

Soccer league kicks off, A9

Thursday, October 11, 2012

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VOL. 127 ISSUE 24

50¢

Out to see

Learn about domestic violence on Friday

In honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Refuge House and its community partners will host a public event from 4-7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 12, at Apalachicola's Battery. The theme for this year is "The battle is not yours alone!" For more info, call Carol Barfield at 653-3313.

Riverfront blues concert

A Month of Blues continues along the Apalachicola Riverfront on Saturday, as the Smackwater Retrievers Band performs from 8-10 p.m. at Riverfront Park. Galleries and shops are open from 6-8 p.m. For more info, call 653-3930.

Estuaries class

The Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve will offer a one-day class in environmental science on Wednesday, Oct. 17. "Estuaries Class" covers the ecology, geology and economic importance of the Apalachicola Bay. Be prepared to spend part of the day in the classroom and part on a boat trawling, sampling bottom sediments and exploring life in the oyster beds. Cost is \$10 per person. For info, contact Coastal Training Program Coordinator Rosalyn F. Kilcollins at 670-7708 or Rosalyn.kilcollins@dep.state.fl.us.

Need a bosom buddy?

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness month and Adopt-a-Dog from a Shelter month. The Franklin County Humane Society and Franklin Needs are offering women the opportunity to adopt a Bosom Buddy. Throughout the month, the adoption fee for shelter dogs will be reduced to \$50 and \$25 for cats.

Mammogram clinic

Weems Memorial Hospital will host a mammogram walk-in clinic at 9:30 a.m. Oct. 19. Franklin Needs will cover the cost of mammograms for Franklin County residents who do not have insurance. Refreshments and educational handouts will be available. For more info, call 653-8853, ext. 119.

Index

- Opinion... A4
Society... A6
Faith... A7
Outdoors... A8
Tide Chart... A8
Sports... A9
Classifieds... A12-A13

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Real Estate Ads: 11 a.m. Thursday
Legal Ads: 11 a.m. Friday
Classified Display Ads: 11 a.m. Friday
Classified Line Ads: 5 p.m. Monday

A whale of a fish tale

Georgia fishermen get friendly with giant shark

By LOIS SWOBODA
653-1819 | @ApalachTimes
lswoboda@starfl.com

Three fishermen visiting from South Georgia shared a once-in-a-lifetime experience two weeks ago when they filmed the biggest one that got away.

Joe Bendis, who along with Brad Riner and Wendell Stone are frequent visitors to Franklin County, said he houses a trailer in Lanark Village and frequently brings down his 25-foot fishing

FIND IT ONLINE
See video of the whale shark encounter at www.youtube.com/watch?v=2NHcOOR5F_U.



SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

boat, the Celestial Crab, to spend time on the water with family and friends.

On Sept. 29, Bendis, Stone and Riner were about 30 miles offshore and Bendis was struggling to unhook a shark without losing a finger when Riner told him a whale shark had come to the back of the boat.

At first, Bendis thought it was a joke.

See WHALE A14

This video still shows the whale shark that approached Joe Bendis' fishing boat about 30 miles offshore from Carrabelle.

GOVERNOR VISITS COUNTY



DAVID ADLERSTEIN | The Times

Chris Millender, vice president of the Franklin County Seafood Workers Association, left, talks with Gov. Rick Scott.

Scott gets an earful on oysters

By DAVID ADLERSTEIN
653-8894 | @ApalachTimes
dadlerstein@starfl.com

Gov. Rick Scott dived headlong into the distress facing the county's oyster industry last week, spending an hour at a resource fair in Eastpoint to meet with local officials and residents seeking help.

Scott's Oct. 3 visit combined one-on-one talks with seafood officials about the state of the Apalachicola Bay with a chance to talk with residents about their needs in the face of a decline of the

fisheries.

Escorted by County Commissioner Pinki Jackel, Scott greeted a bevy of state, regional and local officials, including State Sen. Bill Montford and Commissioner Cheryl Sanders. He discussed the industry's needs with Eastpoint seafood dealers Lynn Martina and Bruce Millender, and then later at greater length with Shannon Hartsfield, president of the Franklin County Seafood Workers Association.

Together with Jackel, Hartsfield outlined the situation on a large map of the county and its waters, set up on the stage of the

Eastpoint firehouse.

"We talked about getting some immediate assistance for relay and shelling," Hartsfield said. "We talked about possibly closing (Bob Sikes) cut off, temporarily, for a short term, possibly a long term, because we're fixing to get these low winter tides and fixing to get a little bit of fresh water there, and we don't want it all going out the cut."

He said there was discussion about getting the Florida Department of Environmental Protection

See SCOTT A10

Riverfront Park waits for repairs

By LOIS SWOBODA
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A recently renovated park is looking down at the heel.

A little more than three years ago, Apalachicola used two state grants totaling \$400,000 to improve Riverside Park on the waterfront between avenues D and E. Of this, \$56,000 was used to install a central fountain in the park.

Plans for the park were inspired by design ideas suggested by the University of Georgia's Riverways South committee and submitted to the city in 2008. Riverways' report stressed the importance of the park to the downtown. "This is Apalachicola's central park," read



LOIS SWOBODA | The Times

This sidewalk was damaged by summer storms at Riverfront Park.

See PARK A3



Democrats rally for local races

By DAVID ADLERSTEIN
653-8894 | @ApalachTimes
dadlerstein@starfl.com

If anyone was wondering if Franklin County Democrats were fired up for the upcoming election, they got their answer Saturday afternoon in Eastpoint.

About 50 of the party faithful gathered under sunny skies at Millender Park to listen to a series of hard-charging appeals from three candidates as to why they offer a better alternative than their Republican opponents.

Mercedes Updyke, chair of the Democratic Executive Committee, introduced the three men who are campaigning, as well as three other county Democratic officeholders, Tax Collector Jimmy Harris and Property Appraiser Rhonda Skipper, neither of whom faced opponents, and retiring Property Appraiser Doris Pendleton.

Updyke said Organizing for America registered two new voters at the picnic, with all leftover food donated to the Apalachicola Food Bank.

Harris used his time under the pavilion to stress his office's open-door policy, welcoming questions and concerns. He said the office's most recent purchase was an AS400 computer for \$47,000, "which is the brains we use to collect taxes. Most counties won't share theirs with the property appraiser, but we always shared an AS400. I know \$47,000 sounds like a lot of money, and it is, but our last machine lasted eight years."

First to speak was Liberty County Clerk of Courts Robert Hill, running for state representative in the newly drawn House District 7, which now encompasses all of Franklin County. Hill

See DEMOCRATS A5

Sumatra Cemetery rooted in 'Great War'

Editor's note: This is the first part of a series called "At Eternal Rest"

By LOIS SWOBODA
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Little Sumatra Cemetery tucked away in the woods has a tempestuous history for such a peaceful place.

The cemetery is wholly in Franklin County, just a few hundred feet south of the county's border with Liberty County. It is the traditional resting place for residents of Sumatra in Liberty County.

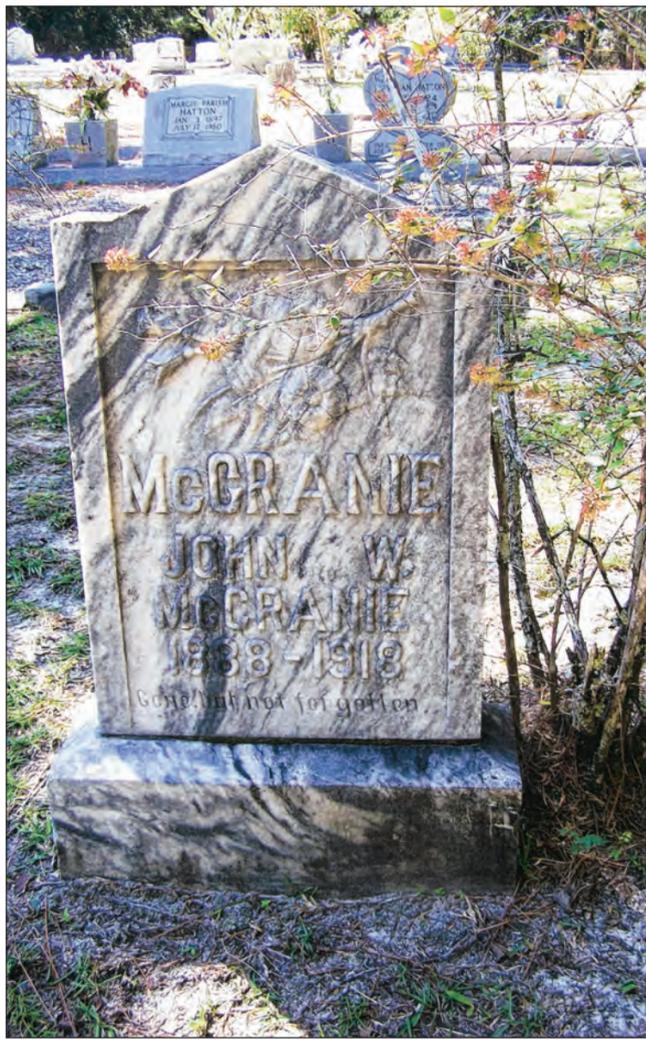
Burial plots in the cemetery were traditionally free and the county had maintained the graveyard for years, at one point erecting a brick monument and flagpole as a tribute to veterans.

A dispute surfaced in 2002 when the owner of surrounding land, arguing the cemetery was deeded to his father, sought to control who could be buried there. The two county attorneys argued that, by precedent, Floridians have the right to be buried near close relatives if space is available, and to have access to the graves of loved ones to maintain and beautify them. Commissioner Bevin Putnal was a vocal champion of the Sumatrans.

After several months of discord, Franklin County purchased the two-acre cemetery for \$10,000 in summer 2003, to avoid a lengthy court battle. The county placed it under the control of a not-for-profit created by the Sumatra Assembly of God.

Sumatra Cemetery is nearing the century mark. In 2002, William Bouington told the Times his father performed the first funeral service in 1918, for the interment of World War I casualty John Wilson McCranie. The senior Bouington presided because tiny Sumatra lacked a preacher.

There must have been other existing graves at the site since Tom Sadler of Sumatra told the



Times his relatives had been buried there as far back as 1912. Possibly the sites were marked with cypress, which has since rotted away. A few cypress markers remain.

McCranie, whose resting spot is the oldest marked grave, was one of thousands of fallen soldiers returned home during World War I, which ended in Nov. 1918.

Prior to the 19th century, soldiers killed in combat were generally buried in a mass grave near the site of the battle where

they died, with no further identification. During the 1800s, more of an effort was made to document the final resting place of the fallen. During the Civil War, records were kept of the death and burial of both Union and Confederate soldiers.

The body count during World War I was so horrific, it became clear early on that some kind of formal record needed to be kept to allow closure for families when the fighting ceased. By the end of the First Battle of the



Far left: This monument for John Wilson McCranie marks the site of the first funeral service held in Sumatra but is not the oldest burial site. **Above:** A handmade bench inlaid with red glass marks a pair of graves in Sumatra Cemetery. **Left:** This infant's grave is still lovingly maintained after 81 years and the lettering had been freshly painted at the time this picture was made.

PHOTOS BY LOIS SWOBODA | The Times

Marne (Sept. 5-12, 1914), 250,000 soldiers of all nationalities were dead. Deaths at medical facilities could be registered and the site of the burial documented for future repatriation, but many soldiers were buried by their friends where they fell with a simple marker. Others were taken to existing burial grounds nearby or impromptu cemeteries. In all, this "Great War" claimed 16 million lives of various nationalities, most from disease.

The US entered World War I on April 6, 1917, and four months later, War Department General Order 104 authorized the organization of a Graves Registration Service. The first graves registration unit reached France on October 31 of the same year.

Individual combat units had the responsibility of burying their dead as soon as possible. Most men killed in battle were buried within 24 hours, although

it sometimes took a week or longer. Great care was taken to ensure graves were properly marked. The registration service eventually moved the bodies to an American military cemetery in Europe or shipped them back to the United States.

The work of the Graves Registration Service continued until summer 1919. After the war, the Office of the Quartermaster General offered families the option of bringing their loved ones home for burial.

From 1930-1933, female relatives of soldiers who remained buried abroad were able to visit their graves under a program of the federal government called the Gold Star Mother Pilgrimage.

There are three more cemeteries just south of Sumatra hidden away in the green glades of the swamp, but that's another story.

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WEEMS MEMORIAL

National Mammography Day
Friday, October 19th

Weems Memorial Hospital and Franklin Needs, Inc. will be celebrating National Mammography Day on Friday, October 19th !

On this day, from 10am to 4pm, any woman in Franklin County can walk-in to Weems Memorial Hospital and receive a free, screening mammogram courtesy of Franklin Needs, Inc.

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www.weemsmemorial.com

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PARK from page A1

the report. "It is the closest open space to the city's commercial core."

At the time, there was controversy over the renovations, which included the fountain as well as installation of planters, benches and picnic tables.

Members of the city's waterfront committee chosen to review and oversee work on the waterfront, chaired by Harry Arnold, said they did not approve the plan before the fountain and other fixtures were ordered.

Architect Willoughby Marshall, brought in by Mayor Van Johnson to weigh in on the plan, said the design was not in keeping with what the city ought to pursue. Questions also were raised about why the city had not sought bids on installation of the fountain and other fixtures.

Nevertheless, Aquarius of Naples installed the fountain on April 19, 2009, with city grant writer Cindy Giametta supervising the work.

Today, Riverfront Park is in need of maintenance and repairs.

In December 2011, tiles began to fall off the sides and top of the fountain. For a short time, twine was used to secure the ceramic tile that remained, and silicone and mortar were applied to hide cracks and put fallen tiles back in place. Cracks in the fountain's tile work continue to appear.

On the night of April 11, the fishing boat God's Grace collided with the dock at Riverfront Park, damaging two pilings, knocking one down and breaking the other above water level. Apalachicola Police Chief Bobby Varnes said the boat's captain, Nathan Peaden of Milton, agreed to pay the estimated cost of \$5,000 to repair the pilings.

Varnes said city officials



were trying to complete the repairs before the Apalachicola Antique and Classic Boat Show on April 28. The pilings remain unrepaired, although part of the damaged material has been removed, with the area festooned with ragged, yellow caution tape.

Varnes said last week the owner of God's Grace is ready to pay for repairs, but the chief has found it difficult finding a contractor because the job is so small. Varnes said he has approached at least three firms that replace pilings but, so far, none has sent equipment to do the work. He is now negotiating with Reed Hicks of Carrabelle who said he has another job in Apalachicola and will attempt the Riverfront Park repair in two to three weeks when he brings a crew over to tackle the larger job.

"We have the poles," Varnes said. "If anybody that can do the work and wants to come, we'll pay them."

Three months ago, the soil began to erode along the western edge of a section of sidewalk running parallel to the dock. During Tropical Storm Debby, the erosion worsened, and by the end of the summer, the condition of the sidewalk deteriorated to where several large sections have upended and present an obvious safety hazard.

The sidewalk is tilting along the entire waterfront, and about half of the walking trail is now surrounded

by temporary fencing. The fence prevents the use of benches and trash receptacles purchased and installed in 2009.

Contractor William Poloronis, who originally installed the sidewalk, said the riprap used to reinforce the river bank had washed away over time. But nobody was aware of the problem, he said, because the dock, installed after the sidewalk was built, hid the bank.

He said he believed the engineer underestimated wave action at the site. Poloronis said the best fix would be to drive sheet pilings deep along the bank, at a cost of as much as \$1,000 a foot. But, a short-term repair might be made much more cheaply.

Poloronis said after inspecting the site, he believes the sidewalk needs to be removed, and a larger support beam and additional riprap needs to be added to reinforce the bank.

"The dock can become part of the walking trail," he said.

Poloronis said he has not worked out the cost of the interim repair, but estimated it would be much cheaper than sheet piling, which might run around \$200,000.

When repairs will be completed is uncertain. Staff in Apalachicola's city office said damage to the sidewalk is being reviewed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Preble Rish, the city engineer.



PHOTOS BY LOIS SWOBODA | The Times

These fallen tiles have been repaired, but cracks continue to form between the tiles covering the fountain in Riverfront Park. At left, this piling damaged in April remains unrepaired.

BLAST on the BAY 2012
4th Annual Songwriters' Festival

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This project received financial assistance from VISIT FLORIDA

Visit GULF COUNTY

Partial funding for this event provided by the Gulf County Tourism Development Council

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Check out www.BlastontheBay.com for detailed schedule and artist bio's.

Friday, Oct 19	Saturday, Oct 20	Sunday, Oct 21
Sunset Coastal Grill • 6pm	Dockside Café @ the Port Saint Joe Marina • 2pm Songwriters' Workshop	Indian Pass Raw Bar • 2pm
Provisions • 6pm	Lookout Lounge • 5pm	
The Thirsty Goat • 6:30pm	Haughty Heron • 7pm	
Mango Marley's • 7pm (CT)	Toucan's • 6:30pm (CT)	

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- a) You
- b) You
- c) You
- d) All of the above

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| Monday, October 15 | Tuesday, November 13 |
| Tuesday, October 16 | Wednesday, November 21 |
| Tuesday, October 23 | Friday, November 23 |
| Friday, October 26 | Thursday, November 29 |
| Monday, October 29 | Friday, November 30 |
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Opinion

Lots of amendments on Florida's ballot

Q. Can you provide some information on the proposed constitutional amendments that will be appearing on the November ballot?

A. Using resources provided by the Florida Association of Counties, Florida Trend, The James Madison Institute, and the University of Florida Extension Service, I will try to summarize the amendments with the purpose only to provide information that might be helpful to encourage more informed votes. None of these proposed amendments are citizen initiatives. They were all placed on the ballot by our legislature. There is no Amendment 7 because it was rejected by the courts, tweaked by our lawmakers and then placed on the ballot as Amendment 8.



YOUR PUBLIC TRUSTEE
Marcia Johnson

Those in favor argue the revenue loss is a small price to pay for the sacrifices made by veterans. About 74,000 veterans may qualify for the benefit, according to the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs. Those who oppose might argue the property tax system isn't fair and continually adding exemptions and reductions makes it even less fair.

Amendment 3 on State Budget Spending Limit

This caps growth in state spending at no more than the rate of inflation and population growth, instead of the current cap, which has been in place since 1994 and is based on growth in personal income. It would also require excess revenue to be deposited into a stabilization fund used to support public education, or if not required, to be returned to the taxpayers.

Proponents say tougher limits on state spending are needed. Some may believe the only way to reduce programs that go beyond the scope of appropriate is to reduce the funds available to spend, thereby forcing prioritization. Opponents report that Colorado voters approved a similar measure but went back to the polls three years later and voted to suspend the law after it resulted in cuts to vital public services. They further report that since then, more than 20 state legislatures have rejected similar proposals. Opponents also warn that limiting state spending may well cause certain expenses now funded in whole or in part by the state government to be dumped onto cities, counties, and school boards.

Amendment 4 on Property Tax Exemptions

While current law caps annual assessment increases on non-homesteaded property such as businesses and rental properties at 10 percent a year, this will reduce the assessment cap to 5 percent. It will give first-time homebuyers who haven't purchased a home in the past three years an additional homestead exemption up to \$150,000 phased out over five years, and allows the Legislature to repeal Florida's recapture rule which causes some taxable values on homesteaded property to rise even when market values have dropped. This amendment, if passed, will have impacts felt at the local level of government (county, city, school board and special districts) in decreased revenues.

The Florida Association

of Counties is against this amendment and argues it does very little to lower the property taxes of existing homeowners but does a lot to help powerful special interest developers. FAC also states that it would mean big tax breaks for wealthy out-of-state snowbirds — paid for by higher taxes for year-round Florida residents. Proponents feel that anything to stimulate the real estate and housing industries is beneficial and necessary. Opponents point out that local governments will still have the ability to change the millage rate to offset the changes proposed in the amendment.

Amendment 5 on Judicial Reform

Currently, the Supreme Court is authorized to adopt rules for the practice and procedure in all courts and under those rules, the Governor appoints a justice of the Supreme Court from a list of nominees provided by a judicial nominating committee and those appointments by the governor are not subject to confirmation. This revision requires the Senate to confirm the appointment. This amendment also gives the Legislature power to repeal court rules by a simple majority vote, limits the re-adoption of repealed court rules, requires all files be made available to the House Speaker, and revises some language relating to the selection of chief judges of our circuits.

Proponents feel it basically allows more legislative oversight over judicial rules. Opponents feel it will undermine the independence of the judicial branch of government. Additionally, critics argue it's a bad idea to grant more authority over the judiciary to a legislative branch sorely deficient in continuity because its composition and leadership frequently change due to eight-year term limits.

Amendment 6 on Abortion Funding

While federal and state laws already prohibit public financing of abortions, this amendment would enshrine that ban in the state constitution. It also prohibits spending public funds on health benefits that include coverage of abortion, but would not apply to expenditures required by federal law, which include an abortion to save the life of the mother or pregnancies resulting from rape and incest. It also exempts abortions from the privacy clause of the state's constitution which could clear the way for a parental consent law. Proponents state this amendment will provide

another layer of protection. Opponents feel it could be interpreted to affirm parental consent requirements and would infringe on one's rights.

Amendment 8 on Permissible Uses of Public Funds/Religious Funding

This would delete a prohibition against using revenues from the public treasury directly or indirectly in aid of any church, sect, or religious denomination and would allow faith-based entities to receive public funds for providing public services. Proponents mention the U. S. Supreme Court's ruling that tax-funded school vouchers allowing children to attend church-operated schools are constitutional and say that unless this passes, lawsuits may follow. Opponents say this measure would open the door for government officials to provide some religious groups with tax money while denying aid to others. Moreover, they are concerned that strings will be attached to the public funds received that could intrude into matters such as the curriculum content for schools.

Amendment 9 on Tax Relief for Surviving Spouses

This would provide ad valorem homestead property tax relief to the surviving spouses of active duty members of the armed services or first responders who died in the line of duty. It could be a total exemption or a partial exemption. A first responder is defined as a law enforcement officer, correctional officer, firefighter, emergency medical technician, or paramedic.

Proponents say the amount of revenue that would be lost is very small and this is the least a grateful state could do to help these survivors and it serves to honor the deceased in service to the country, state, counties, and cities. Critics of all tax breaks say that when revenues are diminished, the government often compensates by raising the tax rates of those not in the group.

Amendment 10 on Small Business Tax Relief

This would grant Florida businesses, many of them small, an increase in the tax exemption on tangible personal property (machinery, office equipment, furniture, etc.) to \$50,000. It is currently \$25,000.

Proponents feel this will most likely result in collateral economic benefits and could help businesses by clearing away some of the financial impediments that

have deterred them from expanding their payrolls or hiring people for jobs. It would spare businesses a cost as well as the major hassle involved in complex calculating of the value of ordinary business equipment. Opponents cite this will cost local governments due to the loss in revenues at a time when the state has been dumping more responsibilities on them. It could result in a loss of services or a shift of the tax burden to others.

Amendment 11 on Tax Relief for Low-Income Seniors

This would allow counties and cities, by ordinance, to grant a substantial property tax break to low-income seniors age 65 or older (currently defined as those earning less than \$27,030 a year) who have resided for at least 25 years in and have title to homes whose just (market) value is less than \$250,000.

Proponents say some low-income seniors are at risk of being taxed out of the homes where they have lived and raised a family, especially in areas where real estate prices boomed. Opponents cite the loss of revenues and possible shifting of the tax burden to those who haven't yet qualified for a tax break.

Amendment 12 on Student Representation

This changes the procedure provided for selecting the student representative on the Florida Board of Governors, which oversees the State University System. Instead of designating the head of the Florida Student Association (a group that not all state universities join), the representative would be chosen by a council comprising the student body presidents. This is sponsored by our Senator, Bill Montford and would make the representation more broadly inclusive.

Proponents say every state university has a student body president, democratically elected, whereas not every state university chooses to participate in the Florida Student Association (FSA). Opponents argue that just because one or more universities choose to withdraw from the FSA is not a good reason to tinker with the state constitution.

If you have any questions or comments about this column, please forward them to Marcia Johnson, Clerk of the Court, 33 Market Street, Ste. 203, Apalachicola, FL, or by email to: mmjohnson@franklinclerk.com. Visit the clerk's website at www.franklinclerk.com.



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Fifty years of realty reality

By MR. BILL
Special to the Times

Moving here permanently in Nov. 1960, Dad's antique shop was not going to get it for a family of four. Besides the brass refinishing and lamp repair, I tried pulp wooding, truck driving, bartending and few other distasteful chores not including septic tank repairs. At that time, the only real estate person was Charlie McKissack, who sold mostly McKissack family properties when you could find him. His office was next to Burda's Drug Store.

Jimmy and Maggie Lassiter had a two-room office at the corner of Arkansas and U.S. 98 at Lanark Beach, which was where Dad and I purchased our lots in 1954. They were Tallahassee Realty, one of the biggest in the city. Maggie was chairman of Florida Real Estate Commission in later years. I hacked it out for the next four years and decided to go to broker's school. Got my license in 1966. Sold the property where "Ho Hum" campground is to the Litton family from Mississippi in 1969, and

Jimmy became my first salesman. He died in 1985. He was married to Alice Potts.

Next came Leonarda Perry from Nashville. She did real well. Passed away in 1994. Paul Spacey, a retired sergeant major, who opened my first branch office in the old drug store brick building on Marine Street, where I had the "Miller's Mini-Pad" camper park. It ended up "stay free," although not planned that way. Paul also opened up the "Barefoot Sails Pub" at Carrabelle Beach across from Two Al's Restaurant. Paul died in the '90s.

I had another great lady, Arline Thornton, a real class act, who died of cancer in 1990. Then we had Barney Fish, great guy, did good, got a broker's license. Opened his office on 98 on right, just over the hill. Died a year and a half later in 1991.

Al Hudson, retired Air Force pilot, was tops. Not only a good salesman, a great guy, served on county planning and zoning. I lost him in 2006. At this point in time, I am beginning to think I'm a damn jinx or Dr. Death himself.

Forgot Charles and Mary Miller, who lived next door to me. After all the training and client base I had, they got broker's license and opened "Carrabelle Realty" right next door to me. Kind of frosted my extremities. Company lives on with Ruby Litton at the helm. Charlie and Mary both passed on.

Ed Diorio came to me in '98, a great guy with personality. Plus, after four years, he withdrew to a room with a computer. It consumed him, and cancer set in. That's one reason I won't do computers. They can be as habit-forming as drugs.

Only one of the early ones, Bill Bailey, escaped "Miller's Triangle." Still kicking. I guess Anne May, my current saleslady, doesn't believe the curse and hopefully won't be No. 10. I have watched all the big boys come and go — Century 21, Anchor, Weichert — plus a lot of the individuals. And Mr. Bill's still kicking. First item in my bucket list, make it to Feb. 11, 2013 and the big 8-0.

Mr. Bill is the pen name of Bill Miller.

DEMOCRATS from page A1

is facing Republican Halsey Beshears, a Tallahassee nurseryman.

Hill's vote total in the Democratic primary was about the same as the total number of votes cast for all the Republicans, but the 64-year-old Hill urged supporters not to look past the Nov. 6 election.

"I'm very encouraged," he said. "But I'm not so overconfident that I'm not going to ask you to help me."

He spoke in soft, courtly tones and did not mention his Republican opponent. He stressed that it would be "an honor and privilege" to represent the district in Tallahassee.

Hill talked about economic development he helped bring to Liberty County, calling the "crowning jewel" an effort to attract a \$100 million Georgia Pacific plant.

As a former schoolteacher and school superintendent, Hill was critical of the state's current system of testing and said he would work to bring the more successful districts in closer working contact with those that are struggling.

"The evaluation process is one thing that needs improvement," he said. "The FCAT is a mess; it needs to be improved. I'm not a big fan of that process."

Hill also stressed his opposition to privatizing prisons and said he supported opening the new work camp at Franklin Correctional Institution and keeping the existing Bay City Work Camp open in Apalachicola.

"I've been against privatizing from day one," he said. "They're interested in one thing: profit."

Shiver sees threat from development

Next up was Tony Shiver, a first-time candidate challenging incumbent Repub-



PHOTOS BY DAVID ADLERSTEIN | The Times

From left, Democrats Al Lawson, Robert Hill and Tony Shiver are running for office in the upcoming election.

lican Pinki Jackel for the county commission seat representing Eastpoint and St. George Island.

"I reached the point in my life and took a look around and realized things aren't like I want them to be," he said. "I felt this is my time to step up and be counted and do something about it."

Shiver said he has lived in Franklin County all but six months of his 54 years, contrasting himself with Jackel, who he said was born in Jefferson County.

"She married an individual who is now a well-known attorney in Atlanta, Ga.," he said. "She came down here and arrived here at the time of the land boom, to make a profit."

Shiver, who so far has run a low-key campaign, lodged a full-throated shot at his opponent.

"There are things that are going along in our county right now that are manipulating change behind the scenes we really don't need," he said. "We need improvements, we need amenities, we need the little niceties put here. But we don't need our home destroyed and manipulated into something it's not. I'm fighting to keep the things the way they are."

Shiver, who was employed in the seafood industry before turning to law enforcement, said he

is working on behalf of the seafood workers.

"I want them to be able to keep our bay," he said. "The seafood workers of this place are not just a part of our economy; they are soldiers to keep our environment like it is."

He said seafood workers and environmental organizations and state regulators "have fought for years to try to keep overwhelming development from coming. We need controlled development, but we don't need our home destroyed for the sake of an individual select few making profit."

Shiver took aim at Jackel, suggesting she is too close to the interests of land developers. "I would like for you to understand that it is happening. If you notice her advertisements and campaign commercials, if you look real hard, 85 percent of the people are all real estate people," he said. "That is who her ties are. That is her clique; that is her group."

Lawson denounces opponent's partisanship

Former State Sen. Al Lawson, challenging incumbent Republican Congressman Steve Southerland to represent District 2, was last to address the group.

"Franklin County has always been a county very dear to me during the 28 years I served (in the Florida Senate and House), like an adopted hometown for me," he said.

Lawson told of how during a campaign stop early in this career, an Eastpoint woman working as a shucker insisted he down a glass of raw oysters to prove he really wanted their votes.

"I said 'Well bring them on,' he said. 'Ever since then I've been eating oysters.'"

Lawson said he has been motivated to run for Congress because partisan gridlock has broken the way Washington works.

"People don't want to work with each other, and that's not what America's all about," he said. "In order for us to be successful, we have to work with each other."

"When you go to war, you don't ask the person next to you, 'Are you a Republican or are you a Democrat?' You pull together and do what is necessary to defend our country," Lawson said.

He promised to put the needs of constituents first and listed a series of positions: to preserve Social Security and Medicare, to boost infrastructure funding and money invested in universities and to seek creation of an ocean initiative for the Gulf of Mexico.

"You don't have to wonder where I'm coming from when it comes down to Medicare and Social Security," he said. "In Medicare some of the people want to change the game after you've paid. It's in the (Paul) Ryan bill, and what they want to do is give someone younger than me a voucher."

Lawson said infrastructure funding and boosting money for universities "has always been an area that provides jobs. It will create more jobs than you can think of. That's where our energy needs to be."

The 64-year-old lawmaker and insurance executive took aim at Southerland's core constituency on the conservative edge of the Republican Party. "You can't go out representing the Tea Party and all these other groups and put the people you represent first," Lawson said. "I fought from the time I entered the legislature to protect jobs, to keep people working, to show that someone really cared about them."

He said he long fought against prison privatization and remained opposed to offshore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico. "You need to invest in our workers; you need to invest in the state of Florida," Lawson said.

He said the situation in Apalachicola Bay is not unexpected and urged the federal government to approve the fishery disaster declaration sought by Florida's legislative delegation, to go toward reshelling efforts in the bay.

"We knew eventually it's going to have an effect when you allow Atlanta to take 5 million gallons a day and send it over the Lake Lanier," he said. "We knew with the BP oil spill, everyone was encouraged to work the winter bars, and we knew eventually it would have a devastating

effect, and now we're seeing that effect.

"This bay is the most productive bay in America," Lawson said. "We know what happens with the oil spill, and it is still going on. Now we have to fight to make sure when the money is released, Franklin County gets their fair share."

Lawson closed with a direct attack on Southerland's campaign strategy to paint him as a career politician who has voted to raise his salary.

"When I came in to the legislature I made \$12,000, and over 28 years my salary got up to \$30,000 and then we cut our salary back to \$28,000 because state workers didn't get a raise. The legislature raises were tied in to whatever raises the state workers receive," he said.

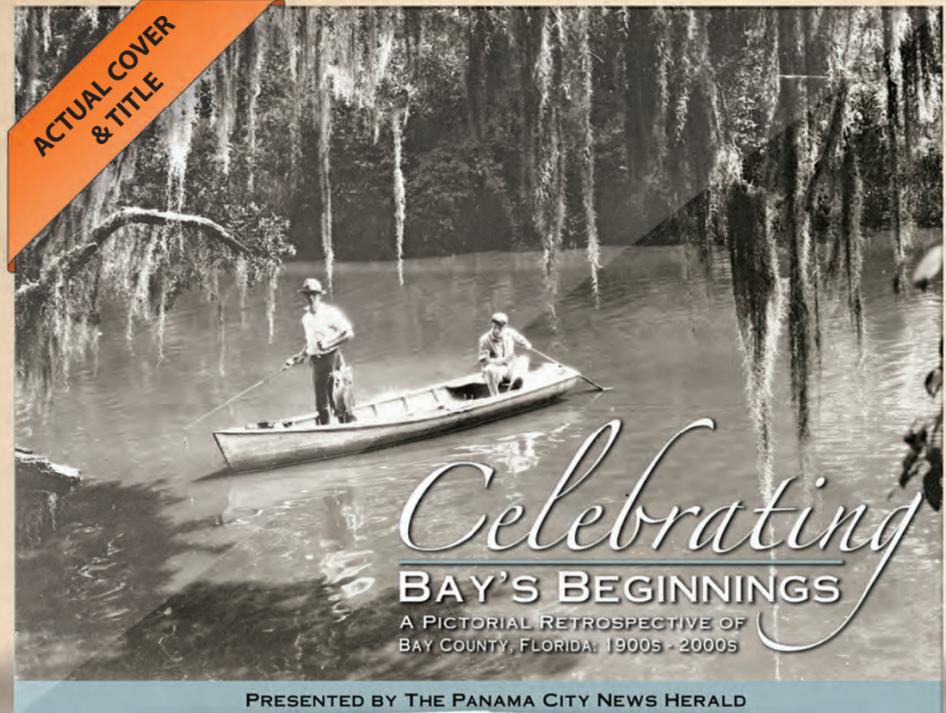
"What is interesting about Mr. Southerland's comment is that he made more money in two years, (close to \$350,000). I did not make that in 20 years," Lawson said.

"They are just trying to find something to tear you down and to deceive voters to think that all you were doing in the legislature is giving yourself a pay raise, but not talking about how you protect Apalachicola Bay. They're not talking about how you protect water across the state of Florida, or how you're fighting for better schools or health care needs.

"It's unbelievable when a person would talk about income, when he probably didn't deserve the \$174,000 he made, compared to what we've had," Lawson said. "The only things he's filed up there are three funeral home bills to help the funeral industry that he works in. And he's gone straight down party line and not worked with colleagues on the other side."

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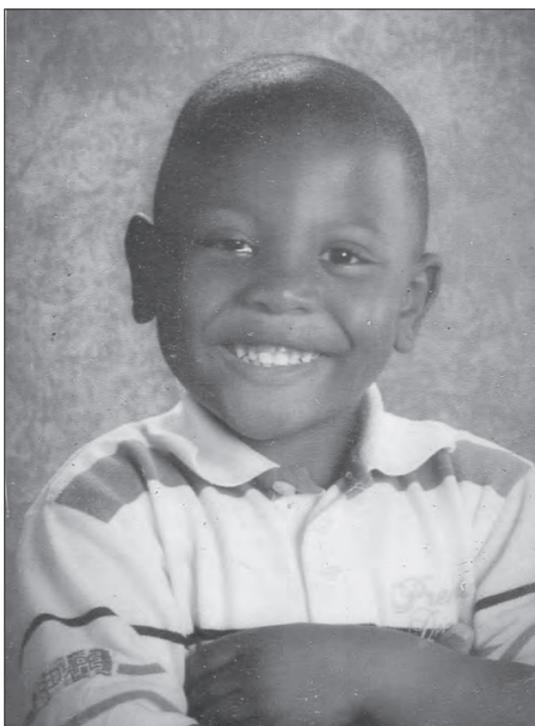
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Happy sixth birthday, Raymond

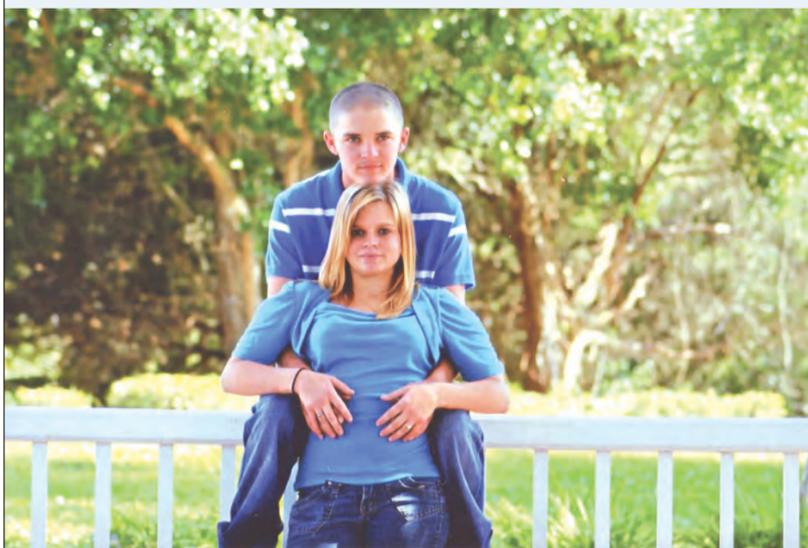
Raymond West, Jr. celebrated his sixth birthday on Saturday, Oct. 6.

He is the son of Brandy Austin, of Apalachicola, and brother to Jaquan, Amontaye and the late Jasmine Harris.

Raymond is the grandson of Tammie Croom and the late James Austin, and Tawana Robinson and James West.

We love you!
Love, Mommy and family

Lacey Brownell, Corbin Mallon engaged



Mr. and Mrs. James Brownell and Mr. and Mrs. Joey Mallon are proud to announce the engagement and upcoming marriage of their children, Lacey Nicole Brownell and Corbin Joseph Mallon.

Lacey is the daughter of the late Annette Brownell.

Her grandparents

are Sally Nixon and the late Jerry Nixon, of Mexico Beach; Madeline Raffield and the late Capt. "Sparkie" Raffield, of Overstreet; and Clinton and Janice Brownell of Overstreet.

Corbin's grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Earl Duggar, of Apalachicola, and the late Rosa and John "Whitey" Mallon.

Lacey, a 2010 graduate of Wewahitchka High School, is employed at the Old Time Soda Fountain in Apalachicola. Corbin attended Franklin County High School and is employed by Larry Clark Construction in Apalachicola.

A November wedding is planned.

Michael Dolan promoted to major

Michael Dolan, son of Aglaia and the late Hal Dolan, of Eastpoint, was promoted to the rank of major on Sept. 1.

His maternal grandparents are the late Jim Mosconis and the late Zelda Mae Mosconis Stanley. Paternal grandparents are the late Ruth and John Dolan of Havana. He has one brother Shawn (Katherine) Dolan, of Tallahassee.

Maj. Dolan is a 1997 graduate of Apalachicola High School and a 2001 graduate of the University of West Florida where he holds a bachelor of science degree in engineering technology/construction. He was previously assigned from 2002 to 2006 to the 3rd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. He was also assigned from 2008 to 2012 to the 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment and 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment of the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Ft. Wainwright, Alaska.

Maj. Dolan is currently assigned



to the University of Scranton Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) where he serves as the recruiting operations officer and King's College Detachment Commander. A combat veteran of both Afghanistan and Iraq, he is married to the former Jennifer Kellett of Easley, South Carolina.

Whitney McAlister, Christopher Leuenberger engaged

Bobby Joe and Debi Stevens of Panama City proudly announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Whitney Jacqueline McAlister, to Christopher Addison Leuenberger, son of Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Leuenberger and Ms. Stephanie Ross of Graceville.

Whitney is a 2005 graduate of Port St. Joe High School and received her bachelor of science in nursing degree from the University of West Florida. She will complete her master of science in nursing with a family nurse practitioner specialty in the spring of 2014. Whitney is currently employed as an emergency department registered nurse at Gulf Coast Medical Center.

Christopher is a 2004 graduate of Graceville High School and has served in the United States military since 2005. He is currently pursuing



his bachelor of science in technology management at Gulf Coast State College.

An Oct. 27, 2012 wedding is planned in Santa Rosa Beach.



Shawn Dolan earns master's of architecture

Shawn Dolan graduated this summer from Florida A and M University with a master's degree in architecture.

Commencement was held Aug. 3 in the Alfred Lawson Jr. Multipurpose Center and Teaching Gymnasium, with the Rev. O. Jermaine Simmons Sr., pastor of

Jacob Chapel Baptist Church in Tallahassee, as commencement speaker.

Dolan's master's thesis is entitled "The Role of Site Planning in Historical Restoration: Potential Design Guidelines for Future Historic Preservations."

He is the son of Aglaia and the late Hal Dolan of

Eastpoint, and has one brother, Maj. Michael Dolan, of Scranton, New York.

Dolan's maternal grandparents are the late Jim Mosconis and the late Zelda Mae Mosconis Stanley. Paternal grandparents are the late Ruth and John Dolan of Havana.



Jessica Mock, Jordan Brock to wed Saturday

Mr. and Mrs. James Mock request the honor of your presence at the marriage of their daughter, Jessica Michelle Mock to Jordan Colby Brock on Saturday, Oct. 13, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. (EST) at Centennial Park in Port St. Joe.

All friends and family are invited to attend. No local invitations have been sent.

A reception will be held following the ceremony at The Centennial Building.

PET OF THE WEEK

Franklin County Humane Society



Hilarious Hank!

Take a look at those ears! Is he not one of the cutest pups you've ever seen? He is about 3 months old and full of himself. He is a playful, high energy pup sure to entertain. He is part Chihuahua and part Jack Russell. He will be a small dog but will need plenty of exercise and attention. Come meet Mr. Personality, he's so worth a trip to the Adoption Center!

Volunteers are desperately needed to socialize all of our dogs and cats. We are always looking for people willing to bring one of our animals into their home to be fostered for various needs. Anytime you can spare would be greatly appreciated.

Call Karen at 670-8417 for more details or visit the Franklin County Humane Society at 244 State Road 65 in Eastpoint. You may logon to the website at www.forgottenpets.org to see more of our adoptable pets.

TYLER SODERHOLM BORN



Kristie Walker and Nicholas Soderholm would like to announce the birth of their son, Tyler Evan Soderholm.

Born on Tuesday, Sept. 11, he weighed 7 pounds, 12 ounces and was 20 3/4 inches in length.

Maternal grandparents are Ivan Walker, of Carrabelle, and Christine Silvey, of Crawfordville. Paternal grandmother is Sharon Soderholm, of Carrabelle.

Maternal great-grandparents are Dennis Allen, of Crawfordville, Judy Stevens, of Panacea, and Gail Browning, of Bridge City, Texas. Paternal great-grandmother is Margaret Zuberbeuhler, of Carrabelle.

Thrift store readies for Halloween

Sure is great to see Old Glory waving over the Post Office again! Thank you, Tommy Jack!

The girls at the thrift store have got it ready for Halloween. Lots of decorations and spooky stuff for sale. Come on by, look around, have a cup of coffee and just visit.

Saturday was great for the yard sale, Black Bear Festival and the Democratic rally. The yard sale at the golf course was successful. Lots of donated items and plenty of shoppers. Hope you found that one thing you were looking for. The members of the Lanark Village Golf Club thank you for your support and donations.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, Nov. 3. The golf club



LANARK NEWS
Jim Welsh

members will prepare and serve your full breakfast at Chillas Hall. Your donation of \$5 will get you started. Find a place to sit, fill out the blank and enjoy! Orange juice, coffee, pancakes, French toast, bacon and eggs. See you there!

When was the last time you got a mug of coffee for 30 cents? I thought so. Well you can at Chillas Hall, Monday through Saturday from 8 to 11 a.m. Come in, have a mug with your friends and neighbors, get your mail and have another mug. Sometimes there are

goodies to go along with the coffee.

We will have our annual Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, Nov. 22 at Chillas Hall. Bring your favorite dish to share and a donation and join us. Our friend Commissioner Cheryl Sanders is donating the turkeys. Serving begins at 1 p.m. See you there!

When you're not using your boat, it should be parked in the boat yard or under your carport, but not taking up a space on the street!

Be kind to one another, check on the sick and housebound and remember — God is watching us from a distance!

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

Obituaries

Lawrence Kienzle



LAWRENCE KENZLE

A remembrance service will be held Wednesday, Oct. 24, from 4 to 6 p.m., on St. George Island to commemorate and celebrate the life of Lawrence J. Kienzle, who died Sept. 11 at age 86.

Those interested in attending

are asked to confirm attendance by calling his daughter, Patti Bielling at 757-810-1675. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to a favorite charity in the name of Lawrence Kienzle.

Tyrone Renard Evans



TYRONE EVANS

Tyrone Renard Evans was born on March 2, 1959, in Manhattan, New York to Julia Mae Fisher and Jon Dorian Evans. At a very young age Tyrone moved to Apalachicola and was raised by his late great-grandparents, Willie and Lettie Leverette.

He graduated from Apalachicola High School in 1977. For almost 20 years, Tyrone worked at the Apalachicola Railroad until it shut down. In 2000, Tyrone started working for the Franklin County landfill until the Lord called him home.

On Thursday, Sept. 27, he peacefully slipped away to join his family who went on before him. Welcoming him were great-grandparents Willie and Lettie Leverette, grandmother Callie Mae Simon, grandparents Ceaphous and Margarette Fisher, grandfather John L. Evans, sister Eugenia Evans and brother Jon D. Evans, Jr.

Remaining to cherish is loving memories are sons, Tyrone Renard Evans, Jr. of Charleston, West Virginia, and Dorian James Evans, of Apalachicola; mother Julia Mae Fisher, of Apalachicola; father Jon Dorian Evans, of Rapid City, South Dakota; grandmother, Susie Evans,

of Suffolk, Virginia; sisters Gloria D. Hayward (Warren) of Orlando; Olivia D. Wynn (Adron) of Apalachicola; Gwendolyn Drakeford, of Hackensack, New Jersey; and Cynthia Phelps, of Irvington, New Jersey; and Regis Ackerman, of Baltimore, Maryland; brother Joseph D. Evans of Aiken, South Carolina; and former wife, Tronda Davis, of Apalachicola.

He is also survived by granddaughters Tiandra Shiqualle Evans, of Gainesville, and Gabrielle Olivia Loehr-Evans of Charleston, West Virginia; great-grandson Tyone Jaquell Evans of Gainesville; godchildren Marvin Croom, Jr. of Dothan, Alabama, and Ashaureah Brown of Apalachicola; special cousin Bobbie Gail Turrell, of Apalachicola; and a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and special friends. Tyrone also helped raise Justin Griggs, Cruz Griggs, and Nyasha Evans, all of Apalachicola.

Tyrone will be remembered by his beautiful smile and making people laugh. He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

NEW CHRISTIAN CHILD CARE TO OPEN



DAVID ADLERSTEIN | The Times

The community is invited to attend an open house and dedication of Christ Community Academy, at 12:30 p.m. this Sunday in the First United Methodist Church Sunday school building at 75 5th Street, Apalachicola. Christ Community Academy provides quality Christian child care services at an affordable price for families with young children. Staffing the new academy are, from left, Director Madeline Kidney, Coordinator Samantha Cannon and teachers Dakaya Floyd and Erin Bailey. Come by and meet the staff, tour the classrooms and enjoy refreshments.

Cards of THANKS

To know that there are friends who really care, our burdens are made easier to bear. The family of the late Tyrone Renard Evans (Big Ty) acknowledges with sincere appreciation the many acts of love and kindness shown through your cards, flowers, and prayers. For all your kind deeds and thoughtful expressions of sympathy during the passing of our loved one, we are forever grateful. We have been overwhelmed with kindness; so that no one is missed individual acknowledgements will not be sent. May God continue to bless each of you. You are all in our prayers. Again, we thank you with utmost heartfelt appreciation.

The family of Tyrone Evans

Our heartfelt thanks go out to our loving church family Carrabelle United Methodist Church for all the prayers, cards and kindness. We would also like to thank our American Legion Post #82, Sons of the American Legion and Ladies Auxiliary for all their support and all the hard work they put in on our benefit Sept. 22. Words are not enough to express our thanks to our friends who looked after Poncho.

With Love, Ann and Charlie Merrell

Zella Smith, her friends and family wish to thank all of Franklin County and everybody who pitched in to help with our benefit luncheon on Tuesday, Oct. 9, including the people and organizations too numerous to mention. Thanks to all who donated food and the use of equipment for the event, those who donated money and those who came and shared lunch with us. We sold more than 250 dinners to benefit Zella and her family. The outpouring of love and support stretched over the entire county.

Once again, thank you, Jennifer Finch and Peggy Hicks

BLESSING THE BEASTS



LOIS SWOBODA | The Times

Chaos Springer receives his blessing from Kay Wheeler at Trinity Episcopal Church on Sunday, part of the church's annual blessing of the animals. A dozen canines and their owners attended the ceremony led by Wheeler and the Rev. John Sink. Following prayers and a reading from the book of Genesis (1:20-22, 24-28, 31a), the entire assembly joined in St. Francis of Assisi's prayer "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace." The animals were then anointed by holy water on a stem of rosemary. Music to was performed by Tom Adams and Brooks Jones. For a gallery of pictures, visit www.apalachtimes.com.

Your COUNTY LIBRARY

Special to the Times

Happy 20th anniversary to Franklin County Public Library, which joined forces with Wilderness Coast Public Libraries (Wakulla and Jefferson counties) in August 1992.

The county library began operations on Oct. 1, 1992, in a storefront in Eastpoint. Throughout the years the library has moved into three storefront units, to include administration and a branch in Carrabelle. It has a material collection that totals more than 37,000 items, more than 5,200 registered patrons, four full-time staff and one part-time staff keeping two libraries running with services and programs for Franklin County and guests. More than 32,000 items circulated last year.

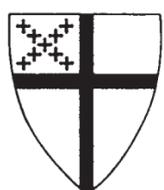
Volunteers are the heart of our success and allow us to offer programs to children, teens and adults. Services include assistance for food stamps, unemployment, job searches, faxing to the Department of Children and Families, as well as business development and job skills. Basic computer skills instruction is offered weekly by appointment. Visit <http://fcpl.wildernesscoast.org> for more information about your libraries and, check out our Facebook page and online catalog for materials and your account.

To log into your account on the webpage, use your

library card number for the user ID and the last four numbers as your password. At the Carrabelle branch, on Wednesday, Oct. 17, from 3-6 p.m., children and parents can see the movie "Mirror, Mirror."

This viewing is free and light refreshments will be offered. Mommy and Me story time program is every Friday at 3:30 p.m. in the library in Eastpoint that includes crafts, snacks, music and fun games.

Trinity Episcopal Church
est. 1836



Welcomes You

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Apalachicola
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Sunday Worship Services
8 & 10:30 a.m.

Wednesdays
Healing Service 11 a.m.
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THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH



WELCOMES YOU

Church of the Ascension

101 NE First Street
Carrabelle
SUNDAY 10:00 AM
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 **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@tcom.net
Pastor: Rev. Themo Patriotis

Carrabelle United Methodist Church
Worship Services 10:45 a.m. - Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
"Celebrate Recovery" Mondays 7-9 p.m.
Nursery now provided for Sunday Church Service
102 NE Ave. B Carrabelle - 697-3672
Pastor: Aaron Batey

Eastpoint United Methodist Church
Worship Service 9:00 a.m. every Sunday
Sunday Brunch 10 a.m.
Youth Group Tuesdays 6 p.m.
317 Patton Dr. (corner of David St.)
Pastor: Aaron Batey

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.sgiuimc.org
Pastor: Rev. Themo Patriotis

First Baptist Church
St. George Island
501 E. Bayshore Drive
927-2257
R. Michael Whaley, Pastor
Join us as we praise and worship the living Christ.
"Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise." Psalm 145:3

Sunday Bible Study	10:00am
Worship Praise	11:00am
Sunday Night	7:00pm
Wednesday - "Power Hour"	7:00pm
Wednesday - "Youth at S.P.L.A.S.H."	7:00pm

"Walking in Christ"

First Pentecostal Holiness Church
379 Brownsville Road • Apalachicola

We're excited about what God's doing!!!

Sunday School	9:45 am
Sunday Morning Worship	10:45 am
Sunday Evening Service	6:00 pm
Monday, Youth Group	7:00 pm
Wednesday, Royal Rangers, G.A.P.	7:00 pm
Wednesday Worship & Word	7:00pm

Nursery Provided during regular church services

Black bear crashes Carrabelle festival

By LOIS SWOBODA
653-1819 | @ApalachTimes
lswoboda@starfl.com

The weather was perfect, the setting beautiful and there was plenty to do at this year's Black Bear Festival in Carrabelle.

More exhibits than in the past graced Sands Park, with several dozen booths clustered around the children's activity tent. Presenters said about 300 people attended the event, down a bit from last year.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission biologist Dave Tesesco said he believed the "Whatever Floats Your Boat Regatta" at the marine lab competed with the festival for attendees, because both were environmentally oriented. He said a strong college sports line-up may also have reduced attendance.

Organizers did a beautiful job pulling the whole thing together. The new reading circle and morning lectures were the most popular and best attended features of the festival.

A surprise attendee on Saturday morning was an actual black bear.

FWC Bear Biologist Adam Warwick brought a small female bear that had been trapped for relocation. He demonstrated handling with the little bear as a volunteer helper. As the crowd watched, Warwick darted, weighed and measured the bear. It seems pretty certain this is one bear who has learned her lesson about hanging around with people. After the awful experience of being surrounded by gawking human beings, she'll certainly head for the hills once released.



PHOTOS BY LOIS SWOBODA | The Times

FWC intern Robert Wiwi (wearing the bear mask) introduces Charity Larkin to Scooter, a female gopher tortoise.

Several local authors were on hand to read their books and Maggie, the main character in "Beagle with the Broken Tail" was available to give paw prints. A dozen FWC interns came and provided hands-on wildlife activities. Tesesco demonstrated

the latest technology for discouraging nuisance bears, including a new bear-proof trash can design, electric fencing and an "unwelcome mat."

There were lots of craft booths and several choices of cuisine. Music was provided by Brian Bowen and



Allee Pritchard and Michael Justin Humphries created rainbow bears in the activity tent.

King Cotton.

As always, a highlight of the gathering was the procession of the species, when several dozen participants paraded through the

park displaying a collection of hand-crafted animal masks.

To see a gallery of the Black Bear Festival visit www.apalachtimes.com

Nobody sank in first ever recycling regatta

On Saturday, seven sloops fashioned from discarded articles and foraged flotsam competed for awards in the first ever "Whatever Floats Your Boat Regatta," at the Florida State University Coastal and Marine Laboratory.

The only requirement was that the vessels be cobbled together from recycled goods.

Mary Balthrop, a spokesperson for the event, said none of the fanciful flotilla actually sank during the crossing of the canal adjacent to the lab, but the "Palletdrome" sailing under Capt. Marjorie "Reviver" Turnbull won the "Titanic Award" for the most spectacular failure. In the words of the judges, the Palletdrome "entered the competition as a fine vessel and left as a mere shadow of herself."

First to complete the crossing was the very seaworthy "FLO" created and crewed by Boy Scout Troop 8 from Crawfordville. FLO was composed of tree branches and scrap lumber lashed to empty plastic barrels.

Ninjas astride a giant plastic turtle stuffed with "bottles and anything that



Scout Troop 8 aboard the FLO

would float" won the prize for most creative use of materials. The "S.S. Turtle," with Dayma Wasmund at the helm, was the creation of the FSU Aquatic Environmental Sciences Department.

Best costume award went to Co-Captains Jack and Bridget Martin aboard "Miss Mary's Nemesis."

Paddling enthusiast Katy Herzog of Carrabelle took the Peoples Choice prize for the "HMS Carrabelle," a kayak constructed of aluminum beer cans.



PHOTOS BY LOIS SWOBODA | The Times

Palletdrome winner of the Titanic Award

Balthrop estimated 150 people attended, not including boaters in the regatta, and promised a bigger, better event next year.

Food was available from Posey's of Panacea and there was music by the New 76ers.

Judges for this year's event were Administrative

Law Judge David Maloney, Mike Marshall from Marshall's fiberglass in Carrabelle, Michelle Gardner of FSU Human Resources, Jim Muller, environmental attorney at Muller and Associates and chairman of the marine lab's board of trustees.

— By Lois Swoboda

BUDS N BUGS: MEXICAN PETUNIA

By LOIS SWOBODA
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When Jim Bachrach of Apalachicola's Main Street program came to me and asked for a list of native plants to be used in the downtown streetscape, I was delighted to hear that the committee had pledged to install environmentally friendly plantings downtown. Thus I was equally disappointed when I saw the choice of plant material on Avenue E.

Those little pink flowers are Mexican petunia (Ruellia brittoniana), a native of Mexico.

It is listed by the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council as a Class One invasive and known to be especially aggressive in wetlands. It alters native plant communities by displacing native species and changing community structures or ecological functions. In other words,

Mexican petunia invades wetlands and displaces native species. Its invasiveness is enhanced by its fast growth, prolific production of seeds, and an extensive root system.

Now the Main Street committee is not the first to introduce this bad actor into our local ecosystem. The blue form is running



rampant in the alleys of the historic district already. But Main Street's use of Ruella in their downtown planting shows a disregard for environmental issues and ignorance of what sort of plant would be desirable in a planting on a river bank. Anything planted in our downtown

is guaranteed to spread to surrounding wetlands.

The Main Street Committee had an opportunity to do the right thing and set an example for the rest of the community by making the effort to use native plants. Sadly they chose not to do so.

WEEKLY ALMANAC

Date	High	Low	% Precip
Thu, Oct. 11	82°	67°	0 %
Fri, Oct. 12	81°	70°	0 %
Sat, Oct. 13	81°	70°	0 %
Sun, Oct. 14	82°	68°	10 %
Mon, Oct. 15	83°	68°	10 %
Tues, Oct. 16	82°	66°	30 %
Wed, Oct. 17	80°	66°	0 %

TIDE TABLES MONTHLY AVERAGES

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

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

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

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

APALACHICOLA

Date	Day	High Tide	High Tide	Low Tide	Low Tide
11	Th	151am 1.6	100pm 1.6	746am 1.0	808pm 0.6
12	Fr	216am 1.6	216pm 1.6	832am 0.8	850pm 0.7
13	Sa	238am 1.7	323pm 1.7	914am 0.6	928pm 0.8
14	Su	258am 1.7	426pm 1.7	955am 0.3	1004pm 1.0
15	Mo	321am 1.8	526pm 1.7	1036am 0.2	1037pm 1.1
16	Tu	346am 1.9	626pm 1.7	1120am 0.0	1109pm 1.3
17	We	416am 1.9	727pm 1.7	1207pm -0.1	1142pm 1.4
18	Th	452am 2.0	833pm 1.6	100pm -0.1	
19	Fr	534am 2.0	942pm 1.5	1217am 1.4	200pm 0.0
20	Sa	623am 1.9	1053pm 1.5	101am 1.4	309pm 0.1
21	Su	722am 1.8	1152pm 1.5	209am 1.4	423pm 0.2
22	Mo	840am 1.6		354am 1.3	534pm 0.3
23	Tu	1235am 1.5	1023am 1.5	539am 1.2	638pm 0.5

CARRABELLE

Date	Day	High Tide	High Tide	Low Tide	Low Tide
11	Th	1226am 2.6	1135am 2.6	533am 1.6	555pm 1.0
12	Fr	1251am 2.6	1251pm 2.6	619am 1.3	637pm 1.1
13	Sa	1133am 2.7	158pm 2.7	701am 1.0	715pm 1.3
14	Su	133am 2.7	301pm 2.7	742am 0.5	751pm 1.6
15	Mo	156am 2.9	401pm 2.7	823am 0.3	824pm 1.8
16	Tu	221am 3.0	501pm 2.7	907am 0.0	856pm 2.1
17	We	251am 3.0	602pm 2.7	954am -0.2	929pm 2.2
18	Th	327am 3.2	708pm 2.6	1047am -0.2	1004pm 2.2
19	Fr	409am 3.2	817pm 2.4	1147am 0.0	1048pm 2.2
20	Sa	458am 3.0	928pm 2.4	1256pm 0.2	1156pm 2.2
21	Su	557am 2.9	1027pm 2.4	210pm 0.3	
22	Mo	715am 2.6	1110pm 2.4	141am 2.1	321pm 0.5
23	Tu	858am 2.4	1143pm 2.4	326am 1.9	425pm 0.8

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FISH REPORT SPONSORED BY



Freshwater

Lakes and creeks are starting to reports on good freshwater fishing. Lake Wimico has had mixed reports of bass and bream this week, but not much to brag about. Good catfishing and bream are holding good in Howard Creek and the Brothers.

Inshore

Flounder continue to be the hot ticket right now around St. Joe Bay and on most coastal waters. Goerge Tapper Bridge has had good reports of doormat flounder and slot sized red fish this week. The Mexico Beach canal is also a good place to get your limit of flounder from shore.

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Future Seahawks hit the gridiron

Franklin County's youth football program got underway last month with the jamboree Sept. 29 in Blountstown.

The Tiny Mites, for boys ages 7, 8 and 9, took on Wewahitchka for one half of play, and engineered a 12-6 victory.

Brock Johnson, who coaches the team together with Byron Blan and Kelvin Martin, said the team had two offensive series and scored both times. Lamarius Martin scored on a 50-yard touchdown run, and Caden Turrell sprinted into the endzone on a 70-yard run.

On Saturday, the two dozen young football players again traveled to Blountstown, this time to take on the budding Tigers in the season opener.

Johnson said the team lost 34-14 to Blountstown. The up-and-coming Seahawks scored when Caden Turrell broke loose for a 55-yard touchdown run, and when Martin threw a

65-yard touchdown strike to Jarvis Turrell.

"We fumbled the ball too many times," said Johnson. "Other than that we played good."

For the Pee Wee bracket, for boys age 10, 11 and 12, Franklin County found victory in the jamboree, when they blanked Port St. Joe 14-0 on the strength of two touchdown runs by Ethan Riley in the one half of play.

Brad Segree, assistant to head coach Matt Kelley, said the team met defeat Saturday on opening day at Blountstown, when they were shut out 15-0.

"We got down inside the red zone, and one time inside the 5-yard-line, and but we couldn't punch it through," said Segree.

Both teams play Saturday in Chattahoochee. The teams are under the auspices of Franklin County Parks and Recreation.

—By David Adlerstein



Lamarius Martin, quarterback for the Franklin County Tiny Mites, front, runs away from Blountstown's John Thompson, left, as Franklin County's Gabriel Lowry, right, attempts to block.



PHOTOS BY PHIL COALE | Special to the Times

Franklin County's Pee Wee quarterback Ethan Riley runs away from Blountstown's Cain Miller.

Port St. Joe football team rolls past Seahawks

By DAVID ADLERSTEIN

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Port St. Joe found success in the air Friday night to complement a steady running game, as they downed Franklin County 56-14.

Holding a 14-7 lead after the first quarter, freshman quarterback Troy Williams threw two scoring strikes to junior running back Natron Lee, a 25-yarder and a 60-yarder, in the space of five minutes in the second quarter to break the game open.

In between the two aerial scores, Williams rushed for a touchdown, running it in from the one with four minutes left in the second quarter. In all, Williams connected on six-of eight for the night, for 157 yards.

"We threw the ball a little bit better tonight and the deal there is if we're able to throw the ball a little bit, that will help us down the stretch and open up the running game," said Port St. Joe Coach Chuck Gannon, whose team

went to 3-2 on the year and 1-1 in the league.

The Tiger Shark running game didn't need much opening up against the Seahawks, as sophomore running back Jarkice Davis, posted two early rushing touchdowns of 11 and four yards, to give Port St. Joe a 14-0 lead, with three minutes left in the first quarter. Right before the half, Davis ran in from 27 yards out, for his third touchdown, and a 42-14 Tiger Shark halftime lead.

Davis carried the ball 12 times for 139 yards, and helped the cause on defense with his fourth and final touchdown, scooping up a Seahawk fumble from his linebacker position and running it 26 yards into the endzone early in the third quarter, for a 49-14 lead.

The eighth and final Port St. Joe touchdown came with 10 minutes left in the game, when senior Corey North ran the ball 45 yards up the middle.

Junior kicker Justin Hites connected on seven-of



DAVID ADLERSTEIN | The Times

Mr. and Miss Franklin County High School Zach Howze and Katie Wood.

eight extra points, with one blocked.

Franklin County looked to make a game of it in the early stages, as junior Dwayne Griggs had a 10-yard touchdown run with 25 seconds left in the first quarter. Griggs, who is a cousin to Davis, with both sporting #1 on their jerseys, brought the Seahawks within six points 20-14 with an 80-yard touchdown tear midway through the second quarter.

"We gave the Griggs kid too much space," said Gannon. "He's a good runner

and we just gave him too much space, but he made some good moves also."

Griggs was saddled with an ankle injury for several minutes late in the game, and senior Skyler Hutchinson had two teeth damaged early on, all evidence of what was a tough physical performance all night by Port St. Joe.

"We're getting better at it," said Gannon. "We got to get stronger in the weight room and we have to play St. Joe football from the past, and that was coming in

and stick you for four quarters. And that's what we did and that's what we've been stressing all year."

Highlighting halftime was the sixth annual crowning of the Mr. and Miss Franklin County High School, the most coveted title bestowed upon a senior, elected by the student body for who they feel best embodies the spirit of the high school. When considering candidates, the students consider academics, character, leadership, athletics and school spirit.

To handle the crowning duties, last year's homecoming queen Emerald Norris, filled in for last year's Miss FCHS, Adreenah Wynn, who is enrolled at the University of Florida. Tressie Buffkin crowned Mr. FCHS on behalf of her brother Chance Buffkin, last year's recipient, who is presently in the Army.

Selected Miss FCHS was Katie Wood, accompanied by her parents, Charlie and Jeanine Wood, of Carrabelle. She is the granddaughter of

Donald and Sandra Wood of Crawfordville, and J.T. and the late Velma Boatwright, of Eastpoint.

Active at school, including serving as vice president of the senior class, Wood plans to major in English and literature at a university.

Selected Mr. FCHS was Zach Howze, accompanied by his mother and stepfather, Stephanie and Lee Jones, and in spirit by his father, the late William Meador.

Howze is active in school, including serving as second vice president of the senior class, and is a student-athlete as well, a member of the football, soccer and baseball teams. He plans to major in sports training at the University of West Florida.

The Seahawks, now 1-5, will not play this Friday night, since Bell, which was set to host Franklin County, has decided to cancel this game. The Seahawks are next up on Oct. 19, when they host West Gadsden for homecoming.



DAVID ADLERSTEIN | The Times

New soccer league begins play

A new day dawned Saturday for Franklin County soccer as the countywide league had its debut. League President Betty Sasnett said there are a dozen teams in the league, 10 from Apalachicola, an under-8 team from Eastpoint, and an under-6 team from Carrabelle. The younger

teams will play their games mostly in the county, although the older teams have some dates in Gulf County with Port St. Joe, part of the league that the Franklin County teams spun off of.

Teams this year, and their coaches, are for under-6, Harrison Bail Bond, coach Allen Millender; Ace Hardware, coach Lloyd Alford; and Best Western, coach Brad Blackburn; and un-

der-8, Mark's Insurance, coach Caleb Kembro; Ace Hardware, coach Isaac Diaz; and Five Star Home Repair, coached by the only female skipper, Shelby Lipscomb, pictured below.

Teams in the under-10 division are Journey's of SGI, coach Clint Taylor, and Blue Parrot, coach Thomas Noffsinger; in the under-12 division, Ace Hardware, coach Richard Herrington, and Shaun Donahoe Real Estate, coach Craig Hicks; and in the under-14 division, Cates Electric, coach Greg Sasnett, and Harry A's Restaurant, coach Stacy Kirvin.

In photo above, players for the Apalachicola Ace Hardware under-8 team, in black, battle against the Marks Insurance team, in red.

—By David Adlerstein



SHELBY LIPSCOMB
Five Star Home Repair Coach

CITY OF APALACHICOLA, FLORIDA PUBLIC NOTICE NEW THREE-WAY AND FOUR-WAY STOPS

In the continued interest of public safety for our citizens and visitors, the City of Apalachicola will be creating the following traffic control changes on roadways located within its municipal jurisdiction. Please take note of these changes and be prepared for additional required stops in your travel pattern throughout the City. New stop signs, along with appropriate stop ahead signage and/or flagging, will be installed shortly after the 14th day of the final advertisement of this notice in compliance with the uniform traffic control specifications of the Florida Department of Transportation.

Three-Way Stops will be created at the Intersections of:

- Bay Avenue and 8th Street
- Bay Avenue and 11th Street
- Prado and Shadow Lane
- 11th Street @ Housing Authority
- 17th Street and Cornelius Rizer Street
- 18th Avenue and Ellis Van Vleet Street
- 22nd Avenue and Cornelius Rizer Street
- 22nd Avenue and Bobby Cato
- 25th Avenue and Bobby Cato
- 25th Avenue and Timothy Simmons

Four-Way Stops will be created at the Intersections of:

- 8th Street and Avenue H
- 10th Street and Martin Luther King, Jr.
- 16th Street and Avenue C
- 17th Street and Avenue L
- 22nd Avenue and Earl King Street
- 22nd Avenue and James Clay Street
- 23rd Avenue and Earl King Street
- 24th Avenue and Bobby Cato
- 24th Avenue and Earl King Street
- 24th Avenue and James Clay Street (aka: Gibson Road)
- 24th Avenue and 12th Street (aka: Bluff Road)

For further information, contact Betty Webb, City Administrator at 850-653-9319 or Bobby Varnes, Chief of Police at 850-653-9755.

SCOTT from page A1

to expedite review of a possible plan to dredge the Eastpoint channel, but funding from the Army Corps of Engineers remains uncertain.

"We're not worried about the channel right now," Hartsfield said. "We're focusing on what's in hand. We're worried about this bay right now."

He said the governor asked Jackel to send him a letter with a map about all that was talked about. "He pretty well told us that there's nothing in his power to get us some fresh water, but he would lobby the Corps and he would support us," Hartsfield said.

The resource fair, the second in less than a month, assisted several hundred residents. The governor announced that a National Emergency Grant from the U.S. Department of Labor will provide more than \$250,000 to hire dislocated fishermen as workers to help the county with traditional recovery efforts.

During his visit, Scott toured the Department of Economic Opportunity's Mobile One-Stop Unit, which provides employment, re-employment and Re-employment Assistance Program services. DEO helped coordinate a food drive with state agencies to help impacted residents, and the first batch of food was delivered the day of the governor's visit.

Farm Share provided 42,000 pounds of food, everything from donated beans, yogurt, soup, condiments to soft drinks, for more than 500 distressed families. Property Appraiser Doris Pendleton, Emergency Management Director Pam Brownell, Parks and Recreation Director Nikki Millender and Tony Shiver, candidate for county commissioner, were among those helping to unload the tractor trailer truck into a queue of cars and trucks.

At one point Scott even pitched in, helping to load a few vehicles.

"We were thrilled that Gov. Scott came and handed

out Farm Share food to the individuals who were driving through getting cases of basic food for their families," said Farm Share Founder and Chairman Patricia Robbins. "We look forward to the governor's continued support of food for the people of Franklin County through the Farm Share program. We will be doing a weekly food distribution there until things improve for our fishermen."

Farm Share also set aside food to be distributed later to fishermen out on their boats and unable to attend.

Scott spoke to residents about other needs as well, at one point summoning Bobby Pickels, community relations manager for Progress Energy, to talk with Catherine Shiver about her light bill.

"If there is any sign that needs to be publicized in Franklin County, it's 'Help,'" Shiver told Pickels.

Pickels said the company has an ongoing partnership with St. Patrick Catholic Church, and through the Progress Energy Foundation, plans to make an additional \$10,000 contribution this year.

"That's not going to solve everybody's problem," Pickels told Shiver. "We're going to try as hard as we can within the structure that we have, to work with customers."

He asked that customers in need of help contact the company before their lights are shut off, or it is much more difficult to help.

"I don't want false hopes, sir. Please don't give us that," Shiver said. "Do you all have little Cliff Notes that have the different counties and the different problems they are going through at the time? Like, let's say, New Orleans and flooding, and then Franklin county and the oystermen, do you all have little side notes that say these people are struggling?"

"Because I'm sure they hear these stories when the light bills come due," she said. "I am sure they are hearing some stories and they're true. Some of these people don't understand that. They've never had their lights cut off, and that's the hard part."

At the tail end of his visit, Scott, flanked by Montford, Jackel DEO Executive Di-



PHOTOS BY DAVID ADLERSTEIN | The Times

At top, Gov. Rick Scott, left, greets State Sen. Bill Montford and County Commissioner Pinki Jackel. Above, Lori Switzer, left, and Property Appraiser Doris Pendleton bag Farm Share canned goods at the resource fair.

rector Hunting F. Deutsch and DCF Secretary David Wilkins, answered questions from the press.

"Florida is working with the Army Corps for a long-term plan to address the needs of Franklin County, while also helping to address short-term needs through worker training and food banks," Scott said. "The Apalachicola Bay is critical to the state of Florida. It is home to the world's best oysters and fisheries, and the hardworking residents here rely on the bay to provide for their families. State agencies and community organizations are coming together to ensure families in this area can get back on their feet quickly."

"These are individuals that don't want a govern-

ment handout, they want to be helped," he said. "There's not one person I talked to that said, 'I want to become dependent on government.' They want to be able to get a job. They're struggling right now."

Scott said "the court decisions have not gone our way" in the so-called water wars court case. He said Corps officials told him their hands are tied by a congressional mandate.

"We've got to make sure we get their mandate changed," Scott said. "It's going to be incumbent on all of us involved to call on the Corps of Engineers to do the right thing."

"We have a great seafood industry in our state. It's a major part of our state, just like agriculture and cattle,"

he said. "We're going to make sure that we continue to have a good commercial seafood operation in our state and a good recreational seafood operation."

Montford underscored the gravity of the situation. "These are serious issues, and one that needs to be addressed immediately. It's going to require immediate help and long-term planning, and the best way is through economic development. In the meantime, we need to provide food on the table."

Jackel thanked the governor for his visit. "We just appreciate the governor being in Franklin County today," she said. "We know he's very busy, and we know Franklin County matters to the governor. It's a great shot in the arm."

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VOTER INFORMATION
*****GENERAL ELECTION – NOVEMBER 6, 2012*****

****Sample Ballots will be mailed to EVERY voter****
You should begin to receive your sample ballot in the mail beginning this week. There will be 3 federal races, 3 state races, 2 local district races, 7 retention of justices and judges races, 1 circuit judge race and 11 amendments on the ballot.
In order to prevent long lines, we encourage every voter to bring his or her marked SAMPLE BALLOT when you come to vote to assist in the voting process.
If you wait until you go to vote, it will take you a while to read through the ballot and mark your vote thus causing delays

****ABSENTEE VOTING (Voting by Mail)****
ABSENTEES ARE NOW AVAILABLE
The ballot is 19" and contains 11 Amendments which are very lengthy. If you wish to receive an absentee ballot, you can make your request by calling our office at 653-9520, or go to our website at www.votefranklin.com and click the "Request Absentee" tab.
October 31, 2012 – Deadline for Supervisors to receive request for absentee ballots to be mailed for the General Election.
November 1, 2012 - First day for Supervisors to provide absentee ballots to designees for the General Election (Designee may pick up no more than two absentee ballots and must have written authorization from the voter).

****LOGIC & ACCURACY TEST****
The public testing of all voting equipment will be held on October 17, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. in the SOE office at 47 Ave. F, Apalachicola.

****EARLY VOTING****
October 27th – November 3rd
Saturdays & Sunday: 8:30a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Monday – Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Supervisor of Elections Office – 47 Ave F, Apalachicola
Carrabelle Courthouse Annex – 1647 HWY 98 E, Carrabelle
Due to a change in the law, early voting for the General Election will only be conducted for eight days prior to election day. **Remember, there will be no early voting the Sunday and Monday before the election.**
You will have to vote an absentee ballot or wait and go to the polls on election day.
Election day hours are from 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Please do not forget to bring your photo/signature identification(s) when you come to vote!

REMEMBER – VOTE BY MAIL, VOTE EARLY OR VOTE AT THE POLLS – NO EXCUSES, JUST GO VOTE!

Florida Law Requires Photo Signature ID When Voting or You Must Vote a Provisional Ballot.

Franklin County Supervisor of Elections
Ida Cooper Elliott
47 Ave. F • Apalachicola, FL 32320
(850) 653-9520, fax (850) 653-9092
icelliott@votefranklin.com
www.votefranklin.com

Arrest REPORT

The following report is provided by the Franklin County Sheriff's Office. Arrests in this report were made by officers from the Carrabelle Police Department (CPD) and the Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO). All defendants are to be considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Apalachicola, Leon County warrant for violation of probation (FCSO)

Rebecca Padowitz, 23, Carrabelle, manslaughter by DUI (FCSO)

Oct. 5

Xavier M. Rutherford, 30, Tallahassee, withholding child support (FCSO)

Homero Guerrero-Estrada, 25, Murfreesboro, Tenn., no valid drivers license (CPD)

Oct. 6

Eric A. Tatum, 32, Carrabelle, disorderly intoxication and battery (FCSO)

Oct. 7

Patricia N. Kennedy, 35, Lanark Village, DUI (CPD)

David D. Hartman, 34, Eastpoint, violation of probation (FCSO)

Jamie Z. Godinez, 26, Apalachicola, habitual driving while license revoked (FCSO)

Willie E. Pelt, 30, Port St. Joe, domestic battery and violation of repeat violence injunction (FCSO)

Oct. 2

Phillip McElravey, 31, no reported address, grand retail theft and burglary of a dwelling (FCSO)

Oct. 3

Shannon L. Bunn, 25, Apalachicola, failure to appear (FCSO)

Oct. 3

Albert E. Smythe, II, 41, Lanark Village, taking of a threatened species, tampering with physical evidence and false report to a law enforcement officer (FCSO)

Oct. 3

Shanese J. Pritchard, 28, Eastpoint, felony passing worthless bank checks and violation of probation (FCSO)

Oct. 4

Catherine M. Terrell, 52,

Lanark woman killed in Taylor County crash

A prominent member of the Lanark Village community was killed Monday afternoon in a one-car accident in Taylor County.

Sharon H. Thoman, 67, a former president of the board of the Lanark Village Water and Sewer District, died after her car ran off the road around 12:10 p.m. as it was headed westbound on U.S. 98, a little more than one mile west of County Road 647.

Thoman was a staffer at the Florida State University Coastal and Marine Lab at Alligator Point.

According to the report filed by Florida Highway Patrol crash investigator, Sgt. Aaron Stephens, and homicide investigator Cpl. Scotty Lolley, Thoman's vehicle exited the roadway to the north shoulder, and she tried to correct by steering to the left, and then overcorrected to the right and lost control of the 2006 Kia Sorrento.

The report said the vehicle overturned an unknown number of times and entered a water-filled ditch, where it came to rest facing southeast on its roof, with Thoman trapped inside, underwater. When they arrived, the state troopers found the vehicle facing north, upright, on the north shoulder, because it was moved by Taylor County Fire and Rescue.

Thoman was taken to Doctor's Memorial Hospital in Perry, and pronounced dead.

The report said Thoman was wearing her seatbelt, and that alcohol tests are pending.

Carrabelle woman charged with DUI manslaughter

A 23-year-old Carrabelle woman has been charged with DUI manslaughter in connection with an April 17 crash in Carrabelle that killed the son of Sopchoppy Mayor Colleen Skipper.

Rebecca Padowitz, 23, was arrested on Oct. 4 by Franklin County sheriff's deputies.

Crash reports showed Padowitz's blood alcohol level was 0.17, more than twice the legal limit the day of the crash, which was her 23rd birthday.

The Florida Highway Patrol reported that a 2001 Jeep Grand Cherokee driven by Padowitz spun out on a curve on U.S. 98 near Lake Morality Road, flipped over, struck a tree and caught fire. Rona Hawkins, Jr., 28, was thrown from the car and killed.

Padowitz sustained serious injuries and was treated at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital. Julian Collins, a second passenger, was wearing a seat belt, and did not sustain injuries.

County retains lawyer in fishing pier case

Franklin County commissioners have voted to retain outside counsel as they seek to make sure the county is compensated for damages

to the St. George Island fishing bridge that occurred June 28 during Tropical Storm Debby.

The commissioners voted unanimously Oct. 2 to hire Robert Dees, certified by the Florida Bar in maritime and admiralty law. County Attorney Michael Shuler said Dees had agreed to receive \$200 an hour, less than his customary hourly rate of \$300 an hour. Dees' services will become necessary in the event that the county's insurance carrier denies coverage and payment is sought from Progress Energy or its subcontractor for the damages, caused when a barge smashed into the pier.

Greg Preble, from the Preble-Rish engineering firm, shared a proposal at the meeting to repair the 165-foot gap in the pier and the broken pilings and dangling pipes and cables. He said equipment from the barge fell into the water, along with three concrete sections of the bridge, creating a potential liability for the county.

He said it is so far too expensive to send divers to inspect the situation below the water, but he believed the heavy bridge decking may have damaged remaining pilings below the water line.

Preble said the project would require a budget of about \$900,000, comprising a 16-foot wide timber pier superstructure on concrete pilings, capable of withstanding pedestrians, emergency vehicles and new storms, for \$600,000, another \$200,000 for debris removal and

an additional \$100,000 in case further damage is detected.

The debris would be removed to make way for new pilings, and placed on top of the existing debris site in the water, rather than hauled offshore.

Preble estimated the project would take eight months assuming no regulatory delays, half of that spent in construction, and would be completed by June 1, 2013.

The commissioners voted to take the funds out of the \$1.66 million in the bridge fund, which was set up by the state after it built the new bridge a decade ago.

Shuler cautioned the commissioners that recouping the money is not necessarily a sure thing. "There are no guarantees," he said. "Keep expectations reasonable."

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LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100
 89993 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION CASE NO.: 12-55-CP

IN RE: ESTATE OF VIRGIE L. REED Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of VIRGIE L. REED, deceased, whose date of death was August 15, 2012, 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 OF 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 TIME NOTICE.

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 DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this Notice is October 4, 2012.

Personal Representative: BRIAN HARDY P.O. BOX 612 Carrabelle, FL 32322

Attorney for Personal Representative: Steve M. Watkins, III 41 Commerce Street Apalachicola, FL 32320 (850) 653-1949

89961T IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 2ND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION CASE NO.: 12-52-CP

IN RE: ESTATE OF HERMAN SCHOL Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 The administration of the estate of HERMAN SCHOL, deceased, File Number 12-52-CP, is pending in the Circuit Court for Franklin County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 33

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100
 2005-3 MORTGAGE LOAN PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-3, Plaintiff,

vs. JEFFREY S. GALLOWAY a/k/a JEFFREY GALLOWAY; RBC BANK (USA) f/k/a RBC CENTURA BANK; REGIONS BANK; SCHOONER LANDING HOME OWNERS' ASSOCIATION, INC. Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE is hereby given that the undersigned, Marcia Johnson, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Franklin County, Florida, will on the 24th day of October, 2012, at 11:00 o'clock A.M., EST, in the Civil Division of the Franklin County Clerk's Office, Main Court-house, 33 Market Street, Apalachicola, Florida in accordance with Chapter 45, FS., offer for sale and sell at public outcry to the highest and best bidder for cash, the following described property situated in Franklin County, Florida, to wit:

Lot 2, SCHOONER LANDING PHASE 1, according to the Plat thereof, as recorded in Plat Book 6, Page 5, of the Public Records of Franklin County, Florida.

pursuant to the Consent Final Judgment entered in a case pending in said Court, the style and case number of which is set forth above.

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

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the office of Sirote & Permutt, 1115 E. Gonzalez Street, Pensacola, Florida 32503, (850) 462-1500, within two (2) working days of your receipt of this Notice of Foreclosure Sale; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 1-800-955-8771.

WITNESS my hand and official seal of this Honorable Court, this 21st day of September, 2011.

MARCIA JOHNSON Clerk of the Circuit Court of Franklin County, Florida

By: Terry E. Creamer Deputy Clerk
 Submitted By: Sirote & Permutt, PC Attorneys for Plaintiff 1115 E. Gonzalez St. Pensacola, FL 32503 850-462-1500 Fax: 850-462-1599 September 4, 11, 2012

89963T IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION CASE NO.: 12-52-CP

IN RE: ESTATE OF HERMAN SCHOL Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 The administration of the estate of HERMAN SCHOL, deceased, File Number 12-52-CP, is pending in the Circuit Court for Franklin County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 33

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100
 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, including unmaturing, contingent or unliquidated claims, on whom a copy of this notice is served must file their claims with the Court WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTIONS 733.702 AND 733.710, OR BE FOREVER BARRED.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate, including unmaturing, contingent or unliquidated claims, must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 AND 733.710.

ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

The date of first publication of this Notice is October 4, 2012.

Personal Representative: ROBERT SCHOL 100492 CR 32 Minature, NB 69356

Attorney for Personal Representative: Steve M. Watkins, III 41 Commerce Street Apalachicola, FL 32320 (850) 653-1949 Fla Bar No.: 0794996 October 4, 11, 2012

90033T IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL ACTION CASE NO.: 19-2008-CA-000269 DIVISION:

BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., Plaintiff,

vs. REX H. ANDERSON et al, Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF RESCHEDULED FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order Rescheduling Foreclosure Sale dated September 10, 2012 and entered in Case NO. 19-2008-CA-000269 of the Circuit Court of the SECOND Judicial Circuit in and for FRANKLIN County, Florida wherein BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., is the Plaintiff and REX H. ANDERSON; KELLY'S LANDING HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.; are the Defendants, The Clerk of the Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at FRONT DOOR OF THE FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 33 MARKET STREET, APALACHICOLA, FLORIDA at 11:00AM, on the 24th day of October, 2012, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment:

LOT 2 OF KELLY'S LANDING, A SUBDIVISION AS PER MAP OR PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 9 AT PAGE 4 OF THE OFFICIAL RECORDS OF FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA.

A/K/A XXX MILL ROAD, CARRABELLE, FL 32322
 Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the Lis Pendens must file a claim within sixty

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100
 (60) days after the sale. WITNESS MY HAND and the seal of this Court on September 11, 2012.

Marcia M. Johnson Clerk of the Circuit Court

By: Michele Maxwell Deputy Clerk

****See Americans with Disabilities Act**
 If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact: Mr. Doug Smith, Office of Court Administration Leon County Courthouse, 301 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL 32301, Phone: 850-577-4401, Fax: 850-487-7947. 080037886 October 4, 11, 2012

90053T IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA Case No.: 2012-CA- 262

CENTENNIAL BANK, an Arkansas banking corporation Plaintiff,

vs. JEFFERY A. STRICKLAND, RED TOP CAFE, INC., and UNITED STATES SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure, the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Franklin County, Florida, will on November 7th, 2012, at 11:00 a.m. (Eastern Time) at the Franklin County Courthouse, 33 Market Street, Apalachicola, Florida 32320, in accordance with Chapter 45, Florida Statutes offer for sale, and sell to the highest and best bidder, the following described real and property situated in Franklin County, Florida:

THAT PART OF LOT ONE (1) AND THAT PART OF LOT TWO (2) AS DESCRIBED BELOW, AND ALL OF LOT THREE (3) OF BLOCK 4, OF THE NEEL'S ADDITION TO THE CITY OF APALACHICOLA, FLORIDA, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF ON FILE IN THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA.

EXCEPTING THEREFROM THAT PORTION OF LOTS TWO (2) AND THREE (3) PREVIOUSLY CONVEYED FOR RIGHT OF WAY FOR STATE ROAD NUMBER 30 (OLD NUMBER 10) AND ALSO KNOWN AS U.S. NUMBER 98.

DESCRIPTION OF PARTIAL LOTS 1 AND 2:

LOT ONE (1): ALL OF THAT PORTION LYING NORTH OF A LINE BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE WEST PROPERTY LINE 82.0 FEET NORTH OF AN IRON PIPE MARKING THE SW CORNER OF LOT 1 AT THE INTERSECTION OF CENTER AND CHESTNUT STREETS AND RUNNING EAST-ERLY FOR A DISTANCE OF 92.4 FEET TO A POINT ENDING AT AN INTERSECTION 90.0 FEET FROM AND PERPENDICULAR TO THE WEST PROPERTY LINE AND 82.0 FEET FROM THE SOUTH PROPERTY LINE RUNNING PARALLEL TO THE WEST PROPERTY LINE AND ALSO IN-

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100
 TERSECTING ON THE NE/SW CENTERLINE OF THE ABANDONED ALLEY.

LOT TWO (2): ALL OF THAT PORTION LYING NORTH AND WEST OF A LINE BEGINNING AT THE PREVIOUSLY DESCRIBED ENDING NORTH AND PARALLEL TO THE WEST PROPERTY LINE A DISTANCE OF 28.7 FEET TO A POINT 36.0 FEET FROM A CONCRETE MONUMENT MARKING THE INTERSECTION OF LOTS 2 AND 3, THENCE RUNNING EASTERLY FOR A DISTANCE OF 36.0 FEET TO SAID MONUMENT.

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

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact: Franklin County Clerk of Court, 33 Market Street, Apalachicola, FL (850) 653-8861 at least 7 days before the scheduled foreclosure sale, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

WITNESS my hand and the official seal of this Honorable Court this 25th day of September, 2012.

MARCIA JOHNSON Clerk of the Circuit Court

By: Terry E. Creamer Deputy Clerk October 4, 11, 2012

90167T IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA Case No. 2011-000423-CA

THE CARRABELLE BOAT CLUB ASSOCIATION, INC., a Florida non-profit corporation, Plaintiff,

vs. STEVEN R. MACCHIARELLA and WOODWARD DEVELOPMENT, INC., Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION

To: STEVEN R. MACCHIARELLA and WOODWARD DEVELOPMENT, INC.,

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a claim of lien for assessments pursuant to Article 13 of the Declaration of Condominium for The Carrabelle Boat Club Association, Inc., a commercial condominium, recorded in Official Record Book 888, Page 552, et seq. of the Public Records of Franklin County, Florida on the following real property in FRANKLIN County, Florida:

Unit Number B-318 of that certain condominium of The Carrabelle Boat Club Association, Inc., a/k/a, The Carrabelle Boat Club Boathouse, and the undivided interest in the Common elements appurtenant thereto, in accordance with and subject to the Declaration of Condominium for the Carrabelle Boat Club Association, Inc., a Commercial Condominium recorded in Official Records Book

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100
 888, Page 552-630 of the Public Records of Franklin County, Florida.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Barbara Sanders, Sanders and Duncan, P.A., the plaintiff's attorney, whose address is P.O. Box 157, Apalachicola, Florida 32320, on or before 30 days of the last date of publication, and file the original with the clerk of this Court, MARCIA JOHNSON, Franklin County Clerk of Court, Franklin County Courthouse, 33 Market Street, Apalachicola, Florida 32320, either before service on the plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.

DATED this 3rd day of October, 2012.

MARCIA M. JOHNSON As Clerk of the Court
 By: Terry E. Creamer As Deputy Clerk October 11, 18, 2012

PUBLIC NOTICES/ANNOUNCEMENTS 1120

Franklin County Liquor License \$165,000. Serious inquiries/offers only at: anitaln242@aol.com

ADOPTIONS 1130

Adopt: Active young TV Producer & Attorney, home-cooking, beaches, sports await precious baby. Expenses paid *FLBar42311* *800-552-0045*

Adopt: Actor & Filmmaker, LOVE Awaits first baby. Matt & Kristi *Expenses paid* *FLBar42311* *800-552-0045*

PETS & ANIMALS 2100-2150

PETS 2100

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3100-3350 MERCHANDISE

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

GARAGE/YARD SALES 3230

Estate Sale
 Apalachicola: 143 Magnolia Ln (Old Pogy Plant) Friday and Saturday, October 12th and 13th from 9am til ???

Port St. Joe: 506 8th St. Friday and Saturday October 12 & 13th from 8am til 4pm; Hand-carved fishing lures, All kinds of Tools, and Lots more Items!

Port St. Joe: 1017 Marvin Ave. October 11th - 13th Thursday - Saturday
Huge Yard Sale
 Too much to list!

GUNS 3240

GUN SHOW
 Santa Rosa County Auditorium, Milton, FL Oct.20th & 21st 9am - 5pm. Call (850) 957-4952 or (850) 261-8407
 General Admission, \$6 Text FL26461 to 56654

BUSINESS/COMMERCIAL RENTALS 6100

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 3250 - Good Things to Eat
 3260 - Health & Fitness
 3270 - Jewelry/Clothing
 3280 - Machinery/Equipment
 3290 - Medical Equipment
 3300 - Miscellaneous
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PETS & ANIMALS 2100-2150

PETS 2100

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APARTMENT RENTALS 6110
 Apalachicola, 1Br/1Ba quiet, 2 blks from boat ramp, \$600mo + first, last & dep. 850-500-9176 Text FL25130 to 56654

Apalachicola: 1 br, 1 ba efficiency Call for information 850-653-6103 Text FL5175 to 56654

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 St. George Island \$175/wk, elec, satellite, garbage incl. Pool tbl. 12' X 65' deck. Beautiful view! 850-653-5319

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 H/AC in Apalachicola, Florida. 850-643-7740

Apalachicola, House for rent, Bay City Rd. Call 850-653-8965 or 850-323-1990

Carabelle: 3 bdr 2 bath with large spare room on 1 acre. Fenced yard, new tile throughout, freshly painted. \$800 per month + dep. Call (850) 766-4357 Text FL26851 to 56654

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HOME FOR SALE 7100

For Sale By Owner
 3BR/1BA home in Sumatra on Hwy 65 Newly remodeled. \$59,000. Call (850) 670-8135 for details. Text FL24247 to 56654

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 Apalachicola Lots Block 177 Lot 6, \$29,500
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I have to pick a major ... now what?

By **PETER VOGT**
Monster Senior Contributing Writer

Every time you're on break from school, someone hits you with that most common question asked of college students: "What's your major?"

For months, you've been able to get away with responses like "I'm not sure," or "I'm keeping my options open." But now — thanks to your school's academic rules, your parents' incessant nagging or even your own impatience — you're forced to make a choice, and you don't know what to do.

Thousands of college students around the country go through the same anxiety-producing experience every year, often around mid-semester when they have to choose their courses for the following semester (and they've already taken all their general or core courses).

Are you in the "I have to pick a major — now what?" mode? If so, don't panic. If you're like many college students, the major you select won't have a huge impact on your future career anyway. But even if it will, there are plenty of things you can do to help yourself

Meet with a campus career counselor

Your school's career counselors know your institution's majors well, and they have a good general sense of where those majors might take you with respect to your career. Perhaps more importantly, though, many campus career centers keep detailed statistics on the types of jobs their schools' graduates have landed with various majors. Typically, these statistics appear in the career center's placement report, which you can ask for and then read to find out where different majors might take you in the future.

Read your undergraduate bulletin, related publications

Maybe you don't need to actually read the entire undergraduate bulletin, but at the very least, page through it and look at all the majors available at your institution. You never know when you'll stumble upon one that really fits your interests.

If browsing your institution's undergraduate bulletin sounds far



too boring, stop by your school's admissions office and ask for briefer major-related publications that might be available.

Talk to professors and students in various majors

Start by asking your friends and acquaintances what they're majoring in and why. What do these students like and dislike about their majors? And what can they tell you about the courses in their majors and the careers their majors might lead to?

Similarly, ask professors in various academic departments to briefly describe their majors. Tell

them you're interested in learning more about what previous students in the department have gone on to do, career-wise. Professors will gladly tell you in most cases, if you ask.

Check out "What Can I Do with a Major in _____?" materials

There are lots of ways to answer the question, "What can I do with a major in _____?"

Dozens of major-related books are available to you as well, often at your school's main library or your campus career center's library. VGM Career Horizons, for

example, publishes several Great Jobs for _____ Majors books as well as the Opportunities in _____ Careers series.

Page through guides to college majors

Several publishers have developed books that offer extensive descriptions of various college majors and what careers those majors might lead to. JIST, for instance, offers The College Majors Handbook, which features information (based on a survey of some 150,000 college graduates) on 60 different majors. Ferguson Publishing, meanwhile, offers College Majors and Careers, which also describes 60 majors in detail.

There's no need to fly blind when it comes to researching and then choosing a college major, especially in this day of the Internet and easily accessible information. The more you talk to knowledgeable people and read about various majors, especially those you know little or nothing about, the better chance you have of picking the one that best fits both your short-term needs and your long-term career goals.

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40 temporary positions. Wearing rubber gloves, boots & caps, shucker opens & washes oysters, uses shucking knife to gently pry open oyster shell & separate from muscle so that meat can be frozen, canned, packed or otherwise disposed of as necessary. No exp or edu reqs.. From 6 am to 03 pm, M-F, with no OT. Temporary employment from 10/20/2012 to 06/15/2013. No transport to work site provided. Wage paid is \$10 per hour. Work location at: 592 W. Highway 98, Apalachicola, FL 32320 and 391 Market St. Apalachicola, FL 32320. Apply to: Water Street Seafood, Attn: Steven Rash, Owner, PO Box 121, Apalachicola, FL 32329 or via email: stevenrash@waterstreetseafood.com or telephone at (850) 653-8902
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GULF COAST STATE COLLEGE

WHALE from page A1

"I never expected to see a whale shark," he said. "It's a first for all of us. It was very surprising."

The big fish remained nearby as Bendis succeeded in unhooking his catch and all three men rushed to the stern to view the rare creature.

But it submerged fairly quickly, and because their cellphones were stowed in a waterproof bag, none of the men got pictures of the monster fish, Bendis said.

They fired up the engine and attempted to return to the exact place of the original sighting and, to everyone's amazement, when they reached the spot and allowed the engine to idle, the whale shark resurfaced.

"We were all scrambling for phones," Bendis said.

The shark, at least 30 feet long, seemed attracted to the boat's engine and hung close to it in the water. Bendis retrieved his GoPro camera, which was in a waterproof container, and began filming underwater although he could not be sure what he was filming.

Bendis said the giant fish "came up to the dive platform, and Brad and I both touched it. Wendell Stone tried to touch him, but didn't quite make it."

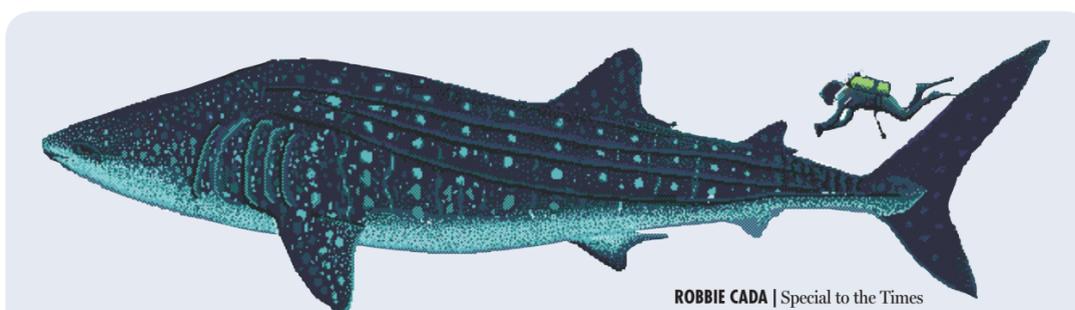
"We been given grief for not going in the water with it, but when this is happening, it's not the first thing on your mind," he said.

All told, the experience lasted from about 3:45 to 4:45 p.m., with the shark returning to the Celestial Crab at least six times, Bendis said.

"It was definitely boat-related," he said. "He seemed to come back when the boat idled. If we moved, he would come back."

Bendis and his friends were thrilled with their hour-long interaction with one of the rarest creatures on the planet.

"I wish I could share this with every member of the fishing community," Bendis said. "The only thing



ROBBIE CADA | Special to the Times

ABOUT WHALE SHARKS

According to the Florida Museum of Natural History Ichthyology Department, the whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*) is the largest member of the shark family and the largest vertebrate that is not a mammal. Individuals approaching 60 feet in length have been observed.

Tipping the scales at 20 tons, they approach the larger dinosaurs in mass and date back to the Jurassic era.

Scientists only became aware of the existence of this rare creature in 1828. Before the mid-1980s, there were fewer than 350 confirmed reports of whale sharks worldwide.

With few defenses other than size and thick skin, the whale shark is listed by the World Conservation Union in the Red List of Threatened Species.

Like some whales, the whale shark is a filter feeder and consumes mostly

microscopic algae, though it will also devour small fish.

Whale sharks are widely distributed in tropical and warm temperate seas, usually between latitudes 30 degrees north and 35 degrees south. They are thought to prefer surface sea-water temperatures of 70 to 80 degrees Fahrenheit. Whale sharks are known to inhabit both deep and shallow coastal waters and lagoons of coral atolls and reefs.

They have approximately 3,000 tiny teeth that are not used while feeding. The whale shark sieves prey items as small as one millimeter through the fine mesh of the "gill-rakers." They are able to open their mouth over 3 feet wide to optimize feeding and are occasionally sighted hanging vertically in the water allowing baitfish and other

concentrated food items to be sucked in.

Highly migratory, satellite tracking of whale sharks in waters off the United States and in the South China Sea reveals these animals travel thousands of miles. These migrations can take years to complete.

The most significant threat to this species appears to be humans. In India alone, as many as 1,000 whale sharks were believed killed in 1999 and 2000. Their habit of swimming at the surface makes them particularly susceptible to fishing. The fins of whale sharks once sold for high prices on the Asian market, although demand has declined. There is still a market for whale shark meat in several countries including Taiwan and China.

— By Lois Swoboda



SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

This video still shows the whale shark that approached Joe Bendis' fishing boat about 30 miles offshore from Carrabelle.

that would have made it better was if Celeste and the kids had been there. I just hope people understand what gentle giants these creatures are and that no harm ever comes

from them." Celeste Bendis, a master's student in Tallahassee, said she regrets having opted out of the fishing trip to study. "I'd have been in the water with it!"

she said. The Celestial Crab is named both for Celeste and for Joe Bendis, who was born under the Zodiac sign of cancer. Bendis, Riner and Stone

immediately began to communicate their rare adventure to the world.

"Brad had a cellphone, and when we were coming up the Carrabelle River, he had already posted to the

Internet," Bendis said.

Little did they expect their story would resonate around the world. Within 24 hours, friends and relatives began to call to tell the men they saw the video on television in points as far removed as Chicago and California.

"I think people are tired of hearing about murders and politics and Syria and Afghanistan," Bendis said. "I think they want a feel-good story. It's such a big, ugly, cute animal."

The three fishermen went online and found a website maintained by researchers at the University of Southern Mississippi requesting information about whale shark sightings.

Bendis said researchers were able to conclude the whale shark was a male. The research group maintains a database of whale sharks in the Gulf, identifying individuals using the pattern of spots on the fish's left side. Unfortunately, Bendis' GoPro pictures show the shark's right side, so it's unclear if this was an individual that had been photographed in the past.

Bendis said he studied biology as an undergraduate, and both Stone and Riner are educators, so they immediately recognized the whale shark and were not afraid of the enormous fish.

Master waterman Joe Barber of Carrabelle and Apalachicola called their experience amazing. He said in 90 years spent on and around the Gulf, he has encountered a whale shark only twice.

On the first occasion, he was fishing offshore when he and a crew member spotted the enormous animal surfacing just a few feet from their boat.

"We sat down and waited to see what it would do," he said, recalling stories of fish bumping boats and capsizing them. But, the whale shark proved not to be aggressive and soon disappeared below the surface of the Gulf.

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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