



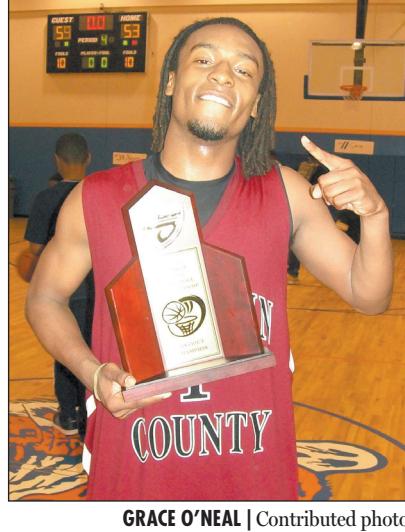
Flower season
in full bloom

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Thursday, FEBRUARY 19, 2009

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50¢



GRACE O'NEAL | Contributed photo

Seahawks senior Jeremy James cradles the District 4-2A basketball trophy after the team defeated Maclay 59-53 Saturday night.

Seahawks take school's 1st district title

By David Adlerstein
Times City Editor

The Seahawks boys basketball team wrote their names in the record books Saturday night with the first-ever district championship in any sport for Franklin County High School.

After taking apart host Jefferson County 73-62 in the District 4 opener Friday night in Monticello, the Seahawks came back Saturday night to engineer a 59-53 win over Tallahassee Maclay, with whom they had shared a regular season co-championship.

"I guess hard work pays off,"

Drake said. "This is what we went through the whole summer, lifting weights and working out. A first district title for the new school."

By bringing home an undisputed district trophy, the 23-5 Seahawks took a critically important step towards bettering their chances to nail a first-ever state Class 2A state crown in Lakeland. They secured home court advantage not only for the regional quarterfinals tonight in Eastpoint, but should they advance, also for the regional semifinals Tuesday, Feb. 24.

That game would pit the Seahawks, backed by no doubt

the largest crowd ever to pack the new gymnasium, against whoever has won the regional quarterfinal in Gulf County between Maclay and Port St. Joe. Franklin County fans should be out in droves for Thursday night's regional quarterfinals, when the Seahawks host West Gadsden.

Though Port St. Joe's 72-36 domination of West Gadsden last Saturday night in the District 3 title match suggests the Panthers might lack the claw strength to pull an upset, Coach Fred Drake isn't taking any chances.

"In the playoffs, anything can happen," he said. "I preach to my

guys that all you have to be is be the better team on a given night. I'm worried we may look past them. Their friends had already texted them the scores, and they knew the game (even before the Maclay game).

"West Gadsden hasn't played us all year. They may not have the fear of us," Drake said. "Maybe all they know about us is the football team. They may be thinking 'They're not no Port St. Joe. We can play with them.'"

John Battles, a 5-foot-10 junior guard, has been averaging 20-plus points a game for

See SEAHAWKS A9

Dan Sangaree made modern movie theater memories, Florida style

Every February marks an important anniversary for Apalachicola's Dan Sangaree.

Fifty-eight years ago, on Feb. 8, he oversaw the birth of one of the first modern movie theatres in Florida.

The DeSoto, located in Arcadia, was a modern marvel in 1951 featuring air-conditioning, a "Grand Drape" designed for both eye appeal and acoustic control, and stylish modern men's and ladies lounges. The cinema was housed in a ranch-style building, unusual for a theatre but typical of 1950s architecture.

The DeSoto was touted as one of the finest small theatres in Florida, accommodating for 709 patrons the most up-to-the-minute and luxurious theatre seats. Even the sign was of the most contemporary style. The pylon-mounted sign fashioned out of translucent plastic, with 960 blinking light bulbs known as twinkle lights, was of the last word in marketing.

The DeSoto was also unusual because few theatres were constructed in Florida in the early 1950s because of controls placed on steel consumption by the federal government, which effectively banned the construction of large buildings. Because the theater's foundation had been dug before the ban came into effect, it was grandfathered in.

The opening of the theater rated a special edition of the Arcadia paper. Sangaree received congratulatory telegrams from major stars including Bob Hope, Bing Crosby, Ray Milland, Betty Hutton and Burt Lancaster, whose film "Vengeance Valley" made its Southern premier at the DeSoto on opening night.

'I think it would be cheaper to give you a job'

Sangaree began his career in cinema as a teenager during the Depression.

"Back then, it cost about 25 cents to get into a movie, and it was nine cents for kids. A gang of us boys got together and threw in a penny apiece. I was chosen to buy a ticket and go into the theatre. Then I would go to the door and let the other boys in one at a time. I thought nobody noticed," he said.

"One night, the manager of the theatre asked me to come to his office. He said, 'I think it would be cheaper for me to give you a job than to continue as things are. You know all the ins and outs of the theatre,'" Sangaree said. "After that, I had to make them pay. That was my first job in a theatre."

Sangaree worked off and on in the Star Theatre in Arcadia for the next 18 years, taking time off to attend Emory University, then located at Oxford, Ga., and to serve in the South Pacific in World War II. Eventually, he became manager of The Star, which was owned by Universal Films, a subsidiary of Paramount.

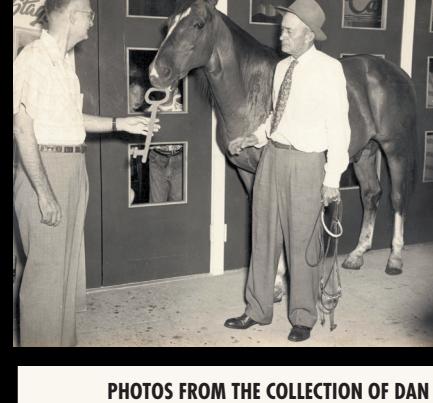
See MOVIES A5



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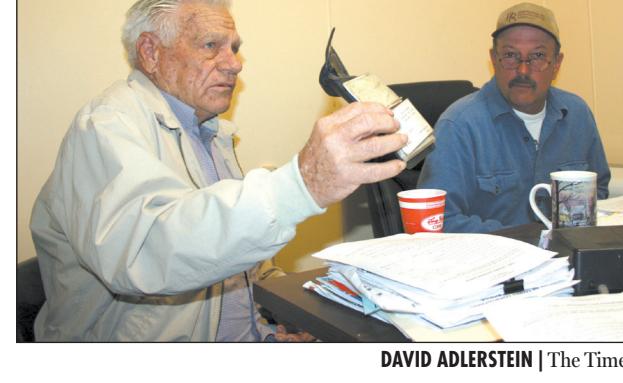
MOVIE MAN

By Lois Swoboda
Times Staff Writer



PHOTOS FROM THE COLLECTION OF DAN SANGAREE

At top, Dan Sangaree changes twinkle bulbs in the sign of the DeSoto Theatre in Arcadia. "I did pretty much everything around the theatre," he said. Above, a performing horse received the key to the city of Arcadia onstage at the DeSoto.



DAVID ADLERSTEIN | The Times

Steve Davis, left, shows off his saltwater products license to two marine economists who met with him and Dakie Ward, right, on Feb. 3 to get input on an upcoming survey of inshore shrimpers in the Gulf of Mexico.

Economists look to document shrimp industry woes

By David Adlerstein
Times City Editor

It doesn't take a handful of marine industry economists working for the federal government to tell you how dire the financial situation is for the Gulf of Mexico shrimp industry.

It's just that they need the actual numbers to prove it.

Two economists, Alex Miller with the Gulf State Marine Fishers Commission and Dr. Jack Isaacs with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, were in town last week to meet with representatives of the shrimp industry for help in kicking off a soon-to-be mailed survey of inshore shrimpers.

Davis, who along with Dakie Ward, owner of Ward and Sons Seafood, met with the marine economists Feb. 9, told how he sold off a 65-foot steel hull vessel a few years back.

"I don't have a ship I own for shrimp. I sold it for \$7,000 after I had paid \$60,000 off on it. I'm through with it, and I give him the offshore permit, too. And the hardware on

See SHRIMPING A6

Stimulus might yield new sidewalks

By Lois Swoboda
and David Adlerstein
Times Staff Writers

On the same day that President Barack Obama signed the \$787 billion stimulus plan in Denver, county commissioners got a first glimpse of just how much money might find its way to Franklin County.

County Planner Allen Pierce told the commissioners Tuesday morning that on Feb. 13, he attended the Florida Department of Transportation teleconference about the federal stimulus package and talk-

ed how FDOT intended to administer the funds.

That afternoon, Pierce drove FDOT personnel around the county and visited all 20 proposed projects submitted for funding before the end of last year. Pierce said because of guidelines imposed by the legislation, the number of proposed projects had been cut down from the original \$125 million commissioners had requested.

Pierce said the state will get about \$1.3 billion for infrastructure projects,

See STIMULUS A5



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Wall That Heals coming to Apalachicola

From April 30 to May 3, Apalachicola will host the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund traveling Wall That Heals memorial and museum, an exhibit that features a half-scale replica of the memorial and a museum that travels to communities throughout America.

Jimmy Mosconis, the former county commissioner who spearheaded the completion last year of the Veterans Memorial Plaza in Apalachicola, said the long weekend will mark the third stop on a nationwide tour of a brand new traveling wall to be dedicated in Washington next month.

The traveling wall exhibit profiles the Vietnam War, educates visitors, and features an information center with staff to provide information and assist in searching for names on the wall. The exhibit will be set up at Apalachicola's Veteran's Memorial Plaza on Market Street, next to the Three Servicemen Statue Memorial.

Since its dedication in 1996, the Wall That Heals has visited more than 300 cities and towns throughout the nation, spreading its healing legacy to millions. In addition to its U.S. tour stops, the exhibition made its first-ever international journey in April 1999 to the Four Provinces of Ireland to honor the Irish-born casualties of the Vietnam War and the Irish-Americans who served. It also has traveled to Canada.

Mosconis is working

closely with a local committee to shape details of the wall's four-day stay over the same weekend as the annual Historic Home Tour. He said tentative plans are to make May 1 a day for area children to visit and learn about the Vietnam experience.

"We look to speak at some of the classes between now and then," he said. "We're trying to teach a piece of history."

A visit to Washington to toast Tom Selleck

On Feb. 2, Mosconis traveled to Washington as a guest of Jan Scruggs, founder and president of the Memorial Fund, at a dinner held at the Newseum. Attended by such dignitaries as Nebraska Sen. Chuck Hagel, former drug czar Gen. Barry McCaffrey and former Secretary of State Colin Powell, the dinner celebrated actor Tom Selleck joining the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund as national spokesman for the new education center being built on the National Mall.

Selleck, whose recent television credits include his Emmy-nominated recurring role in the "Jesse Stone" movie of the week franchise, which airs on CBS with a new installment premiering March 1, is best known for his work on the television show "Magnum, P.I." in the 1980s.

The series was heralded in the veterans' community



PHOTO COURTESY OF VVMF

Jimmy Mosconis, left, stands with Ann Sherman Wolcott, past national president of the American Gold Star Mothers, center, and actor Tom Selleck at a Feb. 2 dinner at the Newseum in Washington, D.C., that celebrated Selleck becoming national spokesman for the new education center being built at the Vietnam Wall.

as the first positive media portrayal of Vietnam veterans. "When Magnum, P.I. came out, it constituted the first positive portrayal of Vietnam veterans in the media, which meant a great deal to those of us who served," said Scruggs.

"In 1988, Magnum's trademark wardrobe became part of the Smithsonian collection in Washington, D.C.," he said. "When we were looking for someone to help us raise awareness of this important project, Tom's name came up right away."

Selleck served in the 160th Infantry of the California Army National Guard during the Vietnam era. He feels a close connection to those who served, especially to a friend who is remem-

bered on the wall.

"Ron Montapert was my friend. Like many people our age, he went to Vietnam, but he didn't come home," said Selleck. "His name is on the memorial, and I think of him every time I go there. For him, and for all the others whose names are on the wall, for all those people who are missed every day by their friends and loved ones, I want to do all I can to get the word out about what is being planned for the education center."

Selleck has been in communication with the memorial fund since last year but needed to wrap up work on his latest film, "Jesse Stone: No Remorse," before beginning his work to promote the center.

The education center at the wall is a project developed by the Memorial Fund to help the millions of annual visitors learn about the memorial, as well as the Vietnam War. Although still in the planning stages, exhibits will include a wall of photographs of those whose names are on the wall, a selection of the more than 100,000 items that have been left at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, a timeline of key military events in the war, rotating exhibits and a resource center where visitors can find in-depth information.

A section will illustrate the legacy of service demonstrated by the American people, showing images of those who served in all the nation's conflicts, from the Revolutionary War to Iraq. The center will be built underground near the Vietnam Veterans and Lincoln memorials at an estimated cost of \$75 million to \$100 million. Nearly \$18 million has been raised so far, including a \$10 million lead gift from Time Warner.

The capital campaign to raise money for and awareness about the center is being kicked off this year, and Selleck, as well as other celebrities, are filming public service announcements this month to raise awareness for the project.

Also, Selleck will be in Washington next month for the unveiling of the new trailer for the Wall That Heals, the half-scale replica of the wall that travels

around the country, bringing the messages of healing and education to people who might not otherwise be able to visit the memorial. There are several replicas of the wall in existence, but the Wall That Heals is the only one with a traveling museum. The museum is housed in the trailer that is used to transport the replica between communities.

This year, the entire exhibit has been revamped by Ralph Appelbaum Associates, the museum design firm planning the exhibits for the Memorial Center. This makes the new Wall That Heals museum a smaller version of what is being planned for the center. Selleck will be on hand for the ceremony March 26 to unveil the new museum to the public and to talk about the education center.

Established in 1979, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund is the nonprofit organization authorized by Congress to build the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Today, the Memorial Fund is an international nongovernmental organization dedicated to preserving the legacy of the wall, promoting healing and educating about the impact of the Vietnam War. Its initiatives include educational programs for students and educators, a traveling wall replica that honors the nation's veterans and a humanitarian and mine-action program in Vietnam.

DO YOU KNOW THESE GIRLS?



Mardi Gras, Carnival
Apalachicola, Fla.
March 2, 3, 4, 1916

Beverly Douds, busy working on an upcoming book on Apalachicola, has received lots of good photos, although some helpful providers do not know who is in the photo or when the photo was taken. Douds is reaching out to the people in Franklin County for their help before her deadline in the middle of April. "So far, we have more than 198 photos for the book. But there are a couple of more that I am hoping for," she said. "I would love to get more photos from the Hill, for example, Holy Family School, the Tolliver family, Rose McCoy, Dr. Fred Humphries and Bell Smith. I also need photos of the Marshall family, the Wefing Marine Store, A.A. Core, William Fry and the Star of the Sea School. I would like the Apalachicola Municipal Library folks and Delores Roux to know how much they have helped me, and I could have never compiled all this information without their help, along with many others," she said. Douds will discuss her book project as guest speaker at the Port St. Joe Library for its Friends Membership Drive from 2 to 4 p.m. Feb. 28. If you can identify the girls in the photo at left or have pictures to share, call Douds at 850-229-1094 or 850-229-1151 or e-mail csblighthouselady2008@gmail.com.



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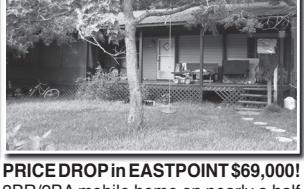
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Rep. Boyd backs streamlined stimulus package

On Feb. 13, Congressman Allen Boyd (D-North Florida) voted for the final stimulus package in the House of Representatives, after successfully fighting to streamline the bill and lower the cost from the original House version. The final stimulus package includes \$320 in spending initiatives compared to \$544 billion in the original House stimulus bill.

"I voted against the original stimulus bill in the House because I knew that we could do better and develop a stimulus bill that was smarter and includes provisions that will truly stimulate and strengthen our economy," said Boyd. "While the final stimulus bill isn't perfect, it's a better bill, and it's only better because many of us, including myself, were firm in our calls to cut the extra, unstimulative spending and put the focus on provisions that are temporary, targeted, and timely."

At the insistence of Boyd and the Blue Dog Coalition, the final stimulus bill was streamlined to include critical investments in transportation infrastructure and water and sewer projects, as well as smart tax relief for families and small businesses. The stimulative provisions advocated by Boyd include:

- Transportation infrastructure investments to improve roads, bridges, flood control, clean water projects, and other infrastructure projects
- Education infrastructure for school modernization, renovation, and repair
- Grants to states for job training and workforce development
- Critical investments in rural communities such as broadband services and wastewater projects

Boyd and the Blue Dogs also were successful in removing unstimulative and even unnecessary provisions from the final stimulus bill, such as funding to sod the National Mall, a tax break for movie producers to buy motion picture films, and funding for smoking cessation activities.

The final stimulus package is expected to create or save approximately 8,300 jobs in the 2nd District of Florida alone and over 200,000 jobs throughout the state of Florida.

The bill also gets money into the hands of Americans who are going to spend it quickly through temporary tax provisions, such as the expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit and the increase of the refundable portion of the child credit.

Additionally, it increases unemployment benefits and provides more funding for food stamps and a one-time payment to recipients of Social Security and veterans receiving disability compensation and pension benefits. Finally, the stimulus bill helps small businesses quickly recover costs of new capital investments by extending the bonus depreciation for businesses making investments in plants and equipment in 2009.

"While I supported this stimulus package, I also want to be very clear and upfront with the people I represent — this stimulus package is not a cure-all for our serious economic problems. In order to strengthen our economy in the short and long run, we must get serious about fiscal responsibility and get on a path toward fiscal sanity," Boyd said.

"If we don't do this and continue to deficit spend, then the level of our national debt — the likes of which we have never seen before — will be worse than the current recession. I am eager to tackle our long-term financial problems head on, and I am hopeful that President Obama's Fiscal Summit in the coming weeks will be the first step to laying out a framework to fiscal responsibility."

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The spoken word is given scant attention; the printed word is thoughtfully weighed. The spoken word barely asserts; the printed word thoroughly convinces. The spoken word is lost; the printed word remains.

How come there's no more 4-H here?

The summer of my 16th year I traveled with a group of kids from Franklin County to the state 4-H Congress at the University of Florida in Gainesville. It was an honor we had earned by coming in first in competitions at the district level. I was determined to win.

In 4-H, young people can choose from a variety of projects. It is, and was, much more than raising a prize cow or pig. Even in my day we could select from 30 or more categories ranging anywhere from photography and leadership to public speaking, clothing, and foods and nutrition.

There were two ways to compete. One was a cumulative folder of accomplishments. In other words, just how good a kid looks on paper. The other was a demonstration in a specific category. I did both.

My chosen project was yeast breads, and I had to go up against all the other kids who were district winners with their demonstrations in foods and nutrition.

I am still amazed at the amount of planning and preparation. I carted all the ingredients for three different pizzas to UF. I

got up in the wee hours of competition day to mix my dough in a Spartan dormitory kitchen. The idea was to show the risen dough ready to shape, and the finished product.

Timing was crucial. My presentation would be ruined if my dough went too long and fell. After all my work in the kitchen, we then had to transport everything I needed for the demonstration to another venue for the competition. I am forever grateful to Toni Taranto. She was the county extension agent who shepherded me through the whole process.

I thought my demonstration went well. It was certainly better than the Holmes County girl who spattered red velvet cake batter all over her 4-H uniform. I was only worried about the guy. I can't remember what he did, but even then I knew that a boy in a girls' category would have extra cachet.

At the banquet the last night in Gainesville, the winners were announced. I didn't even place. I felt robbed.

Then came time for the proclamation of state winners who would go to

the national convention in Chicago based on their cumulative records. I won.

Oh, it was sweet, and I cried at the podium while the house applauded. I had garnered the big win, but I wanted that trophy for my demonstration as well. You know who got it. The guy.

Now, when I think back, I believe 4-H taught me the most important lessons of my professional life. I learned how to make presentations, how to look good on paper; how to document my accomplishments, how to respond to corporate donors, and how to be gracious as a winner and a loser.

Through 4-H, I went to the state fair; the state congress, the national center in Washington, D.C. and the national convention in Chicago. All this before I was seventeen.

4-H in Florida is celebrating its centennial year, and Franklin County does not have a single club today. 4-H is an arm of the extension service provided by land-grant universities, in our case, the University of Florida. Jim Estes and his predecessor, Bill Zorn were extension agents with an agriculture background. Back in the day, they also had a female counterpart called a home demonstration agent. I

remember Carolyn Tew, Bernice Shuler; and, of course, the last one we had, Toni Taranto.

After Estes retired, the county requested an agent with a marine science background instead of agriculture. Three years passed before Bill Mahan was hired. The scope of the position shifted. He is regularly involved with river and bay issues. His office coordinates the Tropicana Public Speaking Contest in middle school and yearly butterfly projects in elementary school. Unfortunately, no 4-H.

Okay, I'll admit that even in the day, 4-H was kind of geeky for teens. There weren't too many of us who stuck with it after junior high. But, for us few, the rewards were really incredible.

4-H requires volunteers, support from the county extension office, and corporate sponsors. Maybe it is an anachronism, but I'm not quite ready to concede that point. 4-H is still vital in other parts of the state and country.

Why can't we do it here?

Denise Roux is a regular columnist for the Apalachicola and Carrabelle Times. To reach her, email her at rouxwhit@mchsi.com.

Letters to the EDITOR

Three cheers for the bus drivers

To the Editor:

Each day more than 480,000 school buses take more than 26 million students to school in the United States. In Franklin County, we have 16 drivers that take over 800 students to our school. Too often, however, we take these drivers for granted and forget the important role they play in our child's education.

Not only do they safely get our kids to school each day, but they also provide access to education some might otherwise not have. Which is why Franklin County District School, is taking time this month to celebrate the third annual national Love the Bus school safety program to thank our drivers for their contribution to our community.

Throughout the month of February the American School Bus Council celebrates in school districts across the country as a way to raise awareness and appreciation for hundreds of thousands of school bus drivers who safely transport children to and from school each day.

The federal government already recognizes school bus transportation as the safest way for children to get to and from school, and that is in large part due to the dedicated men and women who are committed to ensuring the safety of every child on their bus. We honor their commitment this month and look forward to celebrating at schools

across our community.

I encourage parents and teachers in Franklin County to take a minute this month to thank your child's bus driver.

Sincerely,
Nina Marks,
Superintendent of Schools
Robert Coursey, As-signed

Coordinator of Transporta-

tion

(Editor's note: The regular Franklin County School District bus drivers are Pat Golden, Dora Coulter, Dee Dee Dasher, Lucretia Taylor, Judy Pate, Linda McQuagge, Leola Martin, Maxine Taylor, Patricia Hollenbeck, Kansas Norris, Liz Frye, Elizabeth Roper, Joan Dasher, Bonnie Jones, Angela White and Jackie Tharpe. Substitute drivers are Debra Murray and June Medley.)

The Times joins in saluting these early rising, hard-working, patient and caring staffers, helping to keep children safe to and from school.)

In search of fresh local shrimp

To the Editor:

In vain I have searched for a website relating to the local seafood industry, so I am expressing my concern here.

I am a vacation home owner on the Island, where I have been spending a good part of winters for the last 15 years. While here, we of course would like to support the local seafood industry. Being quite fond of shrimps, we are getting more and more exasperated with the unpredictable quality of shrimps, regardless where we buy them.

Invariably there are a few that just taste awful of ammonia, a sign of serious spoilage. It is hard to tell, which pieces are affected until you bite into them. This

means we are becoming more and more loath to buy and serve them as a treat, especially to guests. At what point in the supply chain and how this contamination occurs, I cannot tell.

Whenever I complain to a vendor, they look at me like I am coming from the moon. There obviously is a serious problem with quality and handling control here that would need addressing. If the fishing industry wants to stay viable, they better clean up their act, or we will have to resort to buying imported frozen shrimp from Asia, which would be another blow to the local economy. In this case, fishermen cannot blame anybody else but themselves.

Margrit Kapler
St. George Island

Shriners will be boon to local area

To the Editor:

I read the fine article in the Feb. 14 issue of The Times: "The Shriners are coming! The Shriners are coming!"

That article pointed out the positive impact that the Shaddai Shriners of Panama City will have when they conduct their ceremonial activities in Carrabelle in April.

I am a Shriner myself and much of the fun and fellowships surrounding membership in the Mystic Shrine is the pageantry that takes place at ceremonial sessions.

Just a few weeks ago, I travelled from my home in Texas to witness a Shriners' Ceremonial in Springfield, Missouri. And, I wasn't the only visitor. I sat next to a fellow Shriner who now resides in Japan! Shriners like to travel and visit other Shriners. When I was a little kid, I watched Shriners in parades. I was lucky - my Dad was a Shriner. I once told him: "When I grow-up, I want to be a Shriner."

I clearly remember him responding: "Well, you will have to join the Masonic Lodge first."

The general public often doesn't realize that Every Man Who Is a Shriner first joined a Masonic Lodge and is a 3rd degree Master Mason. Up until the year 2000, a man also had to be a Knight Templar Mason in the York Rite of Freemasonry and/or a 32nd degree Mason in the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry (or both Rites) to be eligible to join and retain membership as a Shriner.

But now, a man only has to join the Lodge with the three basic degrees. I consider myself to be lucky to have joined both rites as well as the Mystic Shrine. I have a fuller Masonic education and more historical reference which has broadened my knowledge.

The visit by the Shriners to Carrabelle will be an economic boost to the area. But, I hope that the events will continue to be publicized. Who knows — many other boys will grow-up to be fine young men and desire to join the Shriners, just like I did!

I encourage everyone to take an interest in it. "The Shrine" is more than just a "fun" organization. It is a fun group which has a worthwhile purpose. I joined Masonry at age 18...and I'm age 45 now. It remains one of the best things I ever did. With our national economy being a bit gloomy, everybody should take a moment and see why the men in the red fezzes with black tassels are world-famous for "Spreading the Sunshine of The Shrine." It will put a smile on everyone's face.

Sincerely,
James A. Marples
Longview, TX



STIMULUS from page A1

FRANKLIN COUNTY'S WISH LIST

The county has scaled back its initial \$129 million request for federal stimulus money, narrowing the projects to those that meet the law's criteria and have a realistic chance at being fully funded.

The list now includes:

Road widening and paving shoulders

- County 67 from MP 1.066 to Liberty County Line

Raising south approaches

- County 67 Pine Long Bridge

Railroad crossing replacements

- Bluff Road

Sidewalks

- Bluff Road to Avenue M
- Avenue M (12th Street to Market Street)
- South Bayshore (U.S. 98 to Island Drive)
- North Bayshore (U.S. 98 to Rose Drive)
- Martin Luther King St (12th Street to Market Street)
 - 6th Street (Avenue M to U.S. 98)
 - River Road (U.S. 98 to Mill Road)
 - Old Ferry Dock (N Bayshore to Avenue A)
 - Avenue A to CC Land
 - CC Land to State 65
 - St. George Island
 - Oak Street in Lanark Village (Arizona to Heffernan Drive)
 - 24th Avenue (Bluff Road to U.S. 98)
 - Franklin Blvd (St. Fishing Pier to Gulf Beach Drive)
 - U.S. 98 (Carrabelle River to Crooked River Lighthouse)
 - Island Drive in Eastpoint (U.S. 98 to South Bayshore)
 - U.S. 98 in Apalachicola (Clairmont Avenue to Lombardi/Co Seafood Landing Park)

with those funds divided among highways, airports, mass transit, railways, high speed rail and ports. This will leave only about \$450 million available statewide for highways and road projects.

Pierce said because federal rules restricted paving funds to those roads already on the federal aid list, only three roads in the county would qualify: 30A to Gulf County, Gulf Beach Drive to the state park on St. George Island and County 67.

Pierce said because both 30A and Gulf Beach Drive either have or are getting state funds to make improvements, the only road eligible is County 67. Pierce said he requested that road be widened to 24 feet, just as it is in Liberty County, at an estimated cost of \$8.9 million.

Pierce said a distribution of the state highway funds to all 67 counties likely would not be enough to cover the cost of this project because an equal distribution, which is unlikely, would yield only a share of about \$7 million.

Because the County 67 widening probably would cost too much, Pierce set about finding other projects that met the federal criteria and probably were in the funding range.

"The only thing on the list provided by DOT were sidewalks," he said.

Pierce submitted 18 sidewalk projects around the county, totaling 14 miles and two railroad crossings.

Pierce said FDOT personnel are looking for the segments that could be ready for construction in 30 days.

"Some of the segments had problems, some did not, but all were submitted," he said. "FDOT is meeting this week to determine what every county will receive. The estimated cost of all the sidewalk projects is approximately \$3.7 million. It is my expectation that Franklin County will receive far less than \$3.7 million, but FDOT would not make any projections on Friday."

Also at Tuesday's meeting, former Tallahassee mayor Scott Maddox appeared before commissioners representing Government Services LLC.

"We are a company of has-beens in good standing," he said. "We have a former Governor, Lt. Governor and three Speakers of the House."

Maddox, a former chairman of the state Democratic party, said Government Services was inviting Franklin County to join Gulf and Jackson counties in an regional alliance to pursue federal stimulus money.

"We have two roadblocks," he said. "The state will pick our pockets and fund their own deficits and projects, and then the urban areas will pick our pockets."

He said if projects are presented as a regional package, they will make more sense and be more likely to be funded. Government Services is asking for a contribution of \$20,000 by each participating entity in advance. The money cannot be repaid with a grant.

He said he could not guarantee that the county would obtain funding because that would be a contingency guarantee and illegal under

state and federal law. He said he felt funding could be obtained.

The \$20,000 would provide representation in Tallahassee and Washington for one year, as well as grantwriting and the creation of a regional package, Maddox said. He said there was money specifically for rural areas to pursue as well as money for health care. He said the region eventually might encompass Franklin, Gulf, Jackson, Calhoun, Washington and Bay counties.

"You mean to tell us these people are fixing to give us a stimulus and we have to pay somebody to get it for us?" Commissioner Bevin Putnal asked.

"Where can we find the numbers on money available to Florida broken down?" Commissioner Pinki Jackel asked.

Maddox said Government Services is pursuing that information.

Clerk of Courts Marcia Johnson said she did not know of any money readily available to fund the project.

"I just want to be sure we're very prudent as a board as to how we spend our money, especially money we don't have," Chairman Smokey Parrish said.

The board voted 4-1, with Commissioner Noah Lockley dissenting, to send Pierce and Jackel to an organizational meeting on March 3. The commissioners, as well as County Attorney Michael Shuler, plan to study the agreement proposed by Maddox.

"I just don't think it's fair for the government to offer this money and we have to hire somebody to get it," Lockley said.

MOVIES from page A1

Paramount later sold out to the American Broadcasting Company (ABC), which bought 120 theatres from Miami to Tallahassee.

In 1950, ABC decided to build a new theatre for Sangaree, the DeSoto, to replace the Star. It was Sangaree's first grand opening.

"When we opened the theatre, everything was gala, like the Academy Awards," he said.

The proceedings were marked by a number of special events. Sangaree's wife of one year, Georgette, and Mrs. S.C. Smith acted as hostesses welcoming Jesse Clark, the general manager of Florida State Theatres, along with company president Leon D. Netter and a number of corporate officers and their wives to the DeSoto. Many local celebrities and elected officials also attended. Radio news commentator Major George Robinson of WSUN was on hand to broadcast the festivities live.

The contents of an old safe

Sangaree handed over the first night's receipts to Mr. Hyde, chairman of the DeSoto County March of Dimes, as a donation on behalf of ABC. Evening tickets were 48 cents for adults or nine cents for a child. A matinee cost 44 cents.

Construction workers discovered an old safe when digging the foundation of the theater. As an added attraction, the safe was opened on stage at the DeSoto's premier.

"People from all over the country tried to claim that safe," Sangaree said. "We never knew where it came from. Nobody remembered a business on that spot. It was a vacant lot. The safe opened up, instead of out, and it was buried. It must have been a trap door under some building."

Mr. Kerr, a local air conditioning specialist, fired up a torch to cut into the vault as the audience waited spellbound. Inside the vault, they found only an old strongbox and in the box about three inches of mud.

"There was no mud in the safe itself. I believe that was money that had decayed over time. I will always regret not having that mud analyzed to see if it was paper," Sangaree said.

Over the years, at the DeSoto and other theatres he managed, Sangaree set up a publicity stunts to entice the public to the latest films.

On one occasion, the mayor of Arcadia presented a trick horse with a key to the city at the DeSoto.

"The horse wore rubber shoes so it could come right inside," Sangaree said. "It walked right

up on the stage. The horse was housebroken. The trainer would ask it questions, and the horse would answer by tapping its foot.

"It could also solve arithmetic problems. The trainer put a big watch on its hoof, and he'd ask 'What time is it, Joe?' That horse would stick out his leg and look so hard at the watch. Then he'd stomp out the answer," he said.

For the musical hit "Oklahoma," Sangaree built a tall wooden tower with a timed valve that would shoot out a stream of water periodically like an oil gusher.

"One time, we were showing a war picture. I got the National Guard to set up their 90-millimeter anti-aircraft gun in front of the theater. That drew a crowd," he said. "We also had fireworks that shot 30 feet up into the air and exploded. That shut down the telephones lines in town with people calling the sheriff to see if I had shot off that gun. The sheriff called me and said 'Don't shoot that thing off again!'"

Sangaree continued to manage theatres for ABC for several decades. In 1957, he was transferred from Arcadia to the Ritz Theatre in Bartow and then to the 4th Street Drive-In in St. Petersburg, which had a 625-car lot.

"People used to bring their families and come early to get parked. We had all kinds of slides shaped like elephants and other stuff for the kids to play on," he said.

Later, he was transferred back to Bartow, and from there, he retired and returned to Apalachicola for a short stint in the oyster business with a partner, legendary boat builder Roy Smith.

Sangaree's work for ABC had been outstanding. He won prizes including a trip to Mexico during his career. ABC wanted him back, and in the mid-1960s, they sent the state auditor, a close friend of Sangaree, to ask him to return to work. The auditor came back three times, and finally, Sangaree agreed. He continued to manage theaters for ABC until 1969, when he took a job with Florida Enterprises, another cinema management company.

"At the time, I was managing the Howell Theatre. I used to say Florida State Theatres sold the Howell, and they sold me with it," he said.

Florida Enterprises built him a new theater, and he remained with that company until his unwavering retirement.

Sangaree looks back on his career in movies with many fond memories. Eventually, he came back to live in Apalachicola, where he spent much of his childhood, and he became a master gardener, but that's another story.



Jesse Clark, the general manager of Florida State Theatres, poses with the staff of the concession stand at the opening of the DeSoto. Below, air conditioning specialist Kerr is seen with the mystery safe opened at the debut of the DeSoto Theatre.



SHRIMPING from page A1

it," he said.

"I have three boats that ain't left the dock, two offshore and one inshore. I paid \$100,000 for the steel hull and \$80,000 for the engine, and I couldn't sell it for \$50,000."

"That's the way it's been around here for the last two years," he said. "When it gets up to \$4 a gallon for fuel and you're catching a

\$2.50 shrimp, the numbers just don't add up."

Miller and Isaacs are keenly aware of the numbers not adding up, having studied the results of a recently released study of offshore shrimping in the Gulf based on a survey of those who hold federal permits.

That report concluded that "the financial and economic situation is bleak for

the average vessels in most of the categories that were evaluated. With few exceptions, cash flow for the average vessel is positive while the net revenue from operations and the 'profit' are negative. With negative net revenue from operations, the economic return for average shrimp vessels is less than zero."

"Only with the help of government payments does the average owner just about break even," read the report's conclusion. "In the short-term, this will discourage any new investments in the industry. The financial situation in 2006, especially if it endures over multiple years, also is economically unsustainable for the average established business."

Isaacs said just having a snapshot of the inshore shrimping situation might yield benefits.

"It always helps for decision makers to know the economic situation of fishermen. Sometimes, they're not aware of what they're facing," Isaacs said. "We need a good, clean, unbiased source of information. Good information tends to produce better decisions."

Miller said it is crucial for the industry to provide economic to augment the environmental data that is so often used.

"When they're making decisions, they're making biological decisions. There hasn't been economic data there to make these decisions, and this is the first time there's that data for the Gulf."

Isaacs said work has been done piecemeal, but it quickly becomes outdated without constant updating.

"They see a study (online), and they don't realize the cost of fuel and the price of shrimp has changed a lot (since it was written)," he said. "This is a snapshot in time."



DAVID ADLERSTEIN | The Times

Shrimpers at the Mill Pond in Apalachicola have expressed concern that sailboats moored in the channel are impeding their access to the docks.

couple thousand inshore Gulf shrimpers by April 1. In addition, the first 600 shrimpers who return their completed three-page survey will receive a \$25 gift card.

Along with County Extension Agent Bill Mahan, Ward and Davis went through each of the questions with the two economists at the Feb. 9 meeting, helping to tailor the survey to the specific needs of the local shrimpers.

"There's a lot of disrepair in that Mill Pond," Davis said. "You can see the ones that are working, the ones who aren't working and the ones that won't never work."

Davis shared a number of typical complaints, criticizing the effect of the net ban and fish shooters, and asking that the federal government help get the tri-net back into service.

"Florida's really going in to the recreational fishery," Miller said.

"They're taking it away from us and giving it to them," Davis replied.

When the economists got to the survey questions related to licensing, Davis stressed that even shrimpers who only have a toe left in the water will keep their licenses.

"Everybody keeps the license. They may say if you

don't have one, you can't get another one," he said.

"Grouper and snapper (fishermen) can sell their permits. I sold mine for \$3,500, and back then, you could have got \$5,000 for it."

Ward deplored restrictions that are making it cumbersome and economically unfeasible for shrimpers to continue to work their trade.

"You talk about limited entry," he said. "Now come on, folks. This used to be America."

He told Miller and Isaacs his is the only ice house left in town, but as usage dwindles, he is keeping it going on the proverbial "spit and glue."

"If you're not making anything, you're not putting anything more in it," he said.

Ice is critical to the industry's survival, the economists said, noting that after Hurricane Katrina, many shrimpers found their boats and nets were intact, but there was no ice to be found to make a trip profitable.

Ward recalled sending drums of ice and fuel to Pascagoula, Miss., after the storms.

"We had more damage out of Dennis than the hurricanes of 1998," he said.

Both men said the season for "brownies" has been

all but gone over the past five years.

"We would start seeing brownies about May 8 for a six-week season," Davis said. "We call them 'hoboes' because they're going to catch the next train out."

But despite the problems of the industry, compounded by a lack of freshwater coming down the Apalachicola River from Georgia, both men were not without hope.

"It's not dead," Davis said. "Now we're in a bad strait, and it's hoping to get better."

Ward recalled when he got out of high school, the industry was in a down time.

"We had to get fuel vouchers," he said. "I've seen the hard times, and I've seen the real good times. It's bad, but it could get better."

Mahan stressed that "we have to go for the best available economic data, even though it's bad."

Both men, though, weren't entirely convinced and warned that some shrimpers might be too discouraged to complete the survey.

"They don't listen to us, partner," Ward said.

"We know how to bitch," Davis said. "We just don't know how to win."

For more information on the survey, call Alex Miller at 228-875-5912.

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WEEKLY ALMANAC

Temperature			
Date	High	Low	% Precip
Thu, Feb 19	70°	56°	50 %
Fri, Feb 20	67°	35°	30 %
Sat, Feb 21	57°	37°	0 %
Sun, Feb 22	62°	47°	0 %
Mon, Feb 23	55°	34°	30 %
Tue, Feb 24	58°	45°	0 %
Wed, Feb 25	60°	48°	0 %

TIDE TABLES

MONTHLY AVERAGES

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

High	Low	
Thu, Feb 19	Minus 0:40	Minus 1:17
Fri, Feb 20	Minus 0:27	Minus 0:27a
Sat, Feb 21		
Sun, Feb 22		
Mon, Feb 23		
Tue, Feb 24		
Wed, Feb 25		

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

High	Low	
Bald Point	Minus 9:15	Minus 0:03

APALACHICOLA

02/19 Thu	06:58AM	-0.3	L	03:18PM	1.1	H
05:38PM	1.0	L	10:17PM	1.2	H	
02/20 Fri	07:51AM	-0.3	L	03:26PM	1.1	H
07:05PM	0.9	L	11:41PM	1.2	H	
02/21 Sat	08:34AM	-0.3	L	03:43PM	1.1	H
08:00PM	0.8	L				
02/22 Sun	12:52AM	1.3	H	09:10AM	-0.3	L
03:59PM	1.1	H	08:44PM	0.7	L	
02/23 Mon	01:51AM	1.3	H	09:40AM	-0.2	L
04:11PM	1.1	H	09:21PM	0.6	L	
02/24 Tue	02:42AM	1.3	H	10:04AM	-0.1	L
04:21PM	1.2	H	09:56PM	0.5	L	
02/25 Wed	03:30AM	1.3	H	10:24AM	0.0	L
04:30PM	1.2	H	10:28PM	0.3	L	

CARRABELLE

02/19 Thu	04:45AM	-0.5	L	01:53PM	1.8	H
03:25PM	1.6	L	08:52PM	1.9	H	
02/20 Fri	05:38AM	-0.5	L	02:01PM	1.8	H
04:52PM	1.4	L	10:16PM	1.9	H	
02/21 Sat	06:21AM	-0.5	L	02:18PM	1.8	H
05:47PM	1.3	L	11:27PM	2.1	H	
06:31PM	1.1	L				
02/22 Sun	12:26AM	2.1	H	07:27AM	-0.3	L
02:46PM	1.8	H	07:08PM	1.0	L	
02/24 Tue	01:17AM	2.1	H	07:51AM	-0.2	L
02:56PM	1.9	H	07:43PM	0.8	L	
02/25 Wed	02:05AM	2.1	H	08:11AM	0.0	L
03:05PM	1.9	H	08:15PM	0.5	L	

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Weekend celebrates African-American heritage

Apalachicola's African-American community will celebrate its rich history this weekend with its sixth annual celebration.

The African American History Festival will kick off at noon Feb. 20 at Franklin Square, adjacent to the Recreation Center Park on Sixth Street.

The grand marshall, County Commissioner Noah Lockley, will cut the ribbon at 4 p.m., followed by an evening full of local talent gracing the stage.

In addition to plenty of good food, great music and informative displays, the event will feature the raffle of an original work by Florida Highwayman artist Robert L. Lewis.

The theme this year will be "African-American history – Bringing change to America."

The parade will begin at 11 a.m. Feb. 21, starting on Martin Luther King Boulevard in front of the former Apalachicola High School and moving down the boule-

vard to Sixth Street and over to the park.

The festivities continue Feb. 21, complete with an ethnic fashion show. The winning essay from the contest will be read aloud. A performance by Yazid, a drummer from Tallahassee, will grace the stage in the afternoon, with the evening featuring the P. & W. Trio from Albany, Ga., as headliner.

A gospel hour has been added each night of the event, with a Feb. 22 service at noon at the park. The festival runs through Feb. 22 at 4 p.m.

The festival this year will be supported by a Tourist Development Council grant and is once again organized by H'COLA, which stands for Hillside Coalition of Laborers for Apalachicola, a nonprofit organization community service organization begun in 1999.

For more information, call H'COLA President Elinor Mount-Simmons at 323-0544 or go to www.hcola.org.

H'COLA royalty, appearing in the 2008 parade, included fourth-grader Alexis Jones, on the roof, and her sister, first-grader Mercedes Jones.



PHOTOS BY DAVID ADLERSTEIN

Paul Montgomery performs on guitar last year with the P. & W. Trio from Albany, Ga., who will be the featured act this Saturday night.

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Francis re-elected to fourth term

Chief Judge Charles A. Francis was re-elected Tuesday as chief judge for a fourth term by his fellow judges in the 2nd Judicial Circuit, composed of Leon, Gadsden, Wakulla, Franklin, Jefferson and Liberty counties. His fourth term will start July 1 and run through June 30, 2011.

Francis was appointed to the bench in 1999 by Gov. Jeb Bush and was re-elected without opposition in 2002 and 2008.

He serves as vice chair of the Trial Court Budget Commission and is a

member of the Executive Committee of the Florida Conference of Circuit Court Judges. He also has served as chair of the Florida Courts Technology Commission and chair of the Article V Technology Board established by the legislature.

Francis engaged in the private practice of law in Tallahassee for 27 years before his appointment to the bench. He was AV rated and was a Florida bar board certified real estate attorney and a certified circuit court civil mediator.

He was a member of the board of governors of the Florida bar and past president of the Tallahassee Bar Association.

Francis was born and raised in St. Petersburg and moved to Tallahassee to attend Florida State University, where he obtained a bachelor's degree in government in 1969 and a Juris Doctor with honors from FSU College of Law in 1972. He is married to Brenda Roberts Francis, a commercial real estate broker. They have four children and seven grandchildren.

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Reflections of a true pioneer

Monroe Thompson, who turned 99 in November, still loves the thrill of the hunt

By Greg Daniels
Special to the Times

As the sun stamped her final seal of approval on yet another glorious January day in the piney woods, Monroe Thompson steadied the cross-hairs on the scope mounted atop of his 30-30 Winchester bolt-action rifle.

His aim was directed at a 4-point buck that appeared from the woodline approximately 30 yards from his elevated observation post nestled between the Ochlocknee and Sopchoppy River basins. As he smoothly and steadily squeezed the trigger with total disregard to the recoil and report of the high-powered rifle, the whitetail buck fell instantly in his tracks from a single well-placed shot.

Many might think that this scenario is



A 10-point buck Monroe Thompson bagged on Jan. 11, 1983, while dog hunting.

well within the norm and status quo during hunting season in North Florida and is more than likely simultaneously occurring in several locations throughout the Panhandle.

On the contrary, there's one significant factor that separates this event from all others; Thompson celebrated his 99th birthday on Nov. 16, 2008.

News of this event first aired at work in casual conversation. Many others like myself decided this was definitely a story worth being shared by all. When Thompson's son, Mitchell, mentioned our intentions to his dad, he was quick to point out another local hunter who had recently bagged a couple of bucks in the woods nearby.

Little did Thompson know, his reluctance to be noticed is a direct reflection of his humble character and does nothing more than fuel a writer's pen and make him more worthy of recognition. Feb. 7, I was blessed with the sincere pleasure, honor and privilege of speaking with Thompson and his boys, Herbert and Mitchell, at their homestead in Curtis Mill.

During this genuine opportunity, I learned that Thompson was born in 1909 on the Franklin County side of the Ochlocknee River in a vast expanse of land referred to as Womack Creek Swamp.

While growing up in the roaring '20s and the Great Depression in the 1930s, these catastrophic and monumental occurrences of American history seemed to have little or no effect on this part of the world. Most people planted their own crops and preserved the

yield, so it could be consumed throughout the year. Raccoons, opossums and crows posed a much greater threat to the crops in those days than did the deer. If deer were seen standing in the garden one minute, they would probably be seen lying there the next.

Thompson expressed that there seems to be more deer now than there were 50, 60 or 70 years ago. Several factors could contribute to the increase, such as better conservation practices and enforcement, folks not being as dependent on wild game for a food source, and the lack of free-ranging cattle and hogs roaming the pine scrub flats and hardwood hammocks and swamps eating up all of the natural deer feed. In those days, it wasn't uncommon to consume

raccoons and opossums, and they were pretty tasty when prepared properly.

The primary means of transportation was either on foot, horseback, or horse and buggy. One horse was so boney on her backbone that you couldn't ride her bareback; she also couldn't stand anything under her tail, such as reins or tack while pulling a wagon, and would kick

violently until she was clear of everything she was pulling. One time, he moved a house with a yoke of oxen (two ox bound together with a large wooden yoke) from across the branch using railroad irons and huge wooden rollers.

On many occasions, when he would visit neighboring Sopchoppy through the woods, he'd swim the river and just float the animals across; sometimes they wouldn't swim and would be pulled across the river as they floated naturally. For a livelihood, Thompson worked in the turpentine woods chipping boxes and scraping trees, in the logging woods, with the state road department and in the construction business building houses all around this area, including Alligator Point and Carabelle.

Upon retirement at the age of 65, Thompson started avidly deer hunting, mostly with hound dogs. The best and second buck he ever killed was a fine 10-point, and this magnificent specimen is hanging on the wall of his bedroom. He bagged this trophy whitetail buck with a shotgun while running dogs on Jan. 11, 1983, one buckshot piercing the heart.

After dog hunting for many,

many years and harvesting his share of deer, he took up still



PHOTOS BY GREG DANIELS

At top, Monroe Thompson blows a buck grunt tube that he uses to scare or "shoo" the turkeys away. Above, Thompson climbs the stairs of his "condominium."

hunting a few years back on some of his family property that borders the Morrison Hammock Unit of the Apalachicola National Forest. With the help of a nephew and his sons, he built an elevated shooting house that he refers to as his "condominium." This elevated observation post is 12 feet above the ground, insulated, carpeted, heated and stocked full of necessities. There's an ample supply of drinking water, snacks, newspapers, bug spray, scent neutralizer, a urinal bottle, pine disinfectant, flashlight, a large comfortable office chair and a two-way radio that he refers to as his C.B.

As we were leaving his residence en route to the "condo," Thompson reached down and picked up a small, hard-shell pecan and handed it to me. As he handed me the pecan, Thompson said, "I'm not sure if there's anything in it, but you can have it anyway." I slipped it into my pocket, and we were on our way.

Although I'm not in the least bit superstitious, I put the little pecan in my hunting fanny pack when I returned home, kind of like our Southern version of the "buckeyes" native to the northern states. The origin and source, of course, meaning much more to me than the little nut itself.

When we arrived at the "condo," Thompson climbed the two flights of stairs; upon reaching the top platform, he said, "If y'all are man enough, come on up!" This is just one of many witty and optimistic re-

marks expressed by Thompson throughout the afternoon. Not only has Thompson witnessed a century of time come to pass, but also he has certainly been a genuine "Sport Model" in the process.

As I said my goodbyes to Thompson, he was settling in and awaiting the prime, golden hunting hour. While I was descending the stairs of his "condominium," the sun was also gradually sinking into her resting place behind the pines, gums and water oaks to the west across the tannic acid stained waters of the mighty Ochlocknee. My emotions were

overwhelmed with a strange and refreshing sense of enlightenment. I have been engaged in conversation for a couple short hours with a remarkable individual who generously took me for an awesome and unique stroll through a century of history.

I've heard and used the term "North Florida pioneer stock" loosely and nonchalantly on several occasions to describe local natives, including myself; however, Thompson meets and exceeds any criterion established for the covetous and prestigious title "pioneer."



Thompson's "condominium" up close.

"If y'all are man enough, come on up!"
"enough come on up!"
"It's all we want"

Monroe Thompson

CARRABELLE • APALACHICOLA SPORTS

A
Section

Thursday, February 19, 2009

www.apalachitimes.com

Page A9

Lady Seahawks trounce Liberty, fall to St. Joe, Wewa

By David Adlerstein
Times City Editor

The Lady Seahawks opened this year's season with a pre-season tournament in Blountstown on Feb. 7.

The girls played two games, against Blountstown and Sneads, with the purpose of this debut to get things in order and work out weaknesses before the first regular season game.

"I do not think any of us thought the day would result in two losses for the Seahawks," said coach Christy Thompson. "We were so nervous that mistakes were made continuously throughout the day. The girls and I agreed to just put this day behind us and move forward as soon as we left the field."

The first game of the 2008-09 season was scheduled for Port St. Joe on Feb. 10.

"This is a team that looks great playing together and has worked together for four years," Thompson said. "This is what we aspire to look like within the next two years at Franklin County High School."

The Seahawks went into this game with a much better attitude and performed well against the team that quite possibly could win the state championship this year.

"We had five fielding errors, and that is a pretty good stat coming from a team comprised of essentially junior varsity-aged

girls versus a loaded senior Port St. Joe team," Thompson said. "St. Joe pitcher Kayla Minger is sensational and held the Seahawks to only two hits on the night."

Eighth grader Chena Segree and freshman Megan Newell each had a hit, as the Lady Seahawks fell 10-0.

By the time the team reached Liberty County on Feb. 12, they were ready for a win.

"It was our turn to be on the winning side," Thompson said. "This was a very tight game all the way until the top of seventh inning when the Seahawks rallied for an impressive 11 straight runs to win 13-3 in their backyard!"

The game had been tied at 1-1, 2-2, and 3-3 before the Seahawks decided to take control during their last at-bat. Sophomore pitcher Shelby Shiver recorded six strikeouts on the day, also hitting a double and stealing one base during a seventh-inning rally.

Segree led the team with two doubles, a single and two stolen bases, which broke the 3-3 tie. Morgan "Noodle" Newell had one double, Kendyl Hardy one double, Krystal Davis one double and two stolen bases. Leigh Redmond had one double and a stolen base and Ciara Moore three stolen bases.

"The girls played extremely well on defense making the Bulldogs earn each of their three



PHOTOS BY DAVID ADLERSTEIN | The Times

Above, Junior first baseman Kendyl Hardy (No. 9) makes the long stretch to field the ball during action against Wewahitchka on Feb. 13. At right, freshman second baseman Megan Newell (No. 7) crosses first base in play last week against Wewahitchka.

runs. I actually had more confidence in our fielding abilities before this seventh-inning thriller at bat. The hitting will come, and in the meantime, we must play tough on defense," Thompson said.

The third and final game of the week came at home Feb. 12 against Wewa.

"This is a team that should have been beaten by the Lady Seahawks, but way too many errors claimed the victory," Thompson said. "The Gators decided to bunt on us, and we just kept making errors on the throw to first base. I think we had four



throwing errors while defending the bunt."

The Seahawks had the game at 4-2 at the beginning of the third inning but were plagued by the bunting strategy of the Gators.

"I honestly believe that we were just exhausted physically from the Liberty County game and obviously mentally absent," Thompson said. "The night before, the girls nor I got home before nearly midnight. We were all tired the next day at school. It's tough to play back-to-back games, especially when you get

home so late. It's still no excuse for the senseless errors, but this is a young team.

"I feel that things will go our way the next time we face Wewa. They know we gave them a game with a big red ribbon attached. It just got out of control after the score was 8-4. The girls quit, and that is something we cannot do at anytime. It will all get better, and these mistakes will become less and less a factor."

"We were beaten miserably last Friday, 15-4. Refocus, refocus. We want districts this year!"

SEAHAWKS from page A1

the Panthers and is their premier scoring threat.

"That will be Jeremy James defensive assignment again," Drake said.

James has picked the right time to play the best games of his senior season, producing back-to-back double-digit scoring in the district tourney.

"He had a good tournament, and he played well defensively," Drake said. "He hit two big threes in the Maclay game."

The Seahawks and Marauders were in their typical, nip-and-tuck defensive duel all Saturday night, with Franklin County clinging to a thin 25-23 lead at the half.

The Seahawks didn't let up the third quarter, inching ahead 34-30 going into the last quarter.

About halfway through the quarter, the Seahawks had pushed it to a nine-point lead, 42-33, which they kept until just under two minutes, when James hit two free throws for a short-lived 10-point lead.

But with senior forward Zan Simmons fouling out with about three minutes left and junior guard Austin O'Neal fouling out with 1:30 left, it was up to senior A.J. Williams and underclassmen Zach Jones and Marcus Allen to step up and preserve the victory.

"It was still a tight game. Williams came in and played big. They all gave us some valuable minutes," Drake said.

Freshman Carlos Morris led the team with 17 points, followed by senior Deshaun Winfield with 16 and James with 12.

"Battling with Maclay made the seventh time we played Maclay in two years," Drake said. "At the time, we were tied 3-3 going back two years. It was just like the NBA playoff and we were in the seventh game. We had to win the big one."

There wouldn't have been a "big one" at all had the Seahawks not dispatched host Jefferson County 73-62 to secure a berth in the championship game. After opening up a 38-24 halftime lead, the Seahawks widened it to 16 points with just under six



GRACE O'NEAL | Contributed photo

Seahawks seniors Zan Simmons, left, and Deshaun Winfield stand with the District 4-2A basketball trophy Saturday night.

FEB. 13 DISTRICT SEMIS VS. JEFFERSON COUNTY

Franklin Co. 18 20 15 20 - 73

Jeff. Co. 10 14 21 17 - 62

SEAHAWKS: Deshaun Winfield 10/16 2s, 3/7 FTs, 23 pts.; Zan Simmons 4/10 2s, 8 pts.; Carlos Morris 3/11 2s, 0/4 3s, 4/4 FTs, 10 pts.; Jeremy James 4/8 2s, 2/4 FTs, 10 pts.; Austin O'Neal 6/11 2s, 7/9 FTs, 19 pts.; Zach Jones 1/1 2s, 2 pts.; Marcus Allen 0/1 2s, 1/2 FTs, 1 pt.

Totals: 28/58 2s, 0/4 3s, 17/26 FTs

Rebounds: Simmons 10, Morris 9, Winfield 8, James 6, O'Neal 3, Jones 2

Assists: O'Neal, Winfield, James 2, Morris, Allen

Blocks: Winfield 2, Simmons

Steals: James 9, Morris 3, O'Neal 2, Simmons, Williams

FEB. 14 DISTRICT FINALS VS. MACLAY

Franklin Co. 18 7 9 25 - 59

Maclay 14 9 7 23 - 53

SEAHAWKS: Winfield 8/13 2s, 16 pts.; Simmons 3/3 2s, 6 pts.; Morris 4/10 2s, 2/8 3s, 3/4 FTs, 17 pts.; James 0/3 2s, 2/5 3s, 6/8 FTs, 12 pts.; O'Neal 2/5 2s, 4 pts.; A.J. Williams 1/2 2s, 2/4 FTs, 4 pts.

Totals: 18/35 2s, 4/13 3s, 11/16 FTs

Rebounds: O'Neal, Simmons 5, James 4, Williams, Morris, Winfield 2

Assists: James 6, Morris, Simmons 4, Winfield 3, O'Neal 2

Blocks: Morris, Simmons 2

minutes in the third quarter, 42-26.

But after Jefferson County went on a 19-11 run, the Seahawks had a much smaller 53-45 margin going into the final quarter.

The Seahawks hammered home the victory by widening the lead to 17 points, 69-52, as the minutes ticked away, eventually settling for a comfortable 73-62 win.

Winfield scored 23 points to lead Franklin County with junior guard Austin O'Neal scoring 19 and Morris and James 10 each.

Junior guard Arron Prince had a family emergency in Atlanta and missed both district tourney games.

Drake said he did not know whether Prince would return for the regional tournament.

Also advancing among the 19 schools in Region 1, Class 2A, were Baker (23-3) in District 1, who topped Freeport (15-12) 59-47; and Cottontale (17-10) in District 2, who won 47-33 over Southport Bozeman (11-13).

Benzon plays at Baker tonight, and Freeport plays at Cottontale.

Today's regional quarterfinal in Eastpoint is at 7 p.m. Admission is \$6.

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SUNTRUST

Seahawks split opening games

By David Adlerstein
Times City Editor

Under a new coach, the Seahawks baseball team split its two opening pre-season games, topping Blountstown 11-1 on Feb. 12 behind Steve Babb's one-hitter and then falling 7-4 to Liberty County on Feb. 13.

"The first game was a confidence builder. It was a young underskilled baseball team we were playing against," said coach Rod Murphy. "Steven Babb pitched excellent, with 10 strikeouts, and they were pretty helpless to do anything."

"The second game was more of a test where we were at," Murphy said. "Apart from a couple of critical errors, we were in the game the whole way. We could have won the game."

"Bobby (Garrett) delivered up a cookie that the guy pounded for a three-run homer, and we made two critical base-running errors. They were not intimidated by a team that previously had wiped them up. They were confident and expecting to win. I'm grateful you have these games to work things out."

A Michigan native who grew up outside Detroit, Murphy was a starting linebacker for Central Michigan University, a one-time national champion in the smaller college ranks.

He earned a bachelor's degree in education when he attended Central Michigan 30 years ago, and after a brief stint in the New Baltimore, Mich., public schools, Murphy moved to a private academy in inner-city Detroit, where he worked with troubled and at-risk youth.

For the next three decades, he was active in Brown Evangelistic Ministries in Detroit, doing everything from teaching outreach



PHOTOS BY DAVID ADLERSTEIN | The Times

Chase Richards, standing, presided over this picnic table full of hungry Seahawks at last week's pre-season barbecue at the St. George island home of coach Rod Murphy.

FEB. 12 AT LIBERTY COUNTY

Franklin Cty 0 0 3 0 2 6 - 11
Blountstown 1 0 0 0 0 0 - 1

Senior Steven Babb struck out 10 en route to a one-hitter Thursday night, Feb. 12 in the Liberty County Bulldog Classic Baseball Tournament. Leaders at the plate were Gary Larsen 2-for-5, Jared Mock with a double, Caden Barber 2-for-3, Babb 1-for-1 with a double, and Chase Richards and Cole Lee added singles.



FEB. 13 AT LIBERTY COUNTY

Franklin Cty. 2 0 0 0 0 0 2 - 4
Liberty Cty. 0 0 0 0 3 4 0 - 7

Franklin County played the host team Feb. 13 in the Liberty County Bulldog Classic and fell a little short.

Leaders at the plate were Jared Mock 2-for-2, Chase Richards 3-for-4, Jason Thompson and Brice Carlson 1-for-3. Pitchers Bobby Garrett, Mock and Thompson combined to strike out eight.

Seahawks baseball coach Rod Murphy tries his hand at oyster shucking after getting a lesson from senior pitcher Steven Babb.

ministries to training teens in carpentry to serving as Sunday school superintendent.

Two years ago, he went back to school at Wayne State University to earn a master's, and a few months ago, he accepted the teaching post at Franklin County High School and the job of coaching the baseball team.

Last week, Murphy hosted a barbecue for the entire team at his St. George Island home, very well-attended, with plenty of burgers to munch and oysters to shuck.

Murphy even had former pitching ace Ron Bloodworth out to talk to the boys on one occasion.

"There really was a different attitude. There really was the emergence of a winning attitude," Murphy said. "These guys were expecting to win. They were beginning to show class, the dignity of feeling important, of feeling confident and cohesive as a team."

"Together with the degree of talent we have, the sense of pride with which they carry themselves can go a long, long way," he said.

ABC middle school

opens season

The Apalachicola Bay Charter School middle school baseball team opened its 2009 campaign with a Feb. 3 win at home 10-2 against Hosford and then a tough 7-6 loss Feb. 6 on the road to Blountstown.

Coaches are Stacy Kirvin, Michael Newell and Bryce Ward, with the lineup including eighth graders Daniel Carrino, Billy Harris, Zach Howze, Josh Reeder, LaDarius Rhodes, Seth Rogers and Seth Ward; seventh graders Graham Kirvin and James Newell; and sixth graders Josh Braswell, Michael Daniels, Travion Turrell and Jared Zingarelli.

The ABC Middle School baseball team's remaining 2009 season is as follows, with all times Eastern Standard:

- Friday, Feb. 20 at home vs. Port St. Joe at 5 p.m.
- Friday, Feb. 27 away vs. Wewahitchka at 4:30 p.m.
- Monday, March 2 away vs. W.R. Tolar at 3 p.m.
- Friday, March 13 at home vs. Wewahitchka at 4:30 p.m.
- Friday, March 20 away vs. Port St. Joe at 5 p.m.

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME

The following are the remaining games this month.

2009 Seahawks high school baseball

- Friday, Feb 20 at home vs. East Gadsden. First pitch at 4 p.m.
- Thursday, Feb. 26 at home vs. Liberty County. First pitch at 4 p.m.

2009 Lady Seahawks high school softball

- Thursday, Feb 19 at home vs. R.F. Munroe. First pitch at 4 p.m.
- Wednesday, Feb. 25 away vs. Bay High. First pitch at 6 p.m.
- Thursday, Feb. 26 to 28. Cougar Classic at Godby. Opponents to be announced.

2009 Lady Seahawks Middle School softball

- Friday, Feb 20 away vs. Blountstown. First pitch at 4 p.m.
- Monday, Feb. 23 away vs. Port St. Joe. First pitch at 5 p.m.

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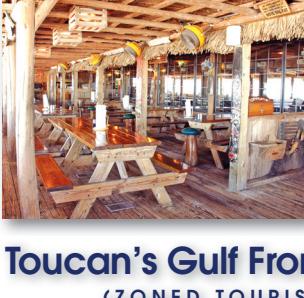
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Flower season in bloom



PHOTOS BY DAVID ADLERSTEIN | The Times

Above, Apalachicola Bay Charter School fourth grader Corie Cates examines the camellias on display at The Garden Shop in Apalachicola Jan. 31. At left, a bee buzzes around one of the white camellias, whose blossoms signify loveliness.

All hail 'Queen of the Southern Garden'

By David Adlerstein
Times City Editor

Frank Venable, a lover of camellias, shared his knowledge and know-how of this exquisite "queen of the Southern garden" at a special event held Jan. 31 at The Garden Shop in Apalachicola.

With several stunning varieties from Richbourg Nurseries in Monticello on display, the sunny day drew a nice audience for Venable's talk, which outlined the history of the flower dating back to its origins in eastern and southern Asia.

There are 100 to 250 described species, with the famous member — though often not recognized as a camellia — being the tea plant (*C. sinensis*). Among the ornamental species, the Japanese Camellia (*C. japonica*) is perhaps the most widely known, though most camellias grown for their flowers are hybrids.

Venable said the flower first appeared in America in the 1700s and gradually grew into an expensive hobby in the 19th century.

"Like a gentlemen's club," he said, noting that it was port cities such as Apalachicola that would be the first to encounter a new species from abroad.

Because they are a midwinter bloom, they are especially popular in the South, Venable said, although enthusiasts have seen them grow as far north as Massachusetts and Delaware.

"People were amazed they could grow, unprotected, so far north," he said, adding that there is an ongoing effort to develop cold-resistant varieties.

"People have to play with it by hybridizing," he said. "I don't do that. I'm just getting mine to enjoy this time of year."

Venable has about 50 in the ground, having started a few years ago after he was thoroughly impressed by a Tallahassee Camellia Society show.

"This is a wonderful experience," he said. "It's an addiction-type thing."

Venable urged the audience to take a day trip to visit the

national headquarters of the American Camellia Society, south of Macon, Ga. The society was left about 150 acres several decades ago, and they now are bursting with camellia magnificence.

Though camellias are considered moderately salt-tolerant, Venable did not recommend planting them in extreme coastal settings, such as on St. George Island, unless there is a well protected area enhanced with rich organic material.

The island's Jim Cobb has had some success in growing them, and he and his wife were on hand to absorb Venable's talk.

Venable said he prefers cottonseed meal on his plants, although the price has skyrocketed lately, and that for the most part, he doesn't obsess on fertilizers.

"It's too confusing to me. I stick 'em and plant 'em," he said, noting that many a camellia has been killed by overfertilizing.

"They like filtered sunlight," Venable said. "Some people, I have read, don't fertilize them at all."

According to a printout from Amanda Kollar's shop, the camellia can produce flowers up to six inches wide. It is a slow grower, but eventually, some japonicas will reach up to 20 feet tall.

Camellias like acid soil with plenty of moisture, the printout says. Because early morning sun might cause petals to become limp and brown, an ideal location would be west of a structure or barrier wall. Prune in spring after flowering. Keep other plants a safe distance away and apply mulch to protect the camellia's shallow roots.

Camellias prefer partial shade and appreciate being blocked from out late afternoon sun. They are hardy in zones 6-9 (we are located in zone 8b) but for extra protection, apply heavy pine straw mulch and cover flower buds if frost threatens.

"We are blessed to have this warmth down here," Venable said, noting that it is often eight to 10 degrees warmer here than

in Tallahassee or Thomasville, Ga., the latter having to cancel a recent camellia show because of the cold.

Kollar's handout noted that camellias can be propagated by taking semi-ripe cuttings from late summer to winter (use rooting hormone). They also can be air-layered in spring.

This very popular and regal shrub is used in borders and as hedges. Use it for specimen plants on the lawn and for colorful accents near outdoor living areas. Camellias are especially attractive and easy to grow when planted under a canopy of live oaks and pine trees that provide broken shade. It is tolerant of urban conditions if maintained and performs beautifully in containers.

The genus (*Camellia*) was named for George Kamel, a Jesuit missionary who traveled in Asia and studied the flora of the Philippines. Red camellias symbolize intrinsic worth, and white blossoms mean loveliness. Displayed at Korean weddings as far back as 1200 BC, camellias represent longevity and faithfulness.

No berries, blooms in January, turns out to be Lyonia

Last month, my Philaco friend Ruth Eckstine told me her husband, Rev. Joe, was going to bring me a plant to identify. He turned up a week later with something that looked a lot like a branch from a blueberry bush.

Problem was, this bush was blooming in January, and it never makes berries. With some help from Extension Agent Bill Mahan, I was able to identify it as lyonia, also known as hurrah bush, stagger weed, fetterbush, shiny leaf, male blueberry and he-huckleberry.

Lyonia is a member of the heath family, and five species commonly occur in the Southeast. The one Joe brought



LOIS SWOBODA | The Times

Rev. Joe Eckstine and his branch of lyonia.

It was probably either Lyonia mariana or Lyonia lucida.

The name stagger weed comes from the idea that lyonia might have some narcotic-like effects on animals when eaten.

Some heaths are poisonous, although there is no research available on the toxicity of lyonia. Fortunately, grazing animals are

reported to find it unpalatable, which means it's a good choice where deer are a problem.

Flowers come out on wood of the previous season, before new growth begins in early spring. Lyonia flowers are usually pink, but some varieties are white and some nearly red. Although they might be small, the flowers are in showy clusters, very

See LYONIA B5



LOIS SWOBODA
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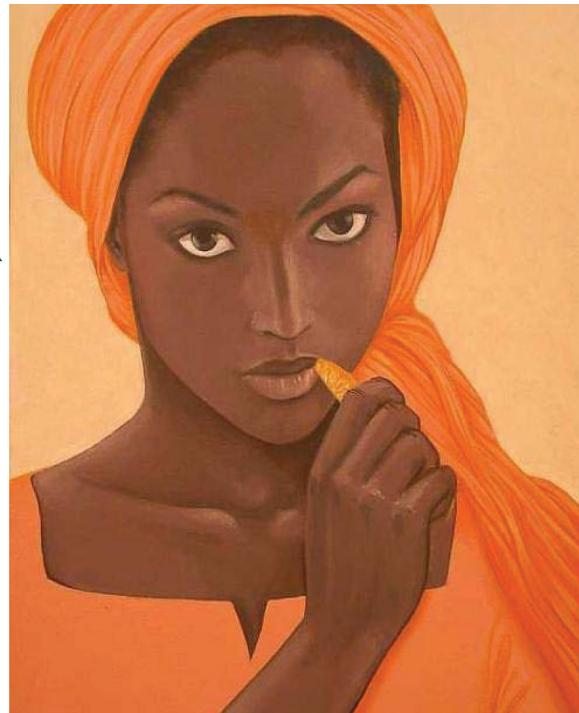
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**Herman Lee, Consula Harris to marry**

Herman Lee and Consula Harris will join their lives to become one on Saturday, March 7, 2009.

The wedding will take place at 3 p.m. at St. Paul AME Church in Apalachicola.

Mr. Lee is the son of the late Mr. Clyde and Ida Mae Lee. Miss Harris is the daughter of the late Mrs. Eddie Mae Harris.

All family and friends are invited. Reception to follow at the Apalachicola Community Center at Battery Park. The couple is registered at JC Penney.

PET OF THE WEEK

Pepper, a 5-month-old tabby kitten, arrived at the Adoption Center with his three siblings four months ago. They are all beautiful, affectionate, playful kittens waiting patiently for a loving home.

Call Kam at 670-8417 for more details or visit the Franklin County Humane Society at 244 State Route 65 in Eastpoint. You may log onto the website at www.forgottennets.org to see more of our adoptable pets.

Remember, when you adopt a friend for life, you not only save the life of that pet, you make room for us to save the life of one more abandoned dog or cat!

Don't forget the Bow Wow Ball at the Armory in Apalachicola on Saturday, Feb. 14. Cocktails are from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.; dinner is at 7:30 p.m. Tickets will be available at the door. Happy Valentine's Day

**Dona Polous, Casey Harrell to wed**

Dewitt and Connie Polous of Eastpoint are pleased to announce the upcoming marriage of their daughter, Dona Brooke Polous, to Casey Brandon Harrell.

Harrell is the son of Jason Harrell of Crawfordville and Deneen Harrell of Apalachicola.

The couple will be wed at 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, at the Eastpoint Church of God. Reception to follow in the fellowship hall.

The bride's grandparents are G.W. and Ruby Dykes of Apalachicola and James and Mag Polous of Eastpoint. Miss Polous' great-grandmother is Johnny M. Dykes of Apalachicola.

The groom's grandparents are Barbara and James Crum of Eastpoint. Mr. Harrell's great-grandmother is Preshia Crum of Eastpoint.

Miss Polous is employed at Resort Vacation Properties on St. George Island. Mr. Harrell is a sergeant at the Franklin Correctional Institution in Carrabelle.

No local invitations will be sent. All friends and family are invited to attend.

Realtors' open house tour attracts healthy turnout

By Lois Swoboda
Times Staff Writer

The real estate market in the Panhandle is alive, if a trifle subdued.

On Feb. 7-8, the Realtor's Association of Franklin and Southern Gulf Counties held its second annual open house tour of available properties from Alligator Point to Mexico Beach.

This year, 45 realtors showed 78 homes and commercial properties. Realtors registered 235 visitors during the event, 135 on Saturday and 100 on Sunday.

"We showed 10 houses. We didn't have as many houses as last year, but we had more visitors. It was a good little show," said Hollis Vail of Jeff Galloway Realty.

"We were pleased with the turnout," said Gloria Salinard, the association's executive director. "So far, there have been no offers



LOIS SWOBODA | The Times

Kara Landiss of Prudential Shimmering Sands Realty said she was pleased with the turn out at the open house.

or contracts resulting from the show, but it's a little soon to expect that. A lot of members said there were some very interested potential buyers that they will keep in touch with."

Salinard said the first organized open house last year resulted in three sales.

"A lot of work has gone into cleaning up these houses and getting them ready to show. That in itself is a good thing," said Kim Davis of Fickling Realty, who showed the former headquarters of Garlick Environmental Services at 48 Ave. D in Apalachicola.

"This was better than a lot of open houses I've been to," said Thomas Luster of Coastal Connections LLC. "It's something we're planning to do every year. I think it will get better each year, especially if the economy gets better."

Lanark NEWS

Despite the rain, the pancake breakfast for the Lanark Golf Club was a huge success. Good food and fellowship — can't wait till next month. The second Saturday is on March 14. Hope you can join us. Just come on over to Chillas Hall around 8 a.m. Thanks to all who braved the weather to support the golf club, and thanks to Chef Joe and his helpers.

Music, music, music! We had a good crowd at the Valentine's Dance at Chillas. The band kept the dance floor occupied. If you wanted to speak to the Queen of Lanark, you needed to work your way through the couples on the dance floor, 'cause that's where she was, having a good time.

Next Tuesday, Feb. 24, there will be a lasagna dinner for the association. Serving begins at 4:30 p.m. at the hall. Hope to see you there!

The 17th annual community breakfast will be Thursday, March 28, at the hall. Just walk in, sit right down and one of the waiters will take your order, bring you orange juice, coffee, pancakes, French toast, scrambled eggs and sausage. Yum, yum! Then later, after you have enjoyed your full breakfast, sashay over to the bake sale table and pick out something to top off your lunch or dinner. Serving begins at 8 a.m. and continues until 11 a.m.

The new doors have been installed at Chillas Hall. ABSOLUTELY no posters, Scotch tape or anything on these doors!

Don't forget to check in on the sick and housebound.

Until next time, God Bless America, our troops, the poor, homeless and hungry.

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JIM WELSH

Lanark News

Gideons donate Bibles to hospital, nursing home

Weems Memorial Hospital CEO Chuck Colvert and St. James Health & Rehabilitation Center Administrator Lisa Mitchem recently received enough Gideon Bibles for each of their patient rooms.

This first-time benevolent gift to both facilities from The Gideons International was arranged by Weems chaplain the Rev. Dr. John Sink.

The Gideons International, founded in 1899, serves as a Christian missionary outreach and is one of the old Christian business and professional men's association in the world. Their members come from many denominations and from countries other than the United States.

The Gideons, who take their name from a major judge and heroic leader in Old Testament history, first began their "Bible Project" in 1908. Currently, they are organized in more than 180 countries around the globe and print bibles in more than 80 languages.

These Gideon Bibles are based on the 1611 Authorized Version and are distributed free of charge to hospitality institutions, medical



Weems Chaplain, Dr. John Sink, left, Weems Director of Nursing Candi Fox, center, and Weems CEO Chuck Colvert display one of the new Gideon Bibles.

and nursing facilities, schools and colleges, and prisons as well as to members of the U.S. Armed Forces and to U.S. Veterans Administration and military base hospitals.

"We are truly grateful to the Gideons for their generous gift of the Holy Scriptures," Colvert said. "We appreciate the concern and dedication of our new Hospital Chaplains Association in arranging for this gift to coincide with our recent efforts to enhance the quality of Weems' service to our patients here and at Weems' newly opened medical center in Carrabelle.

"No matter how much you renovate the patient's room, it's not

complete without an internationally recognized Gideon Bible. The more we know about the holistic approach to health care, the more we can appreciate the spiritual needs of our patients," he said. "We are extremely pleased to offer these Gideon Bibles to our patients."

Mitchem also was most appreciative of the Gideons' gift of their famous Bibles and the chaplains' initiative. "How timely and appropriate as we open the doors of this new, much needed 90-bed medical support facility to serve the people of Franklin County and improve their quality of life under difficult circumstances," she said.

Church BRIEFS

Chosen Generation to present musical service

The Chosen Generation Youth Ministry will present "Blacks in HIS-tory" and "Marks of Distinction" on Sunday, Feb. 22, at the Love Center in Apalachicola.

The service will be a musical dramatic presentation and recognition of community members whose efforts have assisted with the advancement of the African-American community.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Weems to host Gracie Vaughn benefit

Weems Memorial Hospital will host a benefit luncheon for longtime employee Gracie Vaughn on Friday, Feb. 20, at the hospital.

The hospital plans to set up an

outdoor tent, decorated with festive balloons, to help offset the cost of Vaughn's treatment for chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy (CIDP).

The benefit will feature boiled shrimp, fried fish and barbecue chicken, which includes side orders of cole slaw, baked beans, hush puppies and dessert. Plates are available for \$10.

For more information, call Jennifer Brandon at 653-8853, ext. 101.

Trinity to host Shrove Tuesday pancake supper

Trinity Episcopal Church will have a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper from 5-7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24, in Benedict Hall (next door to church).

All tickets are \$4 and can be

purchased at the door or by calling 653-9550. Everyone is encouraged to come enjoy good food and good fellowship. We do takeouts.

Love Center Ministries expands to Eastpoint

The Love Center Ministries has expanded to Eastpoint, under the direction of Evangelists James and Alma Pugh as pastors.

The new Breakthrough ministry began Feb. 3 and now hosts regular Bible study on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. at a storefront on 29 Island Drive at the Point Mall. Services are held the second and third Sundays of the month at 5 p.m. Apostle Shirley C. White serves as general overseer of the ministries.

For more information, call 653-2303.

She said doctors and hospitals might not inform cancer patients of the help available to them through the American Cancer Society. She hopes to change this in Franklin County.

"There's a whole host of services nobody knows about," she said. "Franklin County has one of the highest occurrence rates of cancer in Florida. It's a shame so many people struggle here financially and don't know there's help available."

"Last year, during Seafood Festival, there was a woman near the entrance selling smoked mullet to raise gas money for her mother to go to Tampa for treatment. We were able to get her both money for gas and free accommodations at the Hope Lodge," she said.

Hoffritz said her biggest disappointment so far has been the lack of interest and participation by the local schools. She said she sees very little support for the Relay for Life by either teachers or the administration.

"My biggest mission is to get students in our schools involved. Kids get cancer, and their parents do, too. One girl, Chantelle Lucas, is trying to form a team, Candy Mountain. She recently lost her mother to cancer, and the team is dedicated to her," she said.

Hoffritz said anyone interested in volunteering or anyone seeking help can contact her at 323-0560 or lakefall@aol.com.



LOIS SWOBODA | The Times

Susan Hoffritz is seeking volunteers for this year's Relay for Life.

"I am doing this because my father was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer on Dec. 16, 2007, and 40 days later, he was dead. This is for him," Hoffritz said.

She met with Alisha Townsend, community development director for the American Cancer Society of the Big Bend, to discuss volunteering.

"We realized that both of our fathers had died on the same day of pancreatic cancer. I wound up volunteering to be chairman," Hoffritz said.

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Sunday Evening Service	6:00 pm
Monday, Youth Group	6:30 pm
Wednesday, Royal Rangers, G.A.P.	7:00 pm
Wednesday Worship & Word	7:30 pm

Nursery Provided during regular church services

Obituaries

Rena Heusel

Rena Lena Heusel, 68, born March 2, 1940, in Ellenburg, N.Y., passed away Dec. 31, 2008, of natural causes.

She and her late husband of 20 years, Lee Heusel, were residents of Apalachicola for 48 years.

She was the daughter of the late Nelson and Irene Mesic of Ellenburg. She leaves behind three sisters, Shirley Creamer of Apalachicola, Terry Marchand of Las Vegas and Doris Burns of North Carolina; two brothers, Sammy Mesic of Dunellon and Davis Mesic of New York; four loving and very devoted daughters, Cindy Smith and Tommy Glass, Terri and Eddie Woodall, Judy and Douglas Hicks, and Mary and Norman Freeman, all of Apalachicola, who all loved her dearly; and a wonderful man, Alvin Gloner of



Apalachicola, father of their four loving daughters. She also left behind 11 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren, all of Apalachicola. Also surviving her is a wonderful best friend with whom she spent a lot of time, Emily Bentley of Panama City, who loved her so much and was like part of the family. They had a friendship of over 49 years together.

Miss Rena had a heart of gold and will never be forgotten. She has blessed many and was a wonderful mother, wife, granny and best friend. We love and miss you very much.

Services were held Monday, Jan. 5, 2009, at Kelley Funeral Home with burial in Magnolia Cemetery. Pastor Susan Roach of the First Pentecostal Holiness Church officiated.

Minnie Kinsey

Minnie Frances Kinsey, 86, died Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2009, at Eden Springs Nursing Home in Medart.

She was born July 26, 1922.

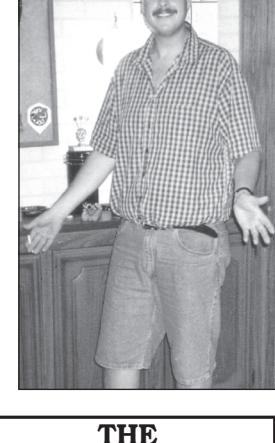
She is survived by her

two daughters, Sandra Pendleton and Janice Truxell; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and local cousins Laeverdee Sangaree and Voncile McLeod.

In Memory

Robert Robertson

Feb. 14, 1972, to July 7, 2002



The blessing of his smile, love of life, laugh, friendship, willingness to always lend a hand ... and to have known him here on earth. Robert, we miss you more each day ... each holiday ... know that you are dearly loved, and we look forward to being with you forever in heaven.

Lord, thank you for his life, Mom and all the family

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75 5th St. Apalachicola - 653-9530 - fumcapalach@gtcom.net
Pastor: Rev. Themo Patriotis

Carrabelle United Methodist Church

Worship Services 10:45 a.m. - Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

"Celebrate Recovery" Mondays 7-9 p.m.

Healing service first Friday of each month

102 NE Ave. B Carrabelle - 697-3672

Pastor: Julie Stephens

Eastpoint United Methodist Church

Worship Service 10:00 a.m. every Sunday

Prayer 9:15 a.m. Waffles & Wisdom 11:15 a.m.

Healing Service every first Fridays of the Month at 6:30 p.m.

317 Patton Dr. (corner of David St.) - 670-8825

Pastor: Rev. Beth White

St. George Island United Methodist Church

9:00 a.m. Worship Service

10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour

201 E. Gulf Beach Dr. 927-4635 www.sgiucm.org

Pastor: Rev. Themo Patriotis

FWC targets oystermen working the bay

On Jan. 27, Officers Don Walker and Steven Cook conducted an oyster detail in Apalachicola Bay, boarding 11 vessels and inspecting 26 harvesters. The inspections revealed violations for no saltwater products license and no Apalachicola Bay oyster harvest permit. Four misdemeanor citations were issued for the violations.

Following that, Officers Woody Cook, John Allen, Carmon Brownell, Don Walker, Travis Huckabee, Charlie Mallow, Ryan Knutson and Lt. Charlie Wood conducted a detail in the Two-Mile area of Apalachicola Bay. The detail was directed to specifically address tagging requirement violations for commercially harvested oysters, hull identification numbers on vessels and vessel safety equipment inspections.

During the detail, 39 vessels were boarded with 73 harvesters being inspected. Seventeen misdemeanor citations were issued for violations pertaining to untagged bags of oysters, hull identification numbers and license violations. One infraction citation was issued for expired vessel registration. Sixty-three written warnings were issued for vessel safety equipment and various resource violations.

Officers Chasen Yarborough, Woody Cook and Steven Cook conducted inspec-

tions of commercial oyster harvesters in the areas of Cat Point and East Hole on Apalachicola Bay. The officers boarded 23 vessels and inspected 48 harvesters. Two misdemeanor citations were issued for no saltwater products license and no Apalachicola Bay oyster harvest permit. Three infraction citations were issued for expired vessel registration and insufficiencies in vessel safety equipment. Twenty-five written warnings were issued for various vessel safety equipment insufficiencies.

Officers Woody Cook and Steven Cook also conducted a decoy deer detail in the area of McIntyre. Numerous complaints had been made by the leaseholders of the private property regarding non-lease members harvesting deer from the property.

The officers stopped a vehicle after the driver/father allowed his juvenile son to shoot the decoy placed on the property. The father admitted knowing the property was a private hunting lease.

The father was charged with felony trespass by a projectile for allowing the juvenile he was supervising to shoot the decoy deer on the private property. The father was arrested and transported to the Franklin County Jail. The officers seized two shotguns and one rifle during the offense.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

The following report is provided by the Franklin County Sheriff's Office. Arrests are made by officers from the following county, and state law enforcement agencies: Apalachicola (APD), Carrabelle (CPD), Florida Highway Patrol (FHP), Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO), Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FLDOACS).

All defendants are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Feb. 9

Kaila Odom, 25, Eastpoint, DUI (FCSO)
William J. Logan, 71, Eastpoint, violation of probation (FCSO)

Brittany M. Gay, 24, Port St. Joe, violation of probation (APD)

Feb. 10

Steven A. Taylor, 31, Tallahassee, two counts of sale of a controlled substance within a 1,000 feet of public housing, two counts of sale of a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance (FCSO)

Jeffrey D. Bonner, 24, Eastpoint, lewd or lascivious molestation (FCSO)

Louie W. Barber, Jr., 44, Bayou La Batre, AL,

DUI (FCSO)

Feb. 11

Wayne N. Braswell Jr., 30, Eastpoint, sale of a controlled substance within a 1,000 feet of public housing (FCSO)

Reginald J. James, 45, Apalachicola, driving while license suspended or revoked (APD)

James D. Creamer, 27, Apalachicola, failure to appear (FCSO)

Feb. 12

Clifford L. Armstrong, 64, Alligator Point, violation of probation (FCSO)

Benita K. Judson, 46, Apalachicola, three counts of sale or possession of a controlled substance within 1,000 feet of a

church and possession of cannabis (FCSO)

Feb. 13

Michelle D. Massey, 32, Carrabelle, theft (APD)

James E. McCord, Jr., 31, Foley, AL, violation of probation (FCSO)

Michael J. Harris, 45, Theodore, AL, failure to appear (FCSO)

Feb. 14

Timothy W. Finley, 40, Apalachicola, DUI (FCSO)

Feb. 15

Brett P. Gormley, 30, Apalachicola, DUI, possession of cannabis, and refusal to submit to DUI test (FHP)

FWC makes no change to flounder rules

State officials made no changes to flounder gidding rules at a meeting Feb. 5 in Destin, said Kevin Begos, of the Franklin County Oyster & Seafood Task Force.

The Task Force testified at the meeting of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and reminded officials that state records show the flounder fishery is stable and healthy.

None of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission members spoke in favor of banning flounder gidding at the meeting.

"We hope this bad idea has been put to rest," said Begos, who noted that recreational fishing groups at the meeting did not support a ban on flounder gidding either.

Whitehead tapped to run county jail

The naming of Tim Whitehead, a veteran of the state correctional system, to oversee the county jail highlighted several organizational structure and personnel changes announced Monday by Sheriff Skip Shiver.

Shiver chose Whitehead, retired after nearly 30 of years with the Florida Department of Corrections, to serve as captain of the county correctional facility on State Route 65. Capt. Brad Segree was named to supervise the Law Enforcement Division.

"I am what I call old-school," said Whitehead, who lives in Eastpoint. "I grew up at Lake Butler in Union County, where there was nothing but prisons and pulp wood. My family was in law enforcement. When I graduated high school, I got a job as a correctional officer. I climbed through the entire ranking order of the correctional system till I became a warden."

"I would never ask anyone to do anything I haven't done, and I have the advantage of having done every job there is within the system," he said.

Asked if he proposed to make immediate changes at the jail, Whitehead said, "Any time you have new staff, there will be changes. Before I make any decisions, I need to get in there and talk with the staff and see what we have."

"Any changes I make will be for the betterment of the staff to make the facility more safe and secure," he said.

In his announcement of the personnel changes, which become effective Monday, Feb. 23, Shiver



WHITEHEAD

said he was moving to streamline and better serve the Franklin County Sheriff's Office.

Other changes included moving Corrections Officer John Solomon to Property, Evidence and Information

Technology and moving Corrections Officer R.J. Shelley to Patrol Operations and K-9, both in the Law Enforcement Division.

Pat McWhinnie, the 9-1-1 coordinator, was picked to supervise the Communications Center, and Sgt. Jim Watkins was named task force supervisor. Both positions are in the Law Enforcement Division.

On the school front, Sgt. Carl Whaley was named school resource officer at Franklin Consolidated School, and Sgt. Ryan Sandoval was named school resource officer over the DARE program at the Franklin Consolidated and Apalachicola Bay Charter school. School Resource Officer Jeff Hewitt was shifted to corrections officer, and School Resource Officer Carlos Hill was moved to patrol operations in the Law Enforcement Division.

In addition to the above personnel changes, Shiver asked that the public call the following telephone numbers for service: 9-1-1 for emergencies; 670-8500 for non-emergency calls for service; and 670-8519 for the sheriff and administrative office personnel.

Shiver said he is pleased with the receptive response from the affected employees and knows the reorganization will greatly improve service to Franklin County residents and visitors.

— By Lois Swoboda

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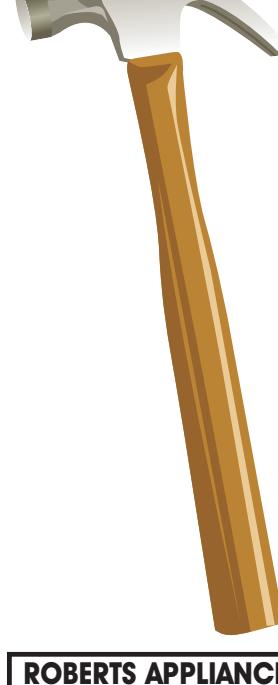
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NOAA seeks water samplers

Are you interested in sampling local waters twice a month and identifying the phytoplankton that are found? It's OK if the last time you used a microscope was back in high school! No experience is required.

The NOAA Phytoplankton Monitoring Network (PMN) is holding new volunteer trainings in Franklin County on March 11-12. PMN provides volunteers with the necessary equipment except for a light microscope. Volunteers commit to sampling their site at least once every two weeks for at least one year.

Sampling sites can be anywhere, as long as you have easy, safe and legal access to the site. Sampling sites must have a salinity

of 15 parts per trillion or greater throughout most of the year.

Volunteers need to have computer access to enter data into the PMN online database. Anyone can participate: schools, parks, 4-H clubs, homeschooled, master naturalists, individuals, etc.

Sound interesting? Then come and get your hands wet. Volunteer training will be March 11 at the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve from 1-4 p.m.

To reserve a spot, contact Jeff Paternoster at 843-762-8657 or jeff.paternoster@noaa.gov. For additional information about the network, visit www.chbr.noaa.gov/pmn.

Happy ENDINGS

Flash is a rare breed indeed

My good friends Jeff and Caroline Ilardi wrote this tribute to their dog Flash, also a good friend of mine. When adopted into the Ilardi family, Flash had some problems with his health and had been mistreated, but he has adapted well and is now a healthy boy with a great personality. He was a jewel in the rough that Jeff and Caroline polished until it shined.

This is the story of Flash, our 6-year-old basset hound. Well, actually he's a "Basset Artesian Normand," but more about that later.

My wife, Caroline, and I were living in Homestead, and we had very casually discussed getting a dog without reaching any conclusion. A fishing trip down to Sugarloaf Key in the lower Keys had ended successfully with Caroline catching the inshore Grand Slam of tarpon, permit and bonefish in the same day, and we had just feasted at Mangrove Mama's Restaurant on some mangrove snapper we caught.

As we were heading back to Homestead, Caroline picked up one of those free local papers and was going through it when she turned to me and said "look at this." All the Keys animal shelters had put in pictures of their adoptable



JEFF ILARDI | Contributed photo

Flash is the Ilardi's 6-year-old Basset Artesian Normand.

pets. There was a photo of Flash, all long ears and sad eyes looking up at me.

"Do you want a dog?" I said.

"Do you?" said she.

"Oh, well, let's take a look at the little guy, since we're only about a mile from the Marathon shelter."

We called, and they still had our Flash, but they said they had received about 10 inquiries already, so we rushed right over. There he was, sitting alone next to a tree looking forlorn. A woman was ahead of us, but since she had already adopted two bassets, she let us get first choice on Flash.

We sat on the couch in the office. Flash was let in, and he jumped right up on the couch and sat between us. Caroline, romantic that she is, has always insisted that we were so redolent of shrimp and fish that Flash just could not resist! Flash was about 7 months old and had already been in three homes, none of which were suitable. He had been kept muzzled in a crate all day in his last home and was removed by animal control. He had

probably had been abused because he was very shy and wary of certain people, but now he was coming home with us.

We stopped at a pet shop in Key Largo. They were just closing, but they opened up for us so we could get the basics for Flash. After some early health problems caused by eating practically anything, he has turned into a happy, confident dog who we just love. Flash has been on Shorelines Forgotten Coast TV fishing report. He also won most obedient dog in Franklin County at the Dog Days celebration.

Some folks would look at Flash and say he looks to small for a basset, so I checked a breed book and there he was, the aforementioned Basset Artesian Normand, a "rare breed" indeed!

Lois Swoboda is archiving success stories of animal adoptions for her series "Happy Endings" for The Times. To share a story for "Happy Endings," please email Lois at lswoboda@starfl.com.

Apalachicola Fitness Center alters staff

On Friday, members of the Apalachicola Fitness Center bid farewell to popular director Tim Whitehead.

He has accepted a position as captain in charge of the county jail.

Christine Smith will take over as manager of the fitness center. Bradley Vaughn and Eric Olson also will be on staff. Smith, Vaughn and Olson are all seeking certification as personal trainers, and Whitehead said he will be available for private training sessions by appointment.

April Patriotis also has come on staff at the center to teach Pilates and kickboxing.

Beginning Feb. 17, Dr. Fred Russo will be seeing chiropractic patients at the center from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays. Russo is a graduate of the National College of Chiropractic in Lombardi, Ill. He practiced at Weems from 1993 to 1995 before moving to Tallahassee.

Whitehead said he will miss working at the gym although he looks forward to the challenges of his new position.

"It's like any place you work: You develop a relationship with the people you see on a day-to-day basis. The good news



LOIS SWOBODA | The Times

Tim Whitehead, center, will leave the Apalachicola Fitness Center in the capable hands of Bradley Vaughn, left; new manager Christine Smith, seated; and Eric Olson, not pictured.

is, I'm still going to be in the county, and hopefully I'll continue to see most of the people I know from the gym," he said. "I just hope I don't see them in my new setting."

— By Lois Swoboda

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Franklin County Board of County Commissioners will be accepting separate sealed Request for Proposals for the following:

WILL S. KENDRICK SPORTS COMPLEX TENNIS COURT PROJECT

Specifications are on file in the office of the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners, 33 Market Street, Suite 203, Apalachicola, Florida 32320.

Proposals must be received in the office of the Franklin County Clerk of the Court 33 Market Street, Suite 203, Apalachicola, Florida 32320 by 4:30 P.M., EST, on March 2, 2009. Each proposal must be sealed and clearly labeled. The sealed proposals will be publicly open and read aloud at 10:30 A.M. EST, on March 3, 2009, in the County Commission Meeting Room located in the Franklin County Courthouse Annex. For further information, contact Nikki Millender, Coordinator Franklin County Parks & Recreation Department, at (850) 653-8277. Email: fcpr@fairpoint.net

Bidder shall provide an original and one copy of each proposal in a sealed envelope or container, plainly marked "WILL S. KENDRICK SPORTS COMPLEX TENNIS COURT PROJECT".

The owner reserves the right to waive any informality or to reject any or all proposals.

ATTENTION BIDDERS: Franklin County is an equal opportunity employer and encourages participation by certified minority enterprises and women's business enterprises.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA

JOSEPH PARRISH, CHAIRMAN

Local

Community CALENDAR

Thursday, Feb. 19

Apalachicola Community Pride meets at 6 p.m. at City Hall. For info, call 653-8715.

Wandering Star Quilting Club. Chillas Hall Lanark Village. 1-3 p.m. Call Christine Hinton 697-2551.

Luncheon and information specials at the Franklin County Senior Center in Carrabelle. Noon. \$3 donation. Call 697-3760

Friday, Feb. 20

The sixth annual African-American History festival at Sixth Street Recreation Park in Apalachicola. Event opens at noon and runs through Sunday afternoon. For more info, visit www.hcola.org.

The Dixie Theatre presents "Visiting Mr. Green" at 8 p.m.. Mr. Green (David Poirier), an elderly, retired dry cleaner, wanders into New York traffic and is almost hit by a car driven by Ross Gardiner (David Caldwell), a young corporate executive. The young man is given a community service of helping the recent widower once a week for six months. What starts as a comedy about two men who do not want to be in the same room together becomes a gripping and moving drama as they get to know each other, come to care about each other and open old wounds they've been hiding and nursing for years. Call the Dixie box office for tickets at 653-3200.

Breakfast at the Franklin County Senior Center in Carrabelle. Coffee at 7:30 a.m., meal at 8 a.m. \$2 donation. Call 697-3760.

Bocce Club. Franklin County Senior Center. 1 p.m. Call 697-3760.

Saturday, Feb. 21

The sixth annual African-American History festival at Sixth Street Recreation Park in Apalachicola. Parade commences at 11 a.m.. For more info, visit www.hcola.org.

The Dixie Theatre presents "Visiting Mr. Green" at 8 p.m. Call the Dixie box office for tickets at 653-3200.

Sunday, Feb. 22
The sixth annual African-American History festival at Sixth Street

LYONIA from page B1

fragrant and they last for several weeks.

Lyonia is a very showy little shrub when in flower. It deserves more attention from gardeners who like to use native plants. You can trim fetterbush into hedges or use it in mixed shrub plantings.

Lyonia should thrive anywhere blueberries do well. It prefers acidic soil. It grows well in partial shade to full sun. Lyonia grows naturally in moist to fairly dry sandy soils. Once established,

Recreation Park in Apalachicola runs through Sunday afternoon. For more info, visit www.hcola.org.

The Dixie Theatre presents "Visiting Mr. Green," at 3 p.m. Call the Dixie box office for tickets at 653-3200.

Monday, Feb. 23

Breakfast at Franklin County Senior Center in Carrabelle. Coffee at 7:30 a.m., meal at 8 a.m. \$2 donation. Call 697-3760.

Computer classes at the Franklin County Senior Center in Carrabelle. Call Joyce Durham 670-5951 and set up a time.

Billiards Club at the Franklin County Senior Center in Carrabelle. 1 p.m. Call 697-3760.

GED classes are offered at the Franklin County School from 3 to 6 p.m. every week in Building 1100, Room 1105. Call 670-2800.

Tuesday, Feb. 24

The Gulf Coast Workforce Board Rating Committee will meet at 9 a.m. CT in the conference room of the Workforce Development Building, 5230 W. U.S. 98, Panama City. The rating committee will be selecting a three-year proposal for auditing services. Please contact Donna Williams at 850-913-3285 for questions.

Apalachicola Community Gardens will meet at 6 p.m. at the Apalachicola Bay Chamber of Commerce. For more info, call 653-9419.

Art Club at the Franklin County Senior Center in Carrabelle. 2-4 p.m. Call 697-3760.

Bingo. 7 p.m. St. George Island Fire Dept. \$1/card. Proceeds go to St. George Island Civic Club. Call 927-4654.

Wednesday, Feb. 25

The Dixie Theatre presents "Visiting Mr. Green," at 3 p.m. Call the Dixie box office for tickets at 653-3200.

Card Club. Franklin County Senior Center. 1 p.m. Call 697-3760.

Bingo for the Bus. Chillas Hall in Lanark village. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Call 697-9626.

GED classes are offered at the Franklin County School from 3-6 p.m. every week in Building 1100, Room 1105. Call 670-2800.

NOTICE OF ZONING CHANGE

The Franklin County Board of County Commissioners proposes to adopt the following by ordinance: An Ordinance Rezoning the following tracts of Land in Franklin County:

A 0.65 acre parcel in Section 14, Township 7 South, Range 4 West, Lanark Beach to be rezoned from C-4 Mixed Used Residential to C-3 Commercial Recreation.

A public hearing on the proposed changes to the Zoning Map series will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2009, at 10:15 a.m., at the County Commission meeting room in the Franklin County Courthouse Annex in Apalachicola, Florida. More information can be obtained and the proposed change may be inspected at the Franklin County Planning Department, 34 Forbes Street, Suite #1, Apalachicola, Florida, telephone (850) 653-9783.

Persons wishing to comment may do so in person at the public hearing or in writing to the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners, 33 Market Street, Suite 203, Apalachicola, Florida 32320. Transactions of this public hearing will not be recorded. Persons who wish to appeal any action resulting from this hearing should make the necessary arrangements to assure that a verbatim record is made, including testimony and evidence, if any, upon which the appeal is to be based.



Rezone from C-4 Mixed Use Residential to C-3 Commercial Recreation

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1170 - Found

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL ACTION

WASHINGTON MUTUAL BANK F/K/A WASHINGTON MUTUAL BANK, FA, Plaintiff,

VS.

KAREN BETH MILENDER, et al., Defendant(s).

CASE NO.: 19-2008-CA-0191

VISION:

NOTICE OF RESCHEDULED SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN Pursuant to an Order Rescheduling Foreclosure Sale dated January 26, 2009, and entered in Case No. 19-2008-CA-0191 of the Circuit Court of the Second Judicial Circuit in and for Franklin County, Florida in which Washington Mutual Bank F/A, is the Plaintiff and Karen Beth Millender, Tenant #1 n/k/a Nicki Kirby, Tenant #2 n/k/a Robert Belardin, are defendants, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in/yrn, Franklin County, Florida at on the 26th day of February, 2009, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment of Foreclosure:

LOT 4, BLOCK 2, GULF TERRACES, UNIT NO. ONE, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 3, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA.

A/K/A 139 APALACHEE STREET, CARABELLE, FL 32322

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

Dated in Franklin County, Florida this 28th day of January, 2009.

Clerk of the Circuit Court Franklin County, Florida
By: Michele Maxwell
Deputy Clerk

Albertelli Law Attorney for Plaintiff
P.O. Box 23028 Tampa, FL 33623
(813)221-4743

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

08-05474

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the Clerk of the Courts, Marcia M. Johnson, 33 Market Street, Suite 203, Apalachicola, FL 32320; telephone number (850) 653-8861, not later than seven (7) days prior to this proceeding. If you are hearing or voice impaired, please call (850) 577-4400.

February 12, 19, 2009

1047T IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 2nd JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION

U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR MASTR ALTERNATIVE LOAN TRUST 2005-5 PLAINTIFF

VS.

GARY FOGLER A/K/A GARY R. FOGLER; BECCA FOGLER; AMY WRIGHT A/K/A AMY E. WRIGHT, UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF AMY WRIGHT A/K/A AMY E. WRIGHT IF ANY; ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE HEREIN NAMED INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES OR OTHER CLAIMANTS; JOHN DOE AND JANE DOE AS UNKNOWN TENANTS IN POSSESSION DEFENDANT(S)

CASE NO. 07-00178CA

RE- NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order Granting the Motion to Reset Foreclosure Sale dated January 26, 2009 entered in Civil Case No. 07-00178CA of the Circuit Court of the 2nd Judicial Circuit in and for FRANKLIN County, Apalachicola, Florida, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the front steps of the courthouse of the FRANKLIN County Courthouse, 33 Market Street, Apalachicola, Florida, at 11:00 a.m. on the 26th day of February, 2009 the following described property as set forth in said Summary Final Judgment, to-wit:

LOT 6, BLOCK N, ST. GEORGE ISLAND GULF BEACHES, UNIT NO. 2, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGE 15, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA.

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

Dated in Franklin County, Florida this 28th day of January, 2009.

Clerk of the Circuit Court Franklin County, Florida
By: Michele Maxwell
Deputy Clerk

Albertelli Law Attorney for Plaintiff
P.O. Box 23028 Tampa, FL 33623
(813)221-4743

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

MAP OR PLAT OF SAID CITY IN MOST GENERAL USE.

Dated this 28th day of January, 2009.

Marcia M. Johnson
Clerk of the Circuit Court
By: Michele Maxwell
Deputy Clerk

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, persons with disabilities needing a special accommodation should contact the COURT ADMINISTRATION, at the FRANKLIN County Courthouse at 8 5 0 - 6 5 3 - 8 8 6 1 , 1-800-955-8771 (TDD) or 1-800-955-8770, via Florida Relay Service.

DAVID J. STERN, PA.
900 SOUTH PINE ISLAND ROAD SUITE 400
PLANTATION, FL 33324-3920
(954) 233-8000
07-8420(ASCF)
February 12, 19, 2009

VS.

DAVID J. STERN, PA.
900 SOUTH PINE ISLAND ROAD SUITE 400
PLANTATION, FL 33324-3920
(954) 233-8000
07-15857(NCM)
February 12, 19, 2009

1048T IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 2nd JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION

NATIONAL CITY MORTGAGE CO., PLAINTIFF

VS.

EDWARD C. CASS; BETTY CASS; ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE HEREIN NAMED INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES OR OTHER CLAIMANTS; JOHN DOE AND JANE DOE AS UNKNOWN TENANTS IN POSSESSION DEFENDANT(S)

CASE NO. 08-000442-CA

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS given pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated January 28, 2009, in Case No. 08-000469-CA, of the Circuit Court of the Second Judicial Circuit, in and for Franklin County, Florida, in which CAPITAL CITY BANK is the Plaintiff and RICK PETRONELLA A/K/A RICK J. PETRONELLA, LISA A. PETRONELLA and UNKNOWN TENANT(S), Defendants.

CASE NO. 08-000442-CA

RE- NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order Granting the Motion to Reset Foreclosure Sale dated January 26, 2009 entered in Civil Case No. 07-000463-CA of the Circuit Court of the 2nd Judicial Circuit in and for FRANKLIN County, Apalachicola, Florida, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the front steps of the courthouse of the FRANKLIN County Courthouse, 33 Market Street, Apalachicola, Florida, at 11:00 a.m. on March 12, 2009, the property set forth in the Final Judgment of Foreclosure and more particularly described as follows:

Lot 19, Palmetto Village,

according to the map or

plat thereof as recorded in

Plat Book 7, Page(s) 47,

Public Records of Franklin

County, Florida.

Any person claiming an

interest in the surplus from

the sale, if any, other than

the property owner as of

the date of the Lis Pendens

must file a claim within

sixty (60) days after the

sale.

DATED: January 28, 2009

MARIA M. JOHNSON
Clerk of the Circuit Court

By: Michele Maxwell
Deputy Clerk

Garvin B. Bowden, Esq.,
Gardner, Bist, Wiener,
Wadsworth & Bowden PA.

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

the date of the lis pendens, must file a claim within sixty (60) days after the sale.

DATED: January 28, 2009.

MARIA M. JOHNSON
Clerk of the Circuit Court
By: Michele Maxwell
Deputy Clerk

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

DATED: January 28, 2009.

MARIA M. JOHNSON
Clerk of the Circuit Court
By: Michele Maxwell
Deputy Clerk

1127T IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 2nd JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION

WASHINGTON MUTUAL BANK, FA, Plaintiff,

vs.

KAREN BETH MILLENDER; UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, ASSEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHERS WHO MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.

DATED ON February 4, 2009.

Marcia M. Johnson
Clerk of the Circuit Court
By: Michele Maxwell
Deputy Clerk

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 2nd JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION

CAPITAL CITY BANK, Plaintiff,

vs.

BETTY J. PETERSON A/K/A BETTY PETERSON, APRIL L. GILES A/K/A APRIL GILES, MAGNOLIA RIDGE ESTATES PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION, INC., and UNKNOWN TENANT(S), Defendants,

CASE NO. 08-000469-CA

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS given pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated January 28, 2009, in Case No. 08-000469-CA, of the Circuit Court of the Second Judicial Circuit, in and for Franklin County, Florida, in which CAPITAL CITY BANK is the Plaintiff and RICK PETRONELLA A/K/A RICK J. PETRONELLA, LISA A. PETRONELLA and UNKNOWN TENANT(S), Defendants.

CASE NO. 08-000442-CA

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS given pursuant to a Final Judgment of

Foreclosure dated January 28, 2009, in Case No. 08-000469-CA, of the Circuit Court of the Second Judicial Circuit, in and for Franklin County, Florida, in which CAPITAL CITY BANK is the Plaintiff and RICK PETRONELLA A/K/A RICK J. PETRONELLA, LISA A. PETRONELLA and UNKNOWN TENANT(S), Defendants.

CASE NO. 08-000442-CA

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**LEGAL
ADVERTISING****1100**

Committee Meeting of The Northwest Florida Transportation Corridor Authority on Thursday, February 19, 2009. This meeting will immediately follow the regularly scheduled meeting of The Northwest Florida Transportation Corridor Authority on 10:00 a.m. CST at the Walton Area Chamber of Commerce, 63 South Centre Trail, Santa Rosa Beach, Florida 32459. Any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this meeting is asked to advise the Corridor Authority at least 48 hours prior to the meeting by contacting Amber Perryman at 850-215-4081 or by email at Amber.Perryman@fdhinc.com. February 19, 2009

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3130 - Auctions
3140 - Baby Items
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3220 - Garage/Yard Sales
3240 - Guns
3250 - Good Things to Eat
3260 - Health & Fitness
3270 - Jewelry/Clothing
3280 - Machinery/
Equipment
3290 - Medical Equipment
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A renovation made in heaven

By David Adlerstein
Times City Editor

Like any good marriage, the gazebo in Lafayette Park needed a little refurbishing.

The cypress rails worn by pressing hands, reliable for leaning upon, took some smoothing out.

The holes made by staples and tacks where they'd pierced the beams, as callous words do the heart, called for plugging up.

The gleam of freshness on the surface had dimmed.

The luster of love, smooth as fresh coats of paint, had to be re-applied.

Working with a \$6,200 grant from the Tourist Development Council, the city of Apalachicola just finished a complete renovation of the triumphant gazebo, thanks to the craftsmanship of a two-man crew under the direction of general contractor Mike Parrish.

Chris Stokes and Pachee Vause replaced rotten wood, repaired the sheet metal master rib roof, repainted the entire



DAVID ADLERSTEIN | The Times

Chris Stokes and Pachee Vause prepare to come down from the roof of the gazebo after replacing the wooden finial that snapped off after one of the hurricanes of recent years.

structure with several coats of brilliant white paint, added the eave drips and, to top it all off, replaced the finial that sticks like a spire from the rooftop.

Parrish said key to preventive maintenance was replacing the roofing nails, which were used originally to attach the sheet metal roof, with watertight screws that keep wind and rain from loosening and weakening the metal sheets.

As the two men described the work they put in over the last several weeks, Vause remem-

bered how he used to play in the park as a child, when the previous gazebo was a smaller structure they climbed on.

Stokes' memories were even fresher, as he turned to Nov. 13, 2004, when he married his wife, Christy, under the watchful canopy of the gazebo.

She had entered the park in a decorated golf cart, bringing a smile to Chris and a vivid recollection to his wife.

"There was a mom and a little girl sitting on one of the picnic tables. There's this little

girl, and she's just in awe. She waved to me like I was a celebrity," Christy said.

"The whole thing was fun," she said. "It wasn't one of those big-to-do weddings. It was just fun."

If Chris Stokes puts the same amount of love and care in his marriage as he and Vause did with the gazebo, they both should stay healthy and beautiful.

"He even goes out in the bay from the Lafayette Park pier, and he'll throw his cast net," Christy

said. "And every time he goes, he says, 'I went and threw my net where we got married.' It's a pleasant memory for him."

The first couple to make memories under the newly completed gazebo will be Keith Vasilinda of Tallahassee and Macie Tapper of Port St. Joe, who will tie the knot at 11 a.m. Saturday.

"I suggested it to them when they sprang it on me quite suddenly that they wanted to get married," said Keith's mom, Marci Daniels. "I said to Keith 'What about Lafayette Park?' I've just always looked at it and it looked perfectly beautiful to me."

"They went and came back, and she just flew in the door and said 'That's absolutely where I want to get married,'" Daniels said.

"Keith used to go to the park after we moved here when he 11," Daniels said. "When he was 14, he got a little boat. He called it Kermit, and he learned to cast net. We went and got him a real cast net from Golden's. He used to go just past where the pier is."

"He would get bait fish down there," Daniels said. "He's familiar with the park. He used to ride his bike all over there."

Daniels said Trinity Episcopal's the Rev. Martha Harris will conduct the nuptials at the small, family wedding. She said she is overjoyed at the work Parrish, Vause and Stokes have done.

"It's amazing, the transformation. It's absolutely lovely," she said. "They did a great job. I think it's going to encourage more brides to choose that location."

She scoops sea foam by the seashore

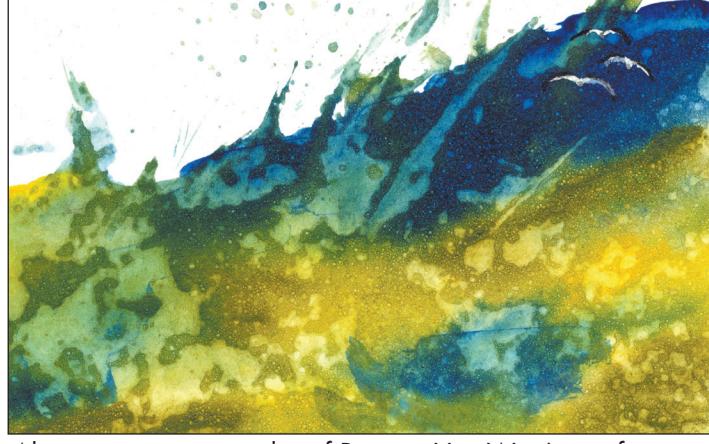
By David Adlerstein
Times City Editor

Dr. Patricia Van West scoops up sea foam from the Gulf of Mexico and hauls it in a cake carrier back to her house on Cape San Blas.

She is not a research scientist, as her doctorate is in education and she teaches teachers how to teach.

She is not a lunatic, either, because she lives most of the year up north in a town named Normal, Ill., not far from Peoria, which as everyone knows is about as normal a place as there is.

But during her month-long sojourn as a snowbird here, Van West is an artist, drawing on all



Above are two examples of Patricia Van West's sea foam paintings.

the inspiration, ingenuity and fervish devotion the title implies.

One day, Van West took a break from her reading and her conventional painting, and while strolling the beach, looked down at the sea foam swirling at her feet. She wondered what effect the foam would have if used in the painting process.

She hauled it back to her house and began experimenting

with it as part of the medium for watercolors.

She appears to be the only person on the planet to do, or at least to have announced publicly that they have done so.

Van West applied the sea foam, before it turned flat, to a painted surface and watched how it interacted with the watercolors.

She watched how long it took to dry and discovered there was

good foam and better foam, depending on the concentrations of impurities, such as salts, chemicals, dead plants, decomposed fish and excretions from seaweed, that form the foam.

Because the weather has been fairly calm this year, without strong winds to whip up the bubbles into a froth on the waves, Van West's cup hasn't been running over with sea foam this past

month.

But she has produced a bumper crop of "Sea Foam Paintings," which are available at the Sea Oats Art Gallery, at 128 E Pine Ave, on St. George Island.

Van West plans to open her home, at 6123 Nassau Lane at Cape Shoals, for a showing from 1-4:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22.

For more information, call 229-7013.

Real Estate Picks

Best Values on the Forgotten Coast

Our local real estate experts have identified what they feel are the best values around and are offering them to you in Real Estate Picks! (In this section), Discover the best real estate values in Mexico Beach, Port St. Joe, Apalachicola, Cape San Blas, St. George Island, Carrabelle and surrounding areas.

MLS#107389 \$115,000 St. George Island

COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL LOT ON THE ISLAND

Unique property zoned C-4 Mixed Use allows a business downstairs and residential unit above (Great Gulf View!). Excellent location on main paved road (East Gulf Beach Dr.) to State Park for maximum exposure for commercial use. Easy beach access on East Third Street.

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