.6	2:56a	1.0
6	Mo	12:59a	1.1	10:12a	1.6
7	Tu	11:04a	1.6	8:11p	0.0
8	We	4:11a	1.3	12:03p	1.6

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### FISHING REPORT



As we continue to deal with what's left of a steamy July we are moving into the start of a steamy August. That being said we stress over and over, hit the water early and then late in the evening. As I've stated before if your going out late in the morning to fish you need to be on the deep channels or deep holes to produce fish. Fish the edges of these channels and holes adjacent to grass areas that drop off. If you can right now use lives baits such as Pinfish, Shrimp or other baits such as Finger Mullet. Let your baits do most of the work with a slow retrieval. A boat captain friend of mine was just telling me a few days ago they had a great day with Trout but they were over 15 feet deep. Last but not least try and fish the tides, coming in or going out. This is pushing cooler water around and will help with the bite. If your shore fishing you should follow the same steps as boat fishing, early and late and on the moving tides. Until next week, Happy Fishing!

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# SPORTS

## The 'Zoo Vault'



Celeste Chiles also competed. [COURTESY OF KEITH CHILES]

By Tim Croft

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

A few members of the Port St. Joe summer track club paid a visit to the Jacksonville Zoo last weekend.

Dyson Kent, Celeste Chiles and Lily Wockenfuss participated in an invitational pole vaulting event sponsored by the Jacksonville Athletic Club and the city's zoo.

"They all did great," said Coach Keith Chiles. "They had us right in the middle of the zoo."

And, so, with exotic birds chirping in the background, more than 50 vaulters, male and female, participated in the event.

Twenty-six men and boys competed, 28 girls and women.

There were no age groups, as Wockenfuss, poised to enter high school, competed against women up to college age; the winner on the female side was a vaulter from Florida State University.

"She likes the competition," Coach Chiles said.

Despite her youth, Wockenfuss finished fifth with a height of 10-feet-3.

"I had 11 feet in my mind, so I wasn't that happy," Wockenfuss said. "I liked jumping against the bigger girls."

Celeste Chiles was in the same field and no-heighted.

"She no-heighted but she really jumped good," Coach



Lily Wockenfuss finished fifth, competing against older competition. [COURTESY OF KEITH CHILES]

Chiles said.

Kent, who graduated from Port St. Joe High School in 2017 and is attending Gulf Coast State College while continuing to train with Coach Chiles, finished third in the boys' competition.

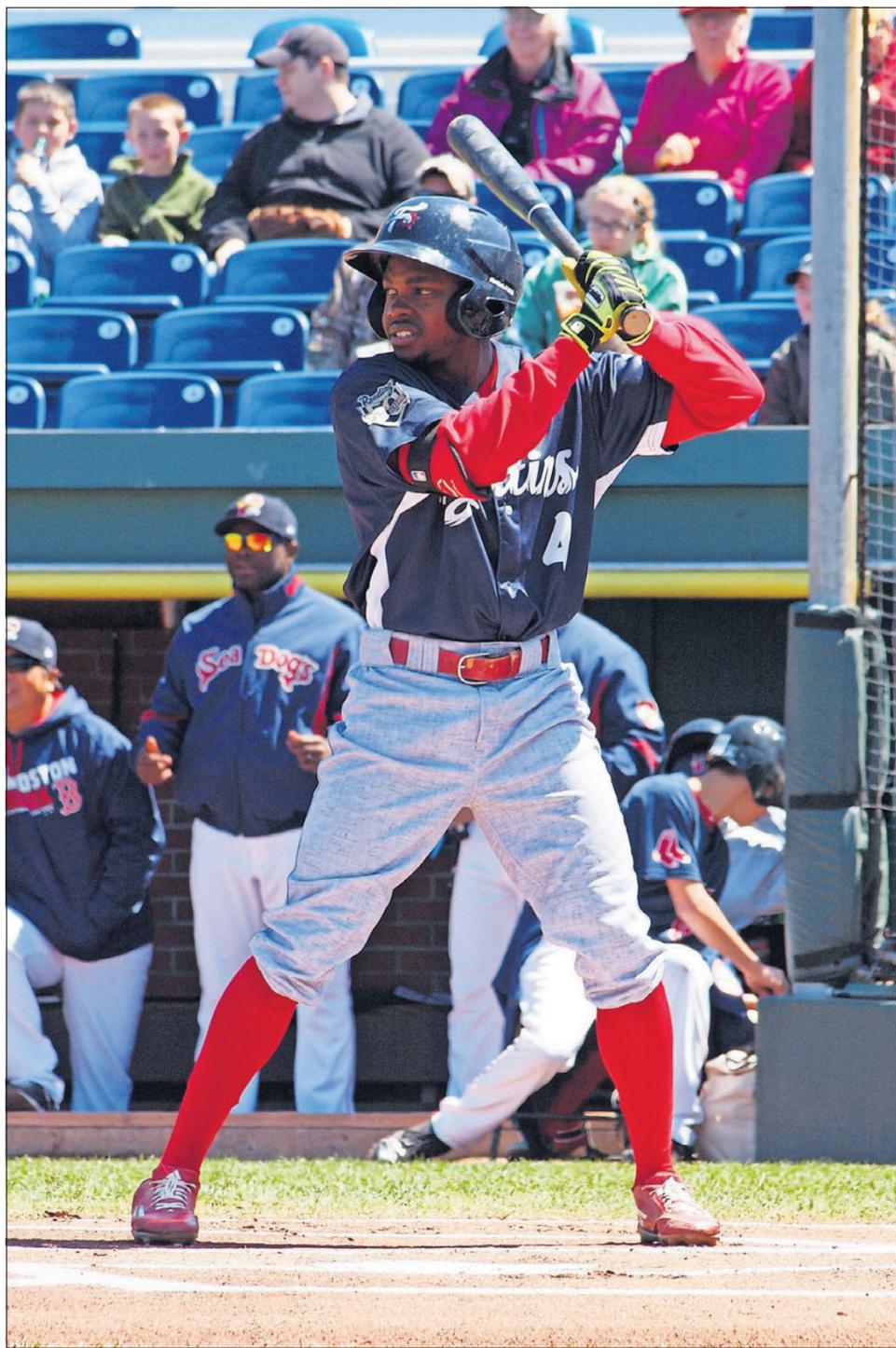
And "boys" might be a misnomer, considering the winner was a professional vaulter and the second-place finisher a collegian.

Kent finished at 14-feet-10.

"He had a great day," Coach Chiles said.

The "Zoo Vault" brought to an end a summer of success for the Port St. Joe Track Club, with members excelling at a recent Junior Olympic regional qualifier and the Ernie Sims Invitational.

Most of the members will be gathering again in December as preparation for the scholastic track and field season begins.



Port St. Joe's Roman Quinn was called up by Philadelphia last Friday. [FILE PHOTO]

## Phillies call up Roman Quinn

By Tim Croft

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

Port St. Joe's Roman Quinn is healthy and is back in the big leagues.

The Philadelphia Phillies called up the 25-year-old outfielder last week, seeking to add impact speed to a bench that has provided little this season.

Quinn, a switch-hitter, can reach base and play all three outfield positions.

In 25 games this year at Triple A, Quinn hit .296 with a .349 on-base percentage and 13 steals.

"I think it's fair to say that nobody has a weapon like this off the bench," Philadelphia manager Gabe Kapler told the news outlet Philly.com. "I think he's a fairly unique commodity in baseball."

"I'm not sure there is a bench option like Roman Quinn. Because he's an 80 runner, so there's really no one who's a whole lot faster, if there are those who are faster."

"He switch-hits, he plays the infield, he plays the outfield. He's a pretty unique weapon."

Quinn spent two weeks in the majors in September 2016 as the Phillies looked at prospects amid a 91-loss season.

Quinn has also excelled in each of the past two spring training camps.

During the spring, Kapler exposed Quinn to playing time at shortstop to expand

his tool set and Quinn appeared poised to be the last man added to the squad headed north for the start of the major league season.

However, the Phillies decided to go with an additional pitcher out of camp, Quinn went to Triple A and was eventually forced to the disabled list with a torn ligament in his finger, originally suffered during spring training.

He was injured sliding into base; the second time has suffered a serious injury to a hand while sliding.

Quinn originally tried to play through the injury, but felt tingling in his arm while making a throw from shortstop in Triple A. He had surgery.

Quinn spent the last two months rehabbing from another in a series of injuries which have prevented Quinn from playing a full season since he was drafted in the second round in 2011.

"Whatever role I need to play to help the team win I will do it to the best of my ability," Quinn told Philly.com. "If that's coming off the bench, if it's starting every day I'm going to start."

"Whatever the team needs me to do I'm going to do."

Kapler said he would use Quinn primarily in a reserve role, as a runner or hitter when the best situation arises, a situation based on leverage not inning in the game.

The Phillies, surprisingly,

are in the middle of a playoff race, standing first in their division, as August arrives.

"We won't save him as a bullet," Kapler said. "It's not like, 'Let's wait for the perfect time to deploy him as a pinch-runner. Let's wait for the eighth or ninth inning.'"

"No. If he's the right guy in the sixth inning, we'll use him in the sixth inning."

Quinn arrived in Cincinnati on Friday and had one at-bat during the three-game set against the Reds.

On Monday, he started in right field, playing at Fenway Park which features one of the most challenging right fields in baseball.

He went 1 for 5 at the plate.

Tuesday, a Phillies win, Quinn started in center-field and went 3 for 5 with a double.

He had been off the disabled list just eight days when he was called up.

Kapler said a focus was to ensure his "unique weapon" remains healthy.

"I shared the same thing with him that I did in spring training, which was, 'This is going to require a lot of honesty and openness. If anything is bothering you, we don't need heroics. What we need is for you to come and say, 'This is bothering me,'" the manager told Philly.com. "If there's anything we can do to help you recover better, whether that be recovery or a nutrition plan, we're here to provide that for you."



Twenty-eight girls and women competed. [COURTESY OF KEITH CHILES]

## PSJHS football banners

Special to The Star

The Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High football team is seeking sponsorship from local businesses, organizations, and families. Please show your support to our talented young players this 2018 Football season by purchasing a field banner.

The options are endless with your colorful 3'X5' banner. Select your logo, layout, message, and colors, and your banner will be displayed in a highly visible location on our field. The cost of your 2018 Port St. Joe Jr./Sr. High School football

banner is \$150. Since the banners are weather resistant, with UV protection, this is also an investment for the future. In the following seasons, you will have the option to renew your sponsorship for only \$100. Don't own a business? That's okay. Display a message of encouragement to a special athlete in your life. Thank you for taking advantage of this opportunity to spread your message and support our athletes.

Please contact Greg Jordan or Port St. Joe High School at 229-8251 for more information.

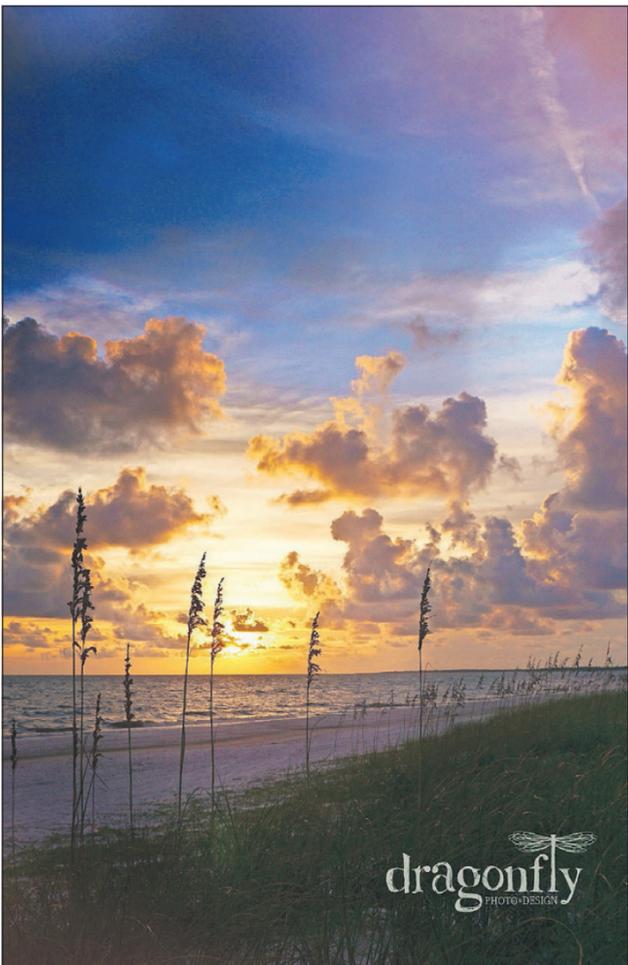
# SCENE AROUND



**Jada Rice, 9, rides into the sunset.** [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]



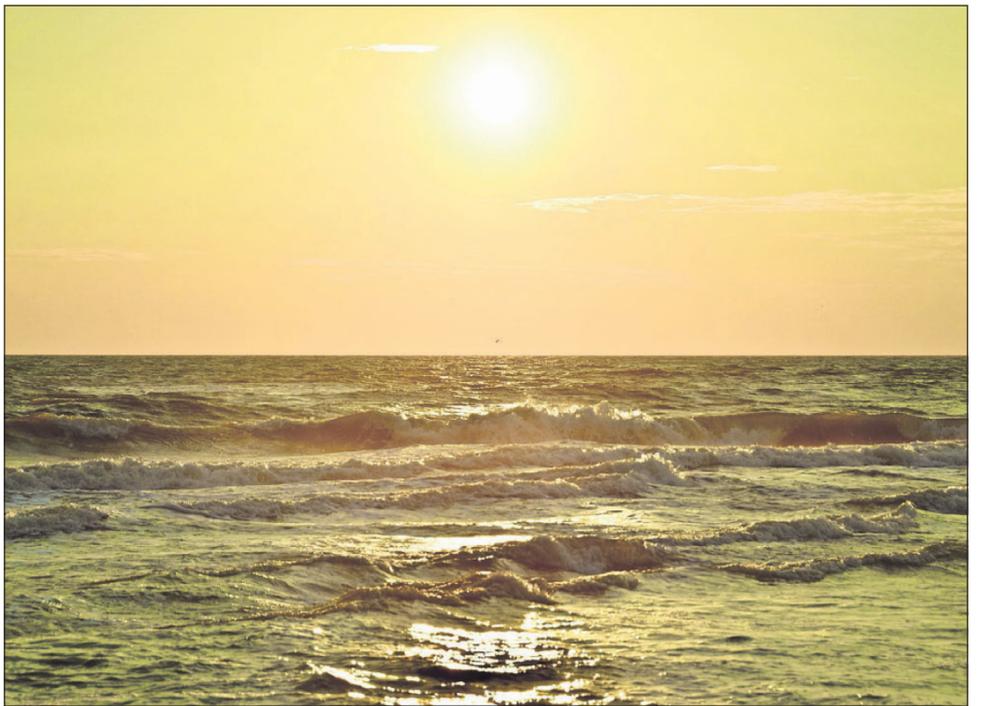
**Another day in paradise comes to an end.** [COURTESY OF LINDSAY JARVIS]



**Sea oats and sundown.** [COURTESY OF LAURA AT DRAGONFLY PHOTOGRAPHY]



**A waterspout over the Gulf last week.** [COURTESY OF ROBBIE YOUNG]



**A breezy evening over the Gulf of Mexico.** [COURTESY OF DAVE EVANS]



**Family feet on the beach; and what a beach.** [COURTESY OF JOANN LOCASCIO]



**Egret at Indian Pass.** [COURTESY OF VIC KEASLER]

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

# COMMUNITY

## Public forum to be held on LNT, RV ordinances

By **Tim Croft**

The Port St. Joe Star  
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The Coastal Community Association of Gulf County will host a public forum Friday to discuss recent actions by the Board of County Commissioners pertaining to ordinances on RVs in coastal areas and Leave No Trace.

The open forum, scheduled for 5 p.m. ET Friday at the St. Joseph Bay Golf Club, is to discuss the ramifications of potential BOCC action as well as to fashion a possible response.

In addition, a survey is being taken of coastal property owners in advance of Friday's meeting to provide more insight into people's

views on the issues.

The overriding goal: consensus on issues and, more importantly, solutions.

The CCA, whose membership is primarily peninsula and Indian Pass property owners and residents, is hoping to attract folks from other impacted areas such as Port St. Joe, Highland View, St. Joe Beach, Simmons Bayou and Money Bayou.

Last week, the BOCC, with no reference to either topic on the meeting agenda, indicated it would take up staff recommendations pertaining to LNT and RVs during the coming month, including holding public workshops and hearings.

County administrator Michael Hammond indicated he would recommend commissioners strike the

RV ordinance adopted in the past three years and return to the language in the land development regulations.

The LDRs allow one RV per lot, no matter where in the county.

"My recommendation would be to go back to what worked for 25 years," Hammond said.

The county RV ordinance established a coastal corridor, one mile from open coastal waters, within which RVs had to be permitted and allowed only to sit for two seven-day stretches per year.

Any RVs in the coastal corridor must also be evacuated whenever local officials declare a local state of emergency due to an approaching storm; county staff has found RVs

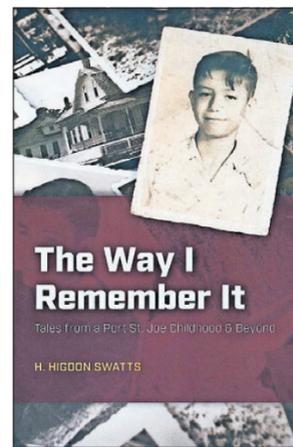
generally unresponsive to the provision during the two major storms that forced evacuation efforts since the ordinance was finalized.

"People are not complying with the permit regarding evacuation," Hammond said.

Commissioners later amended the ordinance to carve out Highland View, St. Joe Beach and Oak Grove and the result has been an explosion of RVs in those areas, particularly Oak Grove.

The ordinance has become a thorn for county officials as well as those in the city of Port St. Joe, as long-time residents and property owners have decried impacts to neighborhood aesthetics and property values.

See **FORUM, B7**



**Higdon Swatts' book was released in late June**

[SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

## Remembering a Port St. Joe childhood

By **Tim Croft**

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

Higdon Swatts never considered himself an author, never envisioned a book in his future.

Facebook, of all things, altered his thinking.

Swatts has a memoir, "The Way I Remember It: Tales from a Port St. Joe childhood and beyond" that in snippets reveals the richness of life for a young boy growing up during a dynamic time in the community's history.

As he summed up near the end of the book, one goal is to cause a reader to reflect on their life, share memories, record history, no matter how informal.

"I am firm believer in documenting history," Swatts said. "One regret I have is I didn't ask more questions growing up, I would have more stories. "It became more important later in life. I spent a lot of time with my granddaddy (community pioneer T.H. Stone) in their house where Hungry Howie's is. When you are young, you just want your granddaddy to finish his story so he'd give you a quarter."

It was the thoroughly modern Facebook that ignited the fuel for the book.

Not much for the social media platform initially, Swatts became something of a regular contributor about four years ago.

He noticed that folks were posting and commenting about Port St. Joe history, there was even a page devoted to it, and Swatts began to make comments.

"The comments at some point in time led to stories," Swatts said. "I wrote a few stories on Facebook and people started telling me I should put them in a book."

"I just said, 'Yeah, right' but my daughter (Dana) last December told me to give her the stories and she would take care of getting them in a book."

Some of those stories were already written, others were penned in the coming months.

There are also a couple that take a bit of artistic license (If Elvis Grew Up in Port St. Joe), a couple of the stories reading as biographical until the end, as Swatts acknowledged in his end notes.

See **REMEMBER, B7**

# A return visit

By **Tim Croft**

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tcroft@starfl.com

Paddy, Josie, Mad Dog, pick a name; one juvenile green sea turtle has gotten plenty of shore leave recently.

And, Bill Fauth, from among the ranks of the hearty volunteers who work so hard during turtle nesting season, received an opportunity to spend plenty of quality time with the young hardback.

Paddy, a turtle released back into the wild just two weeks ago along St. Joe Beach, is now back at Gulf World Marine Institute after being found stranded a second time since March.

This time, the turtle, and at that age, 5-10 years, likely younger due to its size, "he" and "she" are interchangeable, was found last Friday near Highland View.

Paddy, Josie, Mad Dog, whatever, the turtle had traveled eight miles from its release point in just over a week.

"I saw him on the edge of the surf," said Barbara Eells of the Gulf and East Bay Turtle Patrol. "When I picked him up he just had his little flippers flapping, acting like he wanted to go, but just couldn't."

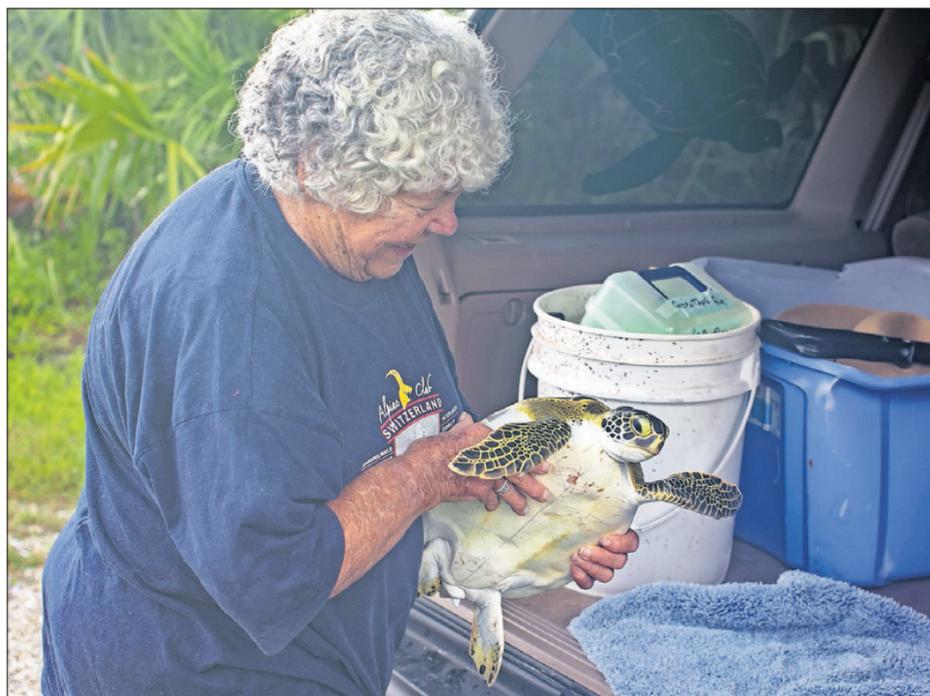
Eells kept the turtle in her bathtub overnight and the following day Fauth was called.

This, in the case of Fauth and this one turtle, was not the first time.

On March 19, Fauth was called by another resident who said a stranded turtle had been found on the south end of St. Joe Beach.

As it turned out, the turtle, whose name became something of a discussion in the days following its release, was found by a combat veteran visiting a local fellow veteran and his family.

The family had hoped, not knowing the process, to name the turtle "Mad Dog" in honor of the same fighting spirit shown, at varying times



**Barbara Eells found the turtle last Friday in Highland View, about 8 miles from where it was released the prior week.** [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

of their lives, by both rescuer and turtle.

The turtle had a compression fracture of its head, swelling around one eye.

"This is a special turtle because of the type of injury it had, whether from a boat prop or someone actually bashing it on the head or a collision with something larger," Eells said. "And it didn't have to take place, that what's sad."

In any case, Fauth arrived, took some photos, Eells completed some paperwork and the rest was up to Fauth to transport the turtle to Gulf World.

"Bill has really gotten into (turtling)," Eells said. "He has just gotten on our permit for stranding/salvage and he's been diligent about it all."

"He has been one of our dedicated turtlers for many years."

Upon arriving at Gulf World, unaware of any wishes from those who had found the turtle, Fauth turned the turtle over to staff, calling it "Paddy" due to the proximity of the



**Paddy was originally found on St. Joe Beach and transported to Gulf World by Bill Fauth in March.** [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

date to St. Patrick's Day.

"Taking the time to transport (a turtle) to Panama City Beach can be a good hour-and-a-half drive from here, so we all name the turtles we take there, except for cold-stun events," Eells said.

Two weeks ago, Paddy was one of two turtles released in St. Joe Beach by Gulf World, the second one rehabbed from January's cold-stun event.

See **VISIT, B7**

### 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. Which was a foolish character in Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing"?**  
Crawford, Jesterly, Simon, Dogberry
- 2. What NFL team's cheerleaders are known as the "Goldrush Girls"?**  
Falcons, 49ers, Saints, Jets
- 3. Which state college is**

- located in a city called "State College"?**  
Rice, Idaho State, Brown, Penn State
- 4. What country often is called the "World's Rice Bowl"?**  
Vietnam, Laos, China, India
- 5. Who has been the oldest elected U.S. president?**

Carter, Wilson, Trump, Reagan

- 6. What animal symbolizes courage?**  
Snake, Beaver, Lion, Elephant

ANSWERS: 1. Dogberry, 2. 49ers, 3. Penn State, 4. China, 5. Trump, 6. Lion

# SOCIETY



[SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

## Cross Shores Corner

### Heat reminders for the elderly

By Shelly Cain  
Special to The Star

Baby, it's HOT outside. This is my first summer in Florida and I had no idea it could be this hot and humid and not be on the surface of the sun. This morning, steam rose up to meet me after it sprinkled rain. I did not know that was possible. It felt like it was raining up. Wow.

It reminded me to check on people I love. If you have to work outside or know someone who works outside make sure you are drinking plenty of water with salt added.

I make a mixture of 2 ounces apple cider vinegar, 1 teaspoon salt, and a LaCroix water to replace electrolytes when I've spent time outside. The taste takes some getting used to but it works really well. When you see your mail

person, UPS or Fed EX delivery people remember they don't have air conditioning in their vehicles. Have a cold bottle of water ready to hand to them. They will thank you.

Please check on your elderly. Heat can sneak up on them. Older adults do not adjust as well as younger people do to changes in the temperature. They are more likely to have a chronic medical condition that changes normal body responses to heat.

And, they are more likely to take prescription medication that affects the body's ability to control its temperature or sweat. Please make sure they are drinking enough water and that they have access to air conditioning.

Educate yourself on the signs of Heat Exhaustion and Heat Stroke with the recommended treatment.

This website is very informative: [www.cdc.gov/](http://www.cdc.gov/)

disasters/extremeheat/warning

Know what to do and how to help someone. Seconds count, especially in our older population.

Even on the hottest days our residents love going outside. Most of them grew up here and they cannot imagine a day without going outside. We limit the time outside, stay in the shade of the front porch, and offer cold drinks. Sno-cones are the most popular outdoor treat.

I'm learning to embrace the heat and find a few extra indoor activities to do. It's not unlike finding indoor activities during the whole month of January and February, in Missouri, when it was just too cold outside.

I'm determined to adjust because I can't imagine a better place to live than Port St. Joe, Florida. Remember to treat everyone with importance and always be kind.



## Look who's Nifty Fifty: Sheryl Bradley

Happy Birthday,  
Love,  
Mom and Dad

## Wanted

Have you seen this person?

Special to The Star

Who?

The person who should be coming to the center

**Wanted:** seniors to join us at the Gulf County Senior Citizens Center for fun, festivities and lunch. If you are looking for a place to come relax, enjoy some fun activities and a lunch, we are the place. Our center is located at 120 Library Drive, Port Saint Joe, FL.

We also have a center located in Wewahitchka at 314 N 3rd St. We are under new management and bringing new ideas, activities and fun to the center.

Our purpose is to give seniors 60-and-up a place to come and enjoy fellowship and community.

We have different activities each day and have activities for folks that are not seniors, so everyone is welcome to come visit us. We also have field trips to go shop, eat lunch and

**We are adding new activities each month, so drop by the centers and pick up a calendar every month to see what we are doing.**

enjoy a day on the town. Our purpose is to keep our seniors active and enjoying fun with other folks in the area.

We are also asking for any items that you do not need when you are doing your spring/summer cleaning to be donated and used for prizes with some of our activities. Items such as trinkets, figurines, throw pillows, candles, etc. Our prizes are getting extremely low.

We are adding new activities each month, so drop by the centers and pick up a calendar every month to see what we are doing.

Please continue to donate and help the seniors of Gulf County. You can make a donation by calling the center at 229-8466.

## Family secrets uncovered at Lifetree Café

Special to The Star

How to navigate unexpected family secrets will be discussed 7 p.m. CT, Monday, Aug. 6 at Lifetree Café.

The program, titled "Family Secrets: What Mama never told us," features the exclusive filmed story—shot live as events unfolded—of a woman who discovered a missing family member.

"I was going through some paperwork at my parents' house and found an old, faded form from an adoption agency," the woman said. "That was the first inkling there was some kind of secret to be told here."

During the program participants will receive practical tips on handling a wide variety of family secrets.

Admission to the 60-minute event is free.

Snacks and beverages are available. Lifetree Café is located at 1602 U.S. Highway 98 in Mexico Beach across from El Governador Motel.

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

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

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## SCHOOL NEWS/LOCAL

# NFCD 'Ignite' event focus on employees

By Tim Croft

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

Tonight at the Haughty Heron will be all about ignition for the folks at North Florida Child Development, Inc.

An event, which kicks off at 6:30 p.m. ET, also aims at dispelling some perceptions.

Namely, that NFCD, with headquarters in Wewahatchka and facilities in six counties, is not a "day care" or a place for "babysitting."

That the focus of the organization is not strictly on pre-school youngsters, but on their households and the creation of atmospheres for learning.

"We are an early child development program," said Jade Hatcher, who spearheads the company's HIPPIY program which works with parents and families.

"We are preparing children and families for the public schools. They are receiving an enriching experience."

Primarily, however, tonight's event is focused on employees, the classroom staff and support

**Primarily, however, tonight's event is focused on employees, the classroom staff and support personnel who work at locations from Port St. Joe to Calhoun, Madison, Franklin, Wakulla and Liberty counties.**

personnel who work at locations from Port St. Joe to Calhoun, Madison, Franklin, Wakulla and Liberty counties.

The event is entitled, "Ignite," and that is precisely what Hatcher and her team hopes to provide.

"We are changing the culture of our agency and lighting a fire for the staff at all our facilities," Hatcher said. "We want to ignite their passion and we will even be lighting lanterns as a symbol of what we are doing."

"But, we also know that the early child development is not looked at in the same light as schools. We want to change that in our communities and let the community know about our services."

Bobby Johns, football coach and athletic director at Wewahatchka Jr./Sr. High School, will be the guest speaker.

"There will also be a lot of mingling and time for the staff to relax and

get to know each other," Hatcher said.

One mission, forging a family atmosphere.

"If we build that family atmosphere, everybody benefits," said Andi Morgan, a family and community partnership specialist at NFCD.

"We value them with their training and caring about their compassion for their jobs," Morgan continued.

North Florida Child Development first took shape, in the mind and heart of president and CEO Sharon Gaskin, in 1993 and was incorporated in 2001.

In the past 17 years, the agency has offered a range of services beyond the core of Head Start and Early Head Start programs.

While becoming one of the largest employers in the region.

There are 180 alone employed in Gulf County, serving more than 400 children and families.

And that does not include the HIPPIY program, which works with parents and families outside the classroom and in their homes.

"People don't realize the amount of jobs we provide the community and the stability we provide in child education and development," Hatcher said.

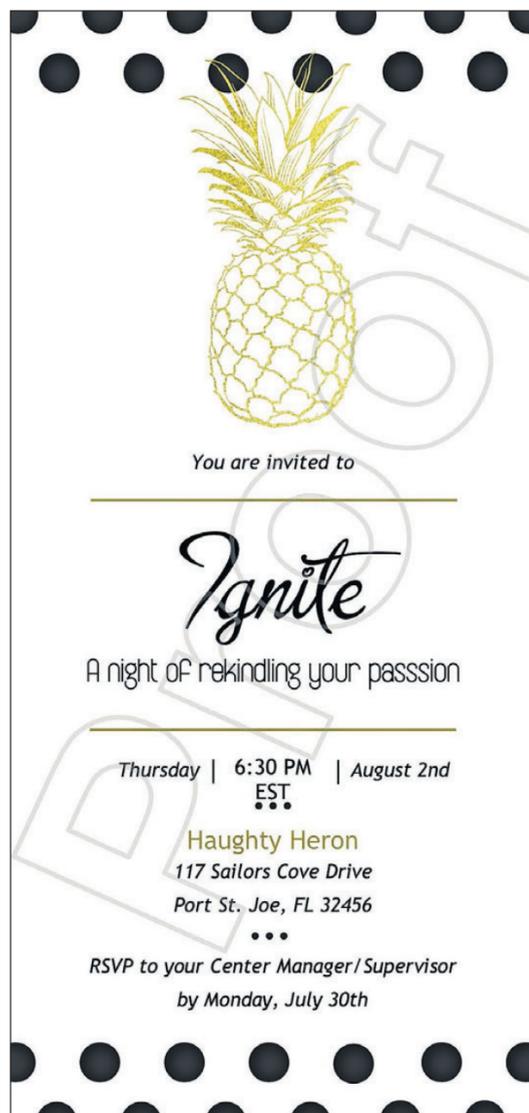
The HIPPIY program is a pet project for Hatcher, who during her stints as an elementary teacher in the public schools saw first-hand the results of children who did not have education advocates in their households.

"I saw what happens when you lose parental engagement," Hatcher said. "We want to teach parents how to be advocates for their child."

In addition to the learning, Morgan noted, NFCD also provides health screenings and catches disabilities before the entrance into the public schools.

The overarching theme at NFCD: school readiness.

"When they arrive at the public schools the kids are prepped for success," Hatcher said. "They are set for success."



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## Ignite

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Thursday | 6:30 PM | August 2nd  
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RSVP to your Center Manager/Supervisor  
by Monday, July 30th

## 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/GCSCSuperSaturday](http://bit.ly/GCSCSuperSaturday) or contact Merissa Hudson at 769.1551, ext. 4888.

## 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 PortStJoe1116@yahoo.com.

## New decals support Florida's manatees, sea turtles

Special to The Star

Florida's waters and beaches are not only popular with people, but are also key habitats for manatees and sea turtles. More of these iconic species live here than in any other state. The manatee and sea turtle decals, created by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), are a fun way for people to support the research, rescue and management efforts that conserve these species.

Every July, the FWC introduces new manatee and sea turtle decals that are available with a \$5 donation. The waterproof decals are designed to look good on a vehicle's bumper or the side of a boat. Get them when registering or re-registering a vehicle or boat at local tax collector's offices across the state.

"Florida provides critical

habitats for manatees and sea turtles," said Carol Knox, who leads the FWC's Imperiled Species Management Section.

Over 6,000 manatees swim in the state's coastal waters, rivers and freshwater springs, and about 20,000 sea turtles nest each year on Florida's Atlantic and Gulf coast beaches. The decals help fund manatee and sea turtle conservation efforts. For example, when someone calls the FWC's Wildlife Alert Hotline at 888-404-FWCC (3922) to report an injured, entangled or sick manatee or sea turtle, FWC staff works with partners to respond and rescue the animal.

The decals also spotlight important conservation issues:

- The "I'm making a difference" manatee decal shows several manatees, including a mother and calf. The back of the decal

notes that the manatee is now classified as a threatened species, rather than an endangered species, under the federal Endangered Species Act. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced this change in early 2017, a signal that efforts to conserve the state's marine mammal are succeeding.

- The "Shield your lights for a sea turtle friendly night" sea turtle decal shows an adult female loggerhead on the beach against a background of darkened buildings. The back of the decal reports nearly 97,000 loggerhead nests were counted during the 2017 sea turtle nesting season. It reminds people to manage beachfront lights to protect nesting and hatching sea turtles during nesting season, which continues through the end of October, and offers other tips on helping sea turtles.

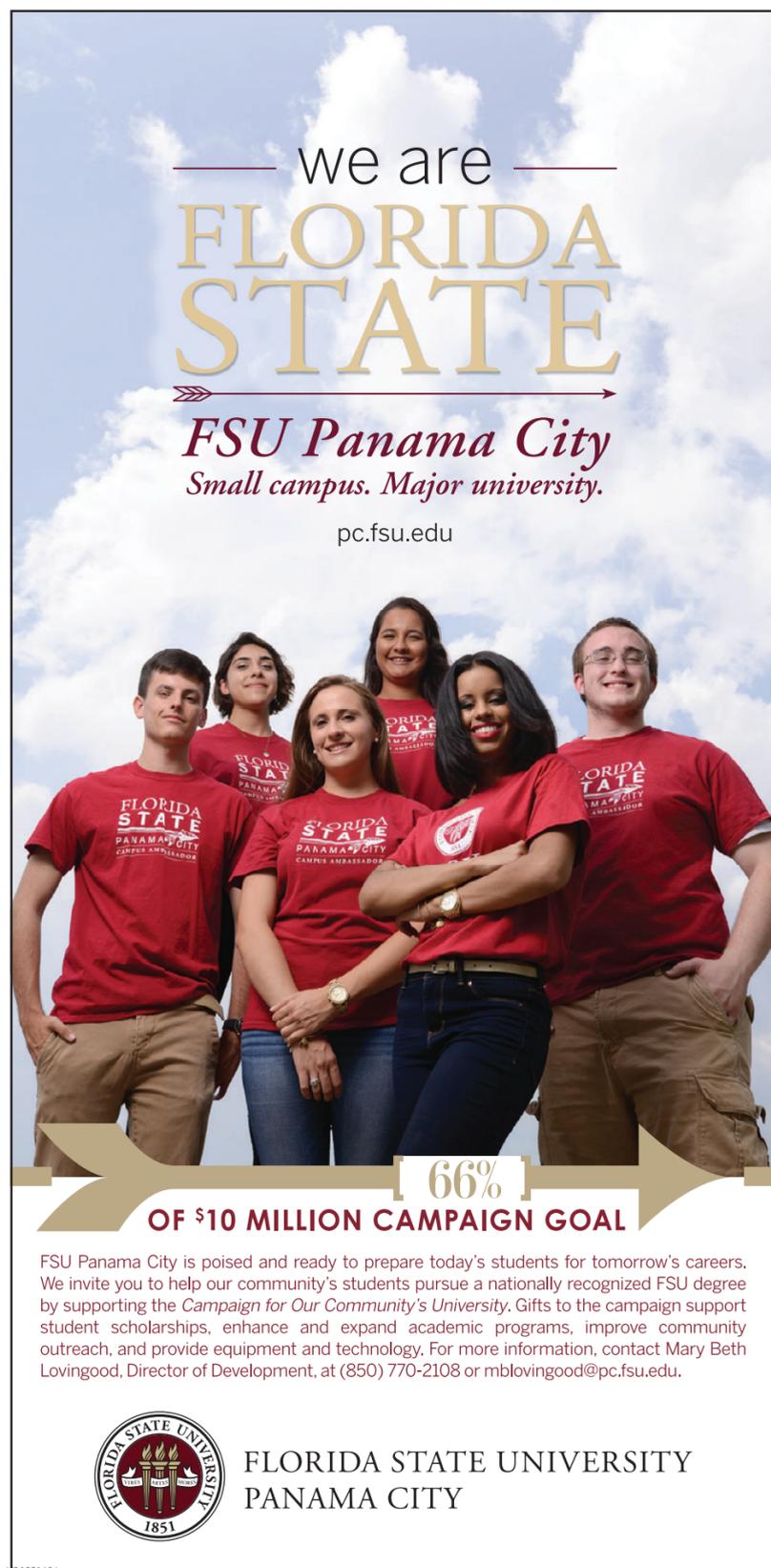
## PSJES Title I orientation

Special to The Star

Port St. Joe Elementary School will hold its Title I

Orientation on 12-1 p.m. ET, Friday, Aug. 10. Pre-K-6th

parents/guardians will meet and greet with teachers in their classrooms.



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# FAITH

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## WILLIAM F. BROWNELL SR.

Mr. William F. Brownell Sr., a long time resident of Gulf County, passed away Saturday morning in a Panama City, FL hospital. He was retired from St. Joe Container Corp. He loved fishing and hunting and was a loving husband, father, and grandfather.

Survivors include his wife, Ruthie Brownell; three children, Regina Hall, Jayne Smith, and Frankie Brownell; his step-children, Frances Ruis, Merita Pickron, David Cooper, and Cliff Cooper; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren and four sisters,

Cozetta Holmes, Beulah Benton, Edith Brownell, and Lucille Minger.

He was preceded in death by three brothers and one sister.

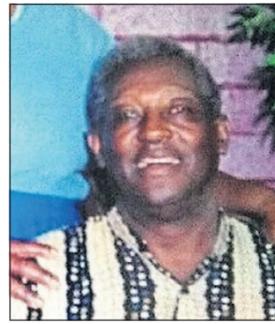
Services will be held at 10 a.m. CDT on Thursday, August 2, 2018 at Kinard Community Holiness Church, conducted by Sister Polly Armstrong. Interment will follow in Cypress Creek Cemetery. The family will receive friends at the church for an hour prior to the service.

All services are under the direction of Comforter Funeral Home.

## ELDER HOWARD GARLAND JR.

Elder Howard Garland Jr. age 80 of Port Saint Joe, Florida and formerly of Cairo, Georgia went home to be with the Lord on Friday July 27, 2018 at Bay Medical Center in Panama City, Florida.

He is survived by his sons: Mitchal Garland (Marjorie) of Killeen, Texas, Anthony Garland (Carolyn) of Tallahassee, Florida, Donnell Garland (Tammi) of Tallahassee, Florida, Drexel Garland (Shabral) of San Angelo, Texas, Billy Charles Martin (Verine) of Crestview, Florida, James Fenn and Tommy Garland both of Port St. Joe, Florida; brothers and sisters: Clyde Garland (Mary) of Orlando, Florida, Kenny Garland (Penny) of Atlanta,



Georgia, Darin Garland of Port St. Joe, Florida, Patricia Leslie (Charles) of Miami, Florida, Annette Torres (Carlos) of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and Debra Garland of Phoenix, Arizona; brothers and sister-in-law: Waymon Bryant of Port St. Joe, Florida, John

Bryant (Noy) of Panama City, Florida; great uncle: Frederick Garland (Olivia) of Newark, New Jersey; numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

Visitation will be Friday, August 3, 2018, 3-7 p.m. CT at the funeral home in Graceville, FL.

Funeral services will be held Saturday August 4, 2018 at 11 a.m. EST at The Body Of Christ Jesus Church in Harbor 106 Harbor St, in Port Saint Joe, Florida.

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

## KAREN SUE EVAN LEDBETTER

Karen Sue Evans Ledbetter went to be with the Lord on Tuesday, July 24, 2018. She passed peacefully from her home in Florida.

Karen was born on July 27, 1939 in Victoria, Texas. She graduated from Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas and received her Master's Degree from Troy University in Troy, Alabama. She then attended Auburn University where she received her Alabama Teaching Certificate.

Karen touched many lives during her teaching career. She taught in Alabama at Scott Preparatory School and 37 years in the Lee County Public School system.

Karen and Earl led a full life in Beauregard,

Alabama raising two sons, working, and running a farm. She loved gardening and was a wonderful cook. They relocated to St. Joe Beach, Florida in 2000 where they were active in their church, fished, and enjoyed life!

Karen is survived by her husband of 59 years, Earl, her brother Bill Evans, her sons Carleton (Kerry), and Steven, grandsons Jackson, Walker, and Will, and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

A memorial will be held on Friday, Aug. 3, 2018 at 10 a.m. CST at Providence Baptist Church in Opelika, Alabama.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Alzheimer's Foundation.

## MICKEY RAY PETERS Sep 30, 1961 - July 23, 2018

A celebration of the life of Mickey Ray Peters was held on 2 p.m. Friday, July 27, at the Honeyville United Methodist Church.

The people that knew Mickey well will tell you he was a big man with a big heart and soul; a great sense of humor, quick witted, beautiful smile and a contagious laugh. He had a temper too and would let you know when you crossed the line, but a quick forgiver. Mickey deeply loved his family, especially his momma and his dog. He enjoyed sitting with friends, driving fast cars, motorcycles, target shooting, an occasional smoke and loud music. He was an artist and could draw

and paint masterpieces. He was good people, knew no stranger and would give his last dollar to anyone that needed it; giving quite a few dollars in his life. He took some hard knocks that tested his faith, but persevered.

Mickey came into the world on Sep 30, 1961, from Athens, Greece. He traversed across three continents to spend most of his 56 years in Gulf county Florida until God called him home on July 23, 2018. He was preceded in death by loving parents, Travis and Joyce Peters; grandparents, Willie Mae and Dewey Pelham; survived by his favorite sister, Janet Peters Covarrubio, Ernest

Covarrubio (in-law); nephew, Joshua; nieces, Christina, Alexandrya and Dallas; his favorite dog, Boomer; aunt, Barbara Mapes; cousins, Ann Nunnery, Jon Rector, Terri Carter, Donna Stitz, Rick Mapes, Ronnie Mapes, Kim Pelham Howell, Angie Pelham Thompson, Bobby Smith, Linda Ramsey. For his many Wewa friends, neighbors, church family, customers and past acquaintances, stop by and retell the stories he can no longer tell, be good to his family and remember him fondly. Rest In Peace sweet brother, cousin, uncle, nephew, friend!

Services were under the direction of Comforter Funeral Home.

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**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

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Discipleship Training.....5:00 pm  
Evening Worship.....6:30 pm  
Wednesday Night.....7:00 pm

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

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

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Morning worship all ages 10:00 AM

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Children & Youth Ministry 6:00 PM

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## WHAT SOUTHERN FOLKS EAT

## Tomatoes just taste better in the South



Stephanie Hill-Fraizer

**“There ain’t nothing better in life than true love and a homegrown tomato.”**

– Anonymous

W e tomato lovers all know how much personal joy and anticipation the purchase of fresh, sun-ripened tomatoes from a farm stand or farmers market brings to our lives. The only thing better is picking those warm red tomatoes off our own vines in the garden on a hot Southern summer afternoon. Sometimes, of course, when we’re having a tomato craving, we buy them at the store, and there it can be the luck of the draw as far as taste goes, unless your local store purchases from local farmers, too. (If they do, say thank you!)

Unfortunately, some grocery store tomatoes lack an important quality in tomatoes: flavor. This is said to be because they’re picked days before they’ve ripened, tossed into a cold storage truck, and sent on their way across the country to various grocery stores. The problem with this, according to scientists, is that there are enzymes in tomatoes that develop the tomatoes’ flavor as they ripen, but picking and chilling halts that process. This is also why home growers are advised not to place their own tomatoes in the fridge, as a rule.

Well, good news: There are solutions. Here are some tips for keeping your tomatoes fresh longer and increasing the flavor of chilled tomatoes.

1. According to scientist Jinhe Bai, if you have too many tomatoes and want to refrigerate the fully-ripe tomatoes to keep them from spoiling, immerse them in 125-degree-Fahrenheit water for five minutes first, then let them cool to room temperature. They can then be refrigerated, Bai says, retaining their flavor and freshness longer. Always bring them to room temperature again before eating for fullest, sweetest flavor.

2. According to the food geniuses at America’s Test Kitchen, tomatoes off the vine quickly begin to rot by the entry of airborne bacteria at the stem end of the fruit. There are two ways to keep bacteria from entering as easily through the stem end, they say, thereby extending the tomato’s life. First, store them at room temperature on a completely flat surface with the stem end down, so that air cannot easily reach it. Most of us store them in bowls on the counter, soon finding a drippy, messy tomato amongst the fresh ones. Spreading them into a single layer will help that issue! Don’t have enough space to spread out all those tomatoes? Then try number 3...

3. Place a piece of tape on the stem end, sealing it off from air exposure. The test kitchen folks say that the tomatoes will keep at least a week this way, as opposed to a couple of days without it. What a simple solution!

Now that we know how to extend the life of our fresh tomatoes, let’s talk about

the best part: eating them!

I will tell you right now, my favorite way to eat fresh tomatoes involves fresh bread, salt and pepper, and Duke’s Mayonnaise. This was the most inspired recipe my dad ever taught me, I think, and that says a lot, because he has always been quite a cook! His shrimp Creole is the stuff dreams are made of, but his summer tomato and Duke’s mayo sandwich recipe surpassed even that, in my opinion.

Well, after I get my fill of those glorious sandwiches, there many are other ways I like to use the beautiful produce that are just about as wonderful. For instance, my unique ratatouille.

I developed this recipe for Southern-style ratatouille to take advantage of not only fresh tomatoes, but also of fresh squash, onions, and more! Ratatouille is a French vegetable stew, which traditionally features eggplant, green bell pepper, onion, tomatoes, and zucchini, along with herbs. In my recipe, I’ve added a Southern twist by including green tomatoes and yellow crookneck squash. The pickled green tomatoes add a hint of zing that no one else’s ratatouille has; it really wakes up the flavor!

I also used red bell pepper instead of green to heighten the sweetness a bit. Sometimes ratatouille can meld into a single flavor, but this one manages to hit several fabulous flavor notes that I think you’ll appreciate as much as I do.

#### Southern-style Ratatouille

Serves 3-4

• 1 small eggplant, peeled and

and cubed into small dice

- Milk, enough to cover cubed eggplant
- 1 large or two smaller yellow squash, peeled (for larger ones) and chopped
- 1 medium sweet white onion, chopped
- 1 small red bell pepper, seeded and chopped
- 1 small green tomato, peeled, diced small
- Red wine vinegar
- 2 large cloves of garlic, minced, or two teaspoons jarred minced garlic
- Salt and pepper
- 3 medium tomatoes, cut in half
- Sliced mushrooms (optional)
- ¼ cup olive oil

#### Suggested herbs:

- 2-3 stems thyme
- 1 bay leaf
- 3 stems parsley leaves

#### Method:

**1. Make the pickled green tomatoes:** place the diced green tomato in a bowl, and cover with the vinegar. Soak in vinegar for the entire time you’re cooking, a minimum of 30 minutes.

**2. Prep the eggplant:** place the diced eggplant into a medium mixing bowl, and sprinkle with a teaspoon of salt. Cover eggplant with milk, and allow to soak at least 30 minutes. This step is crucial, as the eggplant pieces are like sponges and need to absorb this liquid in order to be creamy, delicious, and less likely to scorch.

3. In your largest skillet or a Dutch oven, pour in ¼ cup olive oil, and heat over medium to medium-high heat. When hot, add onion, and saute for 10 minutes, stirring frequently, until golden. If they seem to be getting too dark, lower heat a bit

and continue stirring.

4. Add garlic to the onions, and saute for two more minutes.

5. Drop in the eggplant, bell pepper, yellow squash, and mushrooms. Stir in, allowing to cook for ten minutes while you prepare tomatoes. Add another tablespoon oil if pan is too dry.

6. Tomatoes will become a flavorful pulp in this recipe (or skip this step and just peel and chop them.) Cut tomatoes in half, and use a box grater to scrape them into a bowl. Discard the skins. The three tomatoes will make a beautiful, flavorful pink pulp that will flavor every vegetable in the ratatouille.

7. Stir in the tomato pulp, and then add herbs. Tie stems together with kitchen string to make an easy-to-remove bouquet garni, or simply drop the herbs in and be careful to remove the stems before serving.

8. Simmer the stew for 15 to 20 minutes over low heat. During last five minutes before serving, drain the pickled green tomatoes, then add them to the pan. Stir in, allowing to warm.

Top with grated Parmesan cheese, if desired.

Serve this fantastic stew alongside grilled fish, chicken or shrimp, a juicy burger or steak (perfect for dad’s Father’s Day dinner!), or just about anything you can think of.

Ratatouille also makes a great cold appetizer, served with warm baguette toasts as a topping. It can be used to make fantastic tacos, as well, paired with fish or shrimp, perhaps. The ideas are practically endless, aren’t they?

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## Port St. Joe Youth Soccer Fall Registration



Port St Joe Youth Soccer registration for the fall soccer season will be held on Friday August 17th and 24th from 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm, Saturday August 18th and 25th from 9:00 am until 1:00pm at the STAC House.

The STAC House is located on 8th street in Port St Joe. Boys and Girls born from 2006 – 2014 are invited to play soccer. No experience is necessary and this is a co-ed league. Bring a copy of your child’s birth certificate to the registration if they have not played in our league before. Registration fee is \$60 per player including uniforms. A limited number of partial scholarships available. Coaches, referees, and sponsors are needed – please sign up at the time of registration!

Register Online (Optional): [www.PSJYouthSoccer.com](http://www.PSJYouthSoccer.com)

### Port St. Joe Youth Soccer

PO Box 655, Port St Joe, FL 32457

Phone: (850) 527-6055, email: [JustinG@StJoeBay.com](mailto:JustinG@StJoeBay.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/PortStJoeYouthSoccer](http://www.facebook.com/PortStJoeYouthSoccer)



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ARBOR OUTLOOK

# War Eagle, Perseverance and Loudon Wainwright III



Margaret McDowell

**T**his summer I went swimming...this summer I might have drowned; But I held my breath and I kicked my feet and I moved my arms around..."

"The Swimming Song" by Loudon Wainwright III

His parents named him Ambrose, and he could swim before he could walk. A venturesome and active toddler, he was nicknamed Rowdy. Often he would roll off the dock and into the water at his parents' central Florida lakefront home, frightening friends and relatives. But he always popped back up like a cork on a fishing line. By eight months, he was dog paddling 20 feet or more.

In his second year of competition, he won a Florida state high school championship and was awarded a scholarship to Auburn University.

At Auburn, he set school records, was a five-time NCAA champion, and established himself as one of the fastest swimmers in the U.S. Eventually he would set ten world

records. He loved school and competing for the university, but his ultimate goal was to represent our country in the 1980 Olympic Games.

How good was Rowdy Gaines? In 1981, he was voted the Athlete of the Year in the South-eastern Conference.

The Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in 1980, and rather than send our athletes to Moscow, President Carter decreed that we would boycott the Games there. Gaines was devastated. He had missed his window.

Sprint swimming was for young men, not 25 year-olds, the age he would be at the 1984 Summer Games in L.A. He left the pool for several months before his father convinced him to return to his workout regimen and try again in '84.

Gaines had little money, and often swam his morning practice after working all night at a local motel. In L.A., he won three gold medals. Seven years later he was afflicted with Guillain-Barre' syndrome and became temporarily paralyzed. After recovering, he returned to the pool, and at age 35 became the oldest competitor to qualify for the 1996 Olympic swimming trials.

I am not a swim fan per se', but I recently watched a documentary on Gaines' life

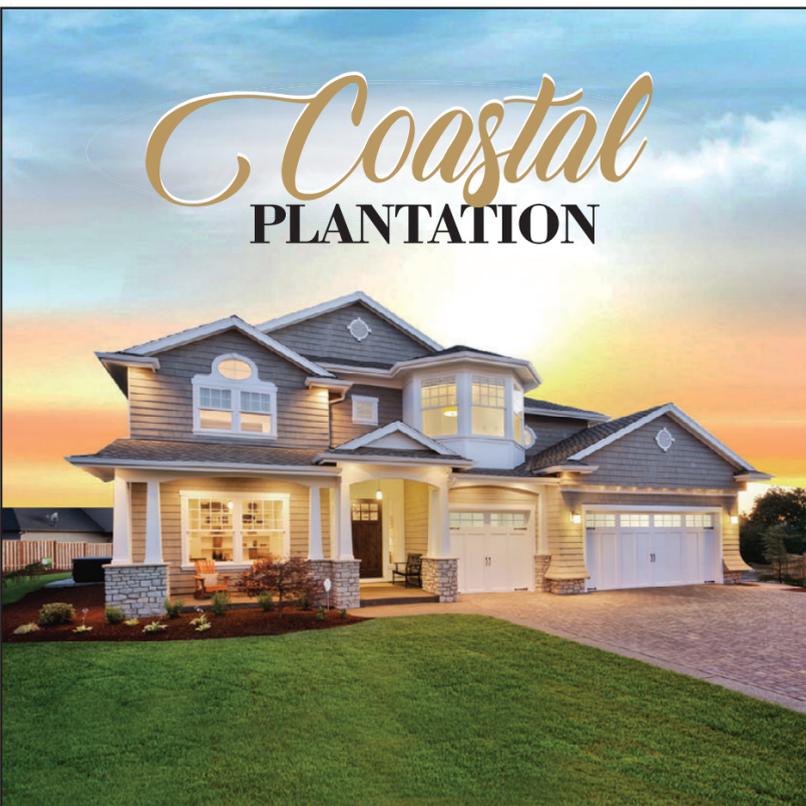
and was astounded at his perseverance.

We need a similar commitment in our financial lives to become and remain successful. We all experience hurdles and setbacks; the road to financial security is rarely smooth and straight. It takes willpower and sacrifice to become financially successful and provide for a comfortable retirement.

Many of us have faced burdensome debt, made poor financial decisions, and experienced financial misfortune. Most successful folks can recall more than a few mishaps.

The question is: how do we respond to economic adversity? We can allow ourselves to sink. Or we can rise again to the surface and pull ourselves across the water.

*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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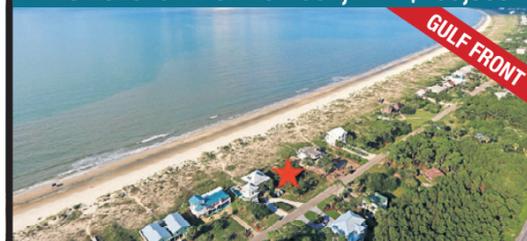
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## REMEMBER

From Page B1

Three entire stories, actually pieces of a long story, detail all the recreational and entertainment opportunities available to youngsters growing up in Port St. Joe.

And, Swatts, acknowledged, some of his memories were not entirely fit to print. "There are a few stories that are not due to tell," he said. "There are stories I could have told that I knew I shouldn't."

The process of transforming stories on typed pages to a bound volume took a bit of time, but during the last week of June the book was released on Amazon.

"I was concerned about it until it came out," Swatts said. "I told my wife before that she needed to buy one copy for herself and one for our dog, that way at least two copies would be sold."

"I've been pleased with comments I have received, from people I knew and people I never knew about who enjoyed it."

Additionally, he has provided something to pass on to future generations, of his family and those who roots trace to Port St. Joe.

"Absolutely," Swatts said, adding the book is about preserving local lore for the benefit of "family, friends and acquaintances."

"The Way I Remember It" is available locally at The Brick Wall, No Name Café and Books, Joseph's Cottage, all on Reid Ave., and can be found on Amazon.

The Port St. Joe Public Library will host an upcoming book signing Aug. 14.

## CLIFFORD EUGENE JONES SR.

The life of Clifford Eugene Jones Sr. began on April 28, 1940, in Port St. Joe, Florida, to his parents, Pauline Jones and Samuel Jefferson Henderson.

Clifford was raised by a praying family who loved him and taught him the value of love, respect and hard work. He lived by the motto of the family, first. Clifford was a praying man and loved the Lord. His passion was sports, particularly basketball. So much so that he was given a free lifetime membership pass to enter all high school sports in the State of Florida. Clifford was united in holy matrimony to Sandra McKelvy on February 5, 1975. He

was affectionately known as "Kill" and "Boss man." Clifford retired from the Department of Corrections where he worked in food service. He loved to cook and feed people. Clifford was loved and respected by his family and those with whom he came in contact.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Pauline Jones-Parker, his step-mother Inez Henderson, his father Samuel Henderson and his step-father, Will Parker; his son, Clifford Eugene Jones Jr. and his daughter, Pauline Denise Jones; his brothers Samuel Henderson, Early Carl Henderson and sisters Frances Henderson, Callie Ambers,

Lillie Barnes and Shirley Pittman; and his grand-daughter, Carmine "Shumon" Lee.

He leaves to cherish his memory his loving wife Sandra Denise Jones; five sons, Darelle Lockley Sr. of Jefferson, Louisiana, Gerald Dawson, Bruce Jones (Stacy) and Cornelius "C.J." of Panama City, Florida, as well as Price Jones (Israa) of Sacramento, California; two daughters, Patricia Jones (Robert) of Apalachicola, Florida, and Alocyndor Underwood (Mandrcka) of Lakeland, Florida; three brothers, Theodore Henderson (Erlene) of Lakeland Florida, Dr. Marvin Henderson (Irene) of Cottondale, Florida;

six sisters, Olivia Godbold, Eula Johnson, Evelyn Pittman (Joe), Josephine Lewis (Alfonzia) of Jacob City, Florida, Latrice Henderson of Hampton, Virginia and Rosetta Parker of Port St. Joe; thirty grandchildren and forty-one great-grandchildren; special niece Sylvia Forward; special friends Amos Pittman, Charles Beachum and Isaac "Bo leg" Thomas; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and other relatives and friends.

Services were held Saturday July 28, 2018, at Body of Christ Church in Port St. Joe, Florida.

Services were under the direction of Comforter Funeral Home.

## MARCIA KNAPKE

Marcia E. Knapke, of Port St. Joe, FL, and wife of Mark Knapke, passed away Sunday, July 29, 2018 at Sacred Heart on the Gulf surrounded by her family.

The family will have a memorial service 5-8 p.m. EST Thursday, Aug. 2, 2018 at Spring Place Baptist Church, 441 GA 225 Chatsworth, GA 30705. A gathering to celebrate Marcia's life will be held 8-10 p.m. EST Sunday, Aug. 12, 2018 at South Gulf County

Fire Department located at 7590 Cape San Blas Road Port St. Joe, FL 32456. Her ashes will be scattered in Key West, FL at a later date according to Whatley Funeral Services 507 10th Street Port St. Joe, FL 32456.

Marcia, daughter of the late Willie and Ruth Messer, and late Martha Ann McConkey, was born February 26, 1956 in Chatsworth, GA. She worked in sales, recently retiring from vacation rentals. Marcia was "the most famous person in

the room," she loved to socialize and loved Key West, where she met her husband Mark. They were married for over fifteen years. She spent her time painting, gardening, and enjoying arts and crafts. Marcia was a big supporter of the Volunteer South Gulf County Fire Department at Cape San Blas.

She is survived by her husband, Mark Knapke of Port St. Joe at St. Joseph Peninsula State Park; daughter, Keleigh J. Dyer of Chatsworth, GA;

son, US Navy MCPO H. Lee Dyer (Promise) of Guam; grandchildren, Hunter, Santiago, Alec Dyer, and Joshua Dover; sisters, Chrissie Booth of Chatsworth, GA and Shawn Berry of Crystal Springs, MS; numerous other relatives and friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family request memorial contributions to the South Gulf County Volunteer Fire Department 240 Cape San Blas Road Port St. Joe, FL 32456 or www.sgcfire.com.

## VISIT

From Page B1

Fast forward and when Eells found the young green turtle last Friday in Highland View, she had no way of knowing this was the same turtle.

Fauth also did not realize it

while transporting the turtle to Gulf World last Saturday.

It's not as if turtles are replete with distinguishing individual characteristics: scientists can not discern lots about sea turtles, including male from female until maturity.

Fauth arrived at Gulf World having given the turtle the moniker "Josie."

After Gulf World folks swept

up "Josie" for the rehab center, Fauth received a tour of the facility.

Near the end of the tour, a member of the Gulf World staff and told Fauth, "It's Paddy."

"Yep, Josie was Paddy," Fauth said. "It turned out that Gulf World chips those (turtles) that are released to better track them and I'd say the system is working."



When found, Paddy had a compression fracture of the head. [SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

## FORUM

From Page B1

Hammond has called the ordinance a nightmare to enforce.

As for LNT, faced with criticism in recent weeks regarding the lack of enforcement efforts, commissioners will take up a recommendation from Hammond to take a more "common sense" approach.

That would primarily be

to keep the beaches "open and safe," continue a ban on glass on the beach and burning of manufactured wood, but not delve too deep into the tagging and removing of property left on the beach.

Hammond, a non-elected official, has argued the LNT ordinance was an overreach by the then-BOCC and, much like the RV ordinance, presents myriad challenges regarding enforcement.

Both the RV and LNT ordinances were in large measure heavily lobbied for by the CCA membership.

And last week, Dr. Pat Hardman, president of the CCA argued that every other "beach" county in Florida has a LNT ordinance which the county enforces to some extent.

"There has to be a way here," she said.

A complicating factor, and a key reason why the public forum aims to bring in a cross-section of coastal residents, is that the county's beaches are markedly different depending on location.

The peninsula and Cape beaches differ, as do those of

St. Joe Beach and Indian Pass.

The debate over LNT is also clouded by state law, and a governor's directive regarding the new law, passed in the spring.

That bill, controversially, blocked local governments from passing measures allowing continued public entry to privately-owned beaches; a judge must approve such a move.

The bill, which arose from an issue in Walton County, has left many coastal counties wondering about the impacts.

County attorney Jeremy Novak said the local impacts should be negligible.

The county has laws, such as beach driving, which go back decades and support the concept of "customary use" of the beaches, he said.

In addition, beach restoration which took place a decade ago, and another project slated to begin this month, using public dollars, would lean in favor of preventing property owners, who sign agreements for restoration in front of their properties, from cutting off public access.



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

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

**21134S**  
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FPID #435344-1-58-01  
BID #1718-22

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

**DAVID B. LANGSTON DRIVE SIDEWALK**

This project includes construction of approximately 936 LF of 5' wide concrete sidewalk, thermoplastic striping, and minor drainage improvements along David B. Langston Drive in Port St. Joe, Florida.

Plans and specifications can be obtained by contacting Lianna Sagins, Gulf County Grants at [lsagins@gulfcounty-fl.gov](mailto:lsagins@gulfcounty-fl.gov) or 850.229.6144 and on the County's website at <http://www.gulfcounty-fl.gov/cms/One.aspx?portalId=6501074&pageId=9099352>. The bid must conform to Section 287.133(3) Florida Statutes, on public entity crimes.

The contractor shall be FDOT pre-qualified in the following work classes to submit a bid as a prime contractor: Drainage, Grading, Grassing, Seeding, and Sodding.

This project is federally funded with assistance

**LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100**

from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). By submitting a bid, the company certifies that no principal (which includes officers, directors, or executives) is presently suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal Department or Agency.

Completion date for this project will be 60 days from the date of the Notice to Proceed presented to the successful bidder. Liquidated damages for failure to complete the project on the specified date will be set at \$964.00 per day.

Please place **YOUR COMPANY NAME**, this is a **SEALED BID**, and the **BID NUMBER** on the outside of your envelope and include the original bid plus 3 copies.

Bids will be received until 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time, on Monday, August 27, 2018 at the Gulf County Clerk's Office, 1000 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd., Room 149, Port St. Joe, Florida 32456, and will be opened and read aloud at a meeting of the Board of County Commissioners held in the Donald H. Butler Commission Chamber in the Robert M. Moore Administration Building, Gulf County Courthouse Complex, Port St. Joe, Florida on the following day, **Tuesday, August 28, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. Eastern Time.**

A bid must be accompanied by bid security in an amount of 5% of bidder's maximum bid price. All bids shall remain firm for a period of sixty days after the opening. All bidders shall comply with all applicable State and local laws concerning licensing, registration, and regulation of contractors doing business in the State of Florida.

The Board of County Commissioners reserves the right to waive informalities in any bid, to accept and/or reject any and all bids. If the contract is to be awarded, it will be awarded to the lowest responsive bidder. All bids shall remain firm for a period of sixty days after the opening.

All questions must be addressed in writing and emailed to Lianna Sagins at [lsagins@gulfcounty-fl.gov](mailto:lsagins@gulfcounty-fl.gov).

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
/s/ Sandy Quinn,  
Chairman  
Pub August 2, 9, 16, 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](mailto:wborders@gulfk12.fl.us) or faxed by calling 850-229-8369. Pub July 26, August 2, 2018

**21200S NOTICE OF**

**LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100**  
**PUBLIC SALE**

Hwy 22 Storage  
1249 Hwy 22,  
Wewahitchka, FL 32465

#Q-3 David Wynn  
#Q-17 Gwen Jackson  
#Q-18 Chris Cobb  
#1 Pixie Arendt  
#43 Fred Kemp  
#45 Wm Sanders  
# C-8 Tina Messick  
#L-10 Dennis Shiver  
Building 7 Kay Brooks  
#D-cc Kay Brooks

Units for sale August 14, 2018, 8:30 A.M. if payments are not brought up to date. Pub August 2, 9, 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.

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 DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS 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@costinlaw.com](mailto:ccostin@costinlaw.com)

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

**21283S NOTICE FOR SEALED PROPOSALS**

**LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100**

32320  
**Type of Response Allowed:** Hard Copy Only  
**Issuing Agency:** Apalachicola Bay Charter School  
**Special Notices:** Insurance Required  
**ACCEPTING VENDOR QUESTIONS:**  
**Due Date:** 8/16/2018 prior to 2:00 PM E.S.T.  
Primary Contact Name: Elizabeth Kirvin, Assistant Principal  
**E m a i l :** [ekirvin@abceagles.org](mailto:ekirvin@abceagles.org)

**SUMMARY OF SPECIFICATIONS:**  
The Apalachicola Bay Charter School is accepting sealed proposals to provide Physical Therapy Services in accordance with the specifications, terms and conditions stated herein. The scope of work will include providing physical therapy services to special education students as specified by their Individualized Educational Plans (IEP).  
Pub: August 2, 2018

**21285S NOTICE FOR SEALED PROPOSALS**

**Deadline:** 08/17/18 prior to 10:00 AM E.S.T.  
**Delivery Point:** Apalachicola Bay Charter School, 98 12th Street, Apalachicola, FL 32320  
**Type of Response Allowed:** Hard Copy Only  
**Issuing Agency:** Apalachicola Bay Charter School  
**Special Notices:** Insurance Required  
**ACCEPTING VENDOR QUESTIONS:**  
**Due Date:** 8/16/2018 prior to 2:00 PM E.S.T.  
Primary Contact Name: Elizabeth Kirvin, Assistant Principal  
**E m a i l :** [ekirvin@abceagles.org](mailto:ekirvin@abceagles.org)

**SUMMARY OF SPECIFICATIONS:**  
The Apalachicola Bay Charter School is accepting sealed proposals to provide Mental Health Services in accordance with the specifications, terms and conditions stated herein. The scope of work will include providing counseling sessions to students at ABC School, and provide educational sessions to staff on how to identify mental health issues with students, coordinate care and document a multi-disciplinary approach to treatment planning.  
Pub: August 2, 2018

**21317S LEGAL NOTICE**  
**NOTICE OF LOGIC AND ACCURACY TEST**  
**PRIMARY ELECTION - AUGUST 28, 2018 GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA**

The Logic and Accuracy test for the DS200 Tabulation System and the Automark Touch Screen System to be used for the August 28, 2018 Primary Election will be held at the Gulf County Supervisor of Elections Office, 401 Long Ave, Port St Joe on August 8, 2018 - 9:30 AM EST. This test is open to the public.

John M. Hanlon  
Supervisor of Elections  
Gulf County, Florida  
Pub: August 2, 2018

**21333S PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that Best American Storage Manager LLC dba Americas Mini Storage located at 141 Commerce Blvd Port St Joe, FL 32456, intends to offer for sale the personal property described below to enforce a lien imposed under the Self Storage Facility Act Statutes 83.801-83.809. Unit B00014, 10x15 unit, household goods, Leslie Strickland, 619 Marvin Ave Port St Joe, FL 32456. The auction will

**LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100**

take place at 11am EST Aug 27, 2018. The auction will be held online on [www.storagetreasures.com](http://www.storagetreasures.com)

Notice is hereby given that Best American Storage Manager LLC dba Americas Mini Storage located at 141 Commerce Blvd Port St Joe, FL 32456, intends to offer for sale the personal property described below to enforce a lien imposed under the Self Storage Facility Act Statutes 83.801-83.809. Unit C00060, 5x10 unit, household goods, Breanna Bryant, 408 Gulf Aire Drive Apt A Port St Joe, FL 32456. The auction will take place at 11am EST Aug 27, 2018. The auction will be held online on [www.storagetreasures.com](http://www.storagetreasures.com)  
Pub: August 2, 9, 2018

**21391S GULF COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
FDOT FPID NO. 435344-1-68-01  
BID #1718-23

The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners is seeking civil engineering services relating to the construction engineering and inspection (CEI) of the David B. Langston Drive Sidewalk Improvement Project. The scope of this project will include construction of approximately 936 LF of 5' wide concrete sidewalk, thermoplastic striping, and minor drainage improvements along David B. Langston Drive in Port St. Joe, Florida, as identified in the County's Local Agency Participation contract with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). Consideration will be given to only those firms that are qualified pursuant to law and that have been prequalified by FDOT to perform the indicated types of work.

**Work Types:**  
10.1- Roadway Construction Engineering Inspection

**Response Deadline:**  
Friday, August 24, 2018 at 4:30 PM. ET

**Opening Date:**  
Tuesday, August 28, 2018 during the regularly scheduled Board meeting at 9:00 A.M. ET in the Donald H. Butler Board Room located in the Robert M. Moore Administration Building at 1000 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd., Port St. Joe, Florida 32456

This project is federally funded with assistance from the FDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). By submitting a letter of response, the Consultant certifies that they are in compliance with FDOT Procedure No. 375-030-006 (Restriction on Consultants Eligibility to Compete for Department Contracts) and that no principal is presently suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible or voluntarily excluded from participation on this transaction by any Federal Department Agency.

Information regarding the proposal and the complete Request for Proposals package can be obtained from Lianna Sagins, County Grants Coordinator, 850-229-6144 or [lsagins@gulfcounty-fl.gov](mailto:lsagins@gulfcounty-fl.gov). In order to ensure a fair, competitive, and open process, once a project is advertised for Letters of Qualifications, all communications between interested firms and the County must be directed to Lianna Sagins, County Grants Coordinator.

**LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100**

850-229-6144 or [lsagins@gulfcounty-fl.gov](mailto:lsagins@gulfcounty-fl.gov)

If interested, qualified consultants are required to submit the original and two (2) copies of the letter of response to the Gulf County Clerk's Office, 1000 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd., Room 149, Port St. Joe, Florida 32456 by the response deadline. Please indicate on the envelope that this is a sealed proposal for Bid #1718-23; David B. Langston Sidewalk Project CEI Services.  
Pub: August 2, 9, 16, 2018



**3100-3350 MERCHANDISE**

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

**MISCELLANEOUS 3300**

Cash paid for mortgages or notes that you collect.  
M.R. Freeman  
850-433-5039

**HELP WANTED 4100**

**HELP WANTED 4100**

**Life Management Center**  
Of Northwest Florida, Inc.  
is currently seeking  
**Full Time Counselors, Case Managers, and Nurses**

to work with children and adults in Bay, Gulf, Calhoun, Jackson, Holmes and Washington Counties.  
For more details on these and other positions, please visit us online at: <http://lmcare.org/careers/employment-opportunities>

**JOB NOTICE**  
The City of Port St. Joe (population 3,567) is accepting applications for the following position:  
**Equipment Operator I**  
**Public Works Department / Streets and Highways**

Previous heavy equipment experience preferred and at minimum the candidate must possess a Class A Commercial Driver License. Please submit an application to The City of Port St. Joe, Attn: Charlotte Pierce, P.O. Box 278, Port St. Joe, FL 32457. Applications and a full job description can be found on our website, [cityofportstjoe.com](http://cityofportstjoe.com). The position will close on August 24, 2018. The salary for the position is \$14.51 - \$16.51 per hour based on qualifications. If you have any questions, please contact Charlotte Pierce, Human Resource Officer, at (850) 229-8261.  
The City of Port St. Joe is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer and a Drug Free Workplace.

**MISCELLANEOUS 3300**

**Acorn Outdoor / Indoor Stair Lift**  
Excellent Condition  
Outdoor stair lift but always under cover of stairwell out of weather/elements. Easily used indoors. New computer board, remotes & cover. 17ft right-side travel rail. \$1,350.  
850.294.7494, [jessemckenzie50@gmail.com](mailto:jessemckenzie50@gmail.com)



**4100-4130 EMPLOYMENT**

**4100 - Help Wanted**  
**4130 - Employment Information**

**HELP WANTED 4100**

**NOW HIRING**  
Warehouse and Delivery position at Badcock & More of Port St. Joe. Must have valid Florida driver's license and be able to move heavy items.  
**APPLY IN PERSON at 515 Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Blvd. Port St Joe, FL**

Park your car in Classified and see it take off in the fast lane!  
**HELP WANTED 4100**

**JOB NOTICE**  
Gulf County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller's Office is accepting applications for two (2) full time positions.  
**Finance Clerk & Court Clerk**  
Applications and Job Descriptions are available in our office located at 1000 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd., Room 138, Port St. Joe, FL, and online at [www.gulfclerk.com](http://www.gulfclerk.com). Salary is based on experience. Successful applicants must pass criminal background checks. Applications accepted until positions are filled. You may call (850) 229-6112 ext. 2313 for further information. Gulf County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Drug-Free Workplace.

**Pro Shop and Restaurant Customer Service Worker**  
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

**MOVING/STORAGE 9512**

**MINI STORAGE**  
In Port St. Joe  
**229-6200**  
Climate Controlled Units Available  
NF-4527588

**HOUSE RENTALS 6140**



**6100-6200 REAL ESTATE FOR RENT**

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

**APARTMENT RENTALS 6110**

**Publisher's Notice**

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

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

**Let a little classified do a BIG job for you.**  
**THE TIMES**  
850-747-5020

**HOUSE RENTALS 6140**

**Sandy Beach PROPERTIES**

*The Landings*  
1 bed, 1 bath  
\$1100/month, \$1100 SD  
Comes Furnished  
- Pets Negotiable -

**NEWLY RENOVATED!**  
*Lanark Village Apartments*  
2 bed, 1 bath Unit  
\$1200/ month, \$1200 SD  
All Utilities Included  
- NO PETS -

**AVAILABLE AUGUST**  
*56-3 Parker in Lanark*  
1 bed, 1 bath, \$550/month  
\$1000 Refundable SD  
- No Pets -

**AVAILABLE AUGUST**  
*308 A 1st Street*  
2 bed, 1 bath, \$800/month  
\$1000 Refundable SD  
- No Pets -

**Please call 850-697-5300**  
to set up an appointment to let our friendly staff show you these properties!

**SELL ALL YOUR ITEMS**  
through classified. **CALL 747-5020**

**If you're ready to move and overflowing with stuff Classified can help you store it or sell it!**