

THE STAR

SERVING GULF COUNTY SINCE 1937

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OUT TO SEE

The Currys at the Port Inn

The Port Inn Hall and Port Theatre will proudly welcome local favorites The Currys on July 29 at 7 p.m. EDT. This listening event will occur at The Port Inn Hall at 309 Sixth Street in Port St. Joe. Tickets will be available online and locally at The Port Inn. VIP and General Admission are available for \$25 and \$40 plus tax. There will be a Cash bar on site for refreshments.

This Little Town exhibit

The Joe Center for the Arts is hosting "This Little Town," a multimedia exhibition on display through July 28. "This Little Town" offers a variety of content consisting of 58 juried works by area artists which creatively express the Port St Joe milieu through drawings, paintings, and photography. The Joe Center for the Arts is located at 201 Reid Avenue in Port St. Joe. This Little Town is open to the public on Wednesdays through Fridays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. EDT and on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. EDT.

Salt Air Farmers Market

Shop local farmers and artisans. Let your family enjoy art pieces and the amazing flavors of fresh veggies, sweet tupelo honey and vine-ripened fruit. Open the first and third Saturdays of the month, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. EDT in downtown Port St. Joe.

First Friday Sip and Shop

The Gulf County Chamber of Commerce and a handful of local businesses will be hosting a First Friday Sip and Shop event on Friday, August 4 on Reid Ave. from 5 to 7 p.m. EDT. Enjoy adult beverages, light hors d'oeuvres, great deals and good times.

Police chase ends in two arrests, 3A

Job training program accepting applicants, 7A

THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2023



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County property insurance expected to jump 50 percent in upcoming fiscal year

Wendy Weitzel

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According to the county's insurance agent, they should expect their property insurance rate increase by as much as 50 percent in the next fiscal year.

The jump is the result of increased property values statewide, as well as

a worsening crisis among insurance providers as frequent lawsuits limit their coverage abilities.

"I've been communicating with the administrator and with staff that we would probably expect about a 50 percent increase in the property premium," said Dwight Van Lierop, a representative from Acentria

Insurance. "Unfortunately, that is the state of the market right now."

"...The other markets—as far as liability, workers comp., those things—they're pretty stable... It's the property market that's killing us."

The increase in insurance rates is not unlike those being seen by

See INSURANCE, Page 2A

New murals unveiled at Washington Gym



Two new murals painted by campers at CareerSource's Summer Leadership Camp were unveiled Thursday afternoon at the historic Washington High School Gymnasium in North Port St. Joe. SEE PAGE 6A FOR MORE PICTURES AND DETAILS. [WENDY WEITZEL | THE STAR]

Port St. Joe plans to leave millage unchanged

Wendy Weitzel

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The City of Port St. Joe plans to keep their millage rate unchanged at 3.5914 mills in the upcoming fiscal year, ultimately bringing in about \$497,000 more in ad valorem funding overall.

This increase in taxes, city officials said, would be necessary to balance the city's budget as a result of the loss of a \$480,000 payment from the county.

"That increase is based on property values going up, but you've also got to remember, we also are giving up the \$480,000 that we got from the county last year that we used to balance our budget," said City Manager Jim Anderson to the Board of City Commissioners.

"So what you have right there is a

balanced budget based on our current rate."

These additional funds will go towards increasing employee pay, introducing two new positions to the Port St. Joe Police Department, and hiring for existing vacancies in city employment.

The 3.5914 mills rate is 15.67% above the rollback rate of 3.1049 mills, which is the amount of millage required for the city to bring in the same number of ad valorem tax dollars as they did the year prior.

The rate is calculated using the total city property after reassessment by the Gulf County Property Appraiser Mitch Burke's office.

Port St. Joe's tax rolls have increased by about 30 percent from last year, or about 61 percent from 2018.

According to Burke, this is largely

due to a large amount of new construction in the area.

"The City of Port St. Joe has seen a tremendous amount of growth in taxable value due to new construction of single-family homes from both DR Horton and Truland Homes," he said.

Port St. Joe's new construction and additions totaled \$66.90 million this year, a 135% increase from 2022.

The city commissioners unanimously voted to move forward with the existing millage rate.

The city's first budget hearing will be held Sept. 8 at 5:01 p.m. EDT and the final budget hearing will be held on Sept. 22 at 5:01 p.m. EDT. Both meetings will be open to the public.

When final approval has been reached, the budget will go into effect on October 1.

County to install water tank to support water supply on Cape

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The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners approved the emergency purchase of a 55,000 gallon water tank to help support water supply in the area during times of high demand.

The tank, which will cost the county \$32,600, will be installed at the LUCI 1 water station, which services the South end of Cape San Blas, Simmons Bayou and Jones Homestead.

“We’re having a hard time in peak demand times keeping up, which is causing us a problem,” said County Administrator Michael Hammond, who recommended the purchase

to the board. “It’ll also be fire protection as well.”

Hammond stated it would take around six or eight weeks for the tank to be installed, by which time, peak tourism on the Cape will begin to dwindle. But Hammond stated that the security the additional storage could provide would help to ensure during future high-demand times, water remains continuously available.

Other portions of the Cape Water System are already receiving support from water storage tanks, with more than 200,000 gallons of storage available at both the LUCI3 station on the North end of the Cape and at Money Bayou.

When asked by Commissioner Phillip McCroan how the tank will factor into existing plans to expand the water system, Hammond said the tank could eventually be used to provide additional storage when needed.

These plans, funded by state appropriations, include the construction of a water treatment plant in White City.

“When we eventually get through with their third phase of this and tie in White City, it’ll just be extra storage,” he said.

The motion to approve the emergency purchase was made by McCroan and seconded by Commissioner David Rich. It passed unanimously with no comment from the public.

ARREST REPORTS

The following report is provided by Florida VINELink based on data from the Gulf County Detention Facility. All defendants are to be considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

- July 15**
Stacey Ladd, 54, Port St. Joe; possession of a controlled substance [PSJPD]
- Jason Luis Velazquez**, 37, Port St. Joe; violation of probation
- July 18**
John Dimetris Skipper, 53, Panama City; violation of probation

- Jacob Randall Darsey**, 34, Wesley Chapel; out of county warrant, drive with license suspended (knowingly)
- July 19**
Micah Jarrett, 18, Norcross, GA; domestic battery, resist or obstruct officer without violence (two counts)
Rebecca Lynn Holland, 55, Bristol; possession of methamphetamine, possession of paraphernalia [PSJPD]
- July 20**
Ricardo Clemmons, 33, Port St. Joe; failure to appear for misdemeanor offense, possession of a controlled substance not more than 20 grams, resist or obstruct officer without violence, tamper with or fabricate physical evidence [GCSO]
Sidney Lee Robbins, 30, Wewahitchka; grand theft auto (two counts)

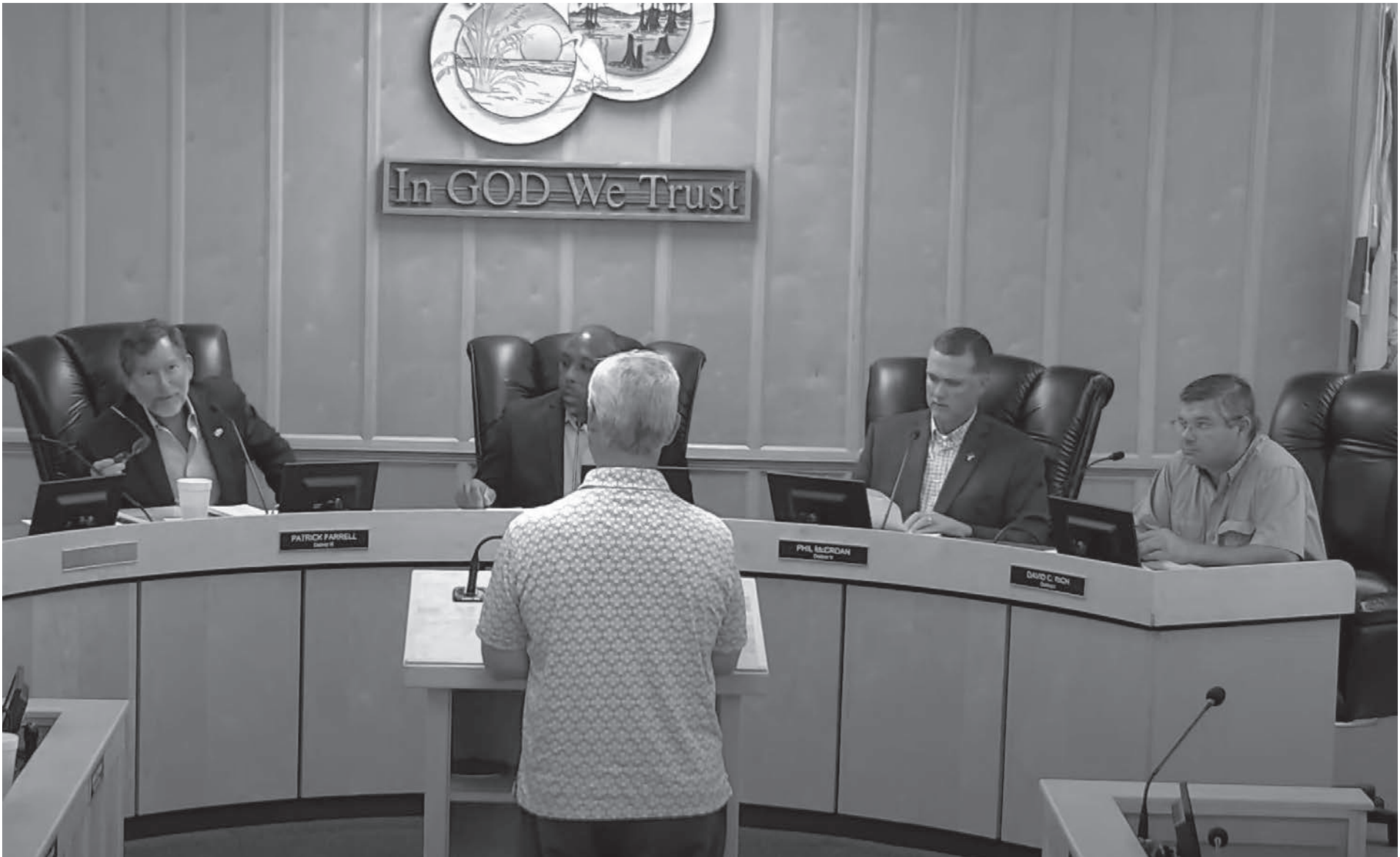
- July 21**
Alvin Kirkland Carter, 40, Wewahitchka; operate motor vehicle without valid license, fail to register motor vehicle, attach registration license plate not as, violation of ptr/cr/ror/bond conditions [GCSO]
Micaela Jaide Fedd, 21, Port St. Joe; possession of paraphernalia, restrict or obstruct officer without violence, fail to obey LEO order to stop, aggravated assault or battery on person 65 or older
Aaron Alexander Paul, 24, Panama City, grand theft auto [GCSO]
- July 23**
Jesse Frank Garrett, 40, Port St. Joe; battery touch or strike, intimidate threaten etc. victim witness informant, criminel mischief under 1000 over 200 dollars (subsequent offense) [GCSO]

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Wewahitchka city meeting this week**
The City of Wewahitchka Board of City Commissioners is to hold their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, July 27.
- The meetings are held at the Wewahitchka Senior Citizens Center, located at 307 East Third Street, at 6 p.m. CDT.
- Members of the public are invited to attend and are welcome to speak at the meeting. An agenda is available on the city’s website ahead of time.
- Port St. Joe commissioners meeting next week**
The City of Port St. Joe Board of City Commissioners will be holding their regular ses-

- sion meeting on Tuesday, August 1 at noon EDT in the commission chambers, located at 2775 Garrison Avenue. All are welcome to attend and speak at the meeting.
- Meet your doctors!**
Ascension Sacred Heart Gulf is inviting the community to meet their new doctors and leaders.
- The open house welcome reception will be held on Thursday, July 27 from 4 to 6 p.m. EDT at the Port St. Joe Garden Club, located at 216 Eighth Street in Port St. Joe.
- During the event, you will get a chance to talk to the following new doctors and leaders:
- Dr. Jason Foland, Chief Medical Officer
 - Dr. Kelly Duane Carter, Pediatrics
 - Dr. David Fulcher, Anesthesiology

- Dr. Jeffery Root, General Surgery
 - Anna Rich, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, Primary Care
 - Kami Canet, BSHA, RDMS, RVT, Radiology Manager
- RSVP to Tracy Ross at tracy.ross@ascension.org.
- For more information about Ascension Sacred Heart Gulf, visit ascension.org/GulfFL.
- Humane Society running adoption special**
Adoption fees have been reduced at the St. Joseph Bay Humane Society for a limited time. The adoption fee for dogs has been reduced to \$30, and the adoption fee for cats has been reduced to \$10.
- The shelter is also in need of foster placements for adoptable animals.



Dwight Van Lierop speaks to the Board of County Commissioners about increasing insurance rates. [SCREENSHOT FROM BOCC LIVE STREAM]

INSURANCE

From page 1A

homeowners statewide, Van Lierop pointed out, and it is rooted in similar causes.

“You all can probably see it in your own personal lives,” he said. “Whether it’s your business’s insurance or whether it’s your individual family coverages, you’re probably feeling some of that same pain right now.”

Households in Florida, the third most populous state in the US, have been grappling for some time with a property insurance crisis that is making home ownership unaffordable for many. After at least six insurers went insolvent in Florida last year, Farmers on Tuesday became the latest to pull out of the

Florida market, saying in a statement that the decision was based on risk exposure in the hurricane-prone state.

In the past 18 months, 15 property insurers have ceased business in the state, causing a lack of competition that results in higher premiums for floridians. These companies often claim their motivation to leave the state rests with a high number of lawsuits they had to litigate after events causing a large number of filings, such as hurricanes.

Florida represented 82 percent of all litigation of insurance in the United States last year.

Average annual property insurance premiums had risen to more than \$4,200 in Florida by the end of 2022—triple the national average.

But name and county officials say they are hopeful recent measures passed by the state legislature will bring relief in the coming years. Earlier this year, the Florida Legislature passed measures that were largely aimed at reducing the number of lawsuits faced by insurance companies in the state in an attempt to prevent rapidly rising premiums and insurer insolvencies.

The effects of these policies, if effective, won’t be seen any time soon, however, Van Lierop said.

“As a result of some of the measures the Florida legislature passed, within about an 18-month to two year period of time, everyone is expecting it to have a trend downward on rates,” he said.

Thursday morning car chase ends in two arrests

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The Port St. Joe Police Department has arrested a man and a woman following a vehicle pursuit and on-foot chase through downtown Port St. Joe Thursday morning.

According to the police department, Officers Nichols and Lieutenant Burch stopped a gold Kia van on Jones Homestead Road due to the passenger, Ricardo Clemmons, 33, of Port St. Joe, having a warrant for failing to appear in court.

The wanted subject fled on foot, circled back and jumped in with the female driver (who was identified as Micaela Fedd, 21, of Port St. Joe) who then started a vehicle pursuit back into town.

Officers disengaged and canceled the pursuit due to the vehicle speed over 100 miles per hour.

Later that morning, PSJPD Chief Jake Richards ran into the vehicle in question as it rounded the corner from Highway 98 onto Highway 71. According to a press release from the PSJPD, the wanted passenger was hanging out the sliding door of the van at the time, and upon seeing Richards, attempted to flee on foot down Reid Avenue.

Officers set perimeters and chased Clemmons, who was eventually apprehended.

“He ran down Reid, cut across to Monument where he was cut off and threw a baggy of drugs in front of Chief Richards,” read the release. “He then ran back to the alley behind Reid where he was apprehended by Lt. Burch and Lt. Wood.”

The van continued to flee, and officers did not pursue it due to the driver being identified. The van was recovered (unoccupied) on Avenue C and impounded around 11 a.m. EDT.

Clemmons was arrested and charged with failure to appear for misdemeanor offense,

possession of a controlled substance not more than 20 grams, resisting or obstructing an officer without violence, and tampering with or fabricating physical evidence.

Fedd was arrested the following day and charged with possession of paraphernalia, restricting or obstructing an officer without violence, failing to obey LEO order to stop,

and aggravated assault or battery on a person 65 or older.

Neither has been convicted of these charged in a court of law at this time.

“Thank you to the citizens that helped and were attempting to help,” the PSJPD said. “Law enforcement appreciates the help in a busy small town.”

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DE RUGY

From Page 4A

that banks add at least one additional payment network for their cards. Proponents — including a handful of Republicans, such as freshman Ohio senator and populist conservative J.D. Vance — claim the added competition requirement will lead to lower costs for merchants and ultimately consumers.

Yet there is little reason to believe this, and very good reason to fear the emergence of harmful unintended consequences. This is not idle speculation; We've already seen it play out with debit cards. After the Durbin Amendment was passed, a study from the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond found that almost none of the savings were passed on to consumers despite a \$145 billion reduction in fees paid by retailers.

The Durbin Amendment not only failed to help customers but appears to have hurt them. It resulted in the widespread elimination of debit-card rewards programs and fewer banks offering free checking accounts. The ranks of the unbanked increased by an estimated 1 million people. Some of that is likely to happen again if more credit-card central planning is adopted.

Unsurprisingly, this is about more than small businesses. The effort is primarily being pushed by Walmart and Target, who stand to gain billions of dollars in additional revenue. More revenue for big-box stores isn't a problem in and of itself, as long as it's the result of better serving consumers. But this government-induced increase in big-box profits would come by reducing banks' revenue and in turn removing some consumers' preferred card networks — limit-

ing even further the competitive differences among card products and popular credit-card rewards programs.

As explained by The Points Guy, a popular website on consumer credit card and travel perks, "If enacted, this bill could dramatically change the rewards ecosystem. It could affect your ability to collect (and redeem) points and miles toward travel or earn cash back that can offset some of your everyday spending."

It's also an example of the outrage theater politicians inflict on us. Think about how odd it is that Vance has agreed to do Target's bidding after declaring that he will no longer shop there because of the company's woke agenda. While exposing inconsistency from legislators is entertaining, what concerns me is that fewer and fewer are upholding this economic fundamental:

Central planning fails because its success would require the mind of God, yet planners are human. Even if they somehow weren't corruptible, they can never be sufficiently informed to outperform the market, which is composed of the untold bits of detailed consumer and seller knowledge that are signaled through prices. Interference in the market process, whether it be through direct or indirect price controls, inevitably produces harmful unintended consequences.

Left to its own devices, the market has found an equilibrium between card issuers and merchants. Politicians who interfere to favor one side or the other will, as always, bring about unpleasant surprises.

Veronique de Rugy is the George Gibbs Chair in Political Economy and a senior research fellow at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University.

HART

From Page 4A

glommed onto "climate change" as their virtue-signaling mechanism for grifting. They jam electric cars down our throats as they fly on private jets. As Sen. Rand Paul just found out, Anthony Fauci still has a government-paid driver and big limo — in retirement. John Kerry, the "Climate Czar," is flying around in a huge jet. But they are so hard on us and want us to suffer for their God: carbon reduction. I could totally see them outlawing the Electric Slide.

Inflation has hurt the pocketbooks of all Americans. It is disingenuous for Biden to crow about "his" economy when he inherited a raging economy, a booming stock market and low interest rates. He caused inflation and now that it is subsiding, he somehow thinks he can take credit for bringing inflation down with his "woke" economic policies. The only quantifiable area where you can say that the Dems' policies have reduced inflation is that now Bud Light costs about half what it cost six months ago.

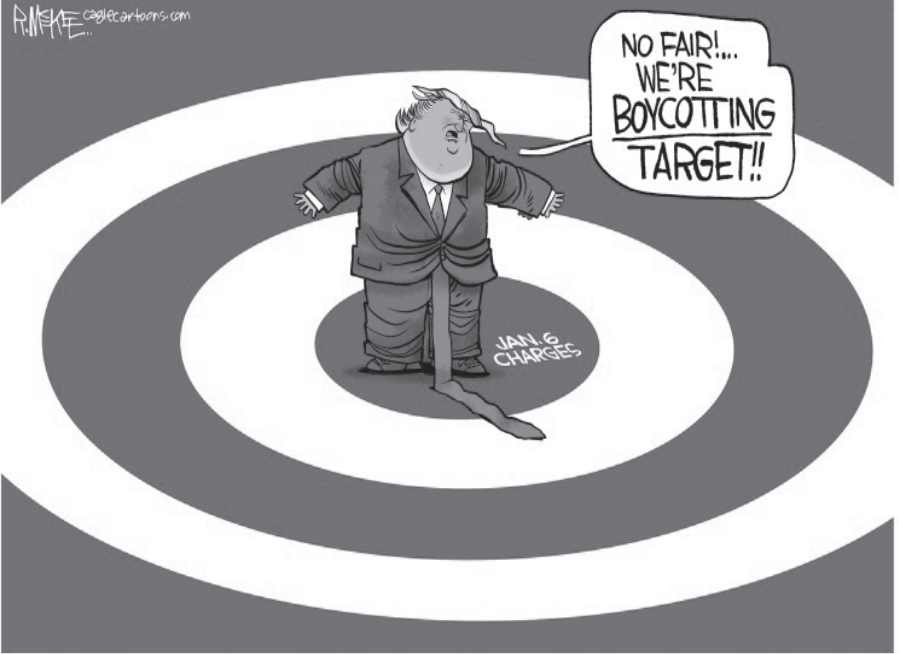
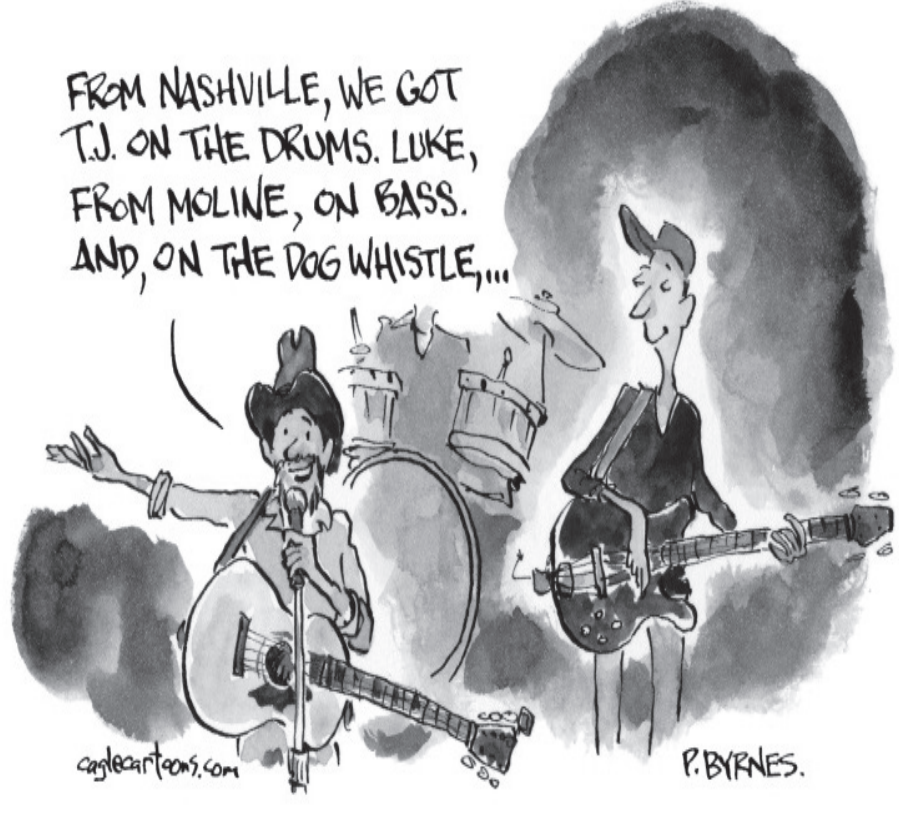
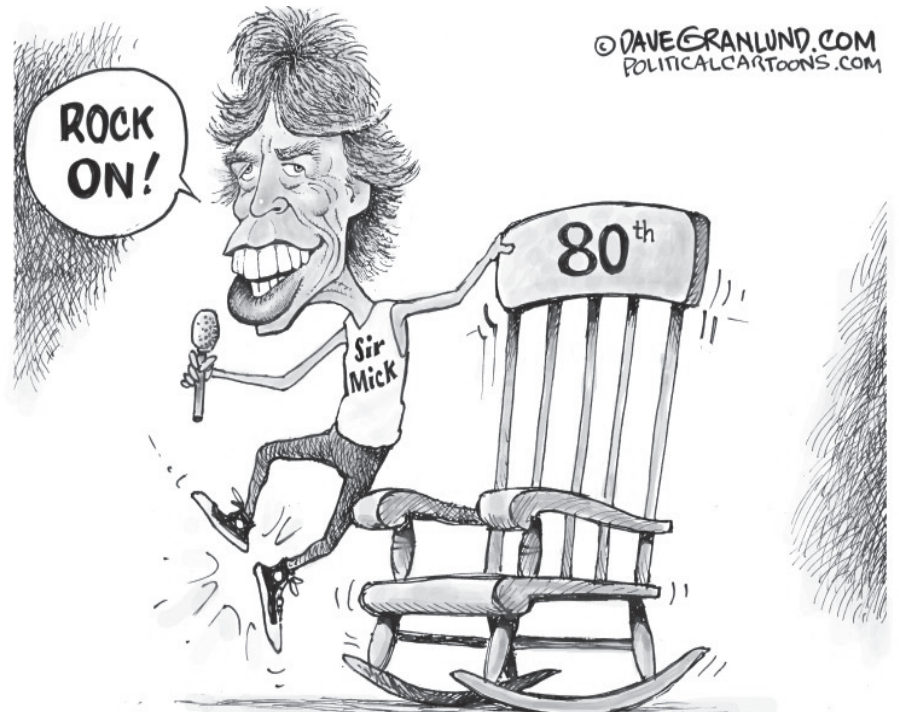
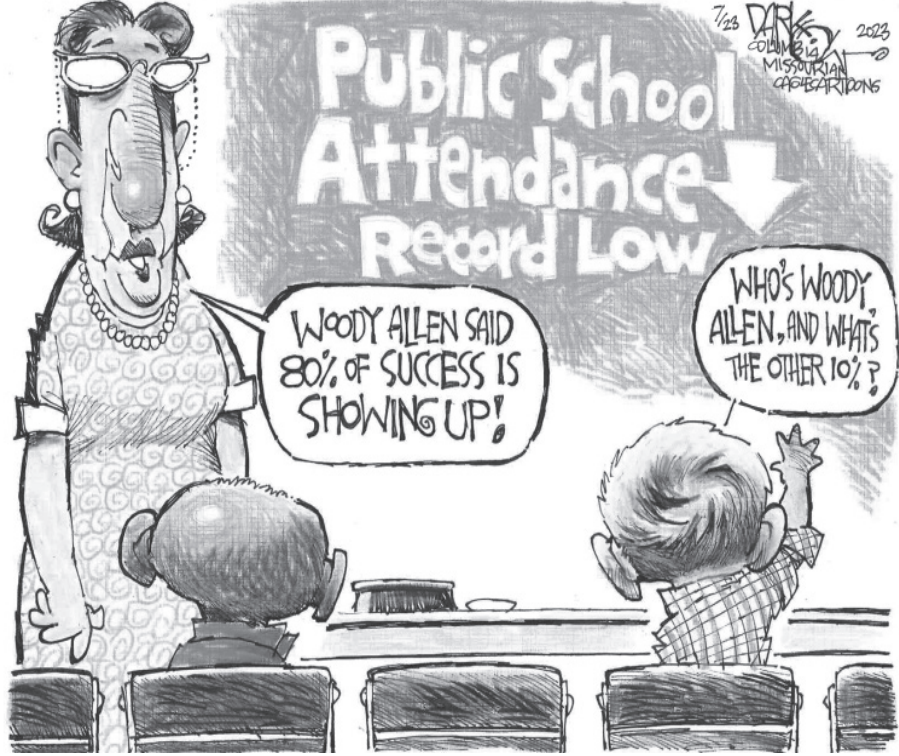
Three woke U.S. banks went under (Silicon Valley Bank, Signature, and Republic; all were in the

top 25) when rates went up and the economy softened. And I am told 70% of downtown L.A. commercial buildings are underwater now. That meltdown is pending.

The economy under Biden has been good for the Bidens. His son took in millions and refused to pay taxes. He also refused to pay child support to his stripper girlfriend for their Arkansas-based love child. Joe Biden has even gotten heat from the left for not acknowledging the baby as a Biden. This is because when the Bidens divide up the grifting booty, they take a page from the Indian tribes divvying up casino money: you have to be considered a member of the tribe to get a cut.

Aside from promoting "Bidenomics," Joe has ballyhooed his "family man" persona to rehabilitate his image, saying no matter what he is doing, he will always take a call from any of his six grandkids. In fine print, his declaration reads "Certain restrictions apply, not valid in Arkansas."

A libertarian op-ed humorist and award-winning author, Ron Hart is ex-Goldman Sachs, and retired as a managing director of Morgan Stanley. He can be contacted at Ron@RonaldHart.com or @RonaldHart on Twitter.





Javier Arreguin, left, poses with some CareerSource Summer Camp campers in front of a mural they helped paint. [WENDY WEITZEL | THE STAR]

CareerSource summer camp unveils murals at historic Washington High gymnasium

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A summer’s worth of work was revealed Thursday to a crowd of children chanting, Ty Pennington style, for their summer camp counselors to move the bright yellow school bus concealing the artwork from their view.

Then, as the bus slowly backed up, they erupted into applause for the mural and for the local artist who had helped them paint it over the past several weeks, Javier Arreguin.

The mural, one of two painted over the summer, was the culmination of the work of the CareerSource Summer Leadership Camp’s fifth through eighth grade campers, with a little guidance from himself, Arreguin said.

But the concept for the design, which depicts the integration of the town’s schools and the history of the Washington High School Gymnasium, where the camp takes place, was inspired by the ideas of the campers themselves.

“I was able to hang out with the kids, and I had the idea that they love sports around here... so when I started asking the kids what they wanted to see, they by themselves said

they wanted a tiger and wanted a shark,” Arreguin said.

The mural, which depicts a tiger in one corner and a shark in the other, shows the history behind Port St. Joe High School’s Tiger Shark mascot.

The tiger mascot, which belonged to George Washington High School, the town’s historically segregated school, was combined with the Port St. Joe High School shark mascot during the integration of Port St. Joe’s Schools in the early 1970s.

Washington High School was then partially demolished, but its gymnasium, which has served as a hub for gatherings, meetings, festivities and summer camps for nearly a century, remained intact, which is where Arreguin said he found inspiration for the central figure of the camp’s mural.

Painted between the two animals in striking black and white is David Jones, Washington High School’s basketball coach during the time of desegregation and the namesake of the preserved Washington High Gym.

“I had these two elements, and I wanted to

see how we could combine these two different environments,” Arreguin said. “How can you combine those things together? A tiger is from the jungle, and a shark is from the ocean.”

“... I asked who the person this building (the gymnasium) is named after... He was a part of why a lot of the older people in this community learned discipline, and he was a pillar of this community. Combining these different elements, these two mascots, has a very human element to it. There’s a face to that humanity.”

The camp’s third and fourth graders also worked on a mural with Arreguin, this one depicting the faces of some of the campers themselves, surrounded by colorful shapes inspired by their own drawings.

CareerSource special project coordinator Lianna Sagins said she and other camp organizers hope the murals can serve as a lasting physical legacy for the children who took part in the summer camp this year and who call Port St. Joe home.

“Every kid, third to eighth grade, had a hand in these murals,” she said.



A school bus blocks the view of Washington High School's new mural before it was revealed Thursday afternoon. [WENDY WEITZEL | THE STAR]



Campers with the CareerSource summer camp cheer as the mural is unveiled. [WENDY WEITZEL | THE STAR]



The mural depicts the history behind Port St. Joe’s Tiger Shark mascot. [WENDY WEITZEL | THE STAR]



Children wait in line for snow cones following the mural's unveiling. [WENDY WEITZEL | THE STAR]

BUSINESS

Locos Raw opens ceviche bar



Quatro Locos Tacos and Cantina in Port St. Joe has expanded their business to include Locos Raw, a ceviche bar, which they celebrated with a ribbon cutting Friday. For more information about Locos Raw and their offerings, visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/QuatroLocosPSJ/>. [GULF COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE]

Job training program to accept applicants in coming week

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A job training program, funded by a \$199,970 grant obtained from the EPA, is set to begin accepting applicants for its second cohort in the coming days.

The program, which will focus on training locals in environmental fields, aims to help create a qualified workforce that can be tapped to address widespread pollution and redevelopment issues in Port St. Joe, particularly North Port St. Joe. It is tuition-free, and there is no application fee.

There will be a mandatory orientation for applicants on August 3 at CareerSource, located at 307 Peters Street in Port St. Joe. The orientation is free and open to any applicant who is aged 18 or older.

It will run for six weeks from 7:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. EDT Monday through Friday.

The program will be accepting 10 to 15 applicants for the second round of trainings, but

additional rounds will be opened in the coming months.

The grant funding the job training is one of three that have been obtained by Pioneer Bay CDC from the EPA.

Pioneer Bay, a non-profit working towards North Port St. Joe's redevelopment goals, received the first grant, a \$200,000 community problem solving grant, in late 2021. It will be used to kick start a project aimed at improving unsafe housing conditions in the community.

The third grant, which was announced last summer, provides nearly half a million dollars in funding that will be used to conduct 16 phase one environmental site assessments, followed by eight phase two assessments, and the creation of eight cleanup plans.

The training is scheduled to officially begin on August 13.

For more information about the job training program or the grants, contact Pioneer Bay CDC at 850-227-5662.

Classes and certifications offered in training

- OSHA HAZWOPER 40h
- OSHA 30h General Industry
- GIS Drainage+Infrastructure
- Survey Mapping
- Stormwater/Water/Wastewater
- Field Trips
- HAZMAT Waste
- Leas, Asbestos and Mold
- Phase I and II Site Assessment

How consumers can spread the word about local businesses

Special to the Star

Thriving small businesses are vital to strong local economies. According to the Small Business Administration, small businesses contribute roughly 65 percent of all new jobs, while a report from the Congressional Research Service indicated that firms with between 20 and 499 employees had the best job creation record of any size company. That's a significant feather

in the cap of small businesses, as the jobs such firms create help to build thriving local economies that benefit from the tax revenue generated through employment and its ripple effects, such as the greater buying power that being employed creates.

With so much to gain from a thriving small business sector, local residents can help to spread the word about small businesses in their communities. A handful of

simple and effective strategies can help to promote local businesses, and each can potentially benefit consumers and communities.

- **Take to social media.** Though it certainly has its detractors, social media remains wildly popular. An April 2023 report from Global WebIndex indicated 60 percent of the world's population uses social media, and the daily average usage is two hours and 24 minutes. Data from Meta indicates that 83 percent of Instagram users discover new brands while using the platform. Such reports illustrate how effective positive reviews and references to small local businesses can be. Consumers won't need much time to share a story about a great local business on their social media accounts, but that small investment of time can pay big dividends for those companies.
- **Share experiences through word-of-mouth.** Word-of-mouth marketing still works, and consumers can play an important role in ensuring that it benefits local businesses. According to the marketing so-

lution experts at Hibü, word-of-mouth marketing remains the most popular way to recommend a business. Consumers trust what others say about a business, so positive experiences with a local firm can be shared with family, friends and neighbors looking for similar services.

- **Review the business online.** Review Trackers reports that more than 81 percent of consumers are likely to visit Google Reviews prior to visiting a business. That's a testament to the value of online review aggregators. After a positive experience with a local business, consumers can visit Google Reviews or another online review aggregator like Yelp and share the details of their encounter. Chances are strong the review will be read and compel others to patronize the business.

A successful small business sector can have a profound impact on local communities. Consumers have an important role to play in the creation of a thriving small business community.



DEMOCRAT PARTY OF GULF COUNTY

Please come join us!
Meetings The 2nd Monday of the month at 6:30pm
The St. Joe Garden Club 216 Eighth St., Port St. Joe, FL
Information: (850) 229- 6735



"Somewhere inside of all of us is the power to change the world."
-ROALD DAHL-

WWW.GULFCOUNTYDEMOCRATS.ORG

STATE NEWS

State reaches settlement in Medicaid class action

Jim Saunders
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — The state Agency for Health Care Administration has reached a settlement in a class-action lawsuit that is expected to lead to the Medicaid program providing incontinence supplies to adults with disabilities, according to court documents.

Lawyers for the state, two women with disabilities and the advocacy group Disability Rights Florida last week asked a federal judge to approve the settlement and put the lawsuit on hold while the Agency for Health Care Administration moves forward with a rule-making process. The lawsuit would be dismissed if the rule-making process results in incontinence supplies being provided.

“The central thrust of the agreement is that AHCA (the Agency for Health Care Administration) agrees to engage in rule-making with the intention of amending its policies and any other administrative rules necessary such that coverage will be extended to medically-necessary incontinence supplies for Medicaid State Plan recipients age 21 years and older,” said the motion filed Thursday in Jacksonville.

The lawsuit, filed in July 2022, alleged the Medicaid program violated federal laws by denying coverage of incontinence supplies to adults with disabilities. The lawsuit was filed on behalf of Duval County resident Blanca

Meza and St. Johns County resident Destiny Belanger, who are incontinent and unable to care for themselves. Disability Rights Florida also is a plaintiff.

U.S. District Judge Marcia Morales Howard on March 27 certified the case as a class action. Morales Howard’s decision cited one estimate that at least 480 Medicaid beneficiaries a year turn 21 and lose coverage for incontinence supplies that they received as children. The state provides the supplies, such as briefs, diapers and underpads, for Medicaid beneficiaries under age 21 and for certain adults, including people in nursing homes.

During an appearance before a Senate committee in April, AHCA Secretary Jason Weida said the agency did not believe providing incontinence supplies was required by the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, which oversees Medicaid regulations. But he also indicated AHCA had discussed the possibility of changing the policy.

“I can tell you that from lawsuits in the past when we have been sued and we’re in the middle of litigation, sometimes we decide to change a policy which would essentially give the plaintiffs some or all of what they wanted, and sometimes those lawsuits tend to become moot or just go away,” Weida, an attorney, told the Senate committee. “I can’t tell you exactly how we’re going to shake out on that right now. But what I can tell you is that we’re

looking at it not just from a litigation strategy of how we’re going to defend ourselves, but also from a perspective of, is it the right thing to do? And if we ultimately decide that it is the right thing to do, we’ll do it.”

The motion filed Thursday said the agreement came after informal talks and settlement discussions through a mediator.

The lawsuit alleged that the state’s policy on incontinence supplies violated federal Medicaid law and laws including the Americans with Disabilities Act. It said the state stopped providing the supplies to Meza and Belanger after they turned 21, though they are incontinent and unable to care for themselves.

As an example of their disabilities, the lawsuit said Meza “is diagnosed with spastic quadriplegic cerebral palsy, muscle spasticity, neuromuscular scoliosis and partial epilepsy.”

“Plaintiffs are medically fragile adults each with bladder and bowel incontinence,” the lawsuit said. “As low-income Florida residents with significant disabilities, they receive their health services through Florida’s Medicaid program. Plaintiffs’ physicians have prescribed certain incontinence supplies, including briefs and underpads, as medically necessary to treat plaintiffs’ incontinence, keep their skin dry and clean, prevent skin breakdowns and infections and maintain their ability to live in the community.”

ATTENTION RESIDENTS OF GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA

HURRICANE HOUSING RECOVERY PROGRAM (HHRP) FUNDING

Gulf County has committed funding (\$1,820,000.00) from the Florida Housing Finance Corporation HHRP funds to provide Housing Purchase Assistance for approved **Extremely Low, Very Low, and Low-income** single-family housing units, effected by Hurricane Michael, throughout Gulf County. Applications will be accepted only for applicants that were residents of Gulf County when Hurricane “Michael” came in on 10-10-2018 and will utilize the HHRP funding to live in **Gulf County**.

Applications for the HHRP Program are available beginning on July 31, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. until August 25, 2023, at 4:00 p.m., E.T. Incomplete applications will not be certified as complete until all required documentation is received. For additional information or to see if you qualify, contact Lawrence Chafin at 850-227-3838. The hours of operations for HHRP applications are Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and Friday 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., E.T.

Roberson and Associates, PA
116A Sailors Cove Drive
Port St. Joe, FL 32456

Additionally, the applications will be available online on the County’s website starting July 20, 2023, at http://www.gulfcounty-fl.gov/county_government/ship or you may request an application or additional information by contacting Lawrence Chafin at 850-227-3838. **Upon completion, applications must be submitted to Lawrence Chafin, at the address above. Only completed applications will be accepted. BY APPOINTMENT ONLY!**

Gulf County is an Equal Opportunity Employer, Handi-capped Accessible and Fair Housing Jurisdiction.
July 27, 2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Commission of the City of Port St. Joe, Florida, at its Regular Meeting on the 15th day of August, 2023, at 12 Noon EDT, in the regular Commission Chamber at the Ward Ridge Building, 2775 Garrison Avenue, Port St. Joe, Florida, will have the 2 nd reading and consideration for final adoption an Ordinance with the following title:

ORDINANCE NO. 602
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA ESTABLISHING A PARKING ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY; PROVIDING THE AUTHORITY TO DO SO; PROVIDING WHAT CONSTITUTES A PARKING VIOLATION; PROVIDING FINES/PENALTIES; PROVIDING ENFORCEMENT; PROVIDING FOR THE SEGREGATION OF FINES/PENALTIES COLLECTED AND THE LIMITS ON THE EXPENDITURE OF THOSE FUNDS; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Copies of the Ordinance are available for public inspection at City of Port St. Joe City Hall, located at 305 Cecil G. Costin, Sr., Blvd., Port St. Joe, Florida.

Interested persons may attend and be heard at the public hearing or provide comments in writing to the City Commissioners, City of Port St. Joe City Hall, 305 Cecil G. Costin, Sr., Blvd, Port St. Joe, Florida. Transactions of the public hearing will not be recorded. Persons wishing to appeal any decision made during the hearing will need a record of the proceeding and should ensure a verbatim record is made, including the testimony on which the appeal is based. Any person who wishes to attend and requires assistance may call the City Clerk’s Office at (850) 229-8261.

CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA

BY: S/
Rex Buzzett
Mayor-Commissioner

Attest: S/
Charlotte M. Pierce, City Clerk

Publish One Time: Thursday, July 27, 2023, in the Legal Section of the Star.
July 27, 2023

Texas case eyed in fight over Florida gun law

Jim Saunders
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — A pending U.S. Supreme Court case could help decide the fate of a Florida law that prevents sales of rifles and other long guns to people under age 21.

The 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Friday told attorneys for the National Rifle Association and the state that they should wait to file briefs about the constitutionality of the Florida law until after the U.S. Supreme Court rules in a Texas gun case.

At a minimum, that means the Atlanta-based appeals court likely will not rule on the Florida law until at least sometime in 2024 — more than six years after the age restriction was passed following the February 2018 mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland.

The underlying details of the Florida and Texas cases are different: The Texas case involves a challenge to the constitutionality of a federal law that has barred gun possession by people under domestic-violence restraining orders. The U.S. Department of Justice took the case to the Supreme Court in March after the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said the law violated Second Amendment rights.

But the Texas and Florida cases share key questions about how to carry out a 2022 U.S. Supreme Court opinion in a case known as New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen, which said gun laws must be “consistent with this nation’s historical tradition of firearm regulation.”

The Supreme Court on June 30 agreed to hear the Texas case, though it has not scheduled arguments. The full 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said July 14 it would hear the Florida case, after a three-judge panel had earlier upheld the age restriction.

Florida lawmakers passed the restriction after Nikolas Cruz, who was 19 at the time, used an AR-15 rifle to kill 17 students and staff members and injure 17 others at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Federal law already prohibited the sale of handguns to people under 21.

The NRA quickly challenged the Florida law, arguing it violated the Second Amendment. Chief U.S. District Judge Mark Walker rejected the challenge in 2021, ruling that previous court opinions have given states leeway to impose Second Amendment restrictions in some instances.

The case then went to the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, where the three-judge

panel on March 9 upheld the law and said it is consistent with the historical tradition of firearm regulation. In part, the panel pointed to age restrictions since the Reconstruction era. It also said the law allows people under 21 to possess or use guns, such as guns they receive as gifts.

“To begin with, the act is no more restrictive than its forebearers: While the act burdens 18-to-20-year-olds’ rights to buy firearms, unlike its Reconstruction era analogues, it still leaves 18-to-20-year-olds free to acquire any type of firearm — including ‘the quintessential self-defense weapon,’ the handgun ... in legal ways, as long as they don’t buy the weapons,” Judge Robin Rosenbaum wrote in an opinion joined fully by Judge Anne Conway. Judge Charles Wilson wrote a short concurring opinion.

The full appeals court this month did not explain its decision to take up the case — a move known as hearing the case “en banc.” But in doing so, it vacated the panel ruling.

The one-page document issued to attorneys Friday indicated the appeals court wants to see how the Supreme Court rules in the Texas case. The document said the NRA’s brief for en banc consideration is due 40 days after the Supreme Court rules, with the state then given 30 days to file its brief.

In the Texas case, Zackey Rahimi challenged a 1994 federal law that prevented gun possession by people under domestic-violence restraining orders. Pointing to the Supreme Court’s New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen decision, the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said the law was unconstitutional.

“The government fails to demonstrate that (the law’s) restriction of the Second Amendment right fits within our nation’s historical tradition of firearm regulation,” the ruling said.

In a brief asking the Supreme Court to take up the case, Justice Department attorneys pointed to what they called the 5th Circuit’s “misinterpretation” of the New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen decision.

“The Fifth Circuit treated even minor and immaterial distinctions between historical laws and their modern counterparts as a sufficient reason to find the modern laws unconstitutional,” the brief said. “If that approach were applied across the board, few modern statutes would survive judicial review; most modern gun regulations, after all, differ from their historical forbears in at least some ways.”

NOTICE OF PROPOSED TAX INCREASE

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

Last year’s property tax levy

- A. Initially proposed tax levy \$18,653,669
- B. Less tax reductions due to Value Adjustment Board and other assessment charges \$13,531
- C. Actual property tax levy \$18,640,138

This year’s proposed tax levy \$22,869,966

A portion of the tax levy is required under state law in order for the school board to receive \$ 3,292,610 in state education grants. The required portion has increased by 15.92 percent, and represents approximately six tenths of the total proposed taxes.

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

All concerned citizens are invited to a public hearing on the tax increase to be held on:

August 1st, 2023

5:15 PM

at

Gulf County School Board

150 Middle School Road, Port St. Joe, FL 32456

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

NOTICE OF TAX FOR SCHOOL CAPITAL OUTLAY

The Gulf County School Board will soon consider a measure to continue to impose a 0.789 mill property tax for capital outlay projects listed herein.

This tax is in addition to the school board’s proposed tax of 4.9380 mills for operating expenses and is proposed solely at the discretion of the school board.

****THE PROPOSED COMBINED SCHOOL BOARD TAX INCREASE FOR BOTH OPERATING EXPENSES AND CAPITAL OUTLAY IS SHOW ON THE ADJACENT NOTICE**

The capital outlay tax will generate approximately \$3,024,730 to be used for the following projects:

CONSTRUCTION AND REMODELING

- Multipurpose Buildings – Port St Joe High, Wewahitchka High

MAINTENANCE, RENOVATION, AND REPAIR

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

MOTOR VEHICLE PURCHASES

- Purchase of maintenance vehicle

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

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

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

- Insurance premiums on district facilities

All concerned citizens are invited to a public hearing to be held on:

August 1st, 2023

5:15 PM

at

Gulf County School Board Room

150 Middle School Road, Port St. Joe, FL 32456

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

BUDGET SUMMARY

THE PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET EXPENDITURES OF GULF COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ARE 5.5 PERCENT MORE THAN LAST YEAR’S TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES.

FISCAL YEAR 2023 - 2024

PROPOSED MILLAGE LEVIES SUBJECT TO 10-MILL CAP:

Required Local Effort (Including Prior Period Funding Adjustment Millage)	3.1900	Additional Millage Not to Exceed 4 Years (Operating)	1.0000		
Local Capital Improvement(Capital Outlay)	0.7890			TOTAL MILLAGE:	5.7270
Basic Discretionary Operating	0.7480				

ESTIMATED REVENUES:	GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL REVENUE	DEBT SERVICE	CAPITAL PROJECTS	TOTAL ALL FUNDS
Federal Sources	85,000.00	5,587,152.18			5,672,152.18
State Sources	3,292,610.00	8,500.00		117,500.00	3,418,610.00
Local Sources	19,251,697.00	220,100.00		3,024,750.00	22,496,547.00
TOTAL SOURCES	22,629,307.00	5,815,752.18	0.00	3,142,250.00	31,587,309.18
Transfers In	848,414.86	300,000.00		0.00	1,148,414.86
Fund Balance (July 1, 2023)	4,445,536.77	114,446.32	0.00	1,272,490.69	5,832,473.78
TOTAL REVENUES & BALANCES	27,923,258.63	6,230,198.50	0.00	4,414,740.69	38,568,197.82
EXPENDITURES					
Instruction	12,796,475.20	2,977,077.17			15,773,552.37
Pupil Personnel Service	1,181,119.63	489,021.52			1,670,141.15
Instruction Media Service	306,801.00				306,801.00
Instructional & Curriculum	209,421.00	129,182.50			338,603.50
Instructional Staff Training	455,408.00	441,899.15			897,307.15
Instruction Related Technology	57,337.00	30,341.00			87,678.00
Board of Education	277,524.00				277,524.00
General Administration	1,006,657.00	243,243.84			1,249,900.84
School Administration	1,187,745.00	4,000.00			1,191,745.00
Facilities Acquisition & Construction				3,410,233.35	3,410,233.35
Fiscal Service	434,634.00				434,634.00
Food Service		1,308,631.94			1,308,631.94
Central Service	354,865.00				354,865.00
Pupil Transportation Service	1,582,886.00	69,195.28			1,652,081.28
Operation of Plant	2,187,807.00				2,187,807.00
Maintenance of Plant	3,420,905.81	429,559.78			3,850,465.59
Administrative Technology Services	99,788.00				99,788.00
Community Service					0.00
Debt Services	35,500.00				35,500.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	25,594,873.64	6,122,152.18	0.00	3,410,233.35	35,127,259.17
Transfers Out	300,000.00	0.00	0.00	848,414.86	1,148,414.86
Fund Balance (June 30, 2024)	2,028,384.99	108,046.32	0.00	156,092.48	2,292,523.79
Total Expenditures, Transfers & Balances	27,923,258.63	6,230,198.50	0.00	4,414,740.69	38,568,197.82

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

SCENE AROUND

Each week, The Star’s Scene Around photo feature page provides readers a forum to showcase the beauty of nature, and the excitement of the varied people, places and events that define life in Gulf County.

Please email your Scene Around photographs - with a short description and the name of the photographer - to Star Editor Wendy Weitzel at wweitzel@nevespublishing.com. Thank you.



Summer? It's all about the turtles! [BILL FAUTH | CONTRIBUTED]



WindMark Beach [JENNIFER RHODES | CONTRIBUTED]



Successful fishing trip [MICHAEL NICHOLSON | CONTRIBUTED]

PET OF THE WEEK

St. Joseph Bay Humane Society



Hi, I'm Bunny! I am a 2 year old 45 pound Husky mix. I am the sweetest dog you will ever meet! I am dog friendly and love cats but want to play a little too rough with them. I love to run around outside and play with toys. I have an old leg injury that causes me to walk with an adorable limp. I would make a wonderful addition to almost any home. Come by the shelter to meet me and all of my friends! Have a great weekend! If you are unable to adopt at this time, perhaps you could foster or make a Donation. All pets adopted from SJBHS will be current on vaccinations and spayed/neutered. Please do not hesitate to email info@sjbhumanesociety.org or call the St. Joseph Bay Humane Society at 850-227-1103.

www.sjbhumanesociety.org



Coastal Realty Group

www.gulfcoastalproperties.com



Summertime snacks [JUDIE MCCORMICK | CONTRIBUTED]

CELEBRATE COMMUNITY



Gulf Shores Care Center staff and volunteers from the FL— GA Harley Davidson Distinguished Ladies made the event possible. [GULF SHORES CARE CENTER | CONTRIBUTED]

Port St. Joe nursing home hosts pageant for residents

Wendy Weitzel
Wweitzel@nevespublishing.com

Margaret Cain has accomplished a lot in her 99 years, but last month, she was able to cross one more thing off her bucket list.

Cain, a resident of Gulf Shores Care Center who will turn 100 later this year, was crowned as a pageant queen.

Gulf Shores hosted their first ever Golden Girls Senior Pageant for their residents on June 24, complete with a stage, bright pink decorations, evening gowns and a crown for the winner.

The idea for the pageant, which came from Gulf Shores staff member Melissa Felder, was aimed at providing some of the nursing home’s senior residents with the opportunity to celebrate each other.

“Felder has been a member of the FL- GA Harley Davidson Social Group and a dedicated caregiver and employee at Gulf Shores Care Center for 18 years,” wrote the nursing home in a press release. “She has a passion to give back to her patients and work and do her part to improve quality of life for the residents that she cares for daily.”

Felder enlisted the help of the FL— GA Harley Davidson Distinguished Ladies, a social group established in 2016 as a result of their husbands or significant others’ love of motorcycles.

“While the ladies love riding with their com-

panions, they all agreed that there is a need to do more in local areas. They wanted to use their time and resources to give back to their communities,” the release said. “Their mission is to serve as a social group dedicated to creating an environment of love, unity, and support for one another through community.”

Together, they spent countless hours planning and organizing the event for the ladies at the facility by obtaining evening gowns, jewelry, accessories, food, and tending to each detail to ensure that these ladies who sometimes feel forgotten in long term care had a very special moment with their families, friends and the community.

Approximately 20 ladies were pampered by the group and the staff in preparation for the pageant and then escorted to the beautifully decorated dining room where they participated in a special ceremony where each was recognized while enjoying music, fellowship and food with staff, families and friends.

After being declared the pageant queen, Cain was bestowed a beautiful jeweled crown to wear for the event.

“It was a very special day for the residents and the families,” said the nursing home. “Gulf Shores Care and Rehab is thankful to all of those who worked so hard to make this day special for these patients.”



Margaret Cain was crowned the queen of the Golden Girls Senior Pageant. [GULF SHORES CARE CENTER | CONTRIBUTED]



The nursing home’s dining room was decorated for the event. [GULF SHORES CARE CENTER | CONTRIBUTED]



Friends and family members of the pageant participants filled chairs in the common room. [GULF SHORES CARE CENTER | CONTRIBUTED]



FLORIDA HEALTH
Gulf County

A COMMUNITY’S SERVICE AGENCIES ARE ONLY AS SUCCESSFUL
AS THE BUSINESSES AND PEOPLE WHO SUPPORT THEM.



DERMATOLOGY
SPECIALISTS
of Florida



CELEBRATE
COMMUNITY



NEVESmedia

COMMUNITY

August programming at Gulf County’s libraries

Staff Report

Both public libraries in Gulf County have a variety of fun and educational events planned for people of all ages this month.

Library cards are free for all residents of Gulf, Bay and Liberty Counties. Twenty library materials can be checked out at a time. An additional five eBooks and eAudiobooks can be checked out through the Libby app. First download the Libby app to your device, select Panhandle Library Access Network, and then Northwest Regional Library System as your location. All you need is a library card and pin number.

See a full list of the libraries’ programming below.

CORINNE COSTIN GIBSON MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY IN PORT ST. JOE

August 5 @ 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. EDT
Seaside Stitchers
The library offers a warm, seaside welcome to anyone who is interested in needle arts. Bring your latest project and join the library as they knit together a more vibrant community!

August 11 @ 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. EDT
Writers Group
Find inspiration, share a sense of accountability and meet other writers at this informal discussion-based writing group. Meet on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the Month at 10:30 a.m. E.T. at the Corinne Costin Gibson Memorial Public Library in Port St. Joe.

August 12 @ 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. EDT
Seaside Stitchers
The library offers a warm, seaside welcome to anyone who is interested in needle arts. Bring your latest project and join the library as they knit together a more vibrant community!

August 19 @ 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. EDT
Seaside Stitchers
The library offers a warm, seaside welcome to anyone who is interested in needle arts. Bring your latest project and join the library as they knit together a more vibrant community!

August 25 @ 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. EDT
Writers Group
Find inspiration, share a sense of accountability and meet other writers at this informal discussion-based writing group. Meet on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the Month at 10:30 a.m. E.T. at the Corinne Costin Gibson Memorial Public Library in Port St. Joe.

August 26 @ 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. EDT
Seaside Stitchers
The library offers a warm, seaside welcome to anyone who is interested in needle arts. Bring your latest project and join the library as they knit together a more vibrant community!

CHARLES WHITEHEAD LIBRARY IN WEWAHITCHKA

August 4 @ 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. CDT
Family Game Day
Enjoy an afternoon of fun at the library before the kids return to school. Take turns playing the Nintendo Switch, using STEM technology, or playing board games. Parents must be



present for electronic games. Snacks provided. Progra.m. geared for ages 6 - 14.

August 4 @ 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. CDT
Lego Club
Join the library’s new Lego Club! Use your engineering skills to build unique challenges followed by free play. Program geared for ages 4 - 12.

August 8 @ 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. CDT
Mason Jar Luminaries
Jars, decorative stones, and tea candles will be provided to create a decorative and functional luminary for your home. Progra.m. geared for adults.

August 10 @ 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. CDT
Friends of the Wewahitchka Library Monthly Meeting
Meetings are open to all members. If you are not yet a member, but are interested in supporting the library through advocacy, volunteer work and fundraising, the library invites you to join us. Printable Membership Form

August 11 @ 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. CDT
Lego Club
Join the library’s new Lego Club! Use your engineering skills to build unique challenges followed by free play. Program geared for ages 4 - 12.

August 18 @ 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. CDT
Lego Club
Join the library’s new Lego Club! Use your engineering skills to build unique challenges followed by free play. Program geared for ages 4 - 12.

August 25 @ 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. CDT
Lego Club
Join the library’s new Lego Club! Use your engineering skills to build unique challenges followed by free play. Program geared for ages 4 - 12.

August 29 @ 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. CDT
Busy Bee Readers
August: Not a Happy Family by Shari Lapena
Copies of books are available at the Wewahitchka Library. New members are always welcome!



Volunteers with local fire departments receive hands-on training from Gulf County EMS. [GULF COUNTY EMS]



First responders gather to learn about ambulance operations. [SGFR]

Emergency responders train on ambulance operations

Special to the Star

First responders and emergency service providers from around Gulf County trained together last week, focusing on ambulance operations and patient care.

Members of Gulf County Beaches Volunteer Fire Department, Wewahitchka Volunteer Fire Department, Highland View Volunteer Fire Department, and South Gulf Fire Rescue came one step closer to becoming first responders for local communities.

“The professionals from Gulf County EMS not only instructed us in the classroom, we also had ‘hands on’ training,” said SGFR in a Facebook post. “This county is blessed with such dedicated personnel out on the front lines. Strong work, ladies and gentlemen!”

SOCIETY

\$60,000 to support local GCSC scholarship campaign

Special to the Star

The Gulf Coast State College Foundation has received a donation from Dr. Abel De La Rosa, a member of the GCSC District Board of Trustees, and Family of Port St. Joe, FL in the amount of \$30,000.

In support of Dr. De La Rosa and Gulf County, the Alfred I. duPont Foundation has matched this gift for a total of \$60,000. These gifts will support the Gulf Coast Guarantee’s mission of assisting high school students graduating from the College’s service district with their tuition and fees with the hope of

allowing more students from Gulf County the opportunity of education.

“Kristan and I extend our heartfelt gratitude to the A.I. duPont Foundation for their incredible generosity and unwavering support of the Gulf Coast Guarantee Program. Their commitment to matching our gift amplifies it’s impact, opening doors of opportunity for deserving Gulf County high school graduates,” said De La Rosa.

The Gulf Coast Guarantee is the current scholarship campaign led by the GCSC Foundation. The Gulf Coast Guarantee is unlike any other in the state of Florida, and among only four other scholarships like it across the nation. It is responsible for a 25% increase in full-time freshmen enrollment at GCSC and has been awarded to over 1,000 students in just the first two years.

“The GCSC Foundation values each of our partners and appreciates all they do for the students of Gulf Coast State College”, said Dr. Sean Preston, GCSC Foundation executive director. “There is no better example of this than when two of our valued benefactors combine forces for good. We are pleased to announce a combined gift from the De La Rosa Family and the A.I. duPont Foundation in support of Gulf County high school graduates.”



MARRIAGES

The Star has begun running listings of those who have been issued marriage licenses in Gulf County. The information comes from the Gulf County Clerk of Courts office, and indicates when the marriage ceremony took place, unless not indicated on the license, in which case it is listed under the date the license was issued.

- July 18**
• Royce Michael Chancey Jr. and Katrina Lynn Carter
- July 19**
• Megan Elizabeth Shea and Stephen Chadwick Jenkins
• Jeffery Carl Hill and Rita Kate Mathis



Real Estate Picks

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Eli Duarte
Cell: 850.227.5152
Marcell Duarte
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FOOD

Jamming on the great Southern muscadine



Stephanie Hill-Frazier
Guest Columnist

"Muscadines, muscadines, their overture of sweetness in the mouth and brain testifying to the Holy Trinity of Sun, Rain, and Dirt..."
— James Tighe

Muscadines are a distinctly Southern crop that, with their thick skins and sweet, seedy insides, have been titillating the palates of birds, woodland creatures, and lucky humans who stumbled across them in the woods for centuries. Muscadines are the only fruit crop that is native to the South, I heard Southern Living’s “Grumpy Gardener” say. Even Florida’s amazing oranges are not native to our soil. But the hardy

muscadine has been climbing trees and fence posts across our warm Southern states long before the U.S. was a country. The popularity of muscadines has grown in recent years, with the rise in popularity of muscadine wine, muscadine juice, and the like. There are now over 30 cultivars of these unique native grapes. Muscadines are reportedly full of even more antioxidants than blueberries have, and their resvera-

trol content is as good if not better than the seedless table grapes you find in the grocery store, which is another reason for the renewed interest in this bountiful berry. (Yes, grapes are berries!)

Southern chefs frequently use these humble orbs on the menu of the most exclusive restaurants during the harvest season, recognizing not only their sweet, smooth flavor, but also their roots in Southern culinary tradition. They make jellies, relishes, and other concoctions with them, and serve customers the cold, sweet wine, perfect for sipping while sitting on the porch or patio on a hot summer day.

My grandfather had his own little grape arbor on his property on St. Joe Beach, on Ponce de Leon Street, where he owned several acres of land. He grew a specific kind of muscadine, the scuppernong. The scuppernong is one of the first muscadines known to us in the southeast U.S. In fact, the “mother vine” which grows on Roanoke Island, North Carolina, is believed to be the oldest cultivated grapevine in the world, at over 400 years of age. It is a scuppernong vine. Talk about a survivor.

Granddaddy loved to learn how to do new things; a retired GE

engineer, he constantly researched new things and tried new projects. When he became interested in growing scuppernongs, he prepared the ground behind his house, built the arbor in just the right way, and got the scuppernong plants from ... I don’t know where. But within several years’ time, he had fat, juicy scuppernongs growing plentifully on the vines. He began making wine with them, as well as jelly and juice. I wasn’t allowed to try the wine, but I can still picture his small winemaking operation, which he had set up in Grammy’s laundry room.

Decades later, my husband and I visited a muscadine farm with my husband in a little town called Winnsboro, Texas, where a gentleman had planted a beautiful muscadine vineyard. He had several varieties of both black and bronze grapes, and we picked both kinds as we walked around the vineyard with the man and his beautiful turkeys, which he told us he keeps in the vineyard to eat the grasshoppers which would otherwise damage the grapes. The turkeys were so friendly and quite handsome!

The man gave us a bottle of his homemade muscadine wine to take with us, which we

enjoyed trying later on at home. It was smooth and sweet, unlike many wines we’ve tried. Because it is so sweet, it lends itself to making jelly, which I did; I made muscadine wine pepper jelly, which is a delicious treat, perfect for glazing meats or pouring over a softened block of cream cheese to enjoy with crackers. If you get your hands on some muscadine wine, try your hand at making some, too. Pepper jelly is beautiful to look at, and makes nice Christmas gifts to share with friends and neighbors.

Enjoy!
“Oh, the intoxicating taste of the muscadine! Somewhere between summer and fall, this fruit offers the best of both worlds with a flavor that no man can replicate.” — Rebecca Bearden, Southeast Farm Press

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



Muscadine jelly, ready to share [STEPHANIE HILL-FRAZIER]

Muscadine wine pepper jelly

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup minced seeded red bell pepper
- 2 tablespoons minced seeded jalapeño peppers
- 3 dried hot chile peppers, halved lengthwise
- 1 1/2 cups white sweet muscadine wine
- 3 tablespoons lemon juice
- 3 1/2 cups sugar
- 1 pouch liquid pectin (3 ounces)

Method:

1. Prepare canner, jar and lids (if you’re not familiar with this process, check out freshpreserving.com for full details)
2. In a large stainless steel saucepan, combine lemon juice with wine, then whisk in the sugar until it is completely dissolved. Add the various peppers.
3. Bring to a full rolling boil over high heat, stirring nearly constantly. Stir in pectin.
4. Hold at a full boil for two minutes, then remove from heat and immediately skim foam off the top of the mixture.
5. Quickly pour the hot jelly into the hot jars, leaving 1/4 inch headspace. Wipe the rim, then screw band down firmly.
6. Place jars in canner, making sure the jars are completely covered. Bring to a boil and then set timer for 10 minutes.
7. Remove canner’s lid, then remove jars and cool.



The muscadines of the Winnsboro, Texas vineyard [STEPHANIE HILL-FRAZIER]



HOME AND GARDEN

Small renovations that can make a big impact

Special to the Star

Home renovations provide a host of benefits. Such projects can increase resale value and improve on the safety, aesthetics and functionality of a home.

Some homeowners may employ the mantra "go big or go home" when they embark on home improvements, thinking that only the largest renovations produce noticeable change. But that's not the case. Various smaller renovations can provide a lot of bang for homeowners' bucks as well.

• **Countertops (and hardware):** A complete kitchen overhaul may stretch some homeowners' budgets. However, changing an older countertop for a new material can provide the facelift a kitchen needs. And while changing the cabinets may be homeowners' ultimate goal, swapping hardware in dated finishes for newer handles and pulls can provide low-cost appeal.

• **Paint:** Painting a space is an inexpensive improvement that adds maximum impact. Paint can transform dark and drab rooms into bright and airy oases. Paint also can be used to create an accent wall or cozy nooks. Homeowners also can showcase their personalities with their choice of paint colors.

• **Lighting:** Homeowners should not underestimate what a change in lighting can do. When rooms or exterior spaces are illuminated, they

take on entirely new looks. It's worth it to invest in new lighting, whether it's a dramatic hanging light over the dining room table or task lighting in dim spaces.

• **Weatherproofing:** Improving windows, doors, weatherstripping, and insulation in a home can offer visual appeal and help homeowners save money. The initial investment may be significant, but those costs will pay off in energy savings. According to One Main Financial, space heating is the largest energy expense the average American homeowner has, accounting for around 45 percent of all energy costs.

• **Mudroom:** Turn an entryway into a more functional space with the addition of cabinets, benches or custom-designed storage options that perfectly fit the area. Cubbies and cabinets can corral shoes, umbrellas, hats, bags, and much more.

• **Accent updates:** Any space, whether it's inside or outside a home, can get a fresh look with new decorative accents. Invest in new throw pillows and even slipcovers for living room sofas. Use new tile or paint the brick on a fireplace in a den, then update the mantel with decorative displays. Purchase wall art that can bring different colors into a room. Change the cushions on deck furniture and buy color-coordinated planters.

These subtle changes will not cost as much as full-scale renovations, but they can still help homeowners transform their homes.



How to spot mold in your home



Special to the Star

Homes are safe havens and relaxing spaces for their residents. No one wants to imagine the place they call home putting their health in jeopardy, but that's precisely the case for people who live in homes where mold is present.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency notes that molds are not usually a problem indoors. However, when they are, molds produce allergens, irritants and potentially toxic substances. Molds can become problematic when spores land on wet or damp surfaces and begin growing. If inhaled, those spores can cause allergic reactions in people with asthma who have mold allergies. Even people without such allergies may suffer from irritated eyes, skin, nose, throat, or lungs due to exposure to mold. Mold also can affect the home itself, as the EPA notes that mold gradually destroys the things it grows on, potentially leading to costly remediation and renovation expenses.

Mold is sometimes visible in parts of a home. For example, mold problems in a bathroom may be recognizable when tiny black spots are present on surfaces that frequently get wet. Those areas may gradually expand from small spots and cover larger areas, such as windowsills and areas around the bathtub. Other signs indicating the presence of mold may be less recognizable though potentially just as harmful. That's one reason why it makes sense for

everyone to learn how to spot mold in a home.

• **Learn what mold looks like.** Not all molds are black. Some are white and look like thread, but they also can have a gray-brown or gray-green tint. When peeling old wallpaper, some people may notice orange, pink or purple growth on the newly exposed walls, and that's likely mold.

• **Identify problems with paint.** If paint is peeling, bubbling or cracking, it's likely indicative of a mold issue. In such instances, contact a mold remediation specialist rather than simply painting over the affected areas with a fresh coat of paint.

• **Conduct a smell test.** Most molds will emit a damp, musty odor. However, a lack of this distinct and unpleasant smell should not lead individuals to conclude they don't have a mold issue, as some molds do not produce an odor. In addition, the EPA notes that the smell of indoor molds can differ depending on the type of mold present in the home. Homeowners who have experienced mold issues in the past should not ignore a foul odor simply because it smells different from a previous infestation. Contact a mold remediation professional if you suspect an unpleasant smell could be a byproduct of mold.

Mold can be harmful to homes and humans. Anyone who suspects their home has a mold problem is urged to contact a remediation specialist as soon as possible.

Budget-friendly ways to freshen up your home's exterior

Special to the Star

As any homeowner knows, renovation projects tend to cost a lot of money. The average cost of a home renovation is difficult to gauge, as such endeavors run the gamut from complex projects like a kitchen overhaul to simpler ones like painting a room inside a home. Indeed, the National Association of the Remodeling Industry notes that scope is what drives the cost of a renovation project.

Though there might not be an "average cost" of a renovation project, homeowners can expect to spend thousands of dollars on projects that are not very small in scale. Navigating such an expense at a time when inflation remains high might be difficult for some homeowners looking to maintain the appearance of their home exteriors. However, there are many budget-friendly ways homeowners can tend to the exterior of their properties.

• **Power washing:** Power washing won't break the bank but it can revive the look of a home. Power washing removes dirt and grime from the siding of a home and a power washing can be used to clean porches, walkways and patios as well. Hardware chains like Home Depot and Lowes typically rent power washers, but homeowners who don't want to do it themselves can hire a professional for a few hundred dollars, if not less. Power washing after winter can be a good idea, as the elements can take a toll on a home's exterior. A good power washing before spring and summer entertaining season can thus give a home a fresh, clean look without

breaking the bank.

• **Furnished front porch:** A furnished front porch can serve as a welcome sign to neighbors and provide a great place to relax with a morning cup of coffee and a good book. Homeowners with a small porch won't need to bust their budgets to upgrade their front porch furnishings. Some small chairs with bright cushions, a small table and a rug underfoot can revamp an entryway at low cost.

• **Window box installation:** Installing window box planters is another cost-effective way to brighten up a home's exterior. Homeowners can hang window boxes outside windows on the front of their homes and then fill them with brightly colored flowers to add an inviting pop of color to their home exteriors. The experts at Better Homes & Gardens urge homeowners to take weight into consideration before buying window planters. Keep in mind that soil and developed plants can be heavy, so look for a sturdy box as well as one that has drainage holes.


• **Replace hardware:** Another simple way to freshen up a stale exterior is to replace hardware. Door knobs, knockers, house numbers, and even the mailbox can appear dated after a while. Replacing these items is inexpensive and quick but can have a profound impact on how the exterior of a home appears to residents and visitors.

Exterior renovations need not break the bank. Various simple and inexpensive tweaks can quickly revitalize the exterior of a home.



FAITH

The amazing gift of wisdom: Ask God, He helps!



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Adam White
Guest Columnist

In a world teeming with information and advice, finding genuine wisdom can be a daunting task. From ancient philosophers to modern self-help gurus, countless voices offer their insights, but how do we discern the truly profound from the merely superficial?

James 1:5, a timeless verse from the Bible, sheds light on this mystery, revealing that the quest for true wisdom begins with seeking and asking for God's guidance.

The digital age has ushered in an era of unprecedented access to knowledge. Yet, with so much information comes the challenge of discerning what is genuinely wise and beneficial.

Knowledge, while valuable, can sometimes be superficial, leading us astray if

See WHITE, Page 10B

OBITUARIES

"As long as there is love and memory, there is no true loss."
- Cassandra Clare

Diana “Dana” Dement Boyer

Diana “Dana” Dement Boyer died July 12 at her home at 834 Bryants Landing Road, Wewahitchka, Florida. Her husband, George was at her bedside, holding her hand when she departed this world. She seemed to be at peace with herself and the world. She was 76 years old.

Her father, Bobby Dement had just come home to Big Spring, Texas from the war, a decorated Marine and married her mother, Melba Corning Dement, who was recently crowned Miss Big Spring in the Beauty Contest. Right after they married, they moved with his sister, Margie and her husband, B.C., to Roswell, New Mexico to find jobs. Bobby went to work at Desmond Ford Company as the Body Shop Manager; and Melba was expecting their first child.

Dana was born on May 26, 1947, the first child of the couple. She was born at St. Mary’s Hospital in Roswell. Soon there were four more siblings born in Roswell—Marcy, Jay, Bobbie, and Cloys. Of course, they were part of the “Baby Boomers”! She stayed at home with her Mom until she was 6 and then she went to elementary school at Parkview Elementary and started at Middle School for the 7th grade. She was very active in all the school activities—she was in Honor Society and was the head Twirler with the band.

In the early ‘60s the family moved to Big Spring, Texas and she attended Runnels Jr. High and Big Spring Senior High School. She also gained another brother, John. After High School she met and married Michael Angerer and they had two daughters, Staci and Christi. He was in the Air Force and they lived for awhile in Kansas

but ended up in Mexico Beach, Florida. Dana lived there with her family while



the girls grew up. She worked at Cathy’s Hardware and became very involved in the community and government in Mexico Beach. She was elected as a City Commissioner and served for many years. Also served on many committees and community events.

The most important events of those years were the arrival of her grandchildren. The first grandson was Dustin who is Staci’s oldest son. Staci had another son, Zach, and Christie had moved to Detroit, Michigan and had two children, James and Joleigh. Dana loved spending all the time she could with her grandchildren.

Later she divorced and got a cottage at Mexico Beach. There, she met and married George Boyer, and went to work with him at his shop Boyer Signs. She was active in the community and government in Port Saint Joe also. And was an event planner, helping plan and hold several annual events in Port St. Joe.

She proved to be a perfect oldest sibling for all the rest—staying with Bobbie through her cancer therapies and surgery. And then with Marcy during her long Covid symptoms, as well as at the Celebration of Life for Marcy’s son Adam when he died in 2018. And she and

George had her brother Jay come for

awhile during his retirement. She was even in Mississippi with Marcy when her Mother died in 2006. She was always there!!

And we MUST mention her involvement in geneology with her sister, Bobbie who had worked on it for many years. She even sent for her DNA to be analyzed. And when she joined the website Family Search, she delightedly called and advised all the family of our famous connections!

Dana was preceded in death by her parents, Bobby and Melba, her brothers Jay and Cloys, one sister, Bobbie; and her nephew, Marcy’s son Adam. She leaves both her daughters,

Staci, (Ray) and children Zach and Dustin (Lindsey). and Christi (Troy) and her two children Jaymes and Joleigh. Also Dustin’s two children, who are Dana’s great grandchildren; also one sister, Marcy in Mississippi; one brother, John (Nikki) in Oklahoma and his three sons, Cline, Everett, and Jack; and her niece, Bobbie’s daughter, Sami Lynn Simpson. She also leaves many, many close friends, nieces, nephews, and cousins all across the country! She will be missed by everyone, far and near!

There will not be a formal ceremony, at Dana’s request. She will be cremated and the ashes scattered on Lockey Lake at Bryants Landing and Mexico Beach. However, we hope to have a celebration of life in her honor, possibly after the weather cools down. We will make an announcement later.

Condolences may be submitted at www.comforterfuneral-home.com.

Arrangements are entrusted to the caring staff of Comforter Funeral Home in Port St. Joe, FL.

Karl H. Bowen

After a long battle with cancer, Karl H. Bowen age 76, passed on from this world

Veronica; brother Ralph Bowen, and his parents Hansel and Martina Bowen.



surrounded by his family that he loved so dearly. Karl was the true example of what it meant to be a servant of God. His faith was strong, and his heart was pure. Karl served in the United States Airforce in 1965, and married the love of his life, Sherrie on August 29, 1969. They moved to Port St Joe in 1976. He was an active member of St Joseph’s Catholic Church, serving as a Eucharistic Minister, Men’s Club, Religious Ed Teacher, and Choir Member. He was also a dedicated employee of Coastal Joe Vacation Rentals for the past 15 years.

He was welcomed in to the Kingdom of Heaven by his infant daughter, Heather

Karl is survived by his devoted wife of 54 years, Sherrie Bowen; his adoring children, Christopher (Lee) Bowen of Panama City, Pamela (Dallas) Land of Temple, TX, and Mary (Scott) Burkett of Port St Joe; his precious grandchildren, Nevla Lopez, Jacob Tully, Monica Buval, Joshua Tully, Kaleigh Burkett, Lillie and Bella Mikes, and 3 Brothers: John, Frank, and Randy Bowen of Columbus, GA.

Condolences may be submitted at www.comforterfuneral-home.com.

Arrangements are entrusted to the caring staff of Comforter Funeral Home in Port St. Joe, Florida.



OUTDOORS

FWC issues executive order to close recreational harvest of red grouper in Gulf state waters

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

At its July meeting, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) issued an executive order to close recreational harvest of red grouper in state waters of the Gulf of Mexico, excluding state waters off Monroe County. The 2023 recreational season

for red grouper in Gulf state waters will close on July 21 and remain closed through the end of the year, consistent with the closure in Gulf federal waters.

Consistent state and federal recreational seasons for red grouper will help prevent quota overages and ensure future harvest opportunities.

For more information about Commission Meetings, including the July 2023 Commission meeting presentation, visit [MyFWC.com/Commission](https://myfwc.com/Commission) and click on “Commission Meetings.”

For current recreational red grouper regulations, visit [MyFWC.com/Marine](https://myfwc.com/Marine) and click on “Recreational Regulations” and “Grouper.” This page will be updated with the new season dates.

Catch of the week



Captain Pete Barwick swung through the Point South Marina in Port St. Joe last week to weigh this 75 pound Cobia caught while Red Snapper fishing in the morning.
[POINT SOUTH MARINA | CONTRIBUTED]

Create your native plant garden

Special to the Star

Gardening is a worthwhile endeavor that not only passes the time, but can be a form of exercise and relief from the daily grind. Gardens also provide ample opportunity to experiment, as individuals can produce everything from vegetables to bountiful blooms.

Recent years have witnessed a growing emphasis on eco-friendly gardening that aims to reduce reliance on chemical fertilizers and pesticides in an effort to protect the planet. One way to do so is to rely on native plants.

What are native plants?

Native plants are indigenous to particular regions. The National Wildlife Federation says native plants grow in habitats without human introduction or intervention. Native plants have formed symbiotic relationships with local wildlife over thousands of years, which the NWF notes makes them the most sustainable options. Native plants help the environment and thrive with little supplemental watering or chemical nutrients.

Natives vary by region

Native plants vary by region. In arid climates, certain succulents may be native because they don’t need much rainfall to thrive. In lush wetlands, succulents might be out of place.

Start native planting

The NWF offers native plants for 36 different states that can be shipped right to customers’ doors to help replenish native varieties. In addition, gardeners can visit local gardening centers to select native plants. Small and independently

owned centers often feature knowledgeable local staff whose expertise can prove invaluable to individuals seeking native varieties.

It’s important to keep in mind that native varieties may look less cultivated than more exotic blooms and foliages designed to sell for their unique appearances. Wildflowers and native grasses may be the types of native plants found in abundance, which may grow up and out quickly. These other tips can help the process.

- Plan and prepare the site by removing weeds and turning over the soil. This will give seedlings an opportunity to take root without competition from weeds. Seedlings will give gardens a faster head-start than waiting around for seeds to germinate. However, gardeners can start seeds indoors and then move them outside once they are seedlings.

- Avoid planting native plants in rows, as that’s not how they’re likely to grow naturally. Vary the placement so the plants look like they sprouted up haphazardly.

- Gardeners can still exert some control over native gardens prone to growing a little wild. Borders and paths can better define the growing areas.

- Grow Native!, an initiative from the Missouri Prairie Foundation, suggests planting two to four species in broad sweeping masses or drifts. Mix grasses with flowering plants. The grasses produce dense, fibrous roots that can prevent weed growth.

Native plants should require minimal care. Keep an eye on them and supplement with water if conditions have been especially dry.

WEEKLY ALMANAC

DATE	HIGH	LOW	PRECIP
Thu, July 27	84°	73°	24%
Fri, July 28	86°	71°	24%
Sat, July 29	85°	73°	15%
Sun, July 30	84°	74°	15%
Mon, July 31	84°	71°	34%
Tues, August 1	86°	72°	24%
Wed, August 2	86°	73°	34%

ST. JOSEPH BAY

Date	Day	High Tide	High Tide	Low Tide	Low Tide
27	Th	5:32a	1.7	4:14p	-0.1
28	Fr	6:11a	2.0	5:03p	-0.3
29	Sa	6:58a	2.1	5:53p	-0.6
30	Su	7:52a	2.3	6:44p	-0.7
31	Mo	8:51a	2.3	7:35p	-0.7
1	Tu	9:53a	2.3	8:25p	-0.6
2	We	10:57a	2.2	9:12p	-0.3

APALACHICOLA BAY, WEST PASS

Date	Day	High Tide	High Tide	Low Tide	Low Tide				
27	Th	9:44a	1.6	6:54p	0.1				
28	Fr	10:23a	1.6	7:57p	-0.1				
29	Sa	11:13a	1.6	8:52p	-0.3				
30	Su	12:13p	1.7	9:42p	-0.4				
31	Mo	6:19a	1.5	1:20p	1.7	8:30a	1.6	10:29p	-0.4
1	Tu	6:32a	1.5	2:29p	1.7	9:32a	1.6	11:12p	-0.4
2	We	6:46a	1.4	3:36p	1.7	10:24a	1.4	11:53p	-0.3

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Forgotten Coast Fishing Report

Bobby Scarbrough
Bluewater Outriggers

Trout are holding on deeper channel edges near grass and

are biting live pigfish and live pinfish. Using a #2 hook with an 18-24” fluorocarbon leader has produced

good results.

Redfish are biting the same baits fished in channels and troughs using a Carolina rig with

a 2/0 circle hook with a 24” 20lb fluorocarbon leader and a 1/2 oz. Egg sinker. Until next week, happy fishing!

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COMMUNITY

Shark 100 Club prepares for upcoming school athletics

Special to the Star

The Shark 100 Club is preparing for the start of its 36th year in support of Port St Joe High School Athletics. In 2023, the Shark 100 Club will sell memberships in three categories.

Shark level - for a donation of \$100 the individual, business, or organization receives one Shark 100 Club hat, game program recognition, and reserved parking at home football games.

Tiger Shark level - for a contribution of \$250 an individual, business, or organization receives two Shark 100 hats, two reserved seats at all regular season home football games, special game program recognition, and reserved parking at home football games.

Bull Shark level - for a contribution of \$500, an individual, business, or organization receives two Shark 100 hats, two reserved seats at regular season home football games, free admission for two into all other regular season PSJHS sporting events, special game program recognition, and reserved parking at football games.

After covering the minor costs of hats and passes, the membership fees go entirely to Tiger Shark athletics. Those interested in joining the Shark 100 Club for the 2023-2024 school year may submit their contribution to the Shark 100 Club at 116-A Sailors Cove Drive, Port St. Joe, FL 32456.

The Shark 100 Club will host a Kick-off event at 11:00 a.m. EDT on Thursday, August 17th at Shark Stadium. During this event, Shark 100 Club members will be able to pay their booster dues, pick up tickets and hats, and meet our Head Coach Tanner Jones.



Port St. Joe's girls soccer team competes. [GULF DISTRICT SCHOOLS]

Wheels on Williams wraps 2023 season



[GULF COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE | CONTRIBUTED]

Staff Report

The Gulf County Chamber of Commerce hosted the finale of their 2023 Wheels on Williams series, a recurring car show and food truck event which took place in downtown Port St. Joe every third Thursday of the month from April through July.

The event, which brought in car aficionados from surrounding areas, has been a huge success, said Joe Whitmer, the director of the Chamber of Commerce.

For more information about the event, visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/WheelsonWilliams>.

Get outdoors and find some river otters

Sandra Cole
St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve

If you’ve been following along with our weekly explorations of the St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve’s trails, you’ll already be familiar with some of our favorite local hiking spots, but we have more to share.

Traveling down Treasure Road leads us to our next adventure. This walkabout will be a real treat if you are lucky enough to find the namesakes of the road – playing and sliding in a small pond.

Otter Slide Road has a small pond where it will be obvious otters have used it many times. If you are quiet and sort of sneak up on them – they are a lot of fun to watch. You might also see baby alligators while you are looking for the otters.

Otter Slide Road is 1.33 miles from Treasure Road to Money Bayou Road. The terrain is not unlike other roads we have traveled except for seeing the fun the otters are having and arriving at the edge of Money Bayou.

Most likely, the Buffer’s otters are river otters. They prefer fresh water. However, they can be found in coastal salt marshes.

Lantra Canadensis, or river otters, live in dens called holts which are dug into a riverbank or under the roots of trees. They may dig their own burrow, or they might just take over an abandoned beaver’s burrow and remodel to their specifications.

The River otter can adapt for both land and water. They have short legs, webbed toes, and a strong flattened tail. They have 5 toes and a heel pad which has a shape similar in design as a horseshoe. Their ears



Finding River otters starts here! [ST. JOSEPH BAY BUFFER PRESERVE]

appear large for its small flattened head.

The River Otter is the most commonly encountered mustelid in Florida. You can find River otters throughout Florida except in the Florida Keys. River otters are the aquatic members of the weasel family.

River otters are powerful swimmers and eat a wide variety of prey including fish, birds, reptiles. Small animals, amphibians, and crustaceans.

While otters might look friendly, they are dangerous in the wild. You should always stay 50 yards from them for safety and never try to feed an otter.

If you have unwanted otters and want to discourage them, you might use lemongrass around the pond they are living in to get them to move on to another location.

Let’s talk about more ways that getting outside is important! While you might think seeing more trees,

palmettos, shrubs, native flowers and some animals will not help you – would you be wrong. Improving your short-term memory may be improved – just by being outdoors.

We all sometimes forget a name, or lose our keys or glasses, so it is to our advantage to try to enhance and boost our memory. We should all appreciate ways to improve on this behavior. Research shows that these issues may be helped when we go outdoors. We are bombarded by streetlights, traffic and many noises which create chaos. Our minds are pulled in so many different directions. Getting out in nature and observing natural, quiet scenery with trees, birds, animals, blue skies, and flowers, calms our minds and helps us focus. Feels like on many days, we should move to the outdoors, doesn’t it?

Another surprise and a benefit of being outdoors in nature – your eyesight might improve. An Australian study found that school age children

who spend more time outdoors had a reduced risk of becoming nearsighted. Children in the study did not share the same results after spending equal amounts of time indoors. This study showed that being outdoors in fresh air and sunlight protects growing eyes more than equal physical activity in doors.

Get outside for the children. In 2002 a published study found that 8-year-old children could better identify Pokémon characters than plants or animals in their neighborhoods. Unhealthy habits naturally develop when children spend too much time inside.

Want to live longer and have a great quality of life? Increase your longevity by getting outdoors. Studies show that living near areas with parks, nature trails, forests, and lawns greatly improve one’s chances of living a longer, healthier life. If you ask why walking in nature is better than walking on your own street, one reason is air quality. It’s just better in areas of dense vegetation. The Buffer Preserve’s trails provide good air quality due to the trees, shrubs and dense vegetation.

Exploring nature has so many benefits and there’s no wrong way to do it. It helps to be reminded of why it’s good for us – so let’s reconnect with nature. Our bodies and minds will thank us. Remember to strive for times of the day that are not as hot, drink plenty of liquids to be sure you are hydrated, wear breathable light clothing and use sunblock. A cap or hat, a phone, closed-toed shoes are all helpful. There are low-water crossings which will have water in them if there has been a lot of rain.

Happy Trails!



CROSSWORD

	1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12	
13								14						15
16			17					18						19
20		21				22				23		24		
25					26				27		28			
29				30				31		32		33		
		34	35						36		37			
38	39									40				
41					42				43					
44				45		46		47				48	49	50
51			52		53		54				55			
56				57		58				59				
60			61		62				63				64	
65		66						67				68		
	69							70						

- CLUES ACROSS
1. Bonus materials

7. Formal names

13. Free from restraints

14. One who scrapes away

16. Type of device

17. Skin cancers

19. The Show Me State

20. Plate glasses

22. Red-brown sea bream

23. Small (Fr.)

25. Flightless Australian birds

26. High IQ group

28. Stiff structures

29. Revolutions per minute

30. Where a bachelor lives

31. Licensed for Wall Street

33. A place to park

34. Energy, style and enthusiasm

36. An important creed in Catholic Church
38. 18-year astronomical period

40. Furies

41. Removes from the record

43. Noted child psychiatrist

44. Feline

45. High schoolers’ test

47. Not happy

48. They ___

51. On top

53. Precious stones unit of weight

55. Moved quickly

56. Seagulls

58. A seed with hooks or teeth

59. Partner to “oohed”

60. Exclamation of surprise

61. Most unpleasant

64. Organization help service members

65. Type of cockatoo

67. Humorous criticisms

69. Went through and organized

70. Wakes up

- CLUES DOWN
1. Settle in tents

2. Big

3. Books

4. Masses of eggs in fish

5. Language

6. Not standing

7. Chinese philosophy

8. Computer giant

9. A device to catch

10. Emits coherent radiation

11. Actor O’Neill

12. Smallest interval in western music

13. Not lower

15. Revolves

18. Leavened bread

21. Number above the line in a fraction

24. Cable

26. Adult male

27. Airborne (abbr.)
30. Bullfighting maneuvers

32. Broadcast

35. ___ Angeles

37. Vehicle

38. Not religious

39. North American peoples

42. A baglike structure

43. Body art (slang)

46. Picked for a role

47. Actress Tomei

49. Former hoopster “Big Country”

50. Icelandic poems

52. More pleasant

54. It can add flavor to meat

55. Self-immolation by fire rituals

57. Expression of annoyance

59. ___ Spumante (Italian wine)

62. Consumed

63. Body part

66. Thus

68. In reply (abbr.)

GUESS WHO

Guess Who?

I am an athlete born in New York on July 27, 1975. I was signed by a Major League Baseball team at age 17 as one of the most promising prospects in history. I led the American League in home runs five times.

SUDOKU

SUDOKU

		8				7		
	9	7	6					
	2		9	8			1	
	1	2					6	
		4			1			
9							3	
	7				2			1
					8		2	
				5		6		4

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

FOR ALL GAME AND PUZZLE ANSWERS SEE PAGE 10B

WHITE

From page 6B

not anchored in deeper understanding. James 1:5 beckons us to rise above the illusion of mere knowledge and seek divine wisdom through direct communion with God.

James, a revered figure in Christian history, reminds us of the profound truth that seeking true wisdom begins with a humble request to God. The verse reads, "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you."

Herein lies the key to unraveling the mysteries of wisdom - direct communication with the Creator of all knowledge.

Human wisdom has its limits, confined to our finite minds and experiences. Yet, God's wisdom is boundless, stretching far beyond our comprehension.

Turning to God allows us to tap into an infinite source of insight, guiding us through life's complexities with divine clarity. It is through this connection that we discover the transformative power of God's wisdom, elevating our perspectives and actions beyond the ordinary.

Asking God for wisdom is more than a mere verbal expression; it is an act of faith that acknowledges our reliance on a higher power. It is a surrendering of our pride, recognizing that we do not possess all the answers and that seeking God's counsel is the most profound step towards

enlightenment.

In asking, we demonstrate our trust in God's wisdom and embrace the need for faith that is required for true spiritual growth.

Unlike a mere transaction, seeking wisdom from God is a lifelong journey of growth and discovery. It invites us to maintain a posture of humility and openness, always willing to learn and adapt.

Through prayer, meditation and a continuous study of His Word, we forge a profound connection with God, immersing ourselves in the deep well of divine wisdom.

In a world overwhelmed by information and conflicting advice, the pursuit of true wisdom calls for discernment and guidance from a higher source.

James 1:5 illuminates the

path to genuine enlightenment - a path that begins with seeking God's wisdom. As we embark on this journey, let us embrace the transformative power of divine insights.

By opening our hearts to God's wisdom through prayer, faith and a humble posture, we unlock the secrets of profound understanding, forever changing the trajectory of our lives. So, let us step out in faith, ask for divine wisdom and be awestruck by the boundless truths that await us in the embrace of our Creator.

Adam White is the Senior Pastor of New Beginning Assembly in Port St. Joe, FL, and is Ordained through the Assemblies of God. Email him at abwhite1020@gmail.com or follow his twitter @ [awwhite1020](https://twitter.com/awwhite1020)

Classifieds

Place your classifieds by calling 850.227.1278



LEGAL ADVERTISING

189
NOTICE OF APPLI-
CATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that JOHN G FADIO, the Cer- tificate Holder of the following Tax Sale Certificate, has filed said Certificate for a Tax Deed to be issued thereon. The Tax Deed Application number, Real Estate number, Certificate number, Date of Issu- ance and Name(s) in which it was assessed are as follows: Applica- tion#2022-17 Name in which assess PALM BREEZE DEVELOP- MENT LLC, AGENT: Tax Sale Certificate #:2015-674 Date of Issuance: 05/29/2015 R.E. No.: 03450- 170R Description of Property:

Lot 34, Wetappo Subdivision according to the plat recorded in plat book 5, pages 36- 42 in the public re- cords of Gulf County, Florida.

All of said property being in Gulf County, State of Florida. Un- less such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate will be sold to the highest bidder ONLINE at: www.gulf.reatax- deed.com on 08/09/23 at 11:00 a.m. ET or any subsequently scheduled sale date. DATED: 07/03/23 REBECCA L. NOR- RIS CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA BY: Elaine Bland, Deputy Clerk Pub- lish dates: 07/06/23, 07/13/23, 07/20/23, 07/27/23 July 6, 13, 20, 27, 2023

194
NOTICE OF APPLI-
CATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that JOHN G. FADIO, the Cer- tificate Holder of the following Tax Sale Certificate, has filed said Certificate for a Tax Deed to be issued thereon. The Tax Deed Application number, Real Estate number, Certificate number, Date of Is- suance and Name(s) in which it was as- sessed are as follows: Application#2022-16 Name in which as- sessed: PALM BREEZE DEVELOPMENT LLC, AGENT: CURTIS R MOSLEY

LEGAL ADVERTISING

Tax Sale Certificate #: 2015-675 Date of Issuance: 05/29/2015 R.E. No.:03450-175R

Description of Property: Lot 35, Wetappo Subdivision according to the plat recorded in plat book 5, pages 36- 42 in the public records of Gulf County, Florida.

All of said property being in Gulf County, State of Florida. Un- less such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate will be sold to the highest bidder ONLINE at: www.gulf.reatax- deed.com on 08/16/23 at 11:00 a.m. ET or any subsequently scheduled sale date. DATED: 07/13/23 REBECCA L. NORRIS CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA BY: Elaine Bland, Deputy Clerk July 13, 20, 27, 2023 August 3, 2023

198
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOUR- TEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA

GENERAL JURISDIC- TION DIVISION CASE NO. 23000021CAAXMX

U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSO- CIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPAC- ITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCF 2 ACQUISITION TRUST C/O U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL AS- SOCIATION, Plaintiff,

vs.

RICHARD A. MASER, et. al. Defendant(s),

NOTICE OF ACTION - CONSTRUCTIVE SERVICE

TO: RICHARD A. MAS- TER and UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF RICHARD A. MASTER , whose residence is unknown and all parties having or claim- ing to have any right, title or interest in the property described in the mortgage being foreclosed herein.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a

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mortgage on the fol-
lowing property:

LOT 3, BLOCK 6, FISHERMAN'S VIL- LAGE NORTH AT WINDMARK BEACH, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 6, PAGE(S) 16, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA.

has been filed against you and you are re- quired to serve a copy of your written de- fenses, if any, to it on counsel for Plaintiff, whose address is 6409 Congress Avenue, Suite 100, Boca Raton, Florida 33487 on or before 8/17/2023 (30 days from Date of First Publication of this Notice) and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be en- tered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition filed herein.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court at County, Florida, this 6 th day of July, 2023 .

REBECCA L. NORRIS CLERK OF THE CIR- CUIT COURT

BY: /S/ C. LAMONT/ DEPUTY CLERK

Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC 6409 Congress Ave., Suite 100 Boca Raton, FL 33487 PRIMARY EMAIL: fimail@raslg.com

THIS NOTICE SHALL BE PUBLISHED ONCE A WEEK FOR TWO (2) CONSECUTIVE WEEKS. July 20, 27, 2023

199
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOUR- TEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA GENERAL JURISDIC- TION DIVISION CASE NO. 2019CA000060 FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION , Plaintiff, vs.

DEBRA K. STEVENS A/K/A DEBRA KAY HENSON, et al. Defendant(s). _____/

AMENDED NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated May 25, 2022, and en- tered in 2019CA000060 of the Circuit Court of the FOURTEENTH Judicial Circuit in and for Gulf County, Florida, wherein FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION is the Plaintiff and DEBRA K. STEVENS A/K/A DEBRA KAY HENSON are the Defendant(s). Rebecca L. Norris as the Clerk of the Circuit Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at www.gulf. reaforeclose.com, at 11:00 AM, on August 17, 2023, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

PARCEL A: COMMENCE AT THE WOOD POST MARK- ING THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SEC- TION 6, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 11 WEST, GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA, THENCE ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF LOTS 17, 18, AND 19, AS MONUMENTED, OF SUNSHINE FARMS, AN UNRECORDED SUBDI- VISION, AS SHOWN ON THE PLAT PRE- PARED BY FLORIDA ENGINEERING ASSOC., INC., DATED 8/13/82, SOUTH 89 DEGREES 19 MINUTES 04 SECONDS EAST, 978.23 FEET TO AN IRON ROD MARK- ING THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 20 OF SAID SUNSHINE FARMS; THENCE ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID LOT 20, AS MONUMENTED, NORTH 02 DEGREES 32 MINUTES 14 SECONDS WEST, 361.40 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE ALONG SAID LINE NORTH 02 DEGREES 32 MINUTES 14 SECONDS WEST, 297.75 FEET TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT 20; THENCE ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID LOT 20, SOUTH 89 DEGREES 20 MINUTES 33 SECONDS EAST, 163.02 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 02 DEGREES 31 MINUTES 38 SECONDS EAST, 297.75 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 20 MINUTES 33 SECONDS WEST, 162.97 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGIN- NING, SAID LANDS LYING AND BEING IN

Publish In: THE STAR Submitted by: Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC 6409 Congress Avenue, Suite 100, Boca Raton, FL 33487 Telephone: 561-241- 6901 Fax: 561-997- 6909 July 27, 2023 August 3, 2023

200
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR GULF COUNTY. CASE NO. 23-68 PR IN PROBATE IN RE: The Estate of BERNARD J. DOWNS,

SECTION 6, TOWN- SHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 11 WEST, GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA AND BEING SUBJECT TO A 30 FOOT WIDE ROADWAY EASEMENT ALONG THE NORTH- ERLY BOUNDARY.

Property Address: 392 SUNSHINE RD, PORT ST JOE, FL 32456

Any person claim- ing 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 in accordance with Florida Statutes, Section 45.031.

Dated this 12 day of July, 2023.

Rebecca L. Norris As Clerk of the Court

By: C. Lamont As Deputy Clerk

IMPORTANT AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. If you are a person with a disability who needs any accom- modation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator by mail at P. O. Box 1089, Panama City, FL 32402 or by phone at (850) 747-5338 at least seven (7) days before your scheduled court appearance, or im- mediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appear- ance is less than seven (7) days. If you are hearing impaired, please call 711 or email [ADAResquest@ jud14.flcourts.org](mailto:ADAResquest@jud14.flcourts.org).

Publish In: THE STAR Submitted by: Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC 6409 Congress Avenue, Suite 100, Boca Raton, FL 33487 Telephone: 561-241- 6901 Fax: 561-997- 6909 July 27, 2023 August 3, 2023

200
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR GULF COUNTY. CASE NO. 23-68 PR IN PROBATE IN RE: The Estate of BERNARD J. DOWNS,

deceased. / NOTICE TO CREDI- TORS

TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS OR DEMANDS AGAINST THE ABOVE ESTATE:

The administra- tion of the estate of BERNARD J. DOWNS, deceased, whose date of death was February 2, 2023, File Number 23-68 PR, is pending in the Circuit Court for Gulf County, Florida, Probate Divi- sion, the address of which is Gulf County Courthouse, Probate Division, 1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Boulevard, Port St. Joe, FL 32456. The name and ad- dress of the personal representative and that 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 served with- in three months after the date of the first publication of this notice must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE MONTHS AF- TER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

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

ALL CLAIMS OR DE- MANDS NOT SO FILED 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 the first publication of this Notice is July 27, 2023

/s/ Thomas S. Gibson /s/ Patrick K. Foy Thomas S. Gibson Rish & Gibson, P.A. 116 Sailor's Cove Drive

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Port St. Joe, Florida 32456 (850) 229-8211 Attorney for Peti- tioner FL Bar No. 0350583

Publish 2x

Patrick K. Foy, Peti- tioner 136 South Oak Street Port St. Joe, FL 32456 July 27, 2023 August 3, 2023

202
NOTICE OF APPLI- CATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that MTAG, AS CUSTODIAN FOR ATCF II FLORIDA-A, LLC, the Certificate Holder of the following Tax Sale Certificate, has filed said Certificate for a Tax Deed to be issued thereon. The Tax Deed Application number, Real Estate number, Certificate number, Date of Issu- ance and Name(s) in which it was assessed are as follows: Applica- tion #2022-24 Name in which assessed: LOWE'S DISCOUNT LIQUORS INC AGENT: WILLIAM LOREN SMITH Tax Sale Certificate #: 2020-87 Date of Issuance 05/29/2020 R.E. No.: 00360-330R

Description of Prop- erty:

A PARCEL OF LAND BEING A PORTION OF BLOCK J OF HOWARD CREEK PROPERTY, AN UNRECORDED SUBDIVISION, LYING AND BEING IN SEC- TION 6, TOWNSHIP 7 SOUTH, RANGE 8 WEST, GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA; BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOL- LOWS: COMMENCE AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE SOUTHWEST ONE- QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 6; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 08 MINUTES 41 SECONDS WEST, ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION 6, 64.57 FEET TO NORTH RIGHT- OF- WAY LINE OF STATE ROAD No. 387 (100 FOOT WIDE RIGHT- OF- WAY); THENCE SOUTH 74 DEGREES 39 MINUTES 12 SECONDS EAST, ALONG SAID NORTH RIGHT-OF- WAY LINE, 3094.18 FEET TO A POINT OF CURVATURE; THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY ALONG SAID NORTH RIGHT-OF- WAY LINE ON THE ARC OF A CURVE CONCAVE TO

All of said property

LEGAL ADVERTISING

THE NORTH, 449.45 FEET TO A POINT OF TANGENCY, SAID CURVE HAVING A RA- DIUS OF 2814.93 FEET, A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 09 DEGREES 08 MINUTES 53 SEC- ONDS, AND A CHORD LENGTH OF 448.97, BEARING SOUTH 79 DEGREES 13 MINUTES 39 SECONDS EAST; THENCE CONTINUING ALONG THE NORTH RIGHT-OF- WAY LINE OF SAID STATE ROAD No. 387, SOUTH 83 DEGREES 39 MINUTES 16 SECONDS EAST, 390.49 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE DEPART- ING SAID NORTH RIGHT-OF- WAY LINE, RUN NORTH 06 DEGREES 20 MINUTES 44 SECONDS EAST, 218.00 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 83 DEGREES 39 MINUTES 16 SECONDS EAST, 34.71 FEET; THENCE NORTH 79 DEGREES 36 MINUTES 39 SECONDS EAST, 225.23 FEET TO THE WESTERLY CURV- ING RIGHT-OF- WAY LINE OF A 60.00 FOOT WIDE ROAD; THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY ON THE ARC OF A CURVE CONCAVE TO THE NORTHEAST, 247.24 FEET TO A POINT OF REVERSE CURVA- TURE, SAID CURVE HAVING A RADIUS OF 2164.08 FEET, A CEN- TRAL ANGLE OF 06 DEGREES 32 MINUTES 46 SECONDS, AND A CHORD LENGTH OF 247.11 FEET, BEARING SOUTH 28 DEGREES 57 MINUTES 14 SEC- ONDS EAST; THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY AND SOUTHWESTERLY ON THE ARC OF A CURVE CONCAVE TO THE NORTHWEST, 112.51 FEET TO A POINT OF TANGENCY ON THE NORTH RIGHT-OF- WAY LINE OF SAID STATE ROAD No. 387, SAID CURVE HAVING A RADIUS OF 50.00 FEET, A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 128 DE- GREES 55 MINUTES 22 SECONDS, AND A CHORD LENGTH OF 90.23 FEET, BEARING SOUTH 32 DEGREES 13 MINUTES 56 SECONDS WEST, THENCE NORTH 83 DEGREES 39 MINUTES 16 SECONDS WEST, ALONG THE NORTH RIGHT-OF- WAY LINE OF SAID STATE ROAD No. 387, 353.80 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, SAID PARCEL CONTAINING 2.016 ACRES MORE OR LESS.

being in Gulf County, State of Florida. Un- less such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate will be sold to the highest bidder ONLINE at: www.gulf.reatax- deed.com on 08/30/23 at 11:00 a.m. ET or any subsequently scheduled sale date. DATED: 07/24/23 REBECCA L. NORRIS CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA BY: Elaine Bland, Deputy Clerk July 27, 2023 August 3, 10, 17, 2023

203
Notice of Unclaimed Moneys held by the Gulf County Clerk of the Circuit Court

The following is a list of unclaimed moneys held by the Clerk of Circuit Court. Unless such moneys are claimed on or before September 1, 2023; they shall be declared forfeited to Gulf County. Persons having or claiming any interest in such funds or any portion of them shall file their written claims with the Clerk of the Circuit Court by September 1, 2023 and shall make sufficient proof to the Clerk of their own- ship and upon so doing shall be entitled to receive any part of the moneys so claimed. Unless claim is filed within such time as aforesaid, all claims in reference thereto are forever barred pursuant to F.S. 116.21 or may be turned over to the State of Florida when applicable by F.S. 717.113. Anthony Cox \$60.90; Carol Clayton \$967.00; Stephen Heathcock \$11.16; James Walter Lewis Jr. \$26.60; Juan Guajrdo \$592.00; Agnus R. Blakely \$15.00; Gregory G. Dykes \$30.00; Layton E. Endres \$15.00; Jessica L. Faircloth \$15.00; Gary S. Hall \$15.00; Dylan J. Mann \$15.00; Fredrick B. Wilhite Jr. \$15.00; Florence Julius \$15.00

Rebecca L. Norris Gulf County Clerk of Court and County Comptroller July 27, 2023 August 3, 2023

ANSWERS

From page 9B

GUESS WHO

ALEX RODRIGUEZ

SUDOKU

6	5	8	2	1	4	7	9	3
1	9	7	6	3	5	2	4	8
4	2	3	9	8	7	5	1	6
7	1	2	8	9	3	4	6	5
3	6	4	5	2	1	8	7	9
9	8	5	4	7	6	1	3	2
8	7	6	3	4	2	9	5	1
5	4	9	1	6	8	3	2	7
2	3	1	7	5	9	6	8	4

CROSSWORD

	E	X	T	R	A	S		T	I	T	L	E	S	
U	N	L	O	O	S	E		A	B	R	A	D	E	R
P	C		M	E	L	A	N	O	M	A	S		M	O
P	A	N	E	S		T	A	I		P	E	T	I	T
E	M	U	S		M	E	N	S	A		S	E	T	A
R	P	M		P	A	D		M	B	A		L	O	T
		E	L	A	N				N	I	C	E	N	E
S	A	R	O	S						R	A	G	E	S
E	R	A	S	E	S				T	E	R	R		
C	A	T		S	A	T		M	A	D		A	R	E
U	P	O	N		C	A	R	A	T		S	P	E	D
L	A	R	I	D		B	U	R		A	A	H	E	D
A	H		C	R	A	B	B	I	E	S	T		V	A
R	O	S	E	A	T	E		S	A	T	I	R	E	S
	S	O	R	T	E	D		A	R	I	S	E	S	