



Boy witnesses  
stingray birth **B1**

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## County voids land use change; St. Joe threatens suit

By Lois Swoboda  
Times Staff Writer

On July 21, county commissioners continued measures to remove two more future land use maps (FLUMs) from the county's comprehensive plan.

A FLUM (pronounced floom) is a government map, part of the comprehensive plan that shows land uses as well as other features such as roads and harbors. In 2005, commissioners redesignated parcels of St. Joe Company land in the eastern part of sue.

the county from agricultural to mixed use residential. The company proposed to develop four land parcels on St. James Island, which would have allowed as many as 7,400 houses to be built, but since then, development has stalled.

On July 21, commissioners voted unanimously to send two FLUMs to the Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA) with the request that the areas be rezoned back to their previous zoning of agricultural. DCA could take months to rule on the is-

St. Joe had planned to build about 3,400 houses on the two sites, Marina Village Center and Carrabelle East.

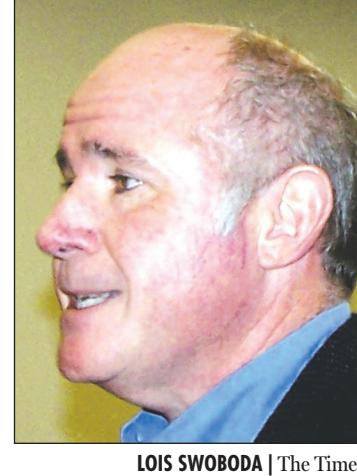
The commissioners in April reversed their prior approval of two other St. Joe FLUMs, known as Rural Village, which encompasses 1,704 acres west of U.S. 98 and Conservation Residential, a 2,500-acre tract along the Ochlocknee Bay. These two zoning changes would have allowed about 1,000 additional homes to be built in the county. Although they had been approved, these two FLUMS

were never formally adopted into the county's comprehensive plan because of legal action taken by Don and Pamela Ashley, who live on St. James Island.

Opponents of the zoning changes argued that, under current financial conditions, future development is unrealistic.

Using population projections and a summary of already approved housing, Andy Smith, attorney for the Apalachicola Riverkeeper,

See **SUIT A8**



LOIS SWOBODA | The Times

Attorney Bryan Duke appeared on behalf of the St. Joe Company at the July 21 commission meeting.

## Apalachicola faces three-way commission race

By David Adlerstein  
Times City Editor

Apalachicola will face a three-way battle for city commission seat No. 4, as incumbent Valentina Webb hopes to keep the seat against challenges from a local banker and the former police chief.

Brenda Ash, of 213 17th St., and Anderson Williams, of 206 12th St., both filed to run in the nonpartisan city elections Sept. 8.

All of Apalachicola's 1,700 registered voters will be eligible to vote in the race, and if no one gets a majority of the votes cast on Sept. 8, the top two finishers will square off Sept. 22. The deadline to register for the September election is Aug. 10.

Webb, of 255 11th St., filed the required \$226.80 early last week with City Clerk Lee Mathes, but sent a letter of withdrawal to the city offices Friday afternoon, after the noon deadline for filing had passed.

Because she is relative of Williams', Webb said she initially planned to withdraw because of concern that there would be friction in the family.

"I personally felt it would put Andy and myself at odds, but after speaking with Andy, he assured me there would be no division," she said.

"And after seeking God, He gave me the answer that I should run," said Webb, 45. "I decided that I would let the people decide and make the decision who would best serve the people. I wanted the people to have a voice. I'm in it to win it."

Webb, a captain with the Florida Department of Corrections with 22 years of service, was first elected to the seat in 2005 in her first bid for public office.

Ash, 40, a mortgage lending officer at Gulf State Community Bank for 15 years, is making her first bid for public office. She said she is motivated by wanting to bring together the different elements of the city.

"I am running because I want to pretty much be an outspoken person for this city," she said. "I want to be an outspoken voice for the citizens of Apalachicola, to help bridge the gaps between the north side and south side, the downtown and the hillside area."

"For so long we have not had a voice to be that bridge," she said.

Williams, 51, a former Apalachicola chief of police, is also making his first bid for public office.

"Running is something I've always wanted to do," he said. "I'm from Apalachicola, and I want to improve the city with the experience I have and take care of concerns citizens have already brought to my attention."

"I am fair, without partiality to anyone, which I think we have a

## TAXATION TEETER-TOTTER



DAVID ADLERSTEIN | The Times

Finance director Linda Phillips, left, and assistant director Erin Griffith confer at the July 23 county budget workshop.

## As property values sink, millage rates rise

### County budget reverts to pre-housing boom levels

By David Adlerstein  
Times City Editor

A 20 percent decline in property values county-wide is prompting county commissioners to propose a hike in tax rates, which, if enacted, will still bring in at least \$1.5 million less in revenue than last year.

At an orderly all-day budget workshop July 23, county commissioners tentatively accepted a 2009-10 budget that will draw on about \$10.32 million in ad valorem taxes, about \$1.6

million less than came in last year.

To generate this amount — roughly 13.5 percent fewer dollars than the nearly \$12 million raised for this year's budget — commissioners plan to levy 3.67 mills of property taxes. This is about one-third of 1 mill higher than the 3.31-mill rate of the current fiscal year and is the first upturn in tax rates following many consecutive years of millage declines.

If approved, the proposed millage rate will

bring in roughly the same amount of money raised by taxes five years ago, when the millage rate stood at 4.87 mills.

The workshop opened with a call by two commissioners for budget restraint. But by day's end, the five-person commission had tentatively approved all the constitutional officers and nearly all the departmental budgets, most all of which had either small decreases, remained

See **COUNTY A6**

### Schools shift quarter-mil away from capital outlay

By David Adlerstein  
Times City Editor

Because of the decline in property values, and to meet state requirements, school taxes will climb by about 21 percent next year, but will yield fewer dollars.

The school board Monday night unanimously approved adoption of a proposed 4.55-mill school tax levy, which will bring in about \$13 million, about \$200,000 less than the \$13.2 million that came in this year.

See **SCHOOLS A8**

## Four to square off for Carrabelle commission

By Lois Swoboda  
Times Staff Writer

Four candidates will appear on the ballot in the upcoming ballot to fill two spots on the Carrabelle city commission.

Incumbent Richard Sands, who currently serves as the finance commissioner, will run again. His three opponents are Cherry Rankin, Cal Allen and Charlotte Schneider. The top two vote-getters at the Sept. 8 election will be declared the win-

ners. There are a little over 900 registered voters in Carrabelle, with the deadline to register for the September election Aug. 10.

Allen, 71, retired from customer service with the Internal Revenue Service, said preserving the waterfront and encouraging development of waterfront businesses, including commercial seafood harvesting, are important to him.

He wants to ensure Carrabelle follows its comprehensive plan, "which is like the Constitu-

tion of the U.S.," said Allen, who lives at 1204 Gulf Ave.

Rankin, 49, site manager of the Carrabelle Boys and Girls Club, lives at 205 Marks St. She said she wishes to be a liaison to the city for the young people of Carrabelle.

"Parents and people in the community are already starting to get more involved with the youth, and we want to continue that and keep it going," she said.

Sands, 49, who lives at 911

Tallahassee St., was first elected four years ago in his first bid for public office.

"I'm running again because I love Carrabelle. I've just not done yet," he said. "I've kept my word with what I went in on. I think I've done a good job of representing them and I want to continue to do that."

Realtor Charlotte Schneider, 47, lives at 1622 Bayou Drive.

"My campaign is all about Carrabelle," she said. "Carrabelle is what's important to me."

See **APALACHICOLA A8**

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**FREEDOM**  
FLORIDA  
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DEADLINES FOR NEXT WEEK:

School News & Society - Friday at 11 a.m.

Real Estate Ads - Thursday at 11 a.m.

Legal Ads - Friday at 11 a.m.

Classified Display Ads - Friday at 11 a.m.

Classified Line Ads - Monday at 5 p.m.

# Pigs, people and science on St. Vincent Island

## Hot topics emerge at scoping meeting

By Lois Swoboda  
Times Staff Writer

The fate of feral pigs, access to the island and the need for a resident biologist were the hot-button topics at a public scoping meeting for St. Vincent Island hosted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

On July 14 and 15, the FWS held two scoping meetings to discuss the future of St. Vincent Island National Wildlife Refuge. The first meeting was held in Port St. Joe.

About 20 people attended the second meeting, which was held in Apalachicola. Among those in attendance was new St. Vincent Refuge Manager Shelley Stiaes, who was introduced at the start of the discussion.

At the Apalachicola meeting, public access to the island and feral hogs were topics, but the greatest point of concern for most participants was the absence of a full-time biologist to watch over the island.

The meetings were part of the formulation of a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP), a 15-year-plan that provides long-term, consistent direction for the refuge based on desired future conditions. The plan seeks to promote biological integrity and diversity and

environmental health.

The purpose of the scoping meetings was to collect input to help determine priority issues for the refuge. The CCP addresses any issue relating to wildlife and fisheries management; habitat management; cultural resources, public use; facilities and maintenance; staff and funding; law enforcement; and private lands involvement.

Former St. Vincent's Manager Monica Harris, now a regional planner overseeing the development of CCPs for four refuges in the Southeast, including St. Vincent, was on hand to give a presentation explaining the CCP process.

James Burnett, manager of St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, facilitated the discussion. St. Vincent is now jointly managed with St. Marks and Pig Island, a 45-acre island in St. Joe Bay. In addition to the island, the St. Vincent Refuge includes 90 acres of the mainland located at 14 mile.

### A budget of \$271,000

Burnett told the assembly that St. Vincent has a budget of \$271,000 for the next fiscal year, supplemented with some soft funding. He said the budget



SHELLEY STIAES



MONICA HARRIS



TED RUFFNER



JAMES BURNETT

money will provide salaries for a manager, administrative officer and firefighter. A temporary biological technician is funded by a grant.

"Why is the biologist position the most tenuous and least senior?" asked Grayall Earle Farr, president of the Apalachicola Riverkeeper.

Burnett answered that St. Vincent also shares a biologist with St. Marks, although he acknowledged that the arrangement was not completely efficient because of the 100-mile commute between the two facilities.

"How can we ask for more emphasis on biology?" Farr asked. His question was echoed by a number of participants throughout the meeting.

In a later telephone interview, he said that, while combining St. Vincent and St. Marks may make administrative sense, it doesn't make scientific sense.

"The staffing is topsy-turvy," Farr said. "They keep talking wildlife first."

We need to hire the biologist first and worry about the other staff later. It seems more important to me to have a biologist on the island than to keep the mainland interpretive center open."

Ted Ruffner, of Gramercy Plantation, attended the meeting as a representative of the Apalachicola Bay Chamber of Commerce. He described himself as a hunter, fisherman, green guide and captain. He questioned Burnett about accessibility to the island for ecotourism.

"I was very disappointed when St. Marks banned certified green guides from leading tours in the refuge," Ruffner said. "This could be a tremendous resource for us. Green guides could act as watchdogs for the refuge, and fees might provide supplemental funding to support the friends group."

Burnett said access issues would be addressed as part of the CCP program.

"Anytime you have prospective concessionaires, guides or commercial uses of any kind on refuge land, the proposal has to be evaluated in a process of compatibility determination and public review," Burnett said in a later telephone interview. "At St. Marks, we determined that the refuge is saturated for these activities with what's already there. There's a more obvious need in some areas on St. Vincent — access, for example. You can drive to St. Marks. St. Vincent can only be reached by boat."

Burnett said St. Vincent might become even less accessible in the future. The best current access point to St. Vincent is a boat launch at Indian Pass that is leased by FWS on a month-to-month basis.

He said that the lease could be canceled at any time, and that he believes owners of the land eventually plan to develop it. There is no other good access point for a large boat available except on pri-

vately-owned lands. Burnett said the public boat ramp at the pass is not a practical option for the barge used to transport equipment to the island.

Denise Williams, president of the Friends of St. Vincent, urged Burnett to address access issues. She said she believed that nature education was the key to the preservation of wild lands.

"If we want our public land to remain intact, we need to vest our children in it," she said.

### Nesting birds and feral hogs

Robin Vroegop, also of the Friends, expressed concern about the pressure visitors might place on nesting birds. She said that Flag Island, a small island near St. Vincent, is now an important nesting site for sea birds, and asked Burnett whether the refuge would consider acquiring the island.

Vroegop also suggested that Internet postings about the island become more detailed. She asked whether the Christmas Bird Count, sea turtle nesting data and similar figures could be posted and questioned why there is no longer funding to print fliers about the island's red wolf breeding program.

Feral hogs are a major problem for both sea turtles and ground-nesting birds on St. Vincent and the hog population was discussed in some detail at the meeting.

Burnett said that FWS uses a variety of techniques to control the hogs. He said there has been a trend toward a lower population in recent years but that the hogs, which are not native, still prey on native species. He said the hogs might have been responsible for the failure of an attempt to introduce the endangered eastern indigo snake to the island.

Ruffner asked why local hunters could not be allowed to hunt the hogs. He said barring them from hunting on the island was a source of bad feeling in the county.

Burnett said hunters can take an unlimited number of hogs during any of the three scheduled hunts annually on St. Vincent. He said that in 19 of the last 20 years, hunters have harvested more hogs than have refuge staff.

Ruffner suggested the refuge sponsor a children's hunt to harvest hogs.

Burnett said the internal review phase and drafting of the CCP will take place now through November 2010, and a draft of the document will be available for public review in February 2011. The final document should be approved in September 2011.

Public comment will be accepted through Sept. 1, 2009. To submit written comments, drop them off at the refuge office or mail them to St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 447, Apalachicola, FL 32329.

Comments may also be sent via e-mail to St vincentccp@fws.gov or faxed to 653-9893.

## TMH and Weems Memorial... A Strong, New Partnership

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The best health care is local health care. And when it comes to health care in Franklin County, your life and lifestyle have never been in better hands. As a partner with George E. Weems Memorial Hospital, our success will always be measured by individual experiences. For nearly six decades, your stories have been our inspiration, whether it be moments of joy or tears of sorrow, we've been a part of your life in Franklin County and the surrounding region. Your stories have strengthened TMH's mission to be recognized as a world-class health care organization. Together with Weems Memorial we will create stories of strength. Stories of hope. Stories of life.

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# Carrabelle clinic saved as numbers get crunched

**By Lois Swoboda**  
Times Staff Writer

The county health department's primary care clinic in Carrabelle will remain open for the next fiscal year, with a groundbreaking planned by Weems Memorial Hospital for a new urgent care clinic adjacent to it.

At a public workshop July 21, Wesley Tice, who oversees the Franklin County Health Department, announced a \$60,000 contribution from the county would allow him to keep the health department's basic care clinic in Carrabelle open for another year. The commission agreed to provide the funding.

At the same meeting, Chuck Colvert, Weems' chief executive officer, said the hospital board is planning to break ground Aug. 27 for the new Carrabelle urgent care clinic.

Tice said the unexpected resignation of two employees, and reductions in other programs, had improved his budgetary situation. He said the Florida Department of Health had reduced the trust fund requirements for the department from 8 to 6.5 percent.

"I have been instructed to make this work, and I can do that with \$186,000," said Tice. "I'm really at the point where, if it will help, I'll dip into the trust fund."

He said depleting the trust fund could become a problem because the Apalachicola health department building needs repairs that could cost as much as \$120,000.

On June 16, Tice told commissioners he would be forced to close the Carrabelle health department clinic in July because county funding for the health department has been reduced \$87,000 throughout three years.

Commissioners balked at the announcement. Cheryl Sanders and Bevin Putnal were adamant that the clinic not be shut down, insisting the majority of people who use the clinic in Carrabelle cannot travel to Apalachicola for help.

"Tell us what it's going to take to keep that clinic open," said



DAVID ADLERSTEIN | The Times

The county health department's Janice Hicks, left, and David Walker make an appearance at the July 23 county budget workshop to talk about funding of the Carrabelle primary care clinic.

Sanders. "I want to see numbers because I believe Carrabelle is paying its own way."

Tice said \$150,000 was needed to cover the clinic's expenses for one year and stressed that his entire program was short of funding.

Clerk of Courts Marcia Johnson later suggested the county save money by using the existing health department building to house both the Weems urgent care clinic, now located in the Carrabelle Municipal Complex, and the health department's primary care clinic.

Colvert has not provided detailed numbers of the cost for building the new Carrabelle facility. In the hospital's 2009-10 operational budget, tentatively approved by county commissioners July 23, Weems' entire building



CURLEY  
MESSER

and renovation expenses were set at \$1.7 million, equal to the portion of sales tax receipts for next year earmarked for that category.

Johnson has continued to provide financial data to the commission, bolstering her contention that money could be saved, in the event the health department has

vacant space at its Carrabelle annex, by using it to house a Weems Urgent Care facility.

"I can't see allocating additional funds to subsidize a non-county, state-operated facility at this time," she said.

## Questions raised on uncollected billings

A large group of citizens from Carrabelle and Lanark Village were on hand for the July 21

workshop, and both Sanders and Mayor Curley Messer drew loud applause when they voiced their support of the health department clinic.

Carrabelle resident Charlotte Schneider accompanied Messer to the podium and displayed 800 signatures she had collected from across the county on a petition demanding that the Carrabelle clinic remain open.

"We need to work together to keep both health departments open," she said. "If we're going to close one, I promise we'll close the other one, too."

"We'd love it if Carrabelle would like to give us half of that \$60,000," said Johnson.

At the hearing, Johnson presented commissioners with documentation that the Carrabelle clinic is operating at a deficit and cited a high percentage of uncollected debt at the facility as part of the reason for the shortfall.

She said during the 2007-08 fiscal year, the Carrabelle clinic saw 2,230 patients and last year 2,307. Last year the clinic's revenue was \$205,773 in Carrabelle, but expenses were \$360,560, leaving a deficit of \$154,877. In addition, she said, Apalachicola had revenues of nearly \$1 million, but expenditures of half that, for a surplus of \$457,145.

More importantly, Johnson said, Carrabelle had collected only 47 percent of the amount billed for services, while the Apalachicola clinic had collect 83 percent.

She also said although 24 percent of Carrabelle's billings were denied last year by insurance payors, only 7 percent of Apalachicola's claims were denied. "I question why there is such a disparity in these percentages," she said.

"The amount of money you are asking for appears to be almost the same as the amount of money lost to denials in Carrabelle," Commissioner Noah Lockley told Tice.

"If Carrabelle was being properly billed and copays were being paid properly, maybe the health department wouldn't be asking

for money," Johnson said.

Janice Hicks, business manager for the health department, acknowledged there were problems with the denial rate but pointed out that Franklin County collections compared favorably with the state average. She said the county's collection rate is higher than the state average.

Hicks said billing for both clinics was processed in Apalachicola and she would work improve collections. She said some of the denials simply were due to improper coding of services.

Sanders asked if the department had looked into recovering denied insurance claims.

David Walker, a health educator for the health department, said corrected billing would only increase the department's funding by about \$25,000.

Commissioner Pinki Jackel asked why the board did not receive quarterly financial reports from the health department.

Tice said the health department reports quarterly to the board.

Michael Moron, administrative assistant to Johnson, said the reports were placed into the file for the board. He said he had never been instructed to provide individual commissioners with a copy but he would do so in the future.

Former State Representative Will Kendrick took the podium at the end of the hearing.

"We really need to get to the root of this problem," he said. "It is a sad day when you have a countywide constitutional officer who is circulating e-mails to stir the pot.

"We need to be sure we set our priorities right. Is it better to have county employees taking their trucks home in the afternoon or is it better to have health care?" he said. "We know we have internal issues at the health department. I don't think Mr. Tice got the support he needed from the state."

Putnal said, "I feel kind of to blame because we cut his (Tice's) budget 50 percent last year. I told him to come to the board."



## PUBLIC NOTICE Former St. George Island Bombing Range

The Department of Defense (DoD) conducted live-fire training and testing of weapon systems at active and former military installations throughout the United States to ensure force readiness and defend our nation. As directed by the U.S. Congress, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers manages the Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP) for the DoD. Under that program, the Corps assigns priorities to defense sites containing suspected ordnance, discarded military munitions and/or munitions constituents, based on various factors relating to the potential for public safety and environmental hazards.

The Corps' Jacksonville District is in the process of investigating the former St. George Island Bombing Range, Franklin County, Florida. This site was used for training combat aircrews from 1942 through 1946.

The Corps recently completed a site inspection at the former St. George Island Bombing Range. The evaluation criteria, including types of munitions that may be present, ease of access to the site and number of people living near the site, will be available for public review at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 701 San Marco Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32207.

As part of our ongoing investigation, we are seeking additional information from the public about the former St. George Island Bombing Range (located approximately eight miles south of the city of Apalachicola, Florida). If you have information, please send it to: Charles Fales, Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 701 San Marco Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32207 or by email to:

PublicMail.CESAJ-CC@saj02.usace.army.mil.

For further information, please contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Corporate Communication Office at 904-232-1576.

## Give yourself a financial tune-up

As we move through one of the most financially tumultuous years in many decades, some economists feel the worst may be over. But today's continuing high unemployment rates, troubled housing market and tight credit conditions leave many people feeling anxious about the future.

Against that backdrop, this is a good time to examine your current financial state. Ask yourself where you want to be by year's end and how you may need to change course now in order to reach those goals. Here are a few action steps:

**Reexamine your budget.** A lot could have changed since you last examined your household budget. You may need to tweak your spending and saving habits to get back on track:

### Income

Has your pay increased or decreased significantly? Has overtime income diminished? Has interest income you count on from savings and investments dropped appreciably?

### Basic expenses

Examine how much you pay each month for rent/mortgage, food, insurance, utilities, gas, clothing and other basics compared to six months ago. Have you offset any increases by boosting your income, or do you need to trim a few expenses?

### Debt

Have you taken out new loans or amassed new credit card balances? If you carry forward balances, are you paying more in interest due to rising rates?

If you need a budget refresher course, Visa Inc.'s free personal financial management site, Practical Money Skills for Life, features a step-by-step guide to building a budget, including several interactive calculators ([www.practicalmoneyskills.com/budgeting](http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/budgeting))

### Taxes

Nobody likes overpaying their taxes or underpaying and getting



penalized the following April. Ask yourself:

- Did you receive an overly large tax refund or have to pay significantly more than was deducted from your paycheck? If so, you may want to fill out a new W-4 form with your employer and recalculate your withholding allowances.

- Do you expect significantly higher (or lower) deductions this year? (For example, deductible mortgage costs or medical expenses.)

- If you make quarterly tax filings, have you allocated enough to ensure you won't pay a penalty next year?

- Has your home property value dropped significantly in recent years? If so, you may be able to request that your property taxes be reevaluated.

- If you plan to buy a home or new car this year, have you investigated tax credits for which you may be eligible? Go to [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) and search for "Recovery Act."

- Charitable contributions. If you don't have charitable contributions automatically deducted, tally up what you've contributed so far and decide if it's in line with your goal for the year. Don't wait until the expensive month of December to make last-minute contributions.

- Reimbursement accounts. If you participate in employer-sponsored health care or dependent care reimbursement accounts, determine whether you're on track to exhaust your account balances. Again, don't wait until year's end to scramble for qualified expenses that will allow you to fully benefit from their tax advantages.

- Regardless of whether the worst is behind us or not, it makes sense to get your own financial house in order to weather this economic storm and any future ones.

- Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs. To sign up for a free monthly personal finance e-newsletter, go to [www.practicalmoneyskills.com/newsletter](http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/newsletter).

JASON  
ALDERMAN

## Wreck of the Hesperus not quite a glorious mess

Mama did not like messes of any kind, and she had a few choice descriptions for them. When food was involved, it was a "glorious mess." When there were tree limbs and pine cones in the yard after a storm, it was "The Wreck of the Hesperus." She got that one from a poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and I have no idea why it stuck in her brain. She also applied the title to household disaster areas of clutter. A wreck of the Hesperus could wait just a bit, but a glorious mess demanded to be cleaned up right away.

By definition it happened quickly and was disastrous in the moment it occurred. All other activities came to an immediate halt. Quick response was an essential aspect of glorious messes. A plan had to be hatched on the spot and necessary cleaning materials assembled. Unless you were part of the working crew, word went out to stay away and contain the mess.

A plan had to be hatched on the spot and necessary cleaning materials assembled. Unless you were part of the working crew, word went out to stay away and contain the mess. I was not present for mother's most glorious mess, but my sister filled me in. The tube pan was filled with pound cake batter destined for the oven. By some clumsy sleight-of-hand Mama managed to flip the entire thing upside down onto the floor. She looked at Susan and said, "Never tell anyone about this," and proceeded to scoop the batter back into the pan. No one was the wiser.

This would not have been possible given the usual state of my kitchen



This illustration accompanied the poem "The Wreck of the Hesperus" by American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in the volume "Illustrated Poems and Songs for Young People," edited by Mrs. (L.D.) Sale Barker and published in 1885.

floor.

I was reminded of

glorious messes the other

day when dear friend Barbara Holmes had her

own kitchen disaster. She

trustingly opened the refrigerator

door and the thing

fell off its hinges.

Jars of jams and

jellies, mayonnaise

and olives hit the

floor. Not only

that, there was the

immediate concern about

preserving the chilled

food. It was an impending

disaster combined with a

glorious mess. A neighbor

came to the rescue,

reattaching the door. She

still had rolling olives to

contend with.

Glorious messes

tend to put everything in

perspective. They take

top priority, especially

when fire is involved. My

first really big one was

an attempt at culinary

perfection.

Back in the Seventies,

I followed the advice

of a television cooking

program on how to obtain

crisp crust for a pizza.

They suggested buying

quarry tiles for the

bottom of the oven. The

local dealer looked at me

askance when I requested

six tiles, no color specified.

The pizza dough was

placed on a sheet pan

covered with corn meal

so that it wouldn't stick

and would slide easily

directly onto the hot tiles in the oven. The pizza definitely slid, but so did much of the corn meal, which proceeded to ignite. It wasn't exactly wood-smoked pizza that emerged.

Another time, I was doing extended frying. It was an old stove. The grease that had dripped down under the burners through the years blazed. This one took a fire extinguisher. It took the better part of a day to deal with that glorious mess.

Honey just naturally lends itself to priority clean-ups.

During his prepubescent years my son hosted a sleepover for a half dozen buddies. They bedded down in sleeping bags in the living room. After a night of giggles and farting contests, I was ready to sweep them out the door. As supermom, I had planned a gargantuan breakfast including waffles. A gallon jar of Tupelo honey sat on the counter. One careless gesture, and it was on the floor creating a world-class glorious mess. I just covered the entire thing up with towels until I got the kids fed. Of course, I violated the tenet of immediate clean-up, but faced with hungry boys, I took the coward's path.

Wrecks of the Hesperus and glorious messes do not apply to human interactions. These come under the category of "drama and trauma" and are particularly present during holidays. More on that later.

Denise Roux is a regular columnist for the Apalachicola and Carrabelle Times. To reach her, email her at [rouxwhite@mchsi.com](mailto:rouxwhite@mchsi.com).

## Gulf Coast Community College seeks partners as it expands mission

By Dr. Jim Kerley  
Special to The Times

In their last two meetings, members of the Gulf Coast Community College District Board of Trustees discussed in detail the idea of our college moving forward with state college designation. The trustees are charged to ensure that Gulf Coast meets the highest standards of excellence, and they take their duty to safeguard the interests of this institution in a purposeful and thoughtful manner. Earning the state college designation is a rigorous progression, and the trustees and I intend to hold our core community mission first and foremost throughout the process.

There is a considerable outline to follow before this change can be granted to our college, and we will be deliberate in our approach to ensure all avenues have been discussed and reviewed prior to submission. At this writing, 15 of the current 28 community colleges in Florida have made the shift or are in the process of changing to state colleges.

The 2009 legislature even changed the name from the Division of Community Colleges to the Florida College System. This newly named system encompasses all public community and state colleges and allows community colleges across the state to offer baccalaureate degrees. One reason for this change to a state college model is that Florida is not keeping pace with the number of bachelor's degrees needed for the modern workforce. The state's universities

are unable to meet these growing needs, especially in key workforce areas.

As a state college, we would not be allowed to offer master's or doctoral degrees, and we have absolutely no interest in these areas. Our primary goal is to meet regional workforce needs where there are documented voids and not duplicate universities. Offering degrees in this manner provides cost efficiencies to the state and substantial savings in tuition to our students.

Our primary community college mission will not change if we were to offer baccalaureate degrees; we will still focus on open access and hope for all students, workforce education programs, outreach to the underserved, remedial education and complying with current articulation agreements with universities.

The beauty of the colleges within the Florida College System is that we are all locally controlled and are able to meet needs of our communities more rapidly and more economically.

We will expand our mission to give individuals opportunities to stay in this region and earn certificates, associates and bachelor's degrees.

Again, it is our intent to work in cooperation with our educational partners and not to duplicate services. A growing trend in our student population is an increase of more non-traditional students. For example, this summer we had a substantial enrollment growth and 57 percent of our students are over the age of 25, and 22 percent are over the age of 44. Many are seeking new opportunities to retrain or

upgrade their skills and would like to have the opportunity to access a full range of baccalaureate degree programs without extensive and burdensome travel or expense.

Our goal at Gulf Coast Community College, as espoused by our five-year strategic plan, is to work in partnership with our educational and economic partners. We believe our future direction should be more college and university partnerships with less duplication. We will continue to work closely with our valued FSU PC partners and we recognize that no one college or university can offer all that is needed.

With a college/university partnership approach, we could offer a multitude of degrees to meet the needs in this region. Why not join the efforts of Gulf Coast, FSU PC, University of West Florida, Troy University, and others in a university/college center partnership? We all have strengths and excellent programs to put on the table, so why not team up to meet the growing needs for our changing area?

We are dedicated and passionate about our college and this region we serve, and with our talented faculty and great staff, we will continue to offer cost-effective programs for Northwest Florida. We will always keep our open access mission and will strive to serve this community at a higher level, working together to reap tremendous dividends.

"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success." - Henry Ford.

Dr. Jim Kerley is president of Gulf Coast Community College.



KERLEY

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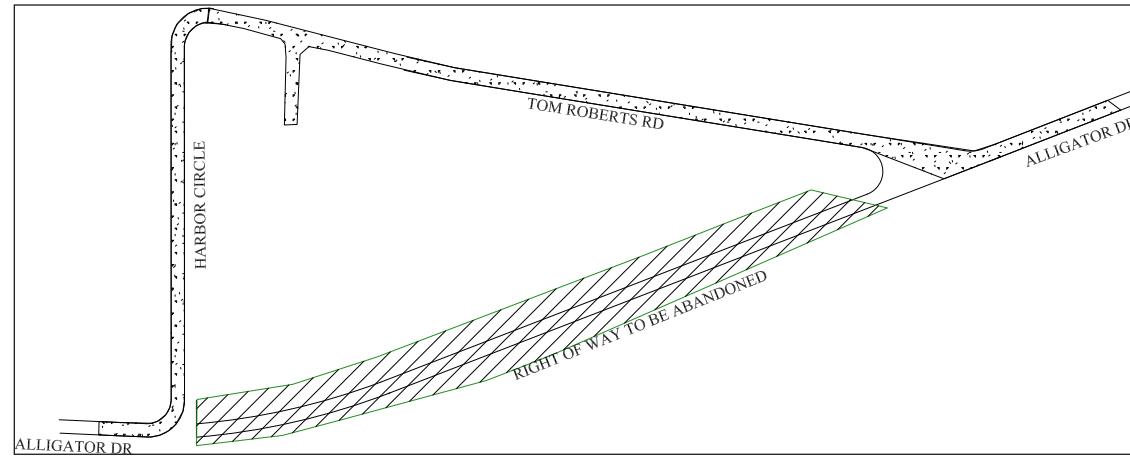
# South Shoals, county agree to road relocation

Franklin County has acquired the land necessary to move a 1,300 foot stretch of road on Alligator Point away from the coast.

A series of meetings between the county and the developers of the South Shoals project resulted in concessions on both sides.

The number of buildable lots in the proposed development was reduced from 23 to 20 as a result of the agreement, and South Shoals abandoned a right-of-way between Harbor Circle and Tom Roberts Road to the county.

At one point it was believed that this stretch of road was an existing public right-of-way based on a plat from 1947, but this claim turned out to be erroneous.



Map created by Dan Rothwell.

The county has abandoned a rock revetment to South Shoals and agreed to allow the use of

individual aerobic wastewater treatment systems in the development. Previously the county had required South Shoals to

build a central wastewater treatment plant on the site.

There will not be a sheriff's or fire substation located on

site at South Shoals as was originally planned.

The Alligator Point Taxpayers' Association sent a letter to the commission blessing the project.

County Planner Alan Pierce called the agreement "a momentous decision" because it will allow the county to move 1,300 feet of road that has been subject to flooding, washout and collapse away from the coast.

Pierce said the county has given up on the Federal Emergency Management Agency addressing the problem of repairing Alligator Point Road and that this will provide a safer escape route for Point residents during storms.

- By Lois Swoboda

## Down payment help now available in county

The county commission voted unanimously on July 21 to change the county's housing plan to allow it to receive State Housing Initiatives Partnership program (SHIP) funds to assist residents to buy a first home.

The special allocation of funds is called "Florida Homebuyer Opportunity Program." The regular \$350,000 allocation of SHIP funds for repair and rehabilitation programs was not funded this year. But the state received federal stimulus funds to assist in promoting homeownership.

The county's portion of this federal money is \$350,000, and in order to receive the funds the county adopted the following policies:

- Down payment assistance under SHIP must not exceed 10 percent of the purchase price of a home or \$8,000, whichever is less.

- The maximum purchase price is \$175,000.

- Single taxpayers with incomes of up to \$75,000, or \$150,000 for joint filers, are eligible for assistance.

- There is no requirement to reserve funds for low income residents as it is unlikely that they can obtain a loan to buy a house.

Mobile homes are now considered eligible for down payment assistance so long as the mobile home was built after June 30, 1994.

The down payment assistance is a loan that must be repaid to the SHIP program. Borrowers are expected to repay SHIP program loans using the income tax refund established in the federal stimulus bill and entitled "First Time Homebuyer Credit."

The county may transfer any portion of the unexpended funds to any of its existing SHIP programs after the Home Buyer program expires on June 30, 2010.

Florida Housing administers SHIP, which provides funds to local governments as an incentive to create partnerships that produce affordable homeownership and multifamily housing. The

program was designed to serve low and moderate income families.

SHIP funds are distributed on an entitlement basis to all 67 counties and 53 Community Development Block Grant entitlement cities in Florida.

The minimum allocation is \$350,000 and the maximum allocation is \$9 million. In order to participate, local governments must establish a local housing assistance program by ordinance; develop a local housing assistance plan and housing incentive strategy; amend land development regulations or establish local policies to implement the incentive strategies.

SHIP dollars may be used to fund emergency repairs, new construction, rehabilitation, down payment and closing cost assistance, impact fees, construction and gap financing, mortgage buy-downs, acquisition of property for affordable housing, matching dollars for federal housing grants and programs, and homeownership counseling.

- By Lois Swoboda

## Eastpoint to extend water and sewer lines on Ridge Road

**Lois Swoboda**  
Times Staff Writer

Funding for a plan to extend water and sewer lines in Eastpoint has been secured. The project has entered the construction phase.

At the July 7 commission meeting, Debbie Belcher, grant writer for the county's Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) reported on a grant submitted three years ago to enhance wastewater management in Eastpoint.

CDBG provides annual grants on a formula basis to entitled cities and counties to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons. The program is authorized under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974.

Belcher said that the Eastpoint grant has been approved for funding with one change to the original plan. A vacuum

plant, proposed for construction on Outer Slide Road will not be built, but the station on Fifth Street will be enlarged. The commission voted unanimously to accept the grant and submit the proposed change to CDBG.

Mark Curenton, assistant county planner, said the construction grant has been awarded but we have not bid the project out.

Eastpoint Water and Sewer will receive funding to extend the sewer line on Ridge Road to cover all of Ridge as well as Bear Creek Road. The grant will also pay to loop a water line to run along Bear Creek tying Ridge and Wilderness Roads together and providing the entire length with city water.

No matching funds were needed to secure the grant.

Belcher said low-income residents in the area will not be required to pay an impact or tap fee to tie into the system, but there will be a refundable deposit required. Once the water and sewer lines are in place, state law requires that all affected residents hook into the system within 24 months.

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## FCTDC 2009 PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE CHANGES

**Canceled: July 21, 2009 – 1:30 PM Franklin County Courthouse, Room 302, Individual Committee**

**August 4, 2009 – 3:00 PM Carrabelle City Offices (old Carrabelle High School), Full Council**

**August 18, 2009 – 1:30 PM Franklin County Courthouse, Third Floor Grand Jury Room, Individual Committees Meet**

**September 1, 2009 – 3:00 PM Franklin County Courthouse Annex, Full Council**

**September 15, 2009 – 1:30 PM Water Street Hotel Scipio Room, Individual Committees Meet**

**October 6, 2009 – 3:00 PM Franklin County Courthouse Annex, Full Council**

**October 20, 2009 – 1:30 PM Franklin County Courthouse, Third Floor Grand Jury Room, Individual Committees Meet**

**November 3, 2009 – 3:00 PM Carrabelle City Offices (old Carrabelle High School), Full Council**

**November 17, 2009 – 1:30 PM Franklin County Courthouse, Third Floor Grand Jury Room, Individual Committees Meet**

**December 1, 2009 – 3:00 PM Franklin County Courthouse Annex, Full Council**

**December 15, 2009 – 1:30 PM Water Street Hotel Scipio Room, Individual Committees Meet**

Any further changes will be published in the TIMES.

**This is a public meeting and two or more County Commissioners may attend.**

## COUNTY from page A1

the same or increased by a few percent.

In reviewing the first budget, that of the sheriff's office, Commissioner Pinki Jackel served notice that she wanted to see at least a 10 percent decrease in budgeting for all departments.

"We're looking at tough times. I hope we will find some way to cut this year," she said. "This is not a time in our economy to increase our numbers."

Jackel asked Undersheriff Joel Norred to revisit his department's numbers to try to find a minimum 10 percent cut. Norred was standing in for Sheriff Skip Shiver, who was attending the Florida Sheriffs Association's summer conference in Palm Beach Gardens.

Commissioner Cheryl Sanders also called for cuts but did not specify a percentage amount.

"I feel like this is a tough year all around the state," she told Norred. "We may not be having it as bad, but we got it bad. I would like to see a decrease in your budget."

"I'm expecting cuts in here all day," she said. "I'm going to ask every person who comes before us to cut."

By day's end, the commissioners had whittled away a total of about \$250,000 from all the initial budget numbers brought to the table by finance officer Linda Phillips and assistant finance officer Erin Griffith.

As a result, the morning's initial proposed millage of 3.76 mils had dropped by one-tenth of a mil by day's end. But that's as far as any further cuts went.

### Sheriff

0.78 percent increase

Because of the request made by Jackel and Sanders, the sheriff's office budget was not tentatively approved in the morning, with both Norred and the department's finance officer, Ginger Creamer, asked to return in the afternoon with further cuts.

"We'll definitely look," Creamer said. "I just don't know that we can do 10 percent. I don't see how we can do that."

The sheriff proposed a budget of \$5.01 million, about a \$38,703 increase over this year's \$4.97 million budget. Creamer said the budget would have decreased if not for the rising cost of mandated retirements, which went up by \$60,000, inmate meals, which rose by \$28,000, and bonds and insurance.

Griffith said Monday that there could be a future bright spot in the retirement funding picture. She said the state has been trying to raise retirement contribution rates but ended up not acting on any increase during the last legislative session.

As a result, the current rates are good through June 30, 2010. "Basically (we'll then) have three months of unknown," she said.

"The state sends down all these mandates. We have to go by them," Commissioner Noah Lockley said.

"I think we're all concerned about the numbers in all these budget pages. I was happy to see a decrease in your budget, but I am asking you to revisit it," Jackel said.

Norred said the sheriff's office plans to increase the booking fees and meal fees charged to inmates, but Creamer noted the constraints on how much of this can be collected from inmates who are not getting money from family. She said the jail can deduct funds from inmates' accounts, up to one half of the available funds.

"You can charge them, but if they're not getting money in, there's no way to collect," she said.

Sanders praised the sheriff's office for returning \$340,57 back to the county last year from its budget allocation, but Creamer said a newly-arrived inmate with a serious illness that calls for weekly treatments

might stand in the way of a repeat performance.

"I know it's going to be very costly if he stays," she said.

As she did with all constitutional officers, Sanders asked Norred whether any incentives, raises or bonuses — other than the county commission's across-the-board pay raise last year — had been paid out to employees last year. Norred said no.

Norred said the department was able to cut its fuel budget because of anticipated lower fuel prices and a reduction in the number of miles traveled. He said computer technology will enable deputies to file paperwork from their vehicles without having to make an extra trip to Eastpoint headquarters.

Norred noted the sheriff's office has had no capital outlay for the past two years and has in its fleet 11 vehicles it has received from throughout the state, each with 190,000-200,000 miles on them.

Commission Chairman Smokey Parrish questioned Norred on whether all 24 correctional officers were required.

The undersheriff said that the average inmate population is 97 or 98 and that some officers were concurrent, meaning they handle other duties in the department. The 24 officers include the captain, transport officers and work crew members, Creamer said, with 19 full-time correctional officers split among four shifts.

Speaking on behalf of the Concerned Citizens of Franklin County, Allen Feifer began by lauding the sheriff's effort to control spending, noting that at \$5.5 million, including benefits costs, that one department forms the majority of the county budget funded by ad valorem taxes.

But, he said, the increase in spending over the last several years must be addressed. "I feel that's unsustainable," he said. "We need to know other sources

of income. I plead with you to ask for all the detail you need in order to make an intelligent decision."

Feifer said the personnel count in the sheriff's office had increased 10 percent over the last several years and now is among the highest ratios of police officers to population in the state.

Lockley said the county's population was actually higher than year-round full-time residents, as counted in the U.S. Census, and thus the ratio statistic is misleading. He said that over the summer there were as many as an additional 10,000-15,000 visitors to the island.

"We're no different than other coastal counties," Feifer said. "We just have an awful lot of deputies. The sheriff's budget has grown excessively compared to the population of this county."

Feifer suggested part-time officers and other staffing methods be used to address the summertime population increases.

"There are other ways of dealing with peaks," he said.

At the end of the long workshop, Norred and Creamer returned to face the commissioners and said a 10 percent cut could not be made. The commissioners urged them to find whatever cuts they could by the July 31 morning workshop, and gave them tentative approval.

### CLERK OF COURTS

0.75 percent decrease

Clerk of Courts Marcia Johnson presented a budget of \$321,149, a 0.75 percent decrease below this year's \$318,750.

She began by telling Sanders that, regarding any bonuses or increases, "I have (given them) in the past, but I don't anticipate doing so next year."

Jackel pushed Johnson to try to cut 10 percent of her budget.

"Because of the state of affairs of the local economy, I believe citizens are bear-

ing all they can bear," she said. "I'm going to ask you to try."

Johnson replied that she had cut her budget every year since she's been in office.

"I've tried hard to be conservative on the budget," she said. "There's no way I can cut 10 percent without firing somebody."

Jackel said she would not tell Johnson what cuts to make, but noted that per diem reimbursements, repair and maintenance, office supplies and transportation might be considered.

"I understand that," she said. "I'm looking at the numbers being increased for the next budget cycle. A lot of your categories are up, and I'm asking you to look at your numbers."

Johnson said that by not replacing longtime finance director Ruth Williams a few years ago, she managed cost savings but added a burden to existing staff.

"It's been a hardship in my finance office," she said. "I've tried. When Amelia Varnes died, that was devastating to my office."

"We've increased hours," Johnson said. "We've done the very best that we can do."

Sanders indicated that she did not want to tentatively approve the Clerk of Courts budget, or that of any constitutional officers, until they found further cuts.

"I have cut," Johnson said. "What I've turned in today is a reduction from last year. I've turned in a reduced budget every year since I've been in office. You need to look at individual budgets."

Johnson later noted that her budget had fallen by at least \$90,000, from \$409,000 in 2006.

Johnson charged that Jackel had been provided budget information at least two months ago but had not raised any questions regarding cuts during that period.

"I don't need to ask questions when the num-

bers are self-explanatory," Jackel countered. "These are difficult decisions. The reality is our revenue is going down, and our budgets have to reflect a decreasing revenue base."

Without specifically mentioning the health department or Weems Memorial Hospital, Johnson alluded to her recent involvement in stating her views on health care funding to the county commissioners.

"I feel y'all are retaliating against me because of things I've brought up lately," she said.

"I'm not going to ask you to do anything I'm not going to ask other folks to do," Jackel replied.

Lockley said he believed it would be unfair not to tentatively approve Johnson's budget, sparking a discussion over asking for such sizeable cuts at the 11th hour.

Sanders said she opposed tentative approval of budgets in the absence of further cuts.

"I cannot stand to see another increase in taxes," she said. "If it's an increase in millage, it increases somebody's taxes."

"We're not in your budget to micromanage your budget," Sanders said. "If you can't (cut), you can't. But at least look at it for the people of Franklin County."

Parrish noted that Johnson had been one of the constitutional officers who tried to meet the 10 percent cut the commissioners asked for last year, and moved for tentative approval.

In the end, Commissioner Bevin Putnal was the swing vote, and after expressing concern over the process, voted to tentatively approve. "If you've done all you can do, that's all you can do," he said.

### PROPERTY APPRAISER

2.09 percent increase

Property Appraiser Doris Pendleton offered

See COUNTY A7



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## COUNTY from page A6

a \$644,109 budget for the next fiscal year that is 2.09 percent above this year's budget of \$630,932.

The biggest debate, however, was not over the budget numbers, but regarding the answer Pendleton gave to Sanders' opening question of whether she had given any bonuses or raises over the last year.

Pendleton said she had transferred \$1,600 from her overtime budget for last year and used it to give \$800 raises each to two employees.

"It was a salary adjustment," she said, explaining that her office had lost a field employee in last year's 9 percent budget cut.

"The two in the field had to cover the whole county," Pendleton said. "It increased their whole duties."

She said the two staffers had started with the office five years ago at \$18,500 but had missed out on the first two years of pay raises.

"They got a raise last year, and I felt they needed more," Pendleton said.

The property appraiser requested the commissioners sign off on a letter indicating that they were aware of Pendleton's decision to grant the salary adjustments.

In order to act on the request, the commissioners went into an emergency meeting and quickly acted on the first item, in which they agreed to the policy of sending out at their own expense the upcoming TRIM (Truth in Millage) notices from the property appraisers' office.

The second item, to approve a letter indicating they were aware of Pendleton's decision to grant the salary adjustments, triggered a firestorm of protest from Richard Harper, Pendleton's opponent in last November's election.

"What the letter is doing is letting the property appraiser off the hook for violating state statute," he said.

"Sometimes things happen that are not OK. It's a CYA thing," said Harper, referring to an expression commonly translated as "cover your assets."

Pendleton stressed to

commissioners that the matter was not "a statutory issue" but based on a request from the Florida Department of Revenue to ensure conformity with its administrative rules. She said that state officials had begun requiring the prior approval after a county official elsewhere in Florida moved around \$800,000 in raises and bonuses without authorization by his or her county commission.

Pendleton also said it was her understanding that state officials would have approved the adjustments had they been made aware of them, and now wanted the commissioners to do so.

"In my opinion, you guys move money around quite a bit," Pendleton said. "I think the public needs to be aware also."

County Attorney Michael Shuler told the commissioners that it was at the board's discretion to approve the letter.

"If you don't sign the letter, the raises for these two employees would be lost," he said, noting that Pendleton's actions were not in violation of state statute.

"It's an internal Department of Revenue rule she's dealing with," he said.

Sanders noted that these two employees would each be receiving \$2,000 raises, in contrast to the \$1,200 across-the-board raise given out to county employees last year.

"This puts us in a hard spot," she said.

Shuler said that a state official with the Department of Revenue did not confirm that her department would have granted the adjustments, but suggested it was likely given the fact that the property appraiser's employees are paid "on the lower end of the scale" when compared with others across the state. "She understood it would have been seriously considered," Shuler said.

Pendleton urged the commissioners to approve the letter.

"They've worked here five years, and they've just got up to a starting salary," she said. "I don't think \$800 a year is an astronomical amount for me to come be-

fore and ask."

Feifer questioned the salary adjustment because, he argued, the Concerned Citizens "does not believe this is an isolated incident. This is a direct assault on the authority of the board (of county commissioners)."

"You need to go back and treat every employee individually. The whole process needs to be transparent," he said. "It's got to be fair; it's got to be consistent."

After Shuler indicated he would support the letter, the motion passed without opposition.

In terms of the details of Pendleton's budget, Jackel asked her at what salary level she would start a new employee.

"At least \$22,000, if I had my way," Pendleton said.

Alan Pierce, the county's director of administrative services, said most county employees are started at \$20,000, with some exceptions.

Jackel asked Pendleton to look for 10 percent in cuts, and again the discussion centered on whether the property appraiser's budget would be tentatively approved.

"I just think we need to do one thing or the other; either we approve them or send everybody back," Putnam said.

"I will not vote for a millage rate of 3.7 mils. If that's what it is, I'll be voting against the budget," Sanders said. "I'd like to see it staying at the same level as last year."

"I'm not going to sit here haggling," she said. "It's not a personal thing. It is a personal thing when people are losing their homes because of taxes."

Pierce noted that without a stated willingness to cut personnel, finding 10 percent in cuts would be difficult for most departments, particularly since about 80 cents of every budget dollar goes to labor costs.

"Any changes they make are going to be fairly minor in the scheme of things," he said.

Harris said he did not budget for opening a driver's license office, now that

"You're only going to get trivial cuts," Feifer said, again stressing that from 2001 to 2007 there had been "a very substantial increase in the head count" of county employees.

"This is an exercise in futility," he said. "The only way you're going to make a material difference is look at head counts."

The commissioners voted 3-2 to tentatively approve Pendleton's budget, with Sanders and Jackel opposed.

"Please go back and see if you can help the county by cutting," Parrish said.

### TAX COLLECTOR

0.14 percent decrease

Tax Collector Jimmy Harris presented a budget of \$502,595, a 0.14 percent decrease over last year's \$503,294.

He said he had put in no money for bonuses or raises, and did not budget for the cost of moving offices.

"When we move, the board's going to have to foot the bill," he said. "It's going to be an expensive move."

The commissioners are considering a plan to relocate the tax collector's office to the former Chapman School, which the county recently obtained from the school board.

Harris said he did not believe the idea was feasible, because he shares with the property appraiser the cost and operation of an online property records system known as the AS 400. He said the sharing arrangement saves the county about \$100,000.

Harris also noted that he would need a vault for his office's paperwork, and that none was available in the former Chapman School. He said he has been in talks with the city of Apalachicola to possibly utilize space in the former Apalachicola High School, which does have a vault.

Harris said he did not budget for opening a driver's license office, now that

the Department of Motor Vehicles office in Eastpoint has closed.

"I'm presuming in the future I may be doing driver's licenses," he said.

Harris said that he made an effort "to come down as much as I can" on the budget, and that he was down to the bare bones. He noted that his office must spend \$5.62 to mail a certified letter, and that he sometimes mails as many as 10 per day.

The commissioners gave Harris' budget their tentative approval.

### SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

1.51 percent decrease

Supervisor of Elections Ida Cooper Elliott, the final constitutional officer to appear before the commission, presented a budget of \$273,082, a 1.51 percent decrease over this year's \$266,288.

Elliott said the office continues to have just two employees working under her, the same as was in 2002.

In response to questioning from Jackel, Elliott said she started her recent hire of an assistant to fill a vacancy at \$28,000.

She said the assistant had banking experience and had worked at the Leon County Supervisor of Elections office.

"She came in knowing the system," Elliott said. "She's well-balanced, and you can't find a well-balanced person cheap."

Elliott said she did not advertise for the position, which she is not required to do under state law.

"I was refilling a position, and (the pay) is under the salary I was making," she said. "I feel it was a good salary to start a person out at."

Elliott said she also moved the other assistant up and adjusted her salary, although it was still below what Elliott had been making as a 30-year veteran of

the office.

Elliott's budget was tentatively approved by a vote of 3-2, with Sanders and Jackel again voting no.

The budgets for the constitutional officers closed with comments from Ken Osborne, of Alligator Point, a retired apparel manufacturer who has long been active in civic affairs, including the Alligator Point Taxpayers Association.

Osborne said commissioners should focus on the discrepancy between employee pay for the constitutional officers' staffs and those of the departments that work directly for the county.

"We keep coming down to the haves and the have-nots," he said.

Osborne said he has seen pay variations of as much as one-third for staffers working for constitutional officers over other county employees.

"The fellas who controls my mosquitoes, who handles my garbage, they're important, and they're as important as someone who wears a badge," he said. "The cuts that need to be taken need to be taken across the county."

He said county law enforcement takes 55 cents out of every county tax dollar, and "we can't sustain that."

Osborne suggested that commissioners take a closer look at budget cuts.

"We've got to recognize what's happening in this county," he said. "People are losing their jobs and losing their homes."

"You can't insulate all the employees of this country. You have to face that," Osborne said.

He urged the commission to get a direct handle on two areas of the budget picture, that of money put aside for contingencies and employee overtime, so as to rein in spending.

**Watch for more news next week on the budgets of county departments and nongovernmental agencies.**

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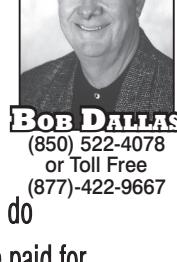
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## APALACHICOLA from page A1

problem with that in city government right now," he said.

Williams works as assistant deli manager for the Piggly Wiggly and is owner of A & R Housing and Arts Seafood in Tallahassee.

Webb said she decided to run for re-election "because I feel I

could continue to serve the city and make progress to serve the people. I've made good sound decisions in the best interest of the city. I've been there for the people."

Webb said her priorities were completing the new fire station

and the senior center in the former Holy Family building.

"I want to continue to maintain the budget and not put any excess taxes on the taxpayers," she said.

All three candidates maintain close ties to their Christian faith.

Ash is treasurer of the New Life First Born Church in Apalachicola.

Webb is an ordained elder in the Tabernacle of Faith International Ministries under the leadership of Apostle Willie Battles. Williams is an ordained elder

at Fellowship Church of Grace in Panama City.

In the race for commission seat No. 3, Apalachicola businessman Jerry Hall, 62, of 52 Seventh St., is challenging incumbent Frank Cook, 71, of 52 13th St., retired from the Navy.

## SCHOOLS from page A1

Next year's millage would be a little more than three-quarters of a 1 mil — 0.785 mils to be exact — above this year's millage rate of 3.765 mils.

Next year's budget would spend about \$13.1 million for operating revenue, or about 2.1 percent more than was spent in that category this past year. The district's actual budget is more than twice that of operating revenue, or about \$27.7 million, but it includes federal and state funding, grants, existing fund balances and various other sources of funds.

The total proposed millage is actually the collection of five separate millage rates, two of which are set by the state and three of which are in the hands of the local school board.

For its part, the school board kept its portion

steady and did not raise those millage rates, although it did make a critically important shift of money away from capital improvements and into operating revenue.

The board lowered the capital outlay millage from 1.25 to 1.0 mills and moved the 0.25 mills into operating revenue to meet the district's critical needs. This option, which required the support of at least four of the five board members, was newly allowed by the Florida Legislature but would have to go before county voters if the district wanted to do it again next year.

The decision means a shift of an additional

\$675,000 in bricks-and-mortar money into operating

needs and is intended to

shore up the increasingly

thin margin left in reserve.

The board also approved the levying of another half-mil for operating needs, but this is mandated by a four-year referendum passed by voters in June 2008. This millage, which expires in summer 2012, is earmarked for salaries and benefits for school staff.

The jump in millage came because of the Florida Legislature's decision in the spring to place more of the tax-paying burden for school financing on the counties. The state's payment per student will drop next year, and the millage rates set by the state — the required local effort and discretionary millage — will both rise.

Last year, the required local effort was 1.48 mills, the discretionary was 0.498 mills, and a supplemental millage, also set by the state, was 0.034 mills.

This year, the required local effort will rise to 2.052 mils, the supplemental has been eliminated, and the discretionary will go up to 0.748 mils. These changes in state-mandated millage rates account for the 27 percent millage hike.

With more operating revenue available to spend than might otherwise have been the case, San Carnley, the district's director of financial services, said the budget for next year anticipates a fund balance by the end of next year of \$1.83 million, more than enough to meet state-mandated minimums.

The budget also includes a 4 percent pay increase for teachers and staff, which is half of the 8 percent increase agreed upon for the second year of the current three-year contract.

At the bargaining table

last year, the board agreed to grant a 10 percent pay hike for 2008-09, an 8 percent boost for the upcoming fiscal year and 6 percent for 2010-11.

But local officials are concerned that the half-mil referendum, which will yield about 20 percent fewer dollars than it did last year, might not be enough to cover the agreed-upon pay hikes and still leave enough for the fourth year, when the referendum expires if not renewed again at the ballot box.

Last year, the referendum brought in about \$1.7 million, and next year, it will bring in closer to \$1.3 million. In addition, if there is no change in the pay increases, the operating budget must cover the 10 percent increase granted last year plus the additional 8 percent.

Carnley said the district will have to decide whether to grant the 8 percent increase, ask the union to re-open contract negotiations to make modifications or exercise a third option in which the district can declare a fiscal emergency.

Even with the shift of a quarter-mil from capital outlay funds, the district will have about \$2.72 million to spend on capital improvement.

Anticipated projects include a new bus garage and fueling facility, a new open-air gym for the Franklin County Elementary students, renovation of district offices at the former Brown Elementary School, transfer of money to the Apalachicola Bay Charter School for maintenance of the former Chapman Elementary School, and the purchase of two school buses.

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## SUIT from page A1

an environmental group that has opposed St. Joe's development plan from its inception, argued that the county has more than ample land zoned residential to accommodate projected growth for a decade.

Smith said the county currently has granted approval of 6,411 vacation houses and residences to be built on vacant land. Using formulas that indicate one in every four houses has a someone living in it year-round, and 2.28 people per permanent-resident home, this translates to a buildable capacity for an additional 3,654 permanent residents.

But, he said, based on current projections, the county's population is expected to increase from 12,400 to only 13,700 by 2020.

Thus, Smith argued, the county has 25 percent more

housing capacity than is needed to serve the expected new residents and secondary homeowners.

Commissioner Bevin Putnal said there were already scores of homes sitting empty in the county. He said there were also homeless families who could not afford to buy them. Where, he asked, was the affordable housing promised by developers?

Both commissioners and members of the audience criticized St. Joe's policies of denying the public water access across proposed development sites.

"A lot of people in this county are caught in a situation that they can't enjoy what they used to because St. Joe has blocked all of that off," Putnal said.

St. James Island's Don Ashley, who sued to block St. Joe's development plans, said, "The No. 1 comment

from our visioning meetings was the importance of maintaining our rural fishing village character."

He said St. Joe's developments were not compatible with the lifestyle of local residents.

Ken Osborne of Alligator Point said, "I personally don't object to development of their land, but they presented us with a plan for 1,500 units, and we wound up with 4,000 units. Stand up to them. This was jammed down our throat. Nobody listened to us."

In response to the county's efforts to rezone the land, St. Joe sent a letter to the commission warning them that under Florida's Bert J. Harris Private Property Rights Protection Act, St. Joe will be entitled to \$70 per acre to offset money spent to create infrastructure for the proposed developments.

St. Joe said it has invested \$800,000 in legal costs and \$5.5 million on the construction of water and sewer facilities.

Smith said St. Joe cannot claim the water and sewer treatment facility at the SummerCamp development was built to service Rural Village and Conservation Residential because it was permitted in 2004 before the two FLUMs were approved in April 2005. He said the Florida Department of Environmental Protection permitters said the sewer treatment plant does not even have sufficient capacity to treat SummerCamp's wastewater if all of the available lots are developed.

Commission Chairman Smokey Parrish expressed concern at the possible cost of litigation with St. Joe, but

See **SUIT A10**

# WEEKLY ALMANAC

Temperature			
Date	High	Low	% Precip
Thu, July 30	89°	78°	40 %
Fri, July 31	88°	77°	40 %
Sat, Aug 1	89°	77°	40 %
Sun, Aug 2	90°	77°	30 %
Mon, Aug 3	90°	77°	30 %
Tue, Aug 4	90°	77°	30 %
Wed, Aug 5	90°	77°	0 %

TIDE TABLES			
MONTHLY AVERAGES			
To find the tides of the following areas, subtract the indicated times from those given for APALACHICOLA:			
Cat Point	High	Low	
	Minus 0:40	Minus 1:17	
East Pass	Minus 0:27	Minus 0:27a	
Bald Point	High	Low	
	Minus 9:15	Minus 0:03	

APALACHICOLA					
07/30 Thu	09:35AM	1.8	H	07:10PM	0.1 L
07/31 Fri	10:22AM	1.8	H	08:12PM	0.0 L
08/01 Sat	11:23AM	1.8	H	09:05PM	0.0 L
08/02 Sun	05:16AM	1.5	H	07:43AM	1.4 L
	12:33PM	1.8	H	09:50PM	-0.1 L
08/03 Mon	05:28AM	1.5	H	08:49AM	1.4 L
	01:39PM	1.8	H	10:29PM	0.0 L
08/04 Tue	05:44AM	1.5	H	09:38AM	1.3 L
	02:36PM	1.8	H	11:01PM	0.0 L
08/05 Wed	05:58AM	1.5	H	10:19AM	1.2 L
	03:25PM	1.8	H	11:27PM	0.1 L

CARRABELLE					
07/30 Thu	08:10AM	2.9	H	04:57PM	0.2 L
07/31 Fri	08:57AM	2.9	H	05:59PM	0.0 L
08/01 Sat	08:57AM	2.9	H	05:59PM	0.0 L
08/02 Sun	03:51AM	2.4	H	05:30AM	2.2 L
	11:08AM	2.9	H	07:37PM	-0.2 L
08/03 Mon	04:03AM	2.4	H	06:36AM	2.2 L
	12:14PM	2.9	H	08:16PM	0.0 L
08/04 Tue	04:19AM	2.4	H	07:25AM	2.1 L
	01:11PM	2.9	H	08:48PM	0.0 L
08/05 Wed	04:33AM	2.4	H	08:06AM	1.9 L
	02:00PM	2.9	H	09:14PM	0.2 L

SOLUNAR					
m = Minor M = Major add 1 hour for daylight savings					
Date	Day	AM	PM	Rise/Set	Moon
07/30 Thu		m 11:50	m -	5:18AM	○
		M 5:40	M 6:05	6:54PM	○
07/31 Fri		m 12:20	m 12:35	5:19AM	○
		M 6:25	M 6:50	6:54PM	○
08/01 Sat		m 1:05	m 1:25	5:19AM	○
		M 7:15	M 7:40	6:53PM	○
08/02 Sun		m 1:55	m 2:15	5:20AM	○
		M 8:00	M 8:25	6:52PM	○
08/03 Mon		m 2:40	m 3:00	5:21AM	○
		M 8:50	M 9:10	6:51PM	○
08/04 Tue		m 3:25	m 3:45	5:21AM	○
		M 9:35	M 9:55	6:51PM	○
08/05 Wed		m 4:10	m 4:25	5:22AM	○
		M 10:15	M 10:35	6:50PM	○

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Page 9

## Darling All-Stars' season shines



Members of the Darling All-Stars are, front row, from left, Morgan Vaughn, Eva Varnes, Natalie Terhune, Alyssa Martina, Lindsey Stiefel and Madison Smith. Middle row, from left, are Shaylee Crews, Madison Coulter, Michaela Cassidy, Sara Gibbs, Sophia Kirvin and Alexus Johnson. Back row, from left, are Coach Ward Kirvin, Coach Brock Johnson and Coach Kim Johnson.

Franklin County had a first this year as this was the first year that a team in the Darlings Division (7-8) had ever competed in the district All-Star Tournament. The team played Port St. Joe the very first game and came away with the first Darlings win in Franklin County history 18-6.

The next two games were against the eventual state runner-up Wewahitchka.

"We played hard both games, but to give Wewa credit, they had a great team, and we just couldn't pull out the wins as they beat us two times to advance," Coach Brock Johnson said.

Johnson and fellow coaches Ward Kirvin and Kim Johnson couldn't be prouder of these young girls.

"It's a different game coaching little girls, as I try to push them to be the best," Johnson said. "But they make it hard to get on them sometimes when they know they did wrong but just look up at you and smile. Or when you're trying to get their attention but they're in the dugout singing Taylor Swift songs. But all in all I look forward to continuing coaching this group of girls for many years to come, because in a few years you're going to be looking a continuing state finalist."

## Partnerships create home for refuge bats

For years, colony-forming bats of St Vincent National Wildlife Refuge have dwelled in the attic of the old hunting cabin, a wooden lodging structure located on the barrier island. Their twilight departure patterns the air and guano droppings on the porch provide a distinctive fragrance.

In 2006, Ryan Barberides of Lynn Haven built four pole bat houses as part of his Eagle Scout project. He was assisted by the Bonita Bay Environmental Youth Club and Boy Scout Troop #321 in placing the poles on the island. Currently the four houses are located just southwest of the cabin and all four show evidence of use.

A historical renovation of the cabin has now begun, which will displace the wintering occupants, a colony of Brazilian free tail bats. To resolve this problem, refuge volunteers Carl Wolfe and Rae Ellen Syverson, contacted Joe Reinman, wildlife biologist at the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. He encouraged them to investigate building a community bat house on St. Vincent Island.

The St. Marks Refuge Association, Inc. agreed to purchase the materials needed to build the bat house. A very generous gift of materials and labor for the roof was donated by Bobby James, of Bobby James Quality Roofing Inc. of Eastpoint. The four very strong utility poles supporting the bat house were donated by Progress Energy.

The bat house was constructed under the direction of Bob Casey, a refuge volunteer from Connecticut. Bob made this project a success with help from several inmates from the Franklin County Work Camp and refuge volunteers Ken Fox, David Standeart, and Bob's wife, Anita. Refuge Forestry Technician Dale Shiver provided labor, expertise, and valuable knowledge during the entire project. St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge employee Dallas Beckett transported a forklift to the island and assisted with the task of erecting the bat house on the poles.

The bat house follows a plan from Florida Bat Conservancy and consists of 74 sheets of 4' x 8' plywood housed within a 8' x 8' wooden building, located 15'-16' off the ground. Now that the bat house is complete, it may take some time to achieve a good occupancy rate.

According to the Florida Bat Conservancy, "the keys to a successful community bat house are design and location. A well-designed and properly located bat house



Bat house

has a reasonable chance of acquiring bats within a few years. However, since there are no guarantees, the best we can do is design and locate a bat house in a way that increases the likelihood that the bats will find it, try it out and choose to stay."

With a local population of Brazilian free-tail bats that will be displaced with the cabin renovation, a good bat house design, and careful placement of the new home in the vicinity of the cabin, there is a very good likelihood that the house will soon be occupied.

Community bat houses are designed to provide roosting habitat for colony forming bats. The colony-forming bats of the Florida Panhandle likely to share the community bat house at St. Vincent Island NWR are Brazilian free-tail bats, big brown bats, evening bats and southeastern myotis bats.

Community bat houses are usually 4 to 8 feet square and may host more than 50,000 bats. Large community bat houses have been built at several locations in Florida including Hickory Mound Wildlife Management Area in Taylor County, Florida A&M University, Knapp-Phipps Park in Tallahassee, and Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park.

The largest Florida bat house is an 18' x 18' house on the University of Florida campus in Gainesville. More than 100,000 bats were reported to roost in this structure by 2008. Descriptions of these bat houses and those at other locations can be found at the Florida Bat Conservancy web site: <http://www.floridabats.org/CBH.htm>.

## TOPS Club offers ways to eat smart at games

Taking friends or family to the stadium can mean coming face to face with a major league selection of high-fat foods, such as hot dogs, pizza, nachos, bratwurst and soft drinks.

A smaller venue doesn't necessarily mean a healthier one. Vendors peddling fatty treats like heavily buttered popcorn, ice cream, and chips are selling out at little league games across the country. TOPS Club, Inc. members know it is possible to be both health-conscious and a time-crunched, hungry baseball fan!

"Eat before arriving at the park," said TOPS Club Inc. member and regional director Judy Pettit.

Pettit is a member of TOPS Club, Inc. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) in Albany, N.Y., home of the Yankees. Her favorite team, however, plays at the local little league park.

"I carry a diet soft drink or bottled water to my grandchildren's games," Pettit said. "We either pack a light supper

with chicken, baked, fat-free chips, and grapes or watermelon. Sometimes we take fat-free cheese chunks and healthy crackers."

TOPS Club members keep weight off by learning to choose low-fat, heart-healthy foods. These include soft pretzels, turkey sub sandwiches (hold the fatty mayo and cheese, add fresh spinach & tomatoes), veggie dogs and low-carb wraps, fat-free yogurt and fresh fruit cups and salads.

TOPS Club Inc. is a network of non-profit, noncommercial weight-loss support groups. Members learn about nutrition, food planning, exercise and more. Weekly weigh-ins, group feedback and support help members achieve their goals. TOPS Club Inc. has chapters throughout the U.S. and Canada, and its international headquarters is based in Milwaukee, Wis.

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## Region BRIEFS

From Florida Freedom and wire reports

### House fire causes \$50,000 in damage

**NICEVILLE** — Firefighters responding to a fire at 1706 Ivy St. in Niceville on Monday night about 7 p.m. arrived to find smoke and flames showing from the eaves.

The home, which is being renovated, was vacant at the time the fire broke out.

The owner later told fire crews he had been working on the home and had cooked dinner there earlier, but a pan filled with grease caught on fire after he forgot to turn off the stove.

Niceville Fire Department Assistant Chief Tony Lohrman estimated the damage to be about \$50,000.

### Santa Rosa County, Whiting to sign pact

**WHITING FIELD** — On Friday, Naval Air Station Whiting Field and Santa Rosa County will sign a limited access use agreement to allow the county controlled use of taxiways and runways located at South Field.

The signing of the agreement comes after six years of negotiations by the county, NAS Whiting Field, Naval Southeast Command in Jacksonville and ultimately the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations.

Limited access to and use of the runways and taxiways will permit tenants in the proposed Whiting Aviation Park to use a 6,000-foot runway to bring aircraft requiring maintenance to and from the park.

Once the agreement is signed, the coun-

ty can begin working to make the Whiting Aviation Park a reality and help attract new jobs, a county news release said.

### Crestview man ID'd in fatal wreck

**HOLMES COUNTY** — The Florida Highway Patrol has released the name of Crestview man killed July 13 in a one-vehicle crash on Interstate 10.

Michael E. Reeb, 33, lost control of his 1995 Mercury at 8:30 p.m., left the road and struck trees in the median.

One of his passengers, 52-year-old Eric S. Beyer of Mobile, Ala., was ejected and critically injured. William C. Zimmerman, a 45-year-old Mobile man, was seriously injured. Kenneth S. Noll, a 48-year-old Pensacola man, had minor injuries.

Noll was the only one wearing a seat belt, according to the report.

It is not known whether alcohol was a factor in the crash.

### Motorists on U.S. 331 bridge to face delays

**SANTA ROSA BEACH** — Northbound motorists on the Clyde B. Wells Bridge over Choctawhatchee Bay should expect traffic delays over the next several weeks as crews replace and repair a section of the bridge, according to a news release from Walton County officials.

Motorists will encounter lane closures from 8 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. each day.

They are asked to use caution and to obey the posted speed limit in the construction zone.

### Pedestrian injured on Chestnut Avenue

**CRESTVIEW** — A Crestview man was found lying in the westbound lane of east Chestnut Avenue, east of the intersection of Rayburn Street, at 9:38 p.m. Saturday.

Jackie Christopher Brooks, 43, sustained fractured ribs and lacerations to his face, according to reports from the Crestview Police Department. Brooks was airlifted to Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola.

Circumstances surrounding the crash are unknown.

The identity of the vehicle involved in the accident and the driver currently are unknown. The incident is currently under investigation by the Crestview Police Department.

### Wewahitchka readies for Relay for Life

**PORT ST. JOE** — The Wewahitchka Relay for Life to benefit the fight against cancer will be held from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. CDT on Saturday, Aug. 8.

This year's relay will be held in Lake Alice Park, the walking trail skirting the shoreline of Lake Alice.

A host of vendors has been lined up and there will be entertainment for children such as a petting zoo and train rides around the park.

There also is a lineup of bands and musical performers, providing a backdrop of rock, bluegrass, country and western music throughout the day.

After the opening ceremonies, there

will be a survivors' walk for the first lap around the park followed by a lunch and reception for those who have survived a bout with cancer.

The luminaria ceremony, remembering those who have fought valiantly and lost the battle against cancer, will take place at 9 p.m.

Folks still can purchase luminarias from the American Cancer Society.

Vendors still are encouraged to participate and anyone interested in being a vendor can contact Arani at 850-785-9205, ext. 3508 or by e-mail at c.arani@cancer.org.

For more information about the Wewahitchka Relay for Life go to [www.relayforlife.org/Wewahitchka](http://www.relayforlife.org/Wewahitchka).

### State, Bar aiding foreclosure defense

**TALLAHASSEE** — The state and Florida Bar Foundation are teaming up to provide legal help for homeowners facing foreclosure.

Attorney General Bill McCollum and bar officials Tuesday announced \$4 million the state obtained through a settlement with Countrywide Financial Corp. would be dedicated to the effort.

Countrywide, now owned by Bank of America, lost billions of dollars on bad loans. In a lawsuit, McCollum accused Countrywide of using deceptive practices.

McCollum's office and the foundation will make grants to nonprofit legal aid organizations so they can provide free services to homeowners who cannot afford lawyers.

The grants are expected to cover a two-year period beginning Oct. 1.

## SUIT from page A8

voted in favor of sending the FLUMs to the DCA for revision.

County Planner Alan Pierce said he believed the Florida Association of Counties might help

with a legal battle. Putnal said he thought some conservation groups might help with the battle as well.

"The overlay had a lot of stuff that I didn't approve of because of

water access and affordable housing," Putnal said. "Everybody got in too big of a hurry. When you grow, you should grow in stages."

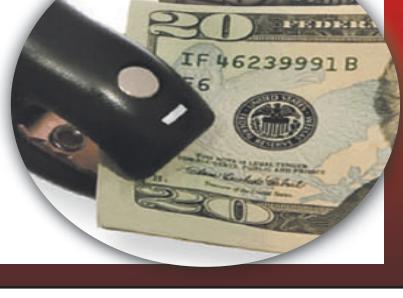
Ashley applauded the commission's courage in facing off with

St. Joe. "To me this is a visionary

commission and a commission that is at least trying to look at planning," he said. "This may be

the most significant biologically rich area in North America. The state of Florida will be watching us closely. We are going to stand with you."

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# LIFE TIMES

B  
Section

Thursday, July 30, 2009

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Page 1

## BIRTHING *on the bay*

Boy fishing gets lesson in live stingray delivery

By David Adlerstein  
Times City Editor

Jordan Josselson went fishing last week and got a lesson in birthing babies.

Baby stingrays, that is, commonly known as pups.

Josselson, the 10-year-old grandson of Diana and Kenneth Smith, of Magnolia Bay in Eastpoint, comes down each summer with his two sisters and two cousins to spend the summer with his Mema and Grandpa.

He was on the back dock fishing on the gazebo dock when his education in maritime maternity began.

"He caught a stingray and he knows how to step on the tail and take the hook out" said Diana Smith. "But when he flipped the sting ray on its back he saw the belly getting larger."

Josselson didn't know what to think so he examined it further. "He saw a little tail of a stingray coming out and it was rolled up like a taco. There were two of them and they came out and they unrolled in his hand and there they were, two little baby stingrays," she said.

Josselson quickly took some water out of the bay and filled his bait bucket and put them in.

The neighbor, John Gelch, came over and worked with the boy to help unhook the mama stingray, but it was too far inside to save her.

"After the mother gave birth, she died," said Jordan. "The hook had really hurt her."

At the same time, Jordan called his Mema excitedly on his cellphone, amazed at the miracle taking place.

"He brought them back in inside the bait bucket," said Smith.

She and her grandson called the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve and spoke with Lisa Bailey, the staffer who takes care of the fish tanks inside of the Quonset hut adjacent to the main building.

"She said to bring them on over and she met us over there," said Smith. "She told us not to handle them any longer. They didn't try to sting us at all."

Bailey made an attempt to



Photos by DAVID ADLERSTEIN | The Times

Jordan Josselson, center, points out the stingray he birthed to Port St. Joe fourth grader Haley Grace Huggins, right, as Jordan's grandmother, Diana Smith, listens.

place them in the larger tanks but it soon became clear they would not survive the predatory desires of the grownup marine animals inside.

"She tried to put them in several tanks. But then she put them in a little nursery tank with a conch shell, starfish and shell," said Smith.

Identified as an Atlantic stingray, both the marine and freshwater populations in Florida have an annual mating season from September or October to April, though ovulation does not occur until late March or early April. The embryos are sustained by a yolk sac until around day 60, after which they are nourished by uterine milk secreted by the mother.

Litters of one to four young are born from late July to early August, after a gestation period of 24 to 26 weeks.

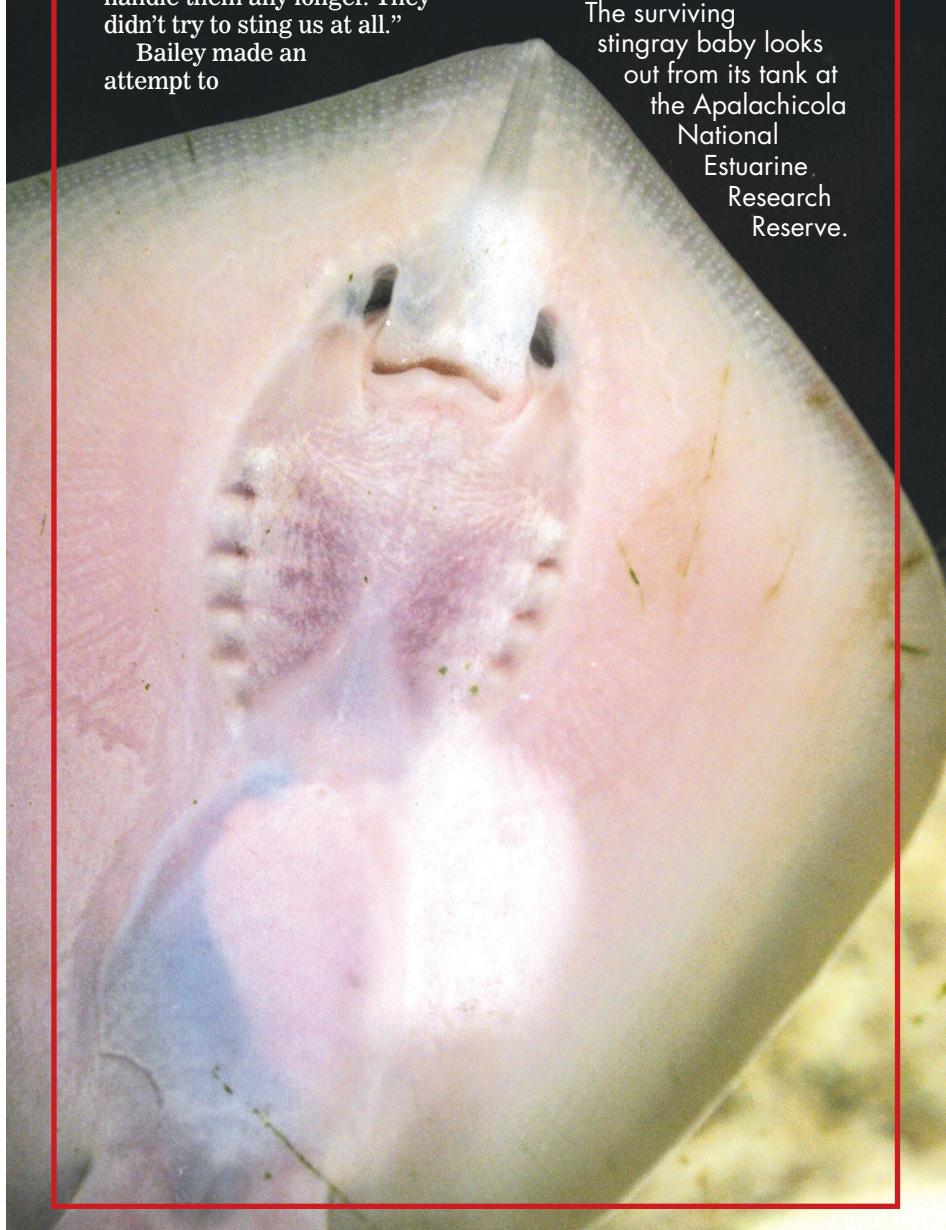
Bailey and her assistant, volunteer Maizie Jones, have been feeding the two pups since they arrived, although one of them succumbed late last week, likely to the trauma of a premature birth.

Jordan said the experience has led him to consider perhaps a career in medicine, either for people or for animals.

"He thought he'd like to be a doctor," said his grandmother.

Meanwhile, he'll have a great story to tell his fifth-grade classmates when he goes back to school in Woodstock, Ga., this fall.

The surviving stingray baby looks out from its tank at the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve.



**pomp  
and circumstance**

The Superior Bank's Sara Lockley hands a gold \$1 coin to Alexia Martin-McNair. Above, The Early Headstart class of 2010 are, from left, Alexia Martin-McNair, Trinity Creamer, Marcus Clayton, Gaven Freeman, Kaden Downing and Shakira Miller.



Story and photos by David Adlerstein  
Times City Editor

The class of 2010 got a head start on their high school commencement with an early graduation of their own.

Actually it was their graduation from Franklin County's Early Headstart graduation.

In a ceremony more full of childlike innocence than pomp and circumstance, six preschoolers took part in the July 17 ceremony.

Beginning with a welcome from child advocate Adriane Joseph, the six young people walked in blue gowns and mortar boards to their chairs in front, as a beaming audience of parents and friends snapped photos and waved.

The ceremony took place in front of the Early Head Start building at 162 Avenue E. across from the former Chapman School.

Taking part in the toddler processional were Shakira Miller, Kaden Downing, Gaven Freeman, Marcus Clayton, Trinity Creamer and Alexia Martin-McNair. Not in attendance for the ceremony were toddlers Leland Flowers and Hope Salter.

Anne Birchwell, from the Franklin County Library, and Becky Floyd, who teaches at the Early Head Start program, led the children in songs they had learned.

Joseph presented the diplomas, with assistance from teachers Brenda Austin Cummings, teacher and cook Patricia Lane, substitute teacher Mary Sewell, and teacher Tanicia Pugh.

In addition, Sara Lockley, from Superior Bank, presented the children with \$1 golden Sacajawea dollars, as well as educational materials. Barbara McNair, and her daughter Sharavia, also handed out materials for the children to learn with and enjoy.

Afterwards everyone enjoyed refreshments and toured the facility.

In addition to the adults who took part in the commencement, the program expressed thanks to Nedra Jefferson, Gwen Clark, the Superior Bank's Stephnia Turrell, Hattie Jones and Trina Ford.



Trinity Creamer, right, snaps a photo of her classmate Alexia Martin-McNair. At right, Gaven Freeman gets his diploma for graduation from the Early Headstart program.



**HISTORICAL SOCIETY PICKS LEADERSHIP**

The Apalachicola Area Historical Society met last month for its annual meeting at the home of Bill and Lynn Spohrer, above. Selected as officers for 2009-10 were Bill Spohrer, president; Mark Curenton, vice president, Shirley Taylor, secretary; and David Adlerstein, treasurer. Retiring from the board were Dot Hill and newly added were Lynn Wilson Spohrer and Susan Clementson. The society now has 70 members and is actively seeking new ones. Dues are \$10 per year. To join, call Adlerstein at 370-6201.

**Anniversary****Chuck and Regina Misiaveg mark 65th anniversary**

Chuck and Regina (Buzzett) Misiaveg, of Greer, S.C., celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on July 5.

The couple was married in 1944 during World War II at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Apalachicola.

The family includes son Bill Misiaveg and his wife, Suzanne, of Greer, SC; son Chuck Misiaveg and his wife, Susan, of Rome, Ga.; and daughter Kathy Shimonis, of Shamong, N.J.; along with six grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Chuck enlisted in the Army Air Corps prior to World War II and was

stationed in Apalachicola when he met Regina, who was a pharmacist in her father's drug store.

Chuck worked many years in the home furnishings industry, retiring from Arthur A. Oliver in High Point, NC 17 years ago. Regina returned to college and received a degree in education, retiring from the High Point School System 28 years ago. The couple moved to Greer in 1996.

They have lived a life of loving devotion and faith and selfless service to their children and extended family, their church, and their community.

**PET OF THE WEEK****Maggie**

Maggie, an 18-month-old Great Dane and White English mix, arrived at the Adoption Center three weeks ago. She is a sweet, playful girl whose owners could no longer care for her. Maggie has tested negative for heartworms, has been spayed and is up to date on her shots.

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.forgottenpets.org](http://www.forgottenpets.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!



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**Happy Birthday****Ajaylen McNair turns 2**

Ajaylen McNair celebrate his second birthday on Friday, July 24, 2009. He is the son of Jasmine Lewis.

Maternal grandparents are Trina Ford and Freddie and Candy Lewis. Maternal great-grandparents are Marion Greene and Rosa Tolliver.

Godparents are Evelyn and Freddie Williams.

**Bennett McNair turns 1**

Bennett McNair celebrated his first birthday on Thursday, July 23, 2009.

He is the son of Willie McNair III and Nicole Shiver, of Apalachicola.

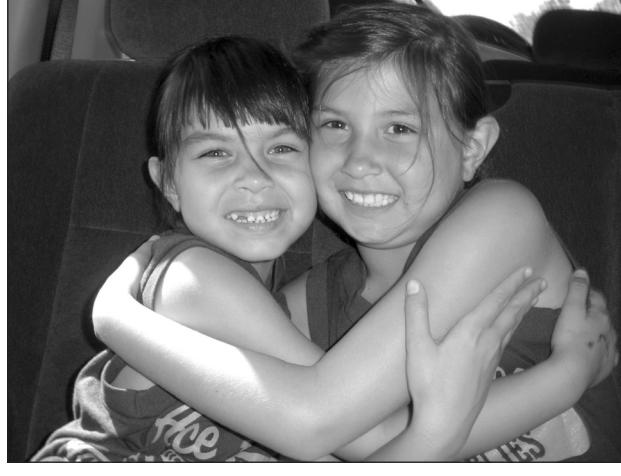
Maternal grandparents are Scott and Pam Shiver, and Tammy Shiver, of Eastpoint. Paternal grandparents are Willie and Barbara McNair Jr., of Apalachicola.

**Khali McNair turns 2**

Khali McNair celebrated her second birthday on Saturday, April 11, 2009.

She is the daughter of Willie McNair III and Nicole Shiver, of Apalachicola.

Maternal grandparents are Scott and Pam Shiver, and Tammy Shiver, of Eastpoint. Paternal grandparents are Barbara and Willie McNair, Jr., of Apalachicola.

**Johnson sisters celebrate summer birthdays****Jimmie and Mary Rochelle mark anniversary**

Happy 49th wedding anniversary to Jimmie and Mary Rochelle on Wednesday, July 29, 2009.

From the great grandchildren, Donate and Kyera and family

**Wedding****Teresa Ibarra, Jacinto Negron wed**

Jacinto Negron and Teresa Ibarra were married on Saturday, July 18 in Haines City, Florida by Jacinto's brother-in-law, the Rev. Nelson Reynoso.

After a short stay in St. Cloud, the couple returned to their residence on St. George Island.

Alexus and Abby Johnson celebrated their birthdays with friends and family.

Alexus's eighth birthday was Sunday, July 26, 2009 and Abby's sixth birthday was Friday, June 19, 2009. They are the daughters of Brock and Kim Johnson.

Maternal grandparents are Tom and Neddy

Leavins of Delta, Col. Paternal grandparents are Robbie and Marcia Johnson, of Apalachicola.

Maternal great-grandmother is Ada Leavins, of Panama City. Paternal great-grandparents are Burnell and Bill Martina, of Apalachicola, and Inez Johnson and the late Paul Johnson.

**Franklin County calling 211**

Franklin County residents are joining a national trend to call the easy 3-digit 211 telephone number offered by 211 Centers throughout the nation for information and referral.

In 2008, the number of Franklin citizens calling 211 increased by 52.5 percent over the prior year. Residents of Franklin County call 211 to reach the 24-hour crisis and information hotline, Helpline 211, operated by 211 Big Bend.

During the past 12 months, callers using their home, business, pay and cell phones have called the hotline to access hotline counseling, crisis intervention, suicide prevention and information about community human services. This number is answered by trained counselors who quickly assess the needs of callers and refer them to the help they seek. Callers can also call the toll-free number, 1-877-211-7005, to speak with a telephone counselor.

In Florida, the 211 Network is a collaboration of the 16 active 211 Network Centers that serve all cell phone users and 88 percent of landline users. All 67 counties have cell phone access and 50 counties have landline access to the three digit number. In 2008, 1.08 million calls were handled by the 16 211 Network Centers.

During the past month, the primary needs expressed by callers to 211 were utilities assistance, rent/housing assistance, health/medical needs, relationship concerns, stress/depression/loneliness, food assistance, emergency shelter, basic financial needs, legal assistance, job assistance, and substance abuse.

211 Big Bend partners with the American Red Cross and the Franklin County Emergency Management System. 211 counselors and staff are prepared to provide mental health support and help inform the public about emergency services and shelters during a disaster such as a hurricane.

# Keep smiling, Franklin County

Saturday, Aug. 1 will conclude our year-long celebration of the 450 years of Eucharist in our diocese. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church has been chosen to represent parishioners of the Pensacola / Tallahassee Diocese. Mass will be at 10 a.m. Adoration of the Eucharist will be until 4 p.m. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church is on the south side of US 98 East in Medart.

LANARK NEWS  
Jim Welsh

Hope things go well for us here in Franklin County. This afternoon at 1 p.m., the Public Service Commission will hear comments on the Progress Energy surcharge. The hearing will be held at the community center, at 1 Bay Avenue, in Apalachicola.

Well, next Monday night, Aug. 3, the \$250 jackpot will be 62 numbers. I called last Monday, but didn't get a winner.

Maybe your or your friend could come to the Senior Center and try your luck. Early Bird 6 p.m. and regular 7 p.m. Hope to see you there.

Be kind to one another. Check in on the sick and house-bound. Keep smiling. You may not feel better but everyone else will wonder what you're up to!

Until next time, God bless America, our troops, the poor, the homeless and the hungry!



## Obituaries

### Syble Lucille Thompson

Syble Lucille Thompson, 72, beloved wife and mother, passed away Sunday, June 28, 2009, at Weems Memorial Hospital after a long battle with cancer.

She was born in Lynn Haven and was a lifelong resident of Apalachicola.

She is survived by her husband of 53 years, Hoyt S. Thompson; son, Donnie Hoyt Thompson and fiancé, Avon Blanchard, of Eastpoint; daughter, Donna Fay Poole and husband, Sam, of Elberta, Ala.; and son, Barry Dewayne Thompson and fiancé, Theresa Smith, of Apalachicola.

Also surviving are granddaughter, Robin Ashley Thompson and great-grandsons, Tyler and Dyson Thompson, of Freeland, Mich.; granddaughter, Sebrina Melissa Brown of

Tacoma, WA; grandson, Brandon N. Brown, of Raiford; great-grandson, Tucker Bentley Brown, of Panama City; granddaughter, Kayla Denise Griffin and husband, Eli, and great-granddaughter, Kelsey Griffin and great-grandson, Braden Griffin, of Eastpoint; granddaughter, April Leanne Thompson and grandson, Zachery Dewayne Thompson, both of Apalachicola.

She is also survived by three sisters, Louise Barber and husband, JP; and Mildred Cooper and husband, Charles, all of Apalachicola, and Fay Rogers and husband Bobby of Athens, Ga. and numerous nieces and nephews.

Service was performed by Sister Gwenelle Wilson at Kelly Funeral Home on Tuesday, June 30. Music was performed by Ginny Griner.

Clarence Garold Coleman Russell died Friday, July 17, 2009 in Tallahassee.

He was born on Apr. 7, 1932 in Carrabelle and lived in the area all his life. He was a commercial fisherman and avid hunter. Coleman was loved by all who knew him. He had a heart of gold and would give you the shirt off his back.

Coleman is survived by this sister, Vera Wallace; nephews Robert Wallace and his wife Cindy, and Ronnie Wallace; nieces Pat Ledbetter and her husband George, and Pam

Daniels; and all his fellow fishermen on the bay. Many other nieces, nephews, relatives and loving friends also survive.

Funeral services were held at United Baptist Church in Eastpoint on July 20 with burial in Eastpoint Cemetery near his parents, brothers and other family members. The Rev. Bobby Shiver officiated. All arrangements under direction of Kelley Funeral Home, Apalachicola.



RUSSELL

Viewing was held before the funeral service at the church in Eastpoint.

### Coleman Russell

## Ascension Church funds Camp Weed program

The Episcopal Church of the Ascension, Carrabelle, recently sent five children from Franklin County to The Camp Weed Summer program, a ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Florida that has existed for over 83 years in a number of locations in northern Florida.

The program was, for years, located in the St. Teresa area, and is now located just outside of Live Oak. It is an ideal setting for youth development and campers here come back year after year.

Ascension has a scholarship fund designated for sending children to Camp Weed for one week each summer.

"Camp Weed is so much fun," said recent participant Samantha Marxsen. "This year was my third year at camp and each year is as much fun as the last."

I made so many friends at camp this year I couldn't even count them all. One of my favorite things at camp is canteen and free swim, when half the camp goes to buy ice cream and candy, and the other half goes to swim."

Ascension will pay the registration fees for the child to experience Camp Weed for one week. There is no requirement as to religious affiliation. Interested parents can contact Mother Teri Monica at: tmonica3769@yahoo.com.

Programs are offered from grade 3 to 12 and include great fun programs like, canoeing, archery, volleyball, baseball, swimming, nature trails, hiking and talent shows.

For further information go to: <http://www.campweed.org/Summercamp.aspx>.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH WELCOMES YOU



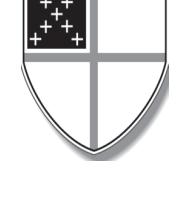
**Trinity**  
EST. 1836

Hwy. 98 & 6th St.  
Apalachicola

SUNDAY: 8:00 AM 10:30 AM

LIBRARY HOURS:  
SUNDAY 12:00 - 2:00 PM  
MONDAY 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
WEDNESDAY 12:00 - 2:00 PM  
THURSDAY 3:30 - 5:30 PM

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH



**Church of the Ascension**  
101 NE First Street  
Carrabelle

SUNDAY  
10:00 AM

## CARD OF THANKS

### Wallace Hill

My family and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who were part of the blood drive hosted by Bay Medical Blood Center on June 29, especially to those who worked so hard organizing such a successful event and to all of those who took the time to donate blood on my behalf. We are truly grateful for your time, effort and generosity.

A very special thanks to Beverly Connors and Susan Richardson who worked so hard to organize and make the drive such a success. Michael, Al-

len, of Oyster Radio, and Royce Rolstad, of Forgotten Coast TV, and the staff of the Apalachicola Times are due tremendous credit for their tireless participation as well.

Thanks to all of you for your prayers, friendship and well wishes. This is proof that the people of Apalachicola and surrounding area live in the best and most caring place on the continent and the best place on earth to live. We thank all of you for your continued prayers, support, love and concern.

Sincerely,  
Wallace Hill and Family

### Makayla Harris Family

The family of Makayla Harris wishes to express our sincere appreciation to the churches of the community, family and friends for all the prayers, love, and support you showed to us during our daughter's sickness. Your act of kindness will never be forgotten.

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you and May God Bless you.

Crystal Lemon and  
Bobby Harris

## News BRIEFS

### State restores \$150,000 allocation to airport

The Florida Department of Transportation has reallocated \$150,000 to the Apalachicola Regional Airport. Last month, the money was cut from a grant to construct a commercial hanger at the airport.

The county commission approved plans July 7 to construct the 11,000-square-foot hangar, although the future use of the facility is still in question.

At that time, Lee Lewis, of Avcon, engineering consultant for the airport, said his firm had designed the hanger based on the original grant amount of \$1.24 million and that the state's withdrawal of \$150,000 of the original funding would add to the difficulty of the project. "We can build the basic building but it will be tight," he told the commission.

At the July 21 meeting, County Planner Alan Pierce said, "The basic hanger can now be comfortably built."

Lewis added that, with the funding restored, "The county will have no dollars in this job."

Pierce said the project is on schedule to accept bids for con-

struction of the hanger. The commission will open bids Aug. 4 and, hopefully, award the contract on Aug. 18, he said.

- By Lois Swoboda

### July 22 shatters record for low temperature

At 7:23 a.m. on Thursday, July 22, temperatures recorded at Apalachicola Regional Airport plunged to 63 degrees, eight degrees below the previous record for that date set in 1947, and 11 degrees below the average nighttime low for July of 74 degrees.

The cold snap also tied the all-time record low for July in Apalachicola.

At the end of June, Apalachicola experienced five consecutive days of record high temperatures with the thermometer hovering seven to nine degrees above average.

On Wednesday, June 17, the heat wave began. The temperature topped out at 99 degrees, beating the old record for that date, 97, set in 1981. The thermometer fell to 76 degrees that night, but surged up to 96 the next day, tying the standing record. A 98-degree high on

Saturday, June 20 once again tied the record for that day and Sunday, June 21's 100-degree high broke the standing record from 1998 by two degrees.

The temperature bottomed out at a toasty 80 degrees that night and soared back to 100 on Monday, June 22, beating the previous record of 95 set in 1998.

- By Lois Swoboda

### New lease for Camp Gordon Johnston museum

The board of the Camp Gordon Johnston Museum has negotiated a new lease with Carrabelle. The current one-year lease has been extended to eight years, with a 3 percent escalation each year. The museum will receive an additional 1,500 square feet of space.

Linda Minichello, secretary of the museum board, said the extra space will allow them to upgrade exhibits. The museum has once again been chosen by the Smithsonian Institute to participate in Museum Day, which falls on Sept. 26 this year. Visitors can tour the museum free of charge from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the event.

### St. Patrick Catholic Church

Ave C & Sixth Street in Apalachicola, FL 32329 or  
The Islander (Across from the Blue Parrot)

on St. George Island, FL 32328

(850) 653-9453 • Email: [stpatcath@fairpoint.net](mailto:stpatcath@fairpoint.net)

PASTOR: FATHER ROGER LATOSYNISKI

[www.stpatricksmass.com](http://www.stpatricksmass.com)

APALACHICOLA MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY.....5 PM

SUNDAY.....10 AM

ST. GEORGE ISLAND MASS SCHEDULE

SUNDAY.....8:30 AM

The United Methodist Churches of Franklin County Welcome You

### First United Methodist Church of Apalachicola

Worship Service 11:00 a.m. every Sunday

Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

75 5th St. Apalachicola - 653-9530 - [fumcapalach@gc.com](mailto:fumcapalach@gc.com)

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 Tuesday each month-7 p.m.

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

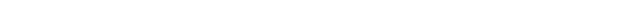
### St. George Island United Methodist Church

9:00 a.m. Worship Service

10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour

201 E. Gulf Beach Dr. 927-4635 [www.sgiucm.org](http://www.sgiucm.org)

Pastor: Rev. Themo Patriotis



## County CALENDAR

### Thursday, July 30

Apalachicola Library summer reading program, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. For more info, call 653-8436.

Carrabelle Public Library, 311 St. James Ave. offers film from 9 to 11 a.m. Yoga at 4:30 p.m. For more info, call 697-2366.

Eastpoint Public Library offers Story Hour at 10 a.m., and individual computer instruction from 10 a.m. to noon. For more info, call 670-8151.

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

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

### Friday, July 31

Exercise class at Chillas Hall in Lanark Village. 9 to 10 a.m. Open to all and free.

Summer reading at Eastpoint and Carrabelle libraries, from 10 a.m. to noon.

### Monday, Aug. 3

Apalachicola Library Board will meet at 5 p.m. at the Apalachicola Municipal Library. For info, call 653-8436.

"Be Creative @ Your Public Library" this summer's Franklin County Public Library reading program, concludes this week at the Carrabelle and Eastpoint libraries. Youth ages 5 to 12 are invited to participate in the final week of activities.

This week's theme is Free Play, where participants will be engaged in a series of fun, competitive games. The program begins at 10 a.m. and concludes at noon with the presenta-

Exercise class at Chillas Hall in Lanark Village. 9 to 10 a.m. Open to all and free.

Carrabelle Public Library yoga at 4:30 p.m. For more info, call 697-2366.

Bingo at the Franklin County Senior Center in Carrabelle. Early bird at 6 p.m., regular bingo at 7 p.m. Cards begin at \$4. Call 697-3760.

### Tuesday, Aug. 4

Apalachicola City Commission will hold a public hearing, workshop and regular meeting at 6 p.m. at City Hall. For more info, call 653-8715.

Carrabelle Lighthouse Association will meet at the Keeper's House Museum at Crooked River Lighthouse Park at 5:30 p.m. The CLA is seeking volunteers to help with the museum gift shop and other projects. If you would like to help, please come to the meeting and join the CLA. For more info, call 697-2732.

Apalachicola Library summer reading program, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. For more info, call 653-8436.

Carrabelle Public Library story time at 2 p.m. For more info, call 697-2366.

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

gested donation. Call 697-3760.

Bingo 7 p.m. St. George Island Fire Dept. 25 cents per card. Families welcome. Proceeds go to St. George Island Civic Club. Call 927-4654.

### Wednesday, Aug. 5

Exercise class at Chillas Hall in Lanark Village. 9 to 10 a.m. Open to all and free.

Carrabelle Public Library offers Kids Wii from 9 to 11 a.m. For more info, call 697-2366.

### Thursday, Aug. 6

Carrabelle City Commission meets at 6:30 p.m. at 1005 Gray Avenue, Carrabelle. For more info, call 697-3618.

Carrabelle Public Library, 311 St. James Ave. offers Adults Wii from 9 to 11 a.m. Yoga at 4:30 p.m. For more info, call 697-2366.

Eastpoint Public Library offers Story Hour at 10 a.m., and individual computer instruction from 10 a.m. to noon. For more info, call 670-8151.

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

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

## LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

tion of individual reading certificates.

Hot and steamy! Take a break with a DVD or videotape from the public library. Choose from a wide selection of children and mature theme movies. Both DVDs and videotapes can be checked out for one week. New editions will be added this week!

Need to refresh or upgrade your computer skills? The Carrabelle branch will be offering computer sessions on Friday, Aug. 14 and Saturday,

day, Aug. 15. Contact the Carrabelle library at 697-2366 to register.

The Eastpoint Medical Center Health Fair is Thursday, Aug. 13, from noon to 4 p.m. The library will be a participant and visitors to the fair will be able to register for library membership and other services.

For more information about the library and its programs, contact the Eastpoint staff at 670-8151 or the Carrabelle staff at 697-2366.

## Public Hearing Notice 2nd CDBG Public Hearing

The City of Apalachicola is applying to the Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for a grant under the Economic Development category for an amount up to \$700,000 under the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-ED) Program. For each activity that is proposed, a minimum of 51 percent of the beneficiaries will be low to moderate income households. The proposed Scipio Creek Boat Basin project will construct new dock facilities, provide for the loading of ice and the offloading of seafood, construct a heavy lift boat haul and repair yard, install repairs at the existing dock facilities, and construct a public retail seafood open air market and public restrooms. As this project will assist the community in retaining its existing seafood workforce and allow the creation of additional jobs, this is an Economic Development grant. In addition to CDBG funding, the Economic Development Administration will contribute up to 80% of the following projected area costs;

### Activity

Boat Haul and Repair Yard

	Budget (Approximately)	LMI % (Approximately)
Boat Haul and Repair Yard	\$756,000	>51
Water Sewer and Electrical repair	\$68,000	>51
Piling and Dock Repair	\$168,000	>51
Dock Offloading area, boat to truck	\$350,000	>51
Seafood Market and Public restrooms	\$435,000	>51
Ice Making and Loading for boats	\$340,000	>51
Additional Dockage development	\$100,000	>51
Administration	\$75,000	>51

Water Sewer and Electrical repair

Piling and Dock Repair

Dock Offloading area, boat to truck

Seafood Market and Public restrooms

Ice Making and Loading for boats

Additional Dockage development

Administration

The City has an adopted anti-displacement and relocation plan; however, no displacement of persons is anticipated at this time. If relocation assistance is required as a result of the project, the City will provide assistance as indicated in the policy.

A public hearing to provide citizens an opportunity to comment on the application will be held at City Hall, located at Apalachicola City Hall, 1 Bay Avenue, Apalachicola, FL as a part of the special public hearing to be held on Tuesday, August 4th, 2009, commencing at 6:00pm. A final copy of the application will be made available at the Apalachicola City Hall, office of the City Grants Manager, Monday through Friday, from 8:00am to 4:00pm upon completion of the application on or about August 15th. The application will be submitted to DCA on or around September 1st, (or later, if necessary). To obtain additional information concerning the application and public hearing, contact Cindi Giometta, City Grants Manager, at the City Hall, 1 Bay Avenue, or by phone at (850) 653-8715.

The public hearing is being conducted in a handicapped accessible location. Any handicapped person requiring special mobility accommodation at this meeting should contact Cindi Giometta at the City Hall, or by phone at (850) 653-8715, at least five calendar days prior to the meeting. Any handicapped person requiring an interpreter for the hearing impaired or the visually impaired should contact Cindi Giometta at the City Hall, or by phone at (850) 653-8715 at least five calendar days prior to the meeting and an interpreter will be provided. Any non-English speaking person wishing to attend the public hearing should contact Cindi Giometta at the City Hall, or by phone at (850) 653-8715 at least five calendar days prior to the meeting and a language interpreter will be provided. To access a Telecommunication Device for Deaf persons, (TDD) please call (850) 653-8715.

Pursuant to Section 103 of the HUD reform act of 1989, the following disclosures will be made to DCA with the application. The disclosures will be made available by the City of Apalachicola and DCA for the public inspection upon request. These disclosures will be available on or after the date of the application and shall continue to be available for a minimum period of five years.

- Other government (federal, state and local) assistance to the project in the form of a gift, grant, loan, guarantee, insurance payment, rebate, subsidy, credit, tax benefit, or any other form of direct or indirect benefit by source and amount.
- The identities and pecuniary interests of all developers, contractors, or consultants involved in the application for assistance or in the planning or development of the project or activity.
- The identities and pecuniary interests of any persons with a pecuniary interest in the project that can reasonably be expected to exceed \$50,000 or 10 percent of the grant request (whichever is lower).
- For those developers, contractors, consultants, property owners, or others listed in 2) or 3) above which are corporations or other entities, the identification and pecuniary interests by corporation or entity of each officer, director, principle, stockholder, or other official of the entity.
- The expected sources of all funds to be provided to the project by each of the providers of those funds and the amount provided; and,
- The expected uses of all funds by activity and amount.

A FAIR HOUSING/ EQUAL OPPORTUNITY, HANDICAP ACCESS COMMUNITY

## Seniors to begin Saturday flea market

The Franklin County Senior Center, 201 N.W. Avenue F and 1st Street in Carrabelle, will begin hosting a flea market on the second Saturday of each month, from 8:30 a.m. until 3 p.m., beginning Aug. 8.

Rent space to sell your

## News BRIEFS

### Citizens urged to attend Progress Energy hearing

Both Bobby Pickels, Progress Energy's community relations director for North Florida, and Earl Poucher, a consumer advocate for the Office of Public Counsel, were in the county last week to remind locals about The Florida Public Service Commission's upcoming customer service hearing on Progress Energy.

The meeting will take place at 1 p.m. on Thursday, July 30 at the Apalachicola Community Center in Battery Park.

The purpose of the hearing is to provide Progress customers the opportunity to testify before the PSC on Progress' request for a rate increase.

Poucher said that his office urges everyone to attend the meeting, the last in a series of nine meetings held across the state. He said all five members of the PSC are expected to be present at the meeting so, whether you have praise of criticism for the power company, bring your ideas and concerns to the forum.

### Parents move to quell rumors

A Franklin County couple, concerned about what they say have been false accusations circulating against their son, are making themselves available to answer questions.

John Nowling is asking anyone who has a question or comment concerning Colby Nowling to call him at 323-0836 or wife Leanna at 653-6859.

Nowling said he is making himself available in order to share correct information regarding a recent incident in which he believes four children were all in the wrong. "Fortunately no one was harmed," he said.

### Third oyster relay on Friday

Florida Department of Aquaculture, Shellfish Center, and the Franklin County Seafood Workers will resume the Oyster Relay on Friday, July 31.

The relay will be held from inshore Cat Point to offshore Cat Point, and

[WWW.APALACHTIMES.COM](http://WWW.APALACHTIMES.COM)

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP

### THE APALACHICOLA CITY COMMISSION WILL HOLD A FAIR HOUSING WORKSHOP MEETING ON:

WHEN: Tuesday, August 4th, 2009  
TIME: 6:00 P.M.  
WHERE: Commission Chambers  
RE: Fair Housing Workshop

All persons are invited to attend this meeting which will be conducted as a part of the regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the City Commission

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, Persons needing special accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact Cindi Giometta at City Hall, ph. 850/653-9319.

**Sheriff's REPORT**

The following report is provided by the Franklin County Sheriff's Office. Arrests are made by officers from the following city, 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), Florida Division of Insurance Fraud (DIF) and Florida De-

partment of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FLDO-ACS).

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

**July 17**

Eric Datry, 56, Decatur, Ga., grand theft (FCSO)

**July 21**

Jeremy Mixon, 22, Apalachicola, arson of a dwelling and violation of probation (FCSO)

Gregory S. Finley, 36, Apala-

chicola, arson of a dwelling (FCSO)

**July 22**

Scott E. Powell, 21, Eastpoint, two counts of providing alcohol to person under age 21 (FCSO)

**July 23**

Robert Z. Thompson, 26, Apalachicola, failure to appear (APD)

**July 24**

Justin E. McCalpin, 20, East-

point, failure to appear (FCSO) Scarlett L. Harrison, 20, Thornhill, TN, domestic battery (FCSO)

Charles R. Jones, 46, Fort Walton Beach, petit theft (APD)

Steven R. Bedford, 29, Apalachicola, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, passing worthless bank checks and violation of probation (FCSO)

**July 25**

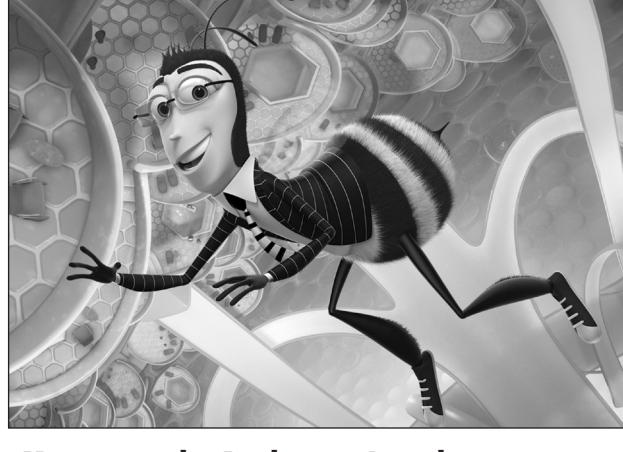
James D. Creamer, 27, Apalachicola, grand theft of a motor vehicle, burglary of a dwelling (FCSO)

and petit theft (APD)

**July 26**

Kevin B. Furtney, 39, Holiday, DUI, refusal to submit to breath test, driving while license suspended or revoked, possession of less than 20 grams of cannabis and reckless driving (FCSO)

Steve King, 56, Lanark Village, grand theft and battery on a law enforcement officer (FCSO)

**Law BRIEFS****Movies in the Park continue July 30**

The Franklin County Sheriff's Office's S.A.F.E. Program (Student And Family Events) would like to invite all students and families to come and enjoy "Movies in the Park." The movies shown on a 12' screen, plus popcorn, are all free.

Beginning at 8:30 p.m., "Bee Movie" will be shown on July 30 at Kendrick Field in Carrabelle.

On Tuesday, Aug. 4 a film will be part of National Night Out at Vrooman Park in Eastpoint.

**Aerial operation nails 285 pot plants**

On July 23, deputies and members of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office Narcotics Unit, with assistance of the Florida Department of Agriculture and the Calhoun County Sheriff's Office, conducted an aerial marijuana eradication operation resulting in the seizure of 285 marijuana plants.

No arrests have been made to date, however persons of interest are under investigation and third-degree felony charges for cultivation of marijuana are pending.

**Reward offered in Carrabelle robbery**

A Carrabelle area homeowner is offering a \$2,500 reward in connection to a burglary of his residence.

Mike Robulock Sr., 61, is offering the reward leading to the arrest and conviction of persons related to the thievery at his home on River Road in Carrabelle.

Robulock reported to the sheriff's office that multiple rifles, ammunition, keys, chainsaws, generator, night scope, Q-beam spotlight, 42-inch Sony television and miscellaneous items were taken from the home sometime in June.

He said the items were valued at about \$10,000.

Individuals with information related to this case are asked to call Lt. Ron Crum at the sheriff's office at 670-8500.

**Veterans to hold cookout Sept. 12**

The All-Veterans cookout will be held on Sat-

urday, Sept. 12, 2009 at Battery Park in Apalachicola.

Hosted by the Franklin County Vietnam Veterans, the annual event is open to all military veterans and their families. Under the direction of founders Charles Wilson and the late Frank Page, the cookout traditionally was held in the middle of summer.

"We had to change it last year and everybody liked it because it was cooler," said William Scott, the county veterans service officer. "We've decided to keep it in September."

For more information, call Scott at 653-8096.

**Troopers to conduct vehicle inspections**

Members in Troop H, Quincy district, of the Florida Highway Patrol plan to conduct driver license/vehicle inspection checkpoints next month during daylight hours at the following locations in Franklin County:

Saturday, Aug. 1 through Sunday, Aug. 30:

State Route 30, SR 30A, SR 65, SR 384, SR 67, SR 377, SR 385, County Road 370, CR 157, CR 59, CR 374, CR 30A and SR 300 (St. George Island Causeway).

All personnel participating in the checkpoints will be responsible for following the procedures outlined in Chapter 17.12 of the Florida Highway Patrol Policy Manual regarding driver license and vehicle inspection checkpoints, said Lt. Marl Brown.

**Sheriff's office hosts rally for National Night Out**

The Franklin County Sheriff's Office will be participating in the 26th annual National Night Out crime and drug prevention event on Tuesday, Aug. 4.

National Night Out, sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW) and co-sponsored locally by the sheriff's office, will involve over 11,000 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Cana-

dian cities, and military bases around the world.

In all, over 35 million people are expected to participate in this year's National Night Out.

Starting at 8:30 p.m. on Aug. 4, residents in the county are asked to turn on all outside lights and spend the evening outdoors doing recreational activities such as block parties, cookouts, flashlight walks, youth activities, and anything that will send the message to criminals that we are out watching our neighborhoods and fighting back!

The sheriff's office will host a youth anti-crime rally at Vrooman Park, on 6th street in Eastpoint. Sheriff Skip Shiver invites all youth and their families to come out and participate in reducing crime and violence by playing games, watching family movies, and enjoying a nice grilled hot dog!

If you would like to help donate to the cause or need more information pertaining to the event please contact Sgt. Ryan Sandoval at 670-8500.

**Arrests made in houseboat arson case**

Arrests have been made in the case of two houseboats burned on East River.

According to the state fire marshal's office, sometime between sunset on July 1 and sunrise on July 2 two houseboats in the St. Marks River belonging to oysterman Jimmy Wayne Lashley, of Apalachicola, burned.

Gregory Scott Finley, 36, and Jeremy Joseph Mixon, 22, both of Apalachicola were arrested July 21 and transported to the Franklin County Jail.

Both Finley and Mixon are being held on a \$50,000 bond. Both have been charged with arson, with Mixon also being held without bond on a charge of violation of probation.

The boats were located just south of

the East River cutoff on the Little St. Marks River. The owner said he visited the site July 1 and everything was in order when he left.

The larger of the two boats was 24' by 40' and valued at \$40,000 to \$50,000. The smaller boat was built on a 24' foot fiberglass hull and was for sale at the time of the fire for an asking price of \$800. Lashley said the boats were not insured at the time of the fire.

Lashley said he worked for more than two years on the big boat and valued the work at more than \$60,000.

Jason Roberts, an investigator for the fire marshal's office, said that because there was no electrical power at the site and no reported lightning on the night of the fire, it was investigated as possible arson.

The Florida Advisory Committee on Arson offered a reward of up to \$2,500 for information leading to an arrest in the case. If you have further information about this case, please call 850-662-7766.

- By Lois Swoboda

**PUBLIC HEARING****MSBU Fire Assessment Meeting****Resolution to Amend the Municipal Service Benefit Unit Ordinance 87-2.**

**Date: Tuesday, August 4, 2009**

**Time: 10:30 A.M.**

**Location: Franklin County Courthouse Annex  
Board Room  
34 Forbes Street  
Apalachicola, FL 32320**

**For further information please contact: Jay Abbott,  
St. George Island Fire Chief at (850) 927-2753.**

**PUBLISH DATES: July 23, 2009 & July 30 2009  
FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**CITY ELECTION INFORMATION**

The cities of Apalachicola and Carrabelle will be holding a municipal election on the following date:

September 8, 2009

**VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE**

August 10, 2009

**ABSENTEE VOTING**

If you need to have an absentee ballot mailed to you please contact the Franklin County Supervisor of Elections at 653-9520 or 697-0503. The elections office is located at 47 Avenue F, Apalachicola, Florida.

**EARLY VOTING**

Early Voting will be conducted for both elections  
August 31, 2009 - September 4, 2009

Apalachicola Election – Franklin County Elections Office 8:30 am-4:30pm Monday-Friday

Carrabelle Elections – Franklin County Annex Office 8:30am – 4:30pm Monday-Friday

For further information please contact the elections office at 653-9520 or 697-0503

**REMEMBER FLORIDA LAWS REQUIRES YOU TO HAVE PHOTO SIGNATURE ID TO VOTE OR YOU MUST VOTE A PROVISIONAL BALLOT**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS NOTICE OF SOLICITATION REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS for****3 SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS - CEI SERVICES**

Notice is hereby given that the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners is seeking Proposals of Qualification for Construction Engineering & Inspection Services for 3 Sidewalk Improvement Projects in Franklin County, Florida. Locations are (a) St. George Island, FPID No., 426681-1-58-01; (b) C.R. 384, Bluff Road, Apalachicola, FPID No. 426623-1-58-01, and; (c) S.R. 300, Franklin Blvd., St. George Island, FPID No 426633-1-58-01

RFQ details are on file at the Franklin County Courthouse Annex located at 34 Forbes Street, Suite 1 in Apalachicola, Florida 32320. and on the County's website at www.franklincountyflorida.com.

Proposals of Qualification will be evaluated by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioner's Director of Administrative Services and the County Commission. The County retains the right to reject any or all proposals.

Please submit Three (3) copies to:  
Franklin County Board of County Commissioners,  
34 Forbes Street, Suite 1,  
Apalachicola, FL 32320

All Submissions must be clearly marked "3 Sidewalk Improvement Projects - CEI Services" and submitted to Alan Pierce, Director of Administrative Services, Franklin County Board of County Commissioners, 34 Forbes Street, Suite 1, Apalachicola, FL by 4:00 pm EST on Friday August 14, 2009.

# Gulf Coast Community College leads state with dual enrollment participation

For the second consecutive year Gulf Coast Community College has the highest number of high school students dual enrolled in college courses.

According to a recent report by the Florida College System, Gulf Coast's dual enrollment participation rate was 49 percent for 2005-06 and 47.4 percent for 2007-08. Participation rates are calculated by dividing the yearly dual enrollment headcount by public school membership for grades 11 and 12 in the same year.

Dual enrollment programs provide a way for high school students to simultaneously meet

high school requirements while earning college credits that provide families with cost savings for college tuition and decreasing the time it takes students to earn a degree.

"Dual enrollment is an incredible opportunity for high school students who are academically ready and socially mature enough to thrive in a college environment," said Dr. Cheryl Flax-Hyman, GCCC's dean of off-campus and community development. "It is a unique opportunity to earn college and high school credit at the same time, tuition free. These students will significantly cut down the

time and expense to an associate or baccalaureate degree."

Another noteworthy statistic is that GCCC also has the highest participation rates for Hispanic and black students and is the only college where the dual enrolled participation rate for Hispanic students surpassed that of white students (54.3 percent versus 51.6 percent respectively).

The success rates for students that are dual-enrolled at Gulf Coast are high, because in order to be accepted into the program, students must have a minimum 3.0 grade point average and pass the appropriate section of the College

Placement Test (CPT). Thus students accepted into the program have already demonstrated an ability to succeed at the college level.

Gulf Coast places a high priority on working with teachers and guidance counselors throughout Bay, Gulf and Franklin counties to ensure the community's needs are being met. However, expanding learning opportunities and fostering success of our students is always a team effort.

"We are so very fortunate to have strong partnerships with the school districts we serve, which is the main reason for the program's success," said Flax-Hyman.



Bobby Henderson. Photo courtesy of the FSU Marine Lab.

## Marine lab mechanic honored

Bobby Henderson, of Sopchopy, is the recipient of one of Florida State University's annual awards for outstanding accomplishment as an employee.

More than 350 employees gathered at the University of Florida's Reitz Student Union Grand Ballroom for the 2009 Superior Accomplishment Awards ceremony. The annual program recognizes staff and faculty members who contribute outstanding and meritorious service, efficiency and/or economy to the quality of life for students and employees.

Henderson, maintenance mechanic at the Florida State University Coastal Marine Laboratory, is the 2009 recipient of the Jeffrey A. Gabor Superior Accomplishment Award in the Office of Research. This award is given to the employee who, over the past year, has made supe-

rior accomplishments that resulted in or contributed to FSU's efficiency and/or effectiveness.

According to his coworkers, Henderson has consistently helped FSU researchers to set up experiments and has redesigned vessels to enhance their operation. The award includes a \$1,000 Savings Bond (funded through the Gabor Agency endowment to FSU), as well as a plaque.

The Superior Accomplishment Awards are presented each spring in six categories, Clerical/Office Support, Support Services, Scientific/Technical, Administrative / Supervisory, Administrative / Professional, and Academic Personnel. Division-level award recipients receive cash awards of \$200 each, then compete for university-level awards, which offer eight \$1,000 and six \$2,000 cash awards.

## GCCC registration continues for Fall 2009

Fall 2009 registration is continuing for new and returning students at Gulf Coast Community College.

Early registration runs through Aug. 7, with registration from Aug. 13-25. The college will be closed on Monday, Aug. 10 for an in-service day. Classes begin Aug. 19, with the drop/add period from Aug. 20 to 25.

Students can register on-line at [www.gulfcoast.edu](http://www.gulfcoast.edu) or visit one of the GCCC campuses during the hours listed below:

- Panama City Campus, on Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

All registration fees for 2009 fall semester are to be paid on or before Aug. 7. Please note registration dates exclude Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

For more information, call 850-872-4892 for the Panama City campus and 850-227-9670 for the Gulf/Franklin Center.



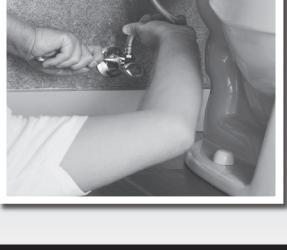
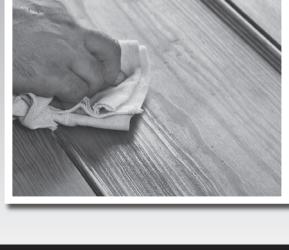
## Kindergarten SUPPLIES

The following is the Kindergarten supply list for 2009-10 for the Franklin County Elementary School:

- Rest mat labeled with name
- 2 boxes of 8-count large Crayola Crayons
- 2 boxes of 24-count Crayola Crayons
- 4 or more glue sticks
- 1 package of plastic drink cups
- 1 pack of paper plates
- 1 pair of Fiskars blunt tip scissors
- 2 boxes of Kleenex
- 1 bottle of Elmer's glue
- 2 large packages of wet wipes
- 1 package of jumbo (2-gallon) Ziploc bags
- 1 package of quart Ziploc bags
- 3 double-pocket folders
- 2 jumbo pencils or regular size pencils
- 1 change of clothes with student's name on them to be replenished as needed
- 1 backpack with name (no wheels)
- No pencil boxes, please

All supplies are shared when needed, depending on activity. Also, all of the above supplies might need to be replenished throughout the year upon teacher request.

## Trades & Services



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Monica Bontrager, DMD*

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Carrabelle, FL 32322

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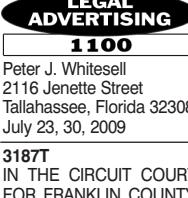
# THE TIMES CLASSIFIEDS



1100-1170

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1100 - Legal Advertising  
1110 - Classified Notices  
1120 - Public Notices/  
Announcements  
1125 - Carpools &  
Rideshare  
1130 - Adoptions  
1140 - Happy Ads  
1150 - Personals  
1160 - Lost  
1170 - Found

LEGAL  
ADVERTISING  
**1100**

Peter J. Whitesell  
2116 Jenette Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32308  
July 23, 30, 2009

**3187T**  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT  
FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY,  
FLORIDA  
PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: ESTATE OF  
GLORIA JEAN ESTES  
Deceased.

File No. 09-31CP  
Division Probate

LEGAL  
ADVERTISING  
**1100**

the sale.  
WITNESS my hand and  
the seal of this Court this  
15th day of July, 2009.

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT  
COURT  
BY: Terry E. Creamer  
Deputy Clerk

Steve M. Watkins, III  
FBN: 0794996  
41 Commerce Street  
Apalachicola, FL 32320  
(850) 653-1949  
July 23, 30, 2009

PETS & ANIMALS  
**2100-2150**

**2100 - Pets**  
**2110 - Pets: Free to**  
**Good Home**

**2120 - Pet Supplies**

**2130 - Farm Animals/**

**Supplies**

**2140 - Pets/Livestock**

**Wanted**

**2150 - Pet Memorials**

**PETS**

**2100**

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with good references. Will  
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pets, walk, bath, keep vet,  
appointments, and give  
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can't be there. 850-559-2344 Day or night.

**3214T**  
STATE OF FLORIDA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

## NOTICE OF APPLICATION

The Department announces receipt of an application from Coleman Mackie, File No. 19-0296228-001-DF, to recover pre-cut submerged timber from the Crooked River beginning at Harbeson Saw Mill and ending at the convergence of the Crooked and Ochlockonee rivers. The timber recoveries will be conducted in Franklin County.

This application is being processed and is available for public inspection during normal business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays, at the Northwest District office at 160 Governmental Center, Pensacola, Florida 32502-5794. July 30, 2009

3242T  
NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Request for Bids - Apalachicola Airport

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

The date of first publication of this notice is July 23, 2009.

Attorney for Personal Representative:  
Kristy Branch Banks  
Attorney for Charlotte Crosby  
Florida Bar No. 517143  
PO Box 176  
Apalachicola, Florida 32329

Telephone: (850) 670-1255  
Fax: (850) 670-1256  
Personal Representative:  
Charlotte Crosby  
10195 SW Blueberry Road  
Bristol, Florida 32321  
July 23, 30, 2009

**3188T**  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT  
OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA

IN RE: ESTATE OF JOSEPH HENRY WHITESELL Deceased.

File No. 09-32CP  
Division PROBATE

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of JOSEPH HENRY WHITESELL, deceased, whose date of death was May 11, 2009, is pending in the Circuit Court for FRANKLIN County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 33 Market Street, Apalachicola, Florida 32320. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below. All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

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

Commence at a point on the East boundary of Fractional Section 11, Township 8 South, range 4 West, Dog Island, Franklin County, Florida, 395.90 feet South of the Northeast corner of said Fractional Section 11, and run thence North 67 degrees 00 minutes East 404 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING of the lands hereby given conveyed, and from said POINT OF BEGINNING run thence South 26 degrees 30 minutes East 500 feet to a point on approximate mean high water line of the Gulf of Mexico, thence run in a Northeast direction along the approximate mean high water line of the Gulf of Mexico North 67 degrees 00 minutes East 100 feet, thence run North 26 degrees 30 minutes West 500 feet thence run South 67 degrees 00 minutes West 100 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING, said land hereby conveyed being also described as Lot 68 of the certain unrecorded map or plat of Dog Island Gulf beaches, Unit No. 1, as hereinabove referred to, said plat dated March 1948, and prepared by L.G. Flanagan, Land Surveyor, for Tallahassee Air-craft Corporation.

At Public Sale, to the highest bidder, for cash, at the steps of the Franklin County Courthouse, Apalachicola, Florida, at 11:00 a.m. on August 13, 2009.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of this court on the 10th day of July, 2009.

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

July 30, August 6, 2009

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from

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room Set. Dovetail Drawers,  
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**2150 - Pet Memorials**

**PETS**

**2100**

**2100 - Pets**

# Annual list Florida's 2009 plants of the year released

By Bill Mahan

Recently, the Florida Nursery Growers and Landscape Association (FNGLA) released their annual list of the "Florida Plants of the Year for 2009." Launched 10 years ago, the program recognizes plants that are ideal for each of the state's three geographical regions.

Each year, a selection of Florida's best plants are hand-picked by a jury of distinguished horticulturist representing the different sectors of the state's diverse nursery and landscape industry.

To mark the 10th anniversary of the program, FNGLA decided to highlight the best plant for each of the past 10-years. These 10-plants are deemed to be the Plants of the Decade and include three flowering shrubs, a clumping fern, flowering groundcover, robust palm, deciduous tree, a clumping native palm, heat-tolerant perennial and a versatile houseplant. All but one of the plants, the Bismarck Palm, are suitable for our area.

The following are the FNGLA's plants of the decade.

• Pineapple guava (*Acca*

*sellowiana*): Can be grown statewide, this shrub is 8 to 12 feet tall and wide. However, it can be kept lower with regular pruning. It is classified as an evergreen and in the landscape can be used as background or foundation plantings in full sun to partial shade. The pineapple guava is very cold-hardy, disease-resistant and salt-tolerant. Spring flowers (pink & white) are showy and edible. The edible guava-like fruit is oblong and about the size of a chicken egg.

- Perennial Peanut (*Arachis glabrata*): Grows statewide and is a 6 to 12 inches tall, 2 to 4 inches wide groundcover. In the landscape it can be used as a flowering (yellow) groundcover, turf replacement and in hard-to-mow areas. This drought-tolerant, evergreen is ideally suited for sunny, well drained-soil areas.

- Bismarck Palm (*Bismarckia noblis*): This 30 to 50-foot tall palm is only recommended for Central and South Florida.

- Autumn Fern (*Dryopteris erythrosora*): Grows statewide and when mature grows to about two-feet high and two-feet wide. It is considered to be



The pink and white spring flowers of the pineapple guava are showy and edible.



The edible guava-like fruit of the pineapple guava is oblong and about the size of a chicken egg.

an herbaceous perennial and best used as a mass planting in shaded areas. Sometimes called Japanese Shield Fern, its young foliage is a bronzy-red color that matures into a glossy, dark green. Best growth is in well-drained soils in light shade. It has moderate water requirements and will tell you when it is under water-stress by wilting and changing color.

- Firebush (*Hamelia patens*): Will grow in parts of North Florida and all of Central and South Florida. In warmer areas mature plants can be 10-feet high and six-feet wide, but typically maintained as a small shrub. This is a native semi-evergreen shrub. In the landscape it can be

- Wishbone Pansy (*Torenia fournieri*'Summer Wave'): Suitable statewide, full grown it is 12-inches

tall and 18 to 30-inches wide. It is considered an annual in North Florida. Used in beds, containers or hanging baskets. Produces flowers all summer long. The 'Summer Wave' hybrid consists of eight varieties with colors from deep blue to violet to white with purple throats. It is low-maintenance and a sun-lover.

- Winged Elm (*Ulmus alata*): Grows in North and Central Florida and grows to 45-feet tall and 40-feet wide. In the landscape it can be used as a shade or street tree. It is a Florida native with a moderate growth rate. It tolerates a range of soil conditions. When it loses its leaves, the winged branches are more visible, adding to the tree's winter interest.

- Compact Walter's Viburnum (*Viburnum obovatum*): A statewide native evergreen shrub that grows four to six-feet tall and three to four feet wide. Best used as a low hedge, specimen plant or in mass plantings. It features a mass of small, white, flowers in early spring and in fall. Red fruit ripen to black in the fall, attracting wildlife. In North Florida it is semi-deciduous. It grows in a range of soil conditions

with many cultivars showing drought-tolerance once they are established. Many compact forms have been made and are available, including 'Whorled Class,' 'Mrs. Shiller's Delight,' and 'Dena.' Dwarf varieties are available and are becoming increasingly popular.

- ZZ (*Zamioculcas zamiifolia*): Statewide, tropical perennial houseplant that grows two to four-feet high and three-feet-wide. It is an interesting succulent plant that resembles a cycad with its thick, glossy leaves and its semi-erect fronds. All parts of this plant are poisonous if eaten. It is an extremely tough plant, which does well indoors and handles neglect extremely well. It grows very slowly uses little water and has very few to no insect problems.

If you would like a copy of the FNGLA 2009 Florida Plants of the Year color handout, please let me know and I can send you one.

Bill Mahan is a Florida Sea Grant Agent and the director of the Franklin UF-IFAS Extension Program. Contact him at 653-9337, 697-2112 x 360; or via e-mail at [bmahan@ufl.edu](mailto:bmahan@ufl.edu).

## Helen Light to lecture on Apalachicola river flow

Helen M. Light, a retired staffer with the U.S. Geological Survey, will lecture on "Declining Flows and Levels in the Apalachicola River and Effects on Floodplain Habitats" on Thursday, Aug. 13 at the Florida State University Coastal and Marine Lab.

The lecture will be from 7 to 9 p.m. at the lab, on 3618 Coastal Highway 98, in St. Teresa.

Apalachicola River levels have been declining for more than 50 years, with consequences to forests and streams throughout its extensive floodplain. Over the last three decades, the composition of floodplain forests has shifted to a drier mix of species, and further changes toward drier species could continue for many more decades.

Swamp species (water tupelo, Ogeechee tupelo, bald cypress, and Carolina ash) have declined in density, with approximately

3.3 million fewer swamp trees estimated in a 2004-06 study than were reported in studies from 1976 to 1979. Some low bottomland hardwoods such as overcup oak and green ash have also declined in numbers in bottomland hardwood forests, while drier species such as water oak and hackberry have become more numerous.

Floodplain streams, sloughs, and lakes are disconnected from the main river channel more often and for longer durations than 50 years ago, substantially decreasing offstream habitat for fishes, mussels, and other aquatic animals. Decreased flows have caused increased salinity in over 95 miles of streams in the lower tidal reach (tributaries and distributaries in the floodplain and main river channel). Declines in river flows and levels have been greatest in spring and summer, the most important seasons for

biological processes such as tree growth and fish spawning.

Since 1975, there has been less flow in spring and summer as a result of water use, flow regulation, reservoir evaporation, and changes in rainfall patterns in the basin upstream. These declines in flow have exacerbated earlier water-level declines that were caused by channel erosion from engineering works begun in the 1950s (dam construction and navigation improvements such as river straightening, dredging, and wood-debris removal).

The marine lab, in association with Second Harvest of the Big Bend, part of "The Nation's Food Bank Network," is collecting non-perishable food items at each monthly lecture. If you plan to attend a lecture, please bring an item or two and help solve the hunger crisis in our community.



A view of the Apalachicola River not far from the Brickyard area south of Fort Gadsden.

## 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.

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New custom built in a great neighborhood



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1.07 acre beach front lot, 80-feet white sandy beach, wooded, private. Deep lot off Hwy 98. Convenient to nearby Apalachicola on the Forgotten Coast. By owner. Only 6-hours from Atlanta, 1 hour from Tallahassee, minutes from St. George Island. Your own paradise.

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# SCALLOP FESTIVAL 2009

A Weekend of Music, Food & Fun hosted by the Gulf County Chamber of Commerce

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### 13th Annual Scallop Festival - 2009

August 1st & 2nd

Festival Location – Marina Cove, Port St Joe  
(Behind CVS Pharmacy, off Hwy 98)

**Saturday, August 1, 2009**  
**11:00am – 6:00pm EDT**

11:00am – Opening Ceremony  
with MC Jerry Tabatt of News Channel 13

Scallops served by  
PSJ Lions Club

Vendors in the Park, lots of Arts & Crafts  
and Many Varieties of Food Vendors  
Scallop Shucking Demonstrations, Seafood Cook-  
books – featuring scallop recipes  
Children's Activities:  
Smokey the Bear, Educational Activities & Displays  
Bounce Castles, Pony Rides, Petting Zoo  
Kids' Trackless Train  
Free Kids' Zone Arts and Crafts

**1:00pm – 10:00pm EDT**  
**Awesome Musical Line-up:**

1:00pm - Opening Act: THINK?  
2:15pm – 3:15pm: BO SPRING  
3:45pm – 5:30pm: AMANDA SHAW  
5:45pm – 7:45pm: ERIC LINDELL  
8:00pm – 10:00pm: TAB BENOIT

**Sunday, August 2, 2008**  
**10:00am – 6:00pm EDT**

Scallops served by various vendors

The fun continues with:  
Arts & Crafts and Food Vendors in the Park  
Children's Activities  
Bounce Castles  
Free Kids' Zone Arts and Crafts

There is a \$5.00 Entrance Fee on Saturday  
(for 18 years and older only)

*No charge to enter on Sunday*





# FICKLING & COMPANY

A Full Service Real Estate Company

Please call us for a complete selection of properties for sale in the Apalachicola Bay Area!

112 Franklin Blvd., St. George Island

850-927-2255

[www.ficklingofflorida.com](http://www.ficklingofflorida.com)

## FANTASTIC PRICE IN HISTORIC APALACHICOLA!



Enjoy all the quaintness of an old home but almost fully restored! Fantastic deck with cozy back yard and fire pit. The best of relaxed Florida living.

MLS# 235782 ..... \$89,000

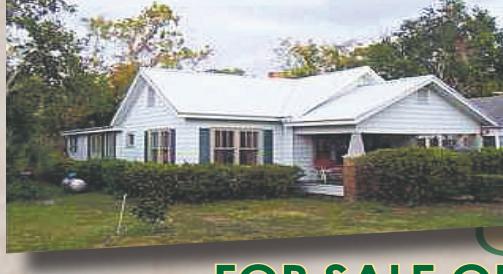
## IN THE HEART OF HISTORIC APALACHICOLA



Swing on your front porch watching the boats come in with their catch at Ten Foot Hole. 3BR/2BA with spacious kitchen, open dining room and living room. Sweet Florida cottage!

MLS# 236170 .... \$259,000

## CLASSIC APALACHICOLA BUNGALOW



Ride your bike to downtown or to the market from this restored 3BR/2BA home. Lovely heart pine construction and high ceilings with crown molding. Fenced back yard!

MLS# 235898 ..\$150,000

## FOR SALE OR LEASE



Apalachicola historic Hayes home (circa 1900) is for sale - and what an opportunity! You can either operate a business or make it the perfect family home. One block from Hwy 98, two outbuildings, and a swimming pool! Incredible heart pine floors, lead pane windows, gracious wide porches - what a beauty!

MLS# 234556 ..\$899,900

## PERFECT FISHING RETREAT



2 Bedroom/2 bath home across the street from Breakaway canal on 1.27 acre lot at the end of a quiet road. Gracious screen porch runs the length of the house, plenty of storage underneath! Perfect fishing retreat at a great price!

MLS# 235684 ...\$180,000

## 300 OCEAN MILE SGI



Enjoy lovely Gulf views from this one bedroom townhome unit at 300 Ocean Mile. Just steps to the community pool. Recently updated w/ new paint, countertops, appliances, tile floor.

MLS# 235472 ...\$199,000

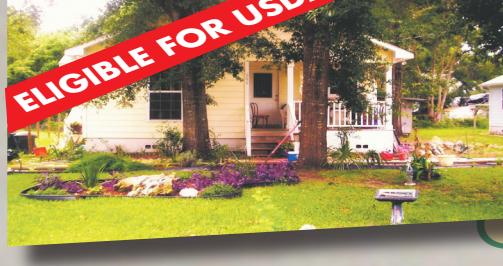
## New LOWER PRICE!



4BR/4.5BA Bright airy Gulf view home on St. George Island! Newly updated interior makes this house a popular rental! Heated and landscaped pool. Enjoy your morning coffee or happy hour from one of the many decks!

MLS# 207288 ...\$599,000

## BANK OWNED! USDA LOAN ELIGIBLE!



3 BR/ 1 Bath energy efficient home w/ many extra features; custom cabinets, marble counters, crown molding, hardiboard siding, double pane windows. Convenient location to town!

MLS# 235726 ....\$97,500

## CHECK OUT THESE GREAT VACANT LOTS FOR SALE!!!

Bay Front Carrabelle Beach .. \$199,000 \*Short Sale!\* . MLS# 233548

FIRST TIER WINDMARK BEACH.....\$375,000 .....MLS# 209235

FIVE ACRES in CARRABELLE .....\$75,000.....MLS# 236210

TWENTY ACRES near LAKE TALQUIN \$98,000 .....MLS# 235325