

THE STAR

SERVING GULF COUNTY SINCE 1937

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GULFCOUNTY.NEWS | Volume 84 - No. 34

INSIDE:

Local students pick the brains of successful young professionals, Page 1B



OUT TO SEE

Members' Art Market

The Joe Center for the Arts invites the public to its third annual Members' Art Market. Guests will have the opportunity to meet the artists while viewing works of all kinds in a wide variety of style, subject and media. The show runs through Sept. 15. Admission is free. The Joe is located at 201 Reid Ave in downtown Port St. Joe. Its hours are Wednesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. EDT and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. EDT. The Joe Center for the Arts is a 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to educate, exhibit partner and inspire through the arts.

Live music in Gulf County

Live music will be playing all weekend at The Mill Mercantile and Social, The Haughty Heron, The Tap Root, Indian Pass Raw Bar, the Lookout Lounge and other local establishments. For a full list of performances and times, visit the Star's website at <https://gulfcounty.news>.

Turtle Talk and Beach Tour at Rish Park

Join a park ranger at the Billy J. Rish State Park on Monday at 8:15 a.m. EDT for a weekly ¾ mile or two mile tour of Cape San Blas' beautiful shoreline. Bring your sea turtle questions! Registration is required. Supplies are limited. Please call the ranger station at 850-227-1876.

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.

Send us your best
local photography, 10A

Take a hike!
Explore a local trail, 8B

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 2023



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Nearly two years in, workforce housing project still facing roadblocks

Wendy Weitzel

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Nearing two years since the City of Port St. Joe selected OIKOS Development Corporation as the developer for a planned workforce housing project located off of Tenth Street, the project is still tied up in roadblocks.

According to Michael Snodgrass, title, who came to Port St. Joe from Kansas City to update city commissioners on the project's progress on Aug. 1, the project has been held up for more than a year due to ongoing negotiations with Duke Energy over an easement necessary for building a road into the future development.

"We've been working on this project now, it seems like, forever," he said. "The biggest issue... has been the road going into the site. We've now had at

least four interactions of that same road going into the site, including full engineering, surveying, trying to get Duke Energy to sign off on an easement."

But Snodgrass felt confident based on recent interactions with Duke that OIKOS's most recent iteration of the road design would be approved.

"We finally told Duke, basically, 'what do you want?' 'How can we make this work?'," he said.

The housing project, which will be located off of Tenth Street behind the Gulf County Public Works complex, intends to address employers' struggles to fill lower-paying positions by making the cost of housing in Gulf County more attainable.

It will not be considered low-income housing, but rather, aims to be afford-

able for young families or those early in their careers who typically exceed the income requirements to qualify for traditional affordable housing subsidies.

The design presented by Snodgrass to the city includes both single-family and townhouse options.

"Once we get Duke to sign off on the easement, there's no reason we couldn't move on with the plat, I don't think," Snodgrass said.

Going forward, the city will have the opportunity to offer input on the design of the development, which is expected to be discussed at future city meetings.

OIKOS will be looking for funding sources for the project going forward and is hoping to apply for upcoming rounds of state funding.



A loggerhead sea turtle hatchling in Gulf County [FCC | CONTRIBUTED]

Volunteers mark active turtle nesting season

Wendy Weitzel

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Volunteers with the Florida Coastal Conservancy marked their 175th sea turtle nest of the 2023 nesting season on August 2, and with about two weeks of nesting to go, the organization is expecting to well exceed their 150 nest average.

This means that in the coming months, thousands of turtle hatchlings are expected to make their way from Gulf County's sand dunes to the Gulf of Mexico.

"We love this time of year when we experience the full circle of nesting season with mommas coming ashore and babies hatching nightly," said the FCC's sea turtle volunteer coordinator

Jessica Swindall.

"14 of our nests have hatched, and we have evaluated nine of those, and those nine nests produced 668 hatchlings. So that gives you an idea of how many more hatchlings are to come."

"... We had just a minor bit of storm activity towards the beginning of the

See TURTLE, Page 2A

City, contractor reach agreement on Long Avenue paving deficiencies

Wendy Weitzel

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After weeks of tense back-and-forth between the City of Port St. Joe and the contractor for the recent repaving of Long Avenue over costs associated with deficiencies in the completed project, the parties have achieved a resolution.

North Florida Construction, the project's contractor, will re-mill and pave the entire roadway in exchange

for the full remaining \$414,000 balance of their initial contract with the city.

City commissioners had voted on July 20 to withhold \$100,000 from their final payment to the company to use on future repairs to the road as they should be needed. But in the interest of moving forward, the commissioners rescinded this motion on August 1.

"We need to rescind our former mo-

tion to accept this offer from North Florida Construction," said Mayor Rex Buzzett. "And then we can all move forward from this and, hopefully, preserve some of our working relationship."

The city's decision came in the wake of sometimes heated disputes over the amount of a proposed price reduction due to concerns about the quality of the completed work.

See PAVING, Page 2A

Work to begin on Clifford Sims Park restoration

Wendy Weitzel
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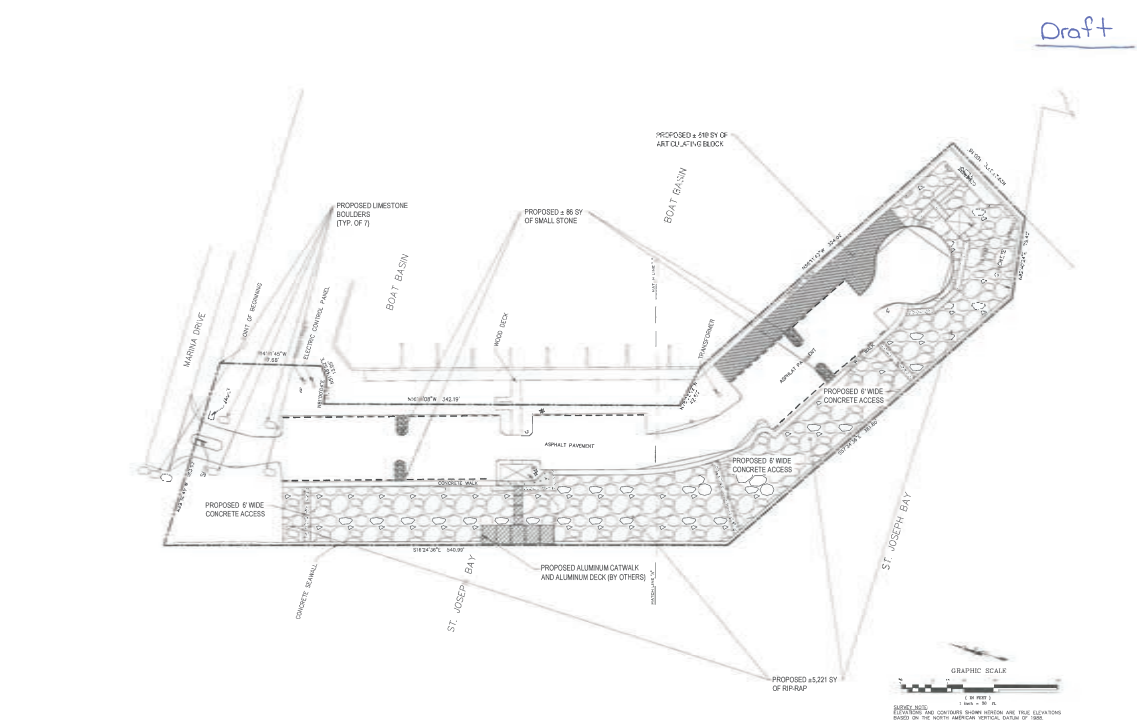
Nearly five years after Hurricane Michael destroyed Port St. Joe’s Clifford Sims Park, the city has broken ground on a new observation pier at the site, the first of several planned projects that they hope will be completed in time for a grand opening next spring.

“We’re about to go into production for the actual observation pier,” said City Manager Jim Anderson to the Board of City Commissioners at their Aug. 1 meeting. “We’ve awarded the bid to R.J. Gorman, so they’re beginning that work.”

Along with the observation pier, the city has planned to construct fishing piers and a concrete pathway at the park, restoring much-missed facilities to the community.

“With the observation deck going in soon, we’ll have the opposite fishing pier going in probably in January, so I think we’re looking at a Spring Break project,” said Anderson. “And we should have a grand opening.”

The city has submitted their drafted design for the completed park facilities to the state and await approval of the final design.



The drafted design for Clifford Sims Park. [CITY OF PSJ | CONTRIBUTED]

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Port St. Joe commissioners meeting August 15

The City of Port St. Joe Board of City Commissioners will be holding their regular session meeting on Tuesday, August 15 at noon EDT in the commission chambers, located at 2775 Garrison Avenue. All are welcome to attend and speak at the meeting.

Puppy adoption fee lowered at Humane Society

Adoption fees have been reduced for puppies at the St. Joseph Bay Humane Society for a limited time. The adoption fee has been reduced by half to \$25.

Gulf County Democrats to meet

The Gulf County Democrats will be holding their public meeting at the Garden Club Center on August 14 at 6:30 p.m. EDT. They will serve a light supper before the meeting.

The center is located at 216 Eighth Street in Port St. Joe.

Gulf County Republicans to meet

The Gulf County Democrats will be holding their public meeting at the Garden Club Center on August 21 at 6:30 p.m. EDT. They will serve a light supper before the meeting. The center is located at 216 Eighth Street in Port St. Joe.

TURTLE

From page 1A

season that washed over a few of our nests, and we were worried about them, but they are all still hatching, even the ones that got washed over.”

During sea turtle nesting and hatching season from May through October every year, volunteers and environmental workers walk miles-long stretches of Gulf County’s beaches every morning searching for telltale turtle tracks in the sand.

The goal is to find, mark and document any nests that were laid overnight early, before they are mistakenly disturbed by beachgoers.

The volunteers’ efforts are essential to documenting population numbers of these protected, vulnerable and endangered species, as sea turtle populations are difficult to track and can really only be estimated through nesting numbers.

But while Gulf County’s share of nests is large, there is no consistent number for the number of sea turtle nests laid on Cape San Blas in any given summer, Swindall said. Some years the number is closer to 100. Others it well exceeds 200.

The FCC’s 175 nests represent



Volunteers with the FCC examine a nest that has hatched. [FCC | CONTRIBUTED]

only a fraction of the total number of sea turtle nests that have been documented along Gulf County’s beaches this summer.

At the T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park, park employees had documented 201 nests as of July 30.

These numbers are only slightly lower than those from this time

last year, which was one of Gulf County’s most active turtle nesting season on record.

“I don’t think we’re going to beat last year, but it’s still a pretty good year,” said Swindall. “Any year that we get over 150 is great.”

The majority of the sea turtle nests documented by FCC volunteers belong to Loggerhead sea

turtles, Swindall said. But this year, volunteers have discovered more green sea turtle nests than in years past.

“We have 20 green (sea turtle) nests this year, which is a new record for us,” Swindall said. “We’re really happy about that. The greens just keep rolling in.”

Now, moving into the point in sea turtle nesting season when hatchlings begin to make their way back to the gulf, Swindall said it is extra important for those along the beaches to be mindful of their lights.

“A big concern going into hatching season is the lights,” she said. “We’ve had just a couple of disorientations, but the hatchlings are so sensitive to artificial lighting because they’re just seeing light for the very first time.”

“They’re looking for the celestial sky reflecting off of the ocean, so any kind of artificial light source can be detrimental. So, we encourage those on the beaches to either turn their lights off after dark or use turtle-safe lighting,” which omits a lower visual wavelength and usually appears red.

Those who come across stranded turtle hatchlings are asked to report the discovery to the FWC hotline at 888-404-FWCC or to the FCC by emailing sjpturtlepatrol@gmail.com.



Volunteers with the FCC examine a nest that has hatched. [FCC | CONTRIBUTED]

PAVING

From page 1A

At the commissioners’ July 18 meeting, Jamie Miller, a project manager with North Florida Construction, took to the podium to address the conflict directly.

His company had offered the city \$20,091.50 to cover the cost of the paving’s deficiencies, which would be deducted from the city’s final payment to North Florida Construction.

This was about \$80,000 less than the \$100,000

requested by the city.

According to Miller, the discrepancy resulted from several change orders, which have not yet been officially presented to or voted on by the commissioners.

“We did accept the \$100,000 penalty. However, we had \$80,000 in overages, so that’s the number reflected,” he said to the board.

The commissioners countered North Florida’s offer with their withholding of \$100,000 from the final payment, an offer that was then rejected by North Florida in favor of the solution agreed upon on Aug. 1.

In an email sent by Miller to City Manager Jim Anderson on July 20, North Florida Construction said “(they) prefer to mill and resurface the entire roadway 1” thick. In return, (they) will be owed the entire contract amount following satisfactory completion of this task.”

The city will continue to withhold \$100,000 from North Florida Construction until the repairs have been made to the road.

Due to the need for certain asphalt patches to settle before the repaving can be completed, no work is expected to be done on the road for at least nine months.



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OPINION



Does adequate healthcare exist in Port St Joe?

We moved from Apalachicola more than two years ago. We believed that one of the advantages to living in Port St. Joe was the hospital and healthcare services available.

But, in the past two years we have seen the service fall to a dismal level. And we are not the only ones. I can name three or four friends that have had a similar experience to my husband's. What is going on?

On Saturday several weeks ago, my husband collapsed in Joe Mama's restaurant. Staff was great. They called an ambulance and he headed to the ER.

The ER doctor was great but unable to determine the cause of the collapse. He referred my husband for follow-up to his primary care physician and the local heart doctor.

On Monday morning when we called his primary care doctor, a local nurse practitioner, we were told they could not schedule a follow-up appointment for almost three weeks. Crazy right? So, we called the local cardiologist my husband had seen him twice before. But, he would not schedule to see my husband for over a month. The explanation? It had been more than a year since his last visit, and, therefore, he had to first have a "new patient" exam. You have got to be kidding, right? Nope.

See KELLEY, Page 5A



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Leon was a great swimming instructor!



Kesley Colbert
HunkerDown

The trouble with going back to school each August was....well, going back to school! It didn't cause heart failure. It wasn't a matter of life and death. And even Buddy and Robert Earl understood the necessity of the situation. But, still, it sure interrupted summer....

In the early grammar school days it meant no more rope swinging across the big ditch. We spent a large part of the summer taking turns backing up and racing to the edge as we leaped for the rope, hoping our momentum would carry us to the other side.

It never did. We couldn't get up enough steam, or the rope was tied too close to the "take-off" side, or the ditch was too wide. We most always crash landed face first into the dirt wall on the far side, just inches short of the top....

The sudden stop would jar your cranium, rattle a few teeth and send your spleen ricocheting off of your backbone....but it was way more fun than

facing down the girls lined up against the opposite wall in a second grade spelling bee contest!

I don't think at age seven we viewed the total aspect of the educational spectrum. It was just readin', writin' and arithmetic to us; with enough spelling thrown in to make your life miserable.

By the sixth grade the return in August called a halt to the baseball games. It meant no more piggy-back wrestling at the swimming pool. It brought an end to the summer recreational program up at the high school.

And believe me, the spelling words had gotten longer and much more difficult. And right in the middle of the school year Mrs. Mary Ann Jackson made us memorize a poem!

I spent the whole year gazing out the window and dreaming of playing shortstop for the St. Louis Cardinals, or wishing I was drinking a Root Beer as tall as a telephone pole up on that park bench across from the Western Auto, or picturing myself digging up a buried treasure in our backyard so I would become so filthy rich I didn't need to go to school anymore.

The buried treasure part might've been a slight stretch....seeing as how few pirate ships sailed across the middle of West Tennessee in the late

1700's.

I don't remember any back-to-school tax-free shopping days back then. We'd borrow a no. 2 pencil and Mom would gather up a few brown paper sacks for our lunches, and we were off to school. That was about the extent of our school supplies. We'd finish our peanut butter and banana sandwiches at lunch and carefully fold the sacks back up.

We would have to have them for tomorrow's lunch.

By junior high it got a little more complicated. We had separate classes in different rooms. And a different teacher for each class! You talk about a whole new leaning experience! AND we had to have notebooks for each class!

The notebooks turned out to not be a problem. My older brother, Leon, had to get the required number when he went through junior high. I "borrowed" them a few years later. None of them had ever been written in, and only one had been opened!

And to be dead level honest here, I guess it was along about junior high when school came a little more into focus. I'm not saying we all bought into the "get that education son, they can't take it away from you." No intellectual light bulb suddenly lit up the sky.

But there was a

change. So subtle that I'm not sure any of us caught it at first. Summers were still a blast. And I wouldn't trade a ringing double off the left centerfield wall over conjugating Latin verbs under any circumstances. But life had a proportion to it. There truly was a place for everything under the sun....

Maybe we were growing up in spite of ourselves.

I still cherish those lazy, hazy days of summer to this very day. I still remember Buddy's whole body buried into that far wall in the big ditch. I remember the summer I learned to swim at the Twin Pools—Leon threw me off the high diving board and I had no choice.

I can still see a hundred smiling, sweating faces filling those wonderful summer scenes.

But I can also see those same faces working through a fifth grade math test; or presenting a science project in Mr. Berry's class; or reading "Great Expectations" for Miss Clark; or practicing for graduation with a bit of joy AND trepidation in their hearts.

School might not have been such a bad interruption after all. But don't tell these young kids today. Let's let them discover it for themselves the old fashioned way....

Respectfully,
Kes

Biden: Leader of the fleece world



Ron Hart
Guest Columnist

The Bribe-en Family jig might be up.

The man, Joe Biden, who says he has only worked for us as a humble government employee his whole career, yet who managed to buy multiple million-dollar beachfront mansions (all the while fretting about seas rising because of global warming) is about to reveal the source of all those millions.

Devon Archer (whose name sounds

just like a prep school brat Hunter Biden would know) is a former best friend and "partner in crime" of Hunter and was deposed by the House Oversight Committee on Monday. He was previously convicted of defrauding the Wakpamni, a Native American tribe, of over \$59 million in a fraudulent deal.

It was the worst crime against Native Americans since Sen. Elizabeth "Pocahontas" Warren's appropriation scam. Now just because I call my Jeep "Elizabeth Warren" because it is pale white and identifies as a Cherokee does not mean it gets into Harvard with a 1200 SAT. A mosquito could bite Elizabeth Warren and take all her Native American blood.

CNN and the rest of

the corporate media ran with the headline: Archer said Hunter Biden trafficked in the "illusion" of his dad's involvement. "The 10% for the Big Guy," (then VP Joe Biden) was said on 20 calls, per Devon. The Bidens have systematically lied to the American people and normalized corruption.

Remember, these are the same media and Democrat politicians who, during the Presidential election three years ago, said that the Hunter Biden laptop was "Russian disinformation." Only recently did they admit it was real.

In the hearings, House Democrats feigned outrage when Republican members showed pictures of topless prostitutes from Hunter's laptop. I think that all Demo-

crats know that they have no place in a closed Congressional hearing.

Just like politicians, they wanted to cut these images out of the hearing to save time. Where were they when the movie Oppenheimer was being edited?

(As an aside, Hunter Biden saw Oppenheimer and then did mushrooms.)

Just remember the laptop, where Hunter told someone that he was shaking the person down because "10% was going to the Big Guy." And when talking about Joe and Hunter Biden: Hunter's text to his daughter about a grift said, "But don't worry. Unlike Pop, I won't make you give me half your salary."

This is industrialized family corruption. For years Biden did not

See HART, Page 5A

Have something to say?

Letters to the editor and comments on Web versions of news stories are welcomed. Letters are edited only for grammar, spelling, clarity, space, and consistency, but we ask that they be limited to 300 words where possible. Letter writers are asked to provide a home address, daytime telephone number and a signature on your letter or comment for verification purposes (none of this information is printed).

Letters may be sent to 418 Reid Avenue, Port St Joe, FL 32456 or emailed to wwitzel@nevespublishing.com.

Questions? Call 850-851-0724.

Trump’s trials will be a step toward truth



Mona Charen
Guest Columnist

It’s a little hard to recall now, but last year, Donald Trump was in eclipse. In July 2022, half of GOP primary voters expressed a desire to move on from Trump. His anointed candidates fared poorly in November, and even some of his most ardent backers, including the Murdochs, were eyeing other options. If he could be relegated to the rearview window, I reasoned, even if it meant that he escaped liability for his crimes, it would be the best available outcome. An indictment, I feared, would spark a rally-round-Trump effect that would revive his fortunes among Republicans and thrust this viper back into our national life.

I was also concerned

that, considering Trump’s modus operandi, his response to indictment would be a thoroughgoing assault on the rule of law. Perhaps Merrick Garland had similar worries. He certainly seemed to drag his feet — until Trump’s florid criminality forced the DOJ’s hand. In the matter of the stolen classified documents, Trump defied a subpoena, attempted to conceal evidence (textbook obstruction), and displayed such contempt for national security and law that, in the words of former Trump Attorney General William Barr, “What is unjust is not prosecuting Trump at this stage.” Once Jack Smith was appointed to investigate the Mar-a-Lago documents case, it was untenable not to give him authority to look into the Jan. 6 offenses as well.

As feared, the rally-round-Trump effect has happened. The GOP base is once again glassy-eyed with zeal for their martyr/hero. This emphatically does not reflect poorly on the prosecu-

tors (though the Alvin Bragg prosecution was ill-considered), but only on the Republicans whose instinct is to adore the most despicable human to hold high office in our lifetime, or maybe ever.

Also, as predicted, the discrediting of our legal system has shifted into overdrive. The cowardly and cynical among Republican presidential candidates have cast aspersions on the Department of Justice. Ron DeSantis, though claiming not to have read the document, calls the latest indictment a “weaponization of federal law enforcement” that “represents a mortal threat to a free society.” Tim Scott leaped to whataboutism, citing the Hunter Biden case, and suggesting that “We’re watching Biden’s D.O.J. continue to hunt Republicans while protecting Democrats.” And from what used to be the fever swamps but are now the MAGA influencer ranks comes this from the Federalist’s Sean Davis: “The Department of Justice

is a domestic terror organization.”

The party of law and order is now the party of nihilism and chaos. So in some ways, this is a sum-of-all-fears moment. But there are reasons to believe that the coming months, which will be ugly, debased and charged with anxiety about the future of this republic, will not necessarily end badly.

There are four and a half Republican presidential contenders who are telling the truth about Trump. Mike Pence, Asa Hutchinson, Chris Christie and Will Hurd are solid. Nikki Haley, characteristically, is hedging, but she also sometimes stumbles into honesty. That is a departure from the norm during the 2016 primaries and during the Trump presidency. And it matters that these Republicans are making the case now, during the primaries, that Trump is unfit for office because some in the party will automatically tune out any critique of Trump if it seems that the beneficiary will be the Democrat in the gen-

eral election.

Now, some will object, reasonably enough, that all of the Trump-critical candidates account for only about 11% of the primary vote according to recent polling. But in our time, politics is a game of inches. If just a small fraction of Republicans, to say nothing of independent voters, are dissuaded from supporting Trump because of the pending trials, it would make all the difference. A recent New York Times poll showed that 25% of the GOP electorate is not open to supporting Trump. Among that 25%, 49% think Trump is a criminal, and 29% (or about 7% of all Republican respondents) would vote for Biden over Trump in 2024.

Is that enough to keep the disaster of a second Trump term at bay? Probably not, because the structure of the Electoral College requires that the Democrat score at least a four-point victory to prevail.

In our polarized information world, with millions getting only news that is politically

palatable, it’s excruciatingly difficult to convey basic facts. But trials, especially trials that will dominate every single news outlet, are probably the one way to penetrate those hermetically sealed bubbles. Through the trials, some who are currently in ignorance will learn facts that will disturb them. There will be testimony from Republicans and cross-examination and sworn oaths. Our justice system is by no means perfect at revealing truth, but it’s far superior to social media or cable TV. If just a few tens of thousands of Americans in key states have their minds opened to new information, it could be enough to avoid an unthinkable outcome in 2024.

So we must strap in and prepare to play our part, mindful of the stakes, and welcoming a new ally in the battle for truth — the courts.

Mona Charen is policy editor of *The Bulwark* and host of the “*Beg to Differ*” podcast. Her new book, “*Hard Right: The GOP’s Drift Toward Extremism*,” is available now.

KELLEY

From Page 4A

Both offices told us to just go back to the ER if my husband had another episode. Otherwise, we just had to wait.

I called the nurse practitioner’s office every day for a cancellation until they agreed to see him a week later. We are on our way to determining what the problem is with many referrals to Doctors in Panama City, but that is not the real point of this letter.

In establishing care, we learned that there is only one doctor who practices general medicine in PSJ, and she does not accept new patients. She is supported by a network of nurse practitioners.

Don’t get me wrong. I love my nurse practitioner. I’m one of the lucky ones. But it’s almost like a revolving door, at least for my husband and many of his friends.

My husband began care with a male NP in PSJ in 2021, after a year the male NP left and was replaced by a female NP. Two visits later (6 months or so), she left.

Initially, he was told by the office staff that he would be transferred to the doctor for future care. But a few weeks later, they canceled his initial appointment and advised him that the doctor was not seeing “new” patients, even though he had been a patient of the practice for over two years. He either had to drive to Panama City, Apalachicola or Wewahitchka to establish care.

Sadly, he isn’t the only one. Several of our local friends had the same experience.

So, we need to ask ourselves, PSJ, what is going on? Why can’t we attract an adequate number of doctors, physician assistants or nurse practitioners? What is Ascension doing to correct this problem?

I have intentionally left out the name of my husband’s healthcare providers, not because they don’t give good health care, quite the opposite. They give great care, when you can get it. So I will ask again... does adequate healthcare exist in Port St Joe?

Kathleen Kelley
Port St. Joe

HART

From Page 4A

acknowledge Hunter’s daughter by an Arkansas stripper, saying she was not his. She is. They probably just didn’t want to have to cut her in on the booty.

Just think about the tens of millions Hunter raked in hustling the “Biden Brand.” Hunter and Devon Archer had no skills and no deliverable value to these corrupt countries who paid them money, other than what Joe Biden would do for them. This is textbook corruption. The DOJ is so mad at them that it is going to indict Barron Trump for something.

If the truth is ever told, we will learn that Joe Biden’s brother, Jim, was the biggest bagman for the Biden Delaware Crime Family. And as Jill Biden’s ex-husband, Bill Stevenson, can attest (after suddenly tax charges were filed against him when he would not pay a Biden family bribe in Delaware), the Bidens control that small state like a Mafia boss controls a union port in New Jersey.

The family has become a joke, as has our nation. As the “Babylon Bee” reports:

“WILMINGTON, DE — A strange

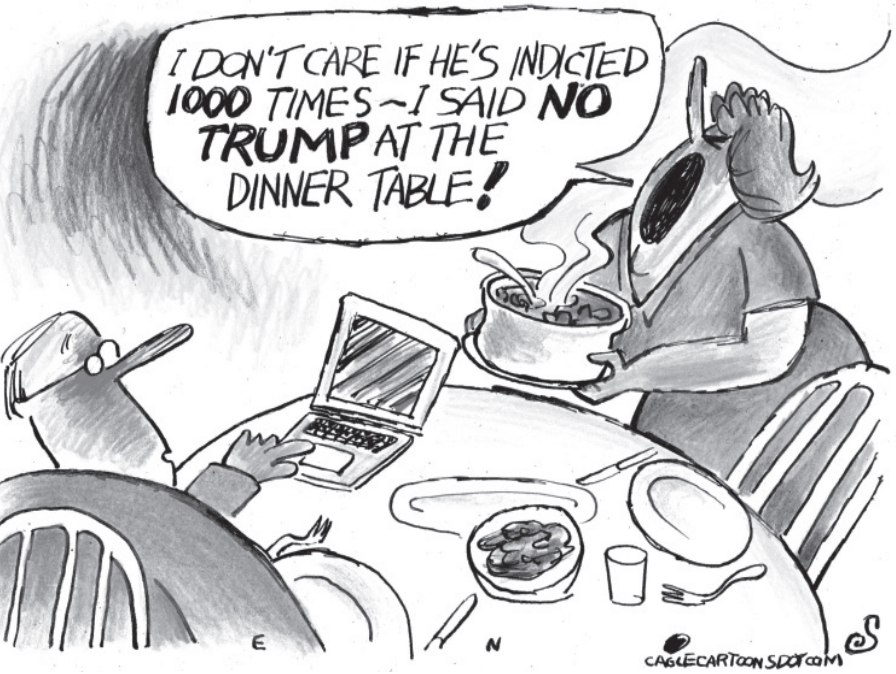
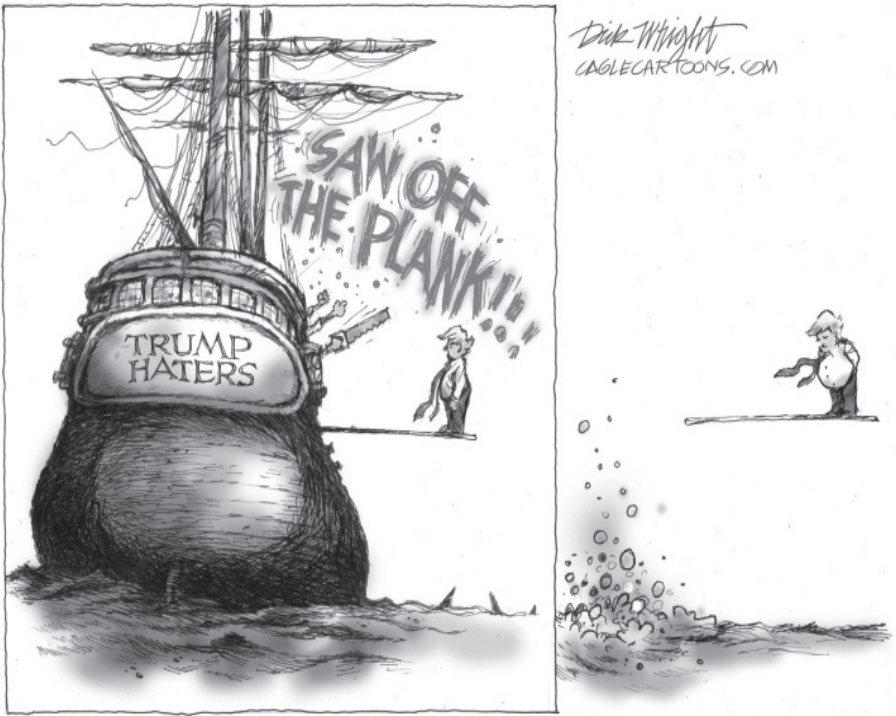
cocaine-like substance discovered at a federal court Wednesday definitely did not belong to Hunter Biden despite it being found on his courtroom chair. The Secret Service detail charged with protecting the president’s son says the illegal-like substance was probably left by “a tour group or something.”

“Courtrooms have tours, right? From kids on a field trip, maybe? I bet it was one of them,” said Special Agent Phil Quench.

And how about that sweetheart plea deal Hunter got from Delaware prosecutors for all his crimes? Hey, prosecutors, I will plead to misdemeanors for crimes I did, or even did not do, with no jail time for immunity for anything else I did or may do. Who wouldn’t?

The media will treat all these corruption proofs the same way Biden treated his seventh grandchild. They will take years and only acknowledge the facts when they are so embarrassed by those facts that they have to.

A libertarian op-ed humorist, standup comedian and award-winning author, Ron does commentary on radio and TV. He can be seen on CNN and Fox. And contacted at Ron@RonaldHart.com or @RonaldHart on Twitter.



SPORTS

PSJ standout hurdler to transfer to University of South Florida

Wendy Weitzel
Wweitzel@nevespublishing.com

After a successful first collegiate season at Thomas University, Port St. Joe track standout Darian Mills will be transferring to the University of South Florida for his sophomore year, where he hopes to face even bigger hurdles.

“I’m excited to go to a bigger division with a lot of competition,” he said of why he decided to make the change. “I believe in my talent and my ability to face those challenges.”

“I want to see my limits pushed. I want to be with some of the top athletes and see what I can be, what I’m capable of.”

Mills attended Port St. Joe High School from 2020 to 2022, transferring to the school for his junior and senior years after meeting Track Coach Keion McNair.

During his time at PSJHS he won three state championships in hurdles before committing to Thomas University.

In May, Mills became the first All-American that Thomas University has ever produced after placing third in the 400 meter hurdles at the NAIA National Outdoor Track and Field Championships.

The University of South Florida’s track team competes in NCAA Division I.

Mills said that along with welcoming the challenge of a larger institution and athletic division, part of the reason he’s seeking to transfer is to serve as a role model for children in the communities where he grew up.

He recently coached local children at a track summer camp alongside McNair.

“It was really cool to see the kids so excited about track, just like I was when I was at that



Darian Mills competes in the hurdles during his time at Thomas University. [THOMAS UNIVERSITY]

point,” he said.

“I want to be an inspiration to kids that might have the same aspirations and dreams as me, and I want them to be able to look up to me as a role model. They should never sleep on their dreams, and they should know they can get up and chase them.”

Mills, who is studying biology and hopes to

become a dentist,said he is thankful for those along the way who helped him earn this opportunity.

“I would like to thank my coaches back at Thomasville, Scott Gowan and Stephen Thomas, for training me and giving me the opportunity to compete at the collegiate level.

His classes will begin in Tampa on Aug. 21.



Darian Mills won three state championships during his time as a Tiger Shark. [BILL FAUTH | CONTRIBUTED]

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 100Club members will be able to pay their booster dues, pick up tickets and hats, and meet our Head Coach Tanner Jones.

Gulf Coast softball hosts annual Elite Prospect Clinic

Sam Granville
WMBB

PANAMA CITY, Fla. (WMBB) – The Gulf Coast softball team is hosting its fourth annual Elite Prospect Clinic this week.

Dozens of high school softball players, some local and some coming in from other states, came to learn more about the game while also showcasing their talents.

Participants learn from the Commodore players and coaching staff, which Gulf Coast Head Softball Coach Scot Thomas said makes the camp special.

“I like to have our players in our staff running it versus having a bunch of other schools in here,” Thomas said. “I like them to see, you know, our bunch, what we do and how we do things.”

Hence the name, the Elite Prospect Camp is instructional, but also an opportunity to recruit. Gulf Coast Assistant Softball Coach Brittany Crowson said they especially like seeing the local talent.

“We’re definitely recruiting,” Crowson said. “But also, we want the home kids to, if they’re able to, play for us because you’re at home. So I think bringing that

home crowd is huge.”

Over the past four seasons, Coach Thomas has cashed in on recruitment at the clinic.

“Some of the girls that are working the camp were former campers for me, not too long ago,” Thomas said.

One former camper is Gulf Coast freshman Kali Austerman. The recent Port St. Joe High School alum has transitioned from being the recruit to recruiting.

“I explained to them that, ‘Hey, this could be you.’ You know, it inspires them,” Austerman said. “I like seeing that people like me,

from a small town, they can (play college softball). You know, I want those girls to see that they can do it.”

The three-day clinic only offers so much teaching but Coach Thomas said it benefits all parties involved.

“You know, we’re not going to build a player in a couple of days,” Thomas said. “But if they can take something with them back home and learn from it, then it’s been a positive. And then we’ve gotten to see them play as well.”

The Elite Prospect Clinic began on Monday morning and will wrap up on Wednesday afternoon.

BUSINESS

Capital City Bank named among state’s top workplaces

Special to the Star

Florida Trend has named Capital City Bank one of its 2022 “Best Companies to Work For in Florida.” Out of the 100 small, medium and large companies recognized,

Capital City, which is headquartered in Tallahassee, ranked #24 in the “Large Companies” category. The 2023 issue is the fifteenth annual “Best Companies” edition and marks the twelfth year Capital City Bank has been selected.

There is a Capital City Bank located at 150 Avenue A in Port St. Joe. “Being named among the ‘Best Companies to Work For in Florida’ for the twelfth year in a row is a testament to the strong and enduring culture and value system we

have here at Capital City Bank,” said Bill Smith, Capital City Bank Group chairman, president and CEO. “This recognition affirms our 128-year history of fostering a supportive, inclusive environment that champions growth, camaraderie and progress.” To participate, companies or government entities were required to have at least 15 workers in Florida and to be in operation at least one year. Companies that chose to participate underwent an evaluation of their workplace policies, practices, philosophy, systems and demographics. The process also included a survey to measure employee satisfaction. The combined scores determined the top companies and the final ranking. The “Best Companies To Work For In Florida” program is managed by Florida Trend and Workforce Research Group and is endorsed by the HR Florida State Council. Workforce Research Group managed the registration, survey and analysis and determined the final rankings. For a list of the 100 “Best Companies To Work For In Florida”, go to FloridaTrend.com/BestCompanies.



The Capital City Bank in Port St. Joe [THE ST. JOE COMPANY]

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners will hold Public Hearings for the Board of County Commission's consideration of adoption of a resolution granting the following abandonment in accordance with Florida Statute §§336; Specifically, Gulf County has authorized the commencement of the abandonment process and has requested consideration of abandonment for the following right of ways or platted alleyways:

- 1. Abandonment of approximately 240 ft of the northern portion of the public right of way Tropical Avenue (Formally known as San Blas Avenue; PB:1 PG:36) that adjoins Parcel Numbers 04245-005R, 04255-010R and 04255-011R. (District III)
- 2. Abandonment of the portion of Golf View Dr. that adjoins Lots 11 through 30 of St. Joseph Bay Estates Unit One PB:3 PGS:1&2 that is also located within the St. Joseph Bay Buffer Preserve. (District V)

The listed Public Hearings will be held during the Gulf County Board of County Commissioner's regular meeting on Tuesday, August 22, 2023, called for 9:00 a.m. EST to be held in the Donald H. Butler Commissioner Chamber and Meeting Room in the Robert M. Moore Administration Building, Gulf County Courthouse Complex, Port St. Joe, Florida pursuant to Florida Statute 197.3632 and Florida Statute 125.

All interested persons may appear and be heard with respect to the proposed resolution. If a person decides to appeal any decisions made by the Gulf County Commission with respect to any matter considered at this hearing, he/she will need a record of the proceedings and that for such purpose he/she may need to ensure a verbatim record of the proceedings made and which would include any evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

A copy of the complete legal description is available for inspection on weekdays Monday through Thursday, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. est., and 5:30 p.m. est. at the Planning Department, 1000 C.G. Costin, Sr., Blvd. Room 400, Port St. Joe, Florida, 32456.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY: SANDY QUINN, CHAIRMAN
August 10, 2023

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STATE NEWS

Insurer denied in blood 'pollutant' dispute

Jim Saunders
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — The Florida Supreme Court on Monday refused to take up a property insurer’s appeal in a dispute about whether blood should be considered a pollutant under a homeowners’ policy.

Justices declined to hear an appeal by Florida Farm Bureau General Insurance Co. in the dispute about whether the policy excluded coverage for cleaning up blood after a burglary. As is common, the Supreme Court did not detail its reasons, but the decision effectively let stand a ruling by the 5th District Court of Appeal in favor of homeowners John and Joyce Worrell.

The Marion County case stemmed from an incident in which Laurance Anton — described by the appeals court as “intoxicated and apparently injured” — broke into a shed on the Worrells’ property and left behind blood and what appeared to be feces. Anton was later found dead outside a nearby home, with the

accidental death attributed to blunt-force trauma to the head from a fall, according to court documents.

The Worrells hired Accident Cleaners and Restoration to clean the shed, with the firm then filing an insurance claim with Florida Farm Bureau, according to the appeals court. The insurer denied the claim, saying it fell under a pollution exclusion in the Worrells’ policy.

The Worrells filed a lawsuit, and a Marion County judge awarded \$4,103 plus interest and attorney fees and costs. A three-judge panel of the appeals court on April 28 upheld that decision, parsing the wording of the policy and whether blood could be considered a pollutant.

“A fair reading of the exclusion provision leads us to conclude that the blood left at the Worrells’ residence by Anton’s unlawful entrance onto their property is not a ‘pollutant’ as defined by the policy’s exclusion provision — that is, blood is not ‘any solid, liquid, gaseous or thermal irritant or contaminant, including smoke, vapor, soot, fumes, acids, alkalis,

chemicals and waste,’” the opinion, written by Judge Adrian Soud and joined fully by Judge Harvey Jay, said. “Indeed, blood is materially different from any of the substances listed to illustrate that which constitutes a ‘pollutant.’ Further, blood does not meet the definition of ‘waste,’ as blood plainly is not a material to be recycled, reconditioned or reclaimed.”

Judge Brian Lambert agreed with the result but did not sign onto the main opinion.

Florida Farm Bureau went to the Supreme Court, arguing in part that the “substances listed in the exclusion were not intended to constitute an exhaustive list.” The insurer contended that the appeals-court ruling conflicted with a Supreme Court precedent and did not consider “whether blood could be deemed an ‘irritant,’ ‘contaminant’ or ‘waste’ as those terms are used in the exclusion.”

But the Worrells’ attorney, in a June brief, disputed that the appeals court failed to follow precedent and said the policy’s pollution exclusion was “unambiguous.”

Average gas prices top \$3.80

News Service of Florida

Florida gasoline prices surged again last week, as pump prices have increased by 39 cents a gallon in the past month, according to the AAA auto club. The average price of a gallon of regular unleaded Monday in Florida was \$3.82, up from \$3.66 a week earlier and \$3.43 a month earlier. The state hit an average of \$3.84 a gallon on Friday, the highest price of the year, AAA said in a news release. The primary causes are rising costs of oil, OPEC production cuts and extreme temperatures along the Gulf Coast that have kept refineries from operating at full capacity. And while some easing is expected as refinery operations improve and demand slows with students returning to school, concerns remain

as the annual hurricane season enters what has traditionally been its most-active period. “Drivers should expect continued volatility at the pump during the coming months, particularly as we approach peak hurricane season,” AAA spokesman Mark Jenkins said in a prepared statement. “The majority of Florida’s gasoline is supplied by refineries along the Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi coastlines. Gas prices could spike just based on the mere threat of a hurricane making landfall in this region. How high gas prices go from there --- and for how long --- would then be based on whether those refineries suffered any long-term damage.” AAA also noted that oil prices tumbled after the U.S. credit rating was downgraded last week, adding to a market view that oil demand could decline

if the economy weakens. “If oil demand drops, prices would likely follow suit,” AAA said in a news release Friday. The state’s highest average prices were in the West Palm Beach area, while the lowest were in the Panhandle. The national average price Monday was \$3.83 a gallon.



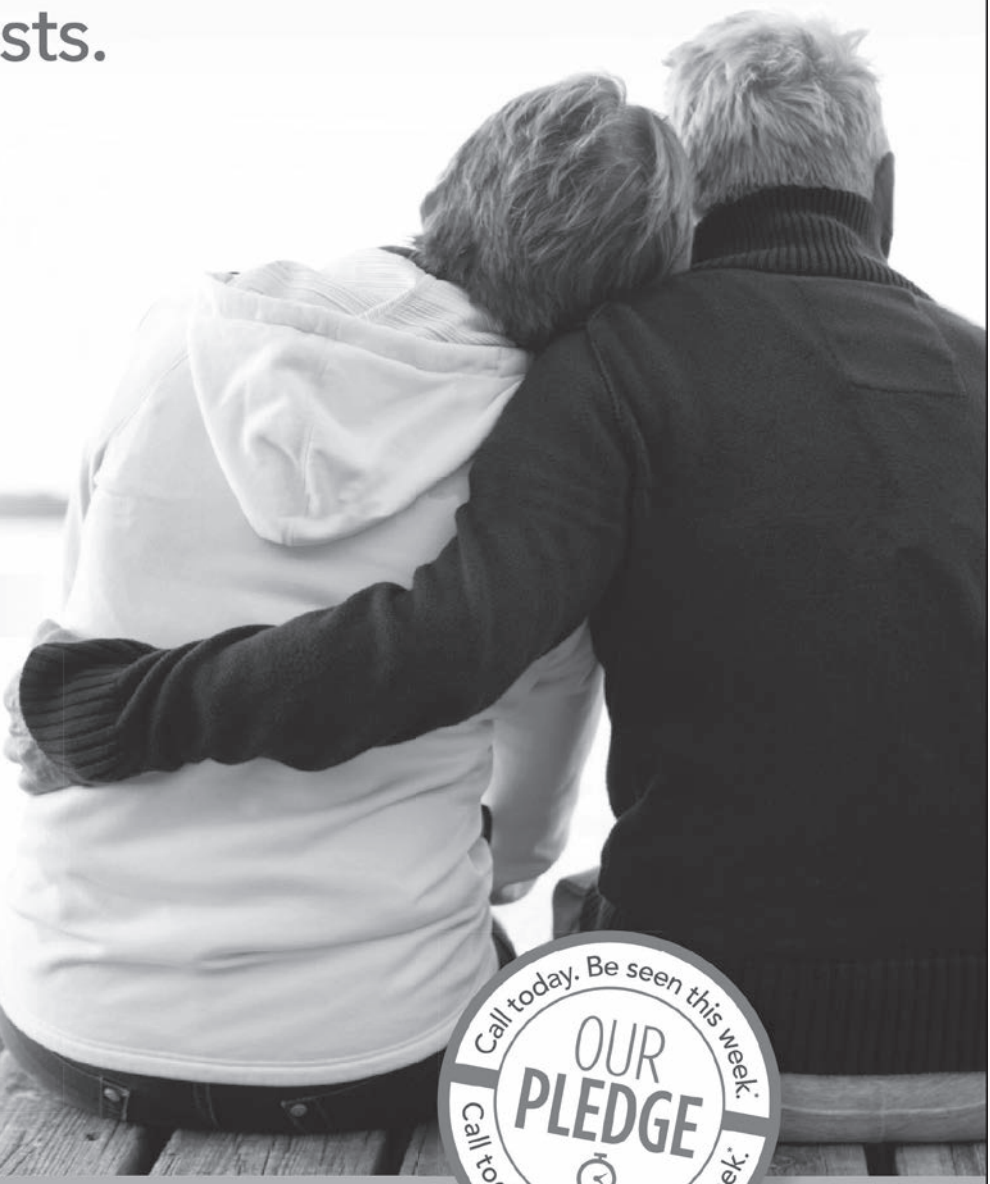
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Moody targets company in pot ballot fight

Dara Kam
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody’s office late Wednesday pumped up arguments against a proposed constitutional amendment that would authorize recreational use of marijuana, saying the measure “misleads” voters in a way to benefit the state’s largest medical-marijuana operator, Trulieve.

Tallahassee-based Trulieve has contributed all but a fraction of the nearly \$40 million raised by the Smart & Safe Florida political committee for the proposed “Adult Use of Marijuana” initiative, which would go on the 2024 ballot.

The committee, which is sponsoring the proposal, has submitted more than the nearly 900,000 signatures required to go before voters next year, but faces a final hurdle — Florida Supreme Court approval of the proposed ballot wording.

Lawyers for Moody, the Florida Chamber of Commerce and the Drug Free America Foundation have filed briefs arguing the Supreme Court should reject the proposal. Smart & Safe Florida’s attorneys last month called the state’s arguments a “thinly veiled policy agenda.”

In a brief filed late Wednesday, Moody’s office fired back and argued, in part, that the measure is misleading to voters in a manner that would help Trulieve continue its dominance in Florida’s legal cannabis market.

“This carefully curated ballot summary misleads in ways that, though sometimes subtle, are likely to influence voters — and to do so in a way that entrenches the sponsor’s monopolistic stranglehold on the marijuana market to the detriment of Floridians. The initiative should be stricken,” state Solicitor General Henry Whitaker wrote in the brief.

The summary that voters would see on the ballot says the proposed amendment “allows adults 21 years or older to possess, purchase, or use marijuana products and marijuana accessories for non-medical

personal consumption by smoking, ingestion, or otherwise.”

The proposal also says it “applies to Florida law” and “does not change, or immunize violations of, federal law.”

But the state argued that the use of the word “allows” is misleading because “the amendment would not actually allow anything; all possession of marijuana would remain unlawful under federal law.”

A Smart & Safe Florida brief filed last month disputed those arguments.

“It strains credulity well past the breaking point to think that the average voter is unaware that marijuana is illegal at the federal level. That prohibition has been a major subject of national debate for years,” lawyers for the sponsor wrote on July 19.

Moody’s lawyers punched back Wednesday.

“In its pursuit of a larger customer base and greater profits, Trulieve has invited millions of Floridians to join it in reckless violation of federal criminal law,” Whitaker wrote.

Most Americans “cannot name a single Supreme Court justice,” the state’s brief said.

“If anything, most reasonable voters would not assume that a national corporation like Trulieve would openly and notoriously violate federal criminal law. That evidently is not true. ... Trulieve may be reckless enough to stake an entire business model on the whims of federal prosecutors,” Moody’s attorneys wrote. “But it cannot invite Florida voters to permanently amend their governing charter by promising that the amendment will do something (‘allow’ recreational marijuana) that it will not do.”

A footnote in the sponsor’s July brief pointed out that the U.S. Department of Justice “across multiple presidential administrations” has “not targeted businesses or consumers who comply” with state marijuana laws.

“The notion that Floridians exercising their rights under the amendment will face any real

threat of federal jeopardy is thus farfetched,” Smart & Safe Florida’s attorneys argued.

Moody’s office also targeted a part of the ballot summary that says the measure would allow current medical-marijuana operators, known as medical marijuana treatment centers, and other “state-licensed entities to acquire, cultivate, process, manufacture, sell, and distribute” marijuana products and accessories.

The state argued the language is misleading because only licensed medical-marijuana operators would be entitled to participate in the recreational-use program, unless the Legislature expands the current licensing process.

“The summary, in short, falsely states that the proposed amendment, of its own force, expands beyond MMTCs (medical marijuana treatment centers) the businesses that can be licensed to engage in the marijuana trade in Florida. This misdirection was no doubt engineered by the sponsor to appeal to voters who wish to end MMTCs’ stranglehold on the state’s marijuana market. That bait-and-switch is misleading,” Moody’s lawyers argued.

But in a statement Wednesday, Smart & Safe Florida refuted the state’s position.

“We have the deepest respect for our state’s attorney general but feel the brief she submitted misses the mark. The Smart & Safe ballot measure takes a very strict and conservative approach and not only followed the court’s roadmap established in prior rulings but clearly limits the language to a single easy-to-understand subject. As such, we hope the court will stick to the current standards laid out in law and will give Floridians the chance to vote on this ballot item,” the statement said.

Trulieve also defended the proposal, which has drawn briefs in support from the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida and the Florida Medical Marijuana Business Association.

“The ballot language is clear,

states the chief purpose of the amendment and – without a doubt – covers one and only one subject. For these reasons, we trust the court will agree that the voters of Florida should have the opportunity to vote to allow adults in Florida the freedom to use cannabis for their personal consumption,” Trulieve said in a statement Wednesday.

The court twice ruled that previous initiatives aimed at authorizing recreational use of marijuana did not meet constitutional muster. Under the Florida Constitution, ballot initiatives must not be confusing to voters and must address a single subject.

Lawyers for Safe & Smart Florida argued that, in drafting the 2024 proposal, they followed a “clear roadmap” laid out by the court in the previous rulings rejecting marijuana measures.

“Yet the attorney general now asks this court to suddenly change course, holding that the language previously approved — repeatedly and unanimously — is no longer sufficient, despite this court’s description of that language as the model for sponsors just two years ago,” they wrote in last month’s brief.

But the state’s attorneys urged justices to ignore their prior decisions and focus on the current measure.

“Anything less than searching review of a ballot summary risks the Florida Constitution becoming ‘the den of special interest groups,’” they wrote, citing a previous Florida Supreme Court ruling. “So while the sponsor has spent a small fortune (some \$40 million) peddling its initiative to Floridians, there are far more important interests at play.”

In a brief written by former Justice Alan Lawson, the Florida Chamber of Commerce argued that the court should nix the proposal because it fails to meet the constitutional single-subject requirement. The Florida Chamber has a long history of opposing ballot initiatives and championed efforts to make it harder for measures to be placed on the ballot.

Unions, New College prof challenge state law

Jim Saunders
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — Faculty unions and a New College of Florida professor who was denied tenure have challenged the constitutionality of a new state law that did away with arbitration in university employment disputes.

The United Faculty of Florida, its New College chapter and professor Hugo Viera-Vargas filed a lawsuit Thursday in Leon County circuit court alleging the law violates collective-bargaining rights and unconstitutionally “impairs” an existing union contract.

The issue centers on a change, approved this spring by Gov. Ron DeSantis and the Republican-controlled Legislature, that prevents arbitration of grievances filed by faculty members over issues such as tenure denials. The law (SB 266) says grievances “may not be appealed

beyond the level of a university president” or a person designated by the president.

The lawsuit said the change upended decades of unions negotiating grievance procedures that allowed arbitration if disputes could not be resolved at universities.

“The arbitration ban cannot survive any level of constitutional scrutiny,” the lawsuit said. “There is no remotely sufficient governmental interest in this prohibition. Nor do the state’s means bear an adequate connection to any purported interest. Instead, the prohibition serves only to undermine plaintiffs’ constitutionally protected collective bargaining and contractual rights.”

The change came amid broader attempts by DeSantis and GOP lawmakers to overhaul the higher-education system and to curb public-employee unions. It also came amid an effort to revamp New College, a small liberal-arts school in Sarasota that is part of the university system.

Among other things, DeSantis this year appointed a slate of conservative New College trustees, who helped oust former school President Patricia Okker and replace her on an interim basis with Richard Corcoran, a former Republican state House speaker and education commissioner. Corcoran is now a candidate to become president without the interim tag.

Viera-Vargas was one of five faculty members denied tenure in April by New College trustees. Viera-Vargas appealed the denial, but Corcoran

rejected the grievance in July and said the professor was not entitled to arbitration because of the new law, the lawsuit said.

Biographical information on the New College website said Viera-Vargas, an assistant professor, is a “cultural historian that focuses his research on the intersection of race and musical expressions in Puerto Rican and Caribbean societies.”

“On information and belief, Viera-Vargas was denied tenure, in material part, due to President Corcoran’s disagreement with certain of the subjects Viera-Vargas teaches,” the lawsuit said. “Plaintiff Viera-Vargas now believes he must conform to the president’s views to keep his job at New College. The arbitration ban curtails Viera-Vargas’s academic freedom and forces him to engage in self-censorship.”

The United Faculty of Florida’s New College chapter and the school signed a collective bargaining agreement in March 2022 that will be in effect through June 30, 2024. The agreement includes a right to arbitrate grievances, according to the lawsuit.

The unions and Viera-Vargas are seeking a ruling that the new law is unconstitutional and are asking for an injunction. As an alternative, they would like a judge to block the arbitration ban from applying during the rest of the current collective bargaining agreement.

The lawsuit names as defendants the New College Board of Trustees and the state university system’s Board of Governors.



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 31**
Aaron Barjames Touchet, 47, Wewahitchka; possession of paraphernalia
Anthony Leon Skanes, 58, Port St. Joe; out of county warrant
Eric Lamar Thomas, 51, Port St. Joe; sell methamphetamine, fleeing/eludine LEO lights/

- sirens active, resist or obstruct officer w/o violence, drive while license suspended (knowingly)
Aug. 1
Nicole Tia White, 34, Wewahitchka; fraudulent use credit card more 2 time 6 ms obt gds money 100 do
Roger Salik, 49, Upper Darby, PA; housing for another agency [DOC]
Austin Dwayne Peoples, 19, Wewahitchka; criminal mischief over 200 dols under 1000 dols, agg assault with a deadly weapon without intent
Aug. 2
Donald Wayne Brake, 38, Wewahitchka;

- battery (domestic) touch or strike
Aug. 3
Tony Curtis Brinson, 36, Wewahitchka; assault or battery on officer firefighter emt etc
Aug. 4
Curtis Gray, 58, Wewahitchka; no charges available
Crystal Paige Earle, 37, Wewahitchka; domestic battery, violation of ptr/cond release/new charge on b [GCSO]
Aug. 6
Amy Marie Kiger, 41, Carrabelle; failure to appear in court for felony offense

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.



Beach adventures [TAMMIE LYNN MATTHEWS | CONTRIBUTED]



Reflections [CINDY BRANCH | CONTRIBUTED]



Sunset over the pier [MELISSA WATSON | CONTRIBUTED]

PET

OF THE WEEK

St. Joseph Bay Humane Society



Hi, I'm Pinky! I am a 1 year old dilute tortoiseshell. I am very loving but prefer alone time. I get along with all of the cats in the cat room but keep to myself most of the time. My favorite thing to do is lounge around in a cat bed. I would do great in a quieter home. I love treats and hanging out in our catio! Come by the shelter to meet me and all my friends! 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



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Found a sea star! [DARLA WINNARD LYLE | CONTRIBUTED]

CELEBRATE COMMUNITY



Participating professionals answered questions from local high-schoolers. [WENDY WEITZEL | THE STAR]

Local youths had the opportunity to ask questions of successful young professionals from the area. [WENDY WEITZEL | THE STAR]

Local professionals push progress with Port St. Joe’s youth

Wendy Weitzel
Wweitzel@nevespublishing.com

Dozens of local children participated in the Pushin’ P(rogress) program at the Washington High School Gymnasium on Aug. 5.

It was a good turnout for the event’s second year, said organizers, who said they felt encouraged by the childrens’ active interactions with young professionals from the area.

“A lot of times, after high school, kids feel like it’s pretty much over because they never planned or had a goal beyond that for their lives,” said Pastor Johnny Jenkins, one of the organizers of the event.

“We tried to encourage them to be independent thinkers and to have a purpose in life. That’s what we started Pushin’ P — to help give them some direction and some examples of how they can achieve their goals.”

Pushin’ P, a program aimed at providing local youth with the opportunity to learn from successful professionals from their community, was introduced by Jenkins and other community officials to expose children to members of the North Port St. Joe community who have experienced great success in their careers.

Dorian North, a correctional officer at the Gulf County Jail who participated in the program, said that providing local children with role models they can identify with is important in showing them what they are capable of.

“Kids need role models. They need positive examples,” he said. “... The majority of the kids here know all the professionals participating

today, and when you have positive role models in your community, it really helps you realize ‘I can do that’ or ‘I can be that.’ That’s not to say that they have to grow up to be exactly like us, but it helps to show them that they can do it.”

The event was sponsored by the New Life Christian Center and by Capital City Bank.

Jenkins and other event organizers said they were excited to see the children more engaged this year than the year before and looked forward to expanding the event in the future.

Children made rotations, which covered topics including mental health, healthcare, corrections, education and finance.

Along with North, nine other professionals participated in the event. This included Jasmine Fennell-Schneider and Cedric Davis, who represented the education field; Tayler Byrd and Maya Robbins-Monette, who spoke about entrepreneurship; Johna Pittman and Kiara Monette, mental health professionals; Shenoya Fennell and Princess Likely, who work in healthcare; and Circuit Judge Elijah Smiley.

Next year, organizer Kenneth Monette said he hopes to see the event continue to grow.

“We want to move it over to the school next year,” Monette said. “That way we can get the whole community involved, and maybe we could even expand it to Wewahitchka.”

Following the event, prizes were distributed and children participated in a basketball game. Many returned the following day to listen to Pastor Marvin Scott give a speech, closing the program.



Young professionals shared their experiences in various job fields. [WENDY WEITZEL | THE STAR]



Local kids sat in a semi-circle around nine local professionals for a Q&A session. [WENDY WEITZEL | THE STAR]



Participating professionals included Dorian North, Jasmine Fennell-Schneider, Cedric Davis, Tayler Byrd, Maya Robbins-Monette, Johna Pittman, Kiara Monette, Shenoya Fennell, Princess Likely and Elijah Smiley (not pictured). [WENDY WEITZEL | THE STAR]



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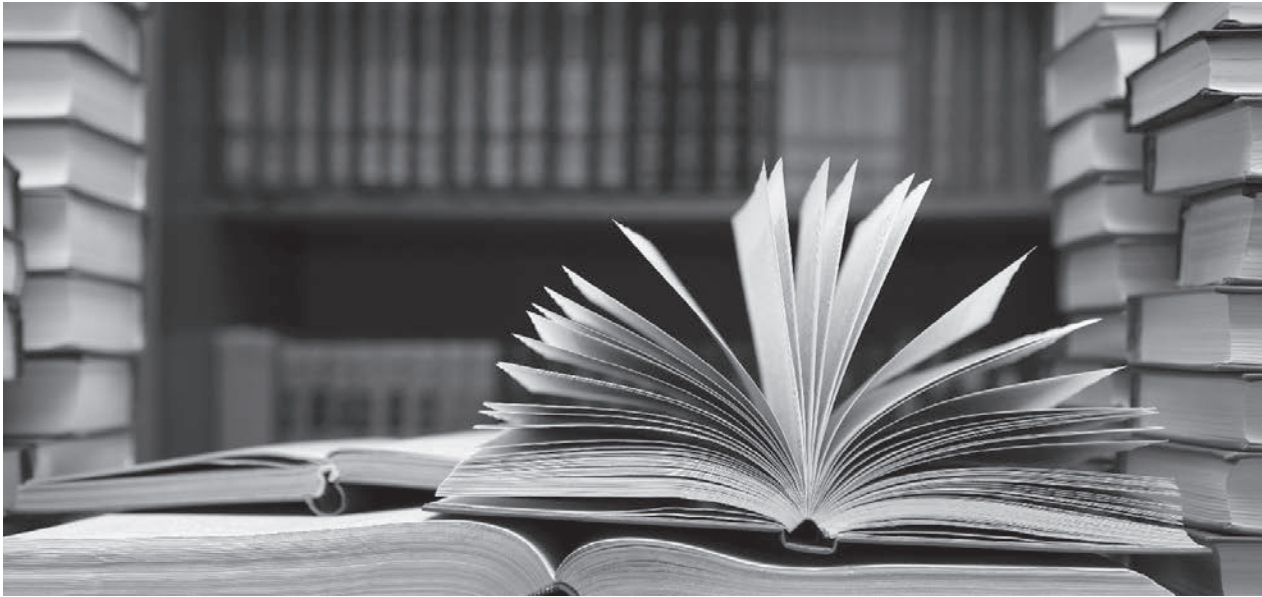
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COMMUNITY

Storytelling for adults to take place at library

Special to the Star

Stories aren't just for children. On Aug. 13, join Southern Storyteller Robyn A. Rennick, as she tells an adaptation of *The Snow Goose* by Paul Gallico. On a hot summer afternoon, she will transport you to the Great Salt Marsh of Essex, England, in the later part of the 1930s, where an unlikely friendship is formed between a hermit in the marsh, a young girl and a snow goose. These unlikely characters play a role in the rescue operation at Dunkirk. The presentation will be at the Corinne Costin Gibson Memorial Public Library at 1:30 p.m. EDT. The story is suitable for ages 16 and older. Donations to The Friends of the Library will be accepted. Call Robyn Rennick at 850 527-4671 for more information.



Education Encore is back! GCSC to reinstate popular enrichment program

Gulf Coast State College

Education Encore is coming back to the Gulf/Franklin Campus this fall. Gulf Coast State College is excited to continue to meet the needs of the Gulf/Franklin community by offering personal enrichment courses in a wide-range of topics. Education Encore is offered by Continuing

Education twice a year during the fall and spring semesters and provides enrichment classes on a variety of topics for active senior adults. Whether you want to learn a new skill, aim to improve your quality of life or explore a new hobby, Education Encore is the place. "We are so excited to bring Education Encore back to the Gulf/Franklin campus," said Kristal Smallwood, director of Gulf/Franklin Campus.

"There will be an exciting variety of classes offered that you don't want to miss this fall!" For the gardener, you can learn how to grow plants, edible and otherwise, in containers. If you want to brush up on your history, Encore will offer two classes from which to choose. Other types of classes include cake decorating, bird watching, home repairs, ukulele and wellness through Tai Chi. The Gulf/Franklin classes are held for six consecutive Wednesdays, September 13–October 18. Registration opens Friday, August 4, 2023. The cost for three classes is \$95. For more information, visit www.gulfcoast.edu/GFEncore or call 850.227.9670.

VFW delivers school supplies to local schools



The John C. Gainous Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary Post 10069 delivered backpacks filled with school supplies to all four Gulf County public schools last week, ahead of the 2023-24 school year. The annual effort aims to make sure all Gulf County students have the materials they need to have a successful school year. Pictured above are members of the VFW post presenting checks to school staff members at Port St. Joe High School and Port St. Joe Elementary School. [ROBIN ELSTAD | CONTRIBUTED]

SOCIETY

Wright celebrates one year with City of Wewa



Jennifer Wright was recognized for one year of service in the City of Wewahitchka's financial department at the city's July 28 meeting. Pictured above are, from left: Michael Gortman, Jennifer Wright, Rachel Jackson, Britney Proctor and Misty Robbins. [TOM WYNN | CONTRIBUTED]



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.

- August 4
- David Lee Luckie and Dela Jean Rakestraw

Welcoming back teaching staff



Centennial Bank, Carolyn Husband, the WHS SGA and the Dixie Dandy provided free calendars and breakfast for Wewahitchka High School teachers on their first day back after the summer break. Students returned to school on Aug. 9. [WHS]

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FOOD

Chewing on the past with a cookie



Stephanie Hill-Frazier
Guest Columnist

“I think whenever we think of our hometowns, we tend to think of very specific people: with whom you rode on the school bus, who was your next door neighbor you were playing with, who your girlfriend was. It’s always something very specific.” - Joyce Carol Oates, author

Some days are so regular... we get up, go to work or school, come home, make dinner, do chores, and whatever else the day brings. Not that those are bad things;



The Highland View Elementary School lunch ladies during the 1987-88 school year [APRIL ALVAREZ | CONTRIBUTED]

I love my job, I enjoy cooking for my family, and some chores I actually enjoy, like watering my ferns and flowers.

Every once in a

while, though, a special day comes along. Not special because a major event happens, but special because of how the day feels. Let me explain.

Some days it feels like a hole opens up in the so-called space-time continuum, and I feel like my younger self again. Not just 10 years younger, but as

if I’m swept all the way back to childhood for a little while. It may be hearing a show’s theme song that takes me back; Mr. Rogers Neighborhood or Sesame Street’s theme songs come on, and I feel as if it’s 1972. The Golden Girls song, “Thank You For Being a Friend,” helps me revisit the 1980s, when I watched it with mom or Grammy.

It’s not always music that can send me back in time. Sometimes it might be seeing the cover of a book someone read to me in elementary school; any “I Can Read” series books do that for me. I especially loved “Sammy the Seal” by Syd Hoff. I loved hearing about Sammy’s romp around town after escaping the zoo.

This weekend, though, what got me was the sight of a 1970s station wagon on TV; it was a Ford Country Squire, wood side panels and dark green paint, just like Dad’s. I sometimes think if I found one of those in great shape today, I’d want to buy it and drive it around instead of my small, modern SUV. I can still picture the carpeted “way back” area of that car, where as a little girl I would play with my Barbie dolls while riding around with mom or dad. I loved that car. Why did automakers switch to mini-vans? Station wagons were so great.

Anyway, after the car made me nostalgic, I went outside and planted some zinnias as mom taught me to do, and afterward decided to make some cookies.

It’s too hot right now, though, to turn on the oven just for a

snack. My mind went back to the cafeteria at Highland View Elementary, where the ladies would make chocolate-oatmeal no-bake cookies sometimes. They were a favorite of mine and many of the other kids. They had a chewy texture and delicious chocolate flavor. I thought I’d give it a try, but instead of chocolate, I wanted to make peanut butter no-bakes. I used a basic old recipe and stirred it all together.

They turned out so well; chewy, just as I remembered, with the oatmeal adding to that wonderful texture. When they had firmed up enough in the refrigerator, I tried one, and they were just perfect! Mrs. Sandra Brock, Mrs. Sharon Shearer and all the other wonderful ladies who fed us so well back in the ‘70s in the cafeteria of that sweet little cement block school would be proud, I hope.

I’d love for you to try making them, as well. Maybe they’ll whisk you back in time, too, or just as importantly, allow you to create some new memories to look back on happily someday.

Enjoy!
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.



Peanut butter no-bake cookies [STEPHANIE HILL-FRAZIER]

Peanut butter no-bake cookies

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 cups granulated sugar
- 1 stick of butter, sliced into four pieces for easy melting
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3/4 cup peanut butter (creamy or crunchy, your choice)
- 2 1/4 cups quick cooking or old-fashioned oats, uncooked
- 2/3 cup butterscotch chips or chocolate chips (optional)

Method:

Line a cookie sheet with parchment or wax paper. Set aside.

In a large saucepan over medium-high heat, combine sugar, butter and milk., whisking together to dissolve the sugar. Bring the mixture to a hard boil as you continue stirring, and boil it for exactly one minute, continuing to stir. Then remove from the heat.

Add the vanilla extract and peanut butter; stir until the peanut butter is melted.

Fold in the oats using a silicone or rubber spatula, stirring until oats are completely incorporated into the hot liquid.

Add the butterscotch or chocolate chips, if using, and stir them in.

Drop the mixture by spoonful onto parchment or waxed paper, and allow to cool completely. If you’re in a hurry, stick them on the paper into the fridge. They harden fairly quickly. Store them in a parchment-lined air-tight container in the refrigerator.



HOME AND GARDEN

Tips to pick the right plants for your landscape

Special to the Star

Each year, gardening enthusiasts anxiously await the arrival of spring. Spring is a great season to plant new flowers, plants, grasses, and trees, making it a popular time of year to spend sunny days out in the yard.

Veteran gardeners may know their landscapes well and be able to pick the right plants on their own. Novices may need a little help as they look to give their landscapes a whole new look. The following are some helpful tips to help homeowners pick the right plants for their landscapes.

- **Conduct a site evaluation.** A colorful landscape featuring an array of plants and flowers can be eye-catching and add curb appeal to a property. However, where plants will be planted is a significant variable that must be considered before homeowners choose what to plant. The Center for Agriculture, Food, and the Environment at the University of Massachusetts Amherst notes that site evaluation is the first step when picking plants. A number of factors must be evaluated, including light availability;

water availability; exposure to the elements, including wind and extreme temperatures; and competition from existing vegetation, among other things. Document these variables prior to picking plants. For example, take note of the area you plan to plant to see if it is full sun or partial shade, and then pick plants whose growing conditions align with those you observe.

- **Look at more than looks.** Aesthetic appeal might be what homeowners most desire from their landscapes, but that appeal is only achieved when the right plants are chosen for a space. If the wrong plants are chosen, they're unlikely to thrive or they could threaten existing vegetation, thus compromising the overall appeal of the property. Native plants can often handle local weather conditions, so prioritize natives over more exotic plants whose key attribute is aesthetic appeal. If jaw-dropping aesthetic appeal is your top priority, speak with a local landscaping professional about which natives can provide that without compromising surrounding vegetation.

- **Consider maintenance prior to planting.** Maintenance is another variable gardeners must consider. Newly planted trees may require substantial watering until they've fully established their roots, and some homeowners may not have time for that. In addition, certain plants may require a considerable amount of pruning in order to create and maintain the look

homeowners desire. Individuals must be willing to invest the time and effort necessary to maintain new plantings that require such diligence. If not, look for plants that don't require much maintenance while keeping in mind that even low-maintenance plants still require some effort and attention.

- **Consider local wildlife.** If your lawn is routinely visited by local wildlife, then look for plants that won't look like a meal to these

welcome, if uninvited, guests. For example, if you routinely see deer lounging around in your backyard, look for deer-resistant plants. This is a good way to protect your investment, of both time and money, and ensure minimal wildlife traffic through your newly landscaped yard.

Spring gardens are awe-inspiring, especially when homeowners embrace various strategies for successful planting.



PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners will hold a Public Hearing to discuss and consider the adoption of the following Ordinance with the following title:

AN ORDINANCE OF GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA REPEALING AND REPLACING GULF COUNTY ORDINANCE NO. 2022-12 ESTABLISHING BUILDING DEPARTMENT PERMIT AND PENALTY FEES; ADOPTING FLORIDA BUILDING CODE; AND REGULATE THE CLEARING OF PROPERTY WITHIN A RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AND REQUIRE STABILIZATION. PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCE OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith; PROVIDING FOR MODIFICATIONS THAT MAY ARISE FROM CONSIDERATION AT PUBLIC HEARINGS; PROVIDING FOR SAID POLICIES AND PROCEDURE TO BE FURTHER AMENDED, BE CODIFIED AND BECOME PART OF GULF COUNTY MUNICODE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

A first reading, introduction and Public Hearings will be held during the Gulf County Board of County Commissioner's Regular Meeting on Tuesday, August 22, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. (Eastern) and a second and final reading, introduction and Public Hearings will be held on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, to be held in the Donald H. Butler Commission Chamber and meeting room in the Robert M. Moore Administration Building, Gulf County Courthouse Complex, Port St. Joe, Florida.

All interested persons may appear and be heard with respect to the proposed ordinance. If a person decides to appeal any decisions made by the Gulf County Commission with respect to any matter considered at this hearing, he/she will need a record of the proceedings and that for such purpose he/she may need to ensure a verbatim record of the proceedings made and which would include any evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

A copy of the proposed ordinance is available for inspection on weekdays between the hours of 9:00 a.m. est., and 5:00 p.m. est. at the Office of the Clerk of Court, Gulf County Courthouse, 1000 C.G. Costin, Sr., Blvd., Room 149, Port St. Joe, Florida, 32456.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY: SANDY QUINN, CHAIRMAN
August 10, September 7, 2023

NOTICE OF ADOPTING RESOLUTION AND APPROVAL FOR GULF COUNTY RIGHT OF WAY ABANDONMENT

WHEREAS, pursuant to a Notice of Public Hearing, duly advertised in accordance with Florida law and Gulf County policy, a Public Hearing was held before the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) meeting on Tuesday, May 23, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. EST. The Hearing was held in the Donald H. Butler Commission Chamber located in the Robert M. Moore Administration Building at the Gulf County Courthouse Complex, 1000 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd., in Port St. Joe, Florida to discuss and consider a petition for Gulf County to vacate and abandon a public alleyway pursuant to Gulf County "Vacation, Abandonment, Discontinue or Close Easements, Right of Ways, Roadways, Alleyways and Plats Policy" and for the adoption of the following Resolution titled as:

A RESOLUTION OF THE GULF COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION FOR ITS AUTHORIZING VACATION AND ABANDONMENT OF RIGHT OF WAY AND ALLEYWAY BETWEEN COWRIES STREET AND HELMET STREET PURSUANT TO GULF COUNTY ABANDONMENT POLICY WITH NOTICED PUBLIC HEARING AND APPROVING VOTE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION; AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING COUNTY OFFICIALS, OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES AND AGENTS TO TAKE SUCH ACTIONS AS MAY BE NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE IN FURTHERANCE OF THE ABANDONMENT DIRECTIVES HEREIN; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, after hearing all interested parties and determining that the proposed action would not materially interfere with the County road systems or adversely affect the interests of the citizens of Gulf County, and would not affect the ownership of or deprive any person convenient access to his/her premises, in accordance with the Florida Statutes it was determined that it would be in the best interest of all concerned to vacate and abandon the Gulf County right of way at Block 16 of the Beacon Hill Subdivision. A 15 ft alleyway between Cowries St. and Helmet St. as described in the application and authorizing (Gulf County Resolution No. 2023-17) of which both copies are available for inspection on weekdays between the hours of 9:00 a.m. est., and 5:00 p.m. est. at the Office of the Clerk of Court, Room 149, Gulf County Courthouse, 1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr., Blvd., Port St. Joe, Florida 32456.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY: SANDY QUINN, CHAIRMAN
August 10, 2023

CITY OF PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA NOTICE TO RECEIVE SEALED BIDS RFP 2023-13

**50% Membrane Grade Caustic Soda
Sodium Hypochlorite
Liquid Ferric Sulfate**

Sealed bids for City of Port St. Joe for 50% Membrane Grade Caustic Soda, Sodium Hypochlorite, and Liquid Ferric Sulfate will be received at City Hall, 305 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd., Port St. Joe, Florida 32456 up until 3:00 PM EST, Friday, August 25, 2023. Bids will be publicly opened and acknowledged, Friday, August 25, 2023, at 3:05 PM EST, in the City Commission Conference Room.

Bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope, plainly marked with bidder's name, address, date and time of opening, and "RFP Number 2023-13 for 50% Membrane Grade Caustic Soda, Sodium Hypochlorite, and Liquid Ferric Sulfate." You may bid on any or all of these chemicals. Your packet must specify which chemical you are bidding on.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK: A complete bid package is available at the City's website: www.cityofportstjoe.com

For questions concerning this project, please contact Larry McClamma at 850-229-1421.

The City of Port St. Joe reserves the right to accept or reject any and all Statements of Bids in whole or in part, to waive informalities in the process, to obtain new Statements of Bids, or to postpone the opening pursuant to the City's purchasing policies. Each Statement of Bid shall be valid to the City of Port St. Joe for a period of sixty (60) days after the opening.

The City of Port St. Joe is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer, and a Drug Free Work place.

NOTICE TO PUBLISHER: This legal ad is to appear on Thursday August 10, 2023, and August 17, 2023, in the Star Newspaper.

Please forward the original "Proof of Publication" and the invoice to:

The City of Port St. Joe
Attn: Charlotte Pierce, City Clerk
P.O. Box 278
Port St. Joe, FL 32457

CITY OF PORT ST. JOE PROJECT #50146268 MADISON STREET SCOP

NOTICE TO RECEIVE SEALED BIDS RFP 2023-12

The City of Port St. Joe will receive sealed bids from any qualified person, company or corporation interested in constructing:

**MADISON STREET SCOP
(FPID NO. 449722-2-54-01)**

This project consists of resurfacing approximately 0.41 miles of Madison Street from Garrison Avenue to Long Avenue in Port St. Joe, Florida. The project also involves striping and other safety improvements.

Plans and specifications can be obtained by contacting Shannon Renfro at srenfro@dewberry.com with Dewberry Engineers Inc., 324 Marina Drive, Port St. Joe, Florida 32456. The bid must conform to Section 287.133(3) Florida Statutes, on public entity crimes. Cost for Plans and Specifications will be \$25.00 per set and is non-refundable. Checks should be made payable to DEWBERRY ENGINEERS INC.

All bidders shall be FDOT Qualified per Section 2-1 of the FDOT Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction, latest edition in the following work classes: Grading, Drainage, Flexible Paving, and Hot Plant Mix-Bituminous Course.

The completion date for this project will be 60 days for Substantial Completion and 90 days for Final Completion from the date of the Notice to Proceed presented to the successful bidder. Liquidated damages for failure to complete the project on the specified date will be set at \$500.00 per day.

Please indicate on the envelope that this is a sealed bid, for the "**RFP 2023-12 Madison Street SCOP**".

Bids will be received until **3:00 P.M. Eastern Time**, on **Friday, September 8, 2023**, at the City of Port St. Joe City Hall, 305 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd, Port St. Joe, Florida 32456, and will be opened and read aloud at **3:05 P.M. Eastern Time**. The City of Port St. Joe is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer/Drug Free Workplace/Handicapped Accessible/Fair Housing Jurisdiction.

The City of Port St. Joe reserves the right to waive informalities in any bid, to accept and/or reject any or all bids, and to accept the bid that in their judgment will be in their best interest. All bids shall remain firm for a period of sixty days after the opening.

Questions regarding the project must be **submitted in writing** to Josh Stephens at jstephens@dewberry.com prior to **August 25, 2023**.

All bidders shall comply with all applicable State and local laws concerning licensing registration and regulation of contractors doing business to the State of Florida.

If you have any questions, please contact Josh Stephens at (850) 571-1218 or e-mail at jstephens@dewberry.com .August 3, 10, 2023

FAITH

A verse that could transform your marriage



Sheryl Boldt
Guest Columnist

“Freeze!”

What would happen if, throughout your week, you heard the

command to freeze (stop in mid-track) whatever you were saying or thinking? In that frozen moment, would you be OK with the words and thoughts you stopped on?

Would God be OK with them?

Let’s apply the same concept to your marriage. What if your words to your

husband or wife (and your thoughts about them) were suddenly frozen – captured long enough to force you to see and hear your attitude, context and intent?

Would the impact of your words and thoughts encourage your partner’s heart toward you? Likewise, do your words and thoughts help

you feel better about your spouse?

Do you find yourself acting unlovingly toward your wife or disrespecting your husband? It’s especially easy to do so when our spouse makes it hard to love and respect them.

I struggle with this as much as I suspect you do. In fact, during the week while

I was writing this article, I blew it more than once. Without intending to, I spoke harshly to Bert, disregarded his opinion and neglected his need for companionship.

So you can imagine how relieved I was when I found the perfect verse to help get me (and you, if you can relate) on track and keep us on track. This verse works even on days when we’re not convinced our spouse is our better half.

Perhaps you’ll recognize Psalm 19:14 (ESV): “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.” Some translations use “strength” in place of “rock.” I like both words.

What would happen if we wrote this verse on an index card or sticky note and meditated on it throughout the day – every hour, if need be? Because

if any of our words and thoughts aren’t acceptable in God’s sight, then they probably won’t be in our partner’s eyes either.

Along with meditating on Psalm 19:14, how would it change all our relationships if we prayed this verse? Envision the transformation in our marriage if we prayed with our whole heart for God to help us change the way we speak and the thoughts we dwell on.

Every word. Every thought.

It’s very possible that, as we meditate on, pray and apply Psalm 19:14, we’ll change so much that our spouse’s heart will once again be encouraged toward us.

This, my friend, would be a powerful step toward saving our marriages.

Sheryl H. Boldt, a Franklin County resident, is the author of the blog, www.TodayCanBeDifferent.net. Connect with her at SherylHBoldt@gmail.com.



Mud pies and ugly sandwiches



R.A. Tea Mathews
Guest Columnist

I spotted the old man, who lives under the bridge, as he stood on his street corner. There was no traffic, so I was able to pull beside him and stop.

I’ve known him for several years. He’s gentle, although earnest with his panhandling sign. He’s there for a reason. Some days, that makes me laugh.

This was one of those days.

“Do you like peanut butter?” I asked.

“Yes.” He grinned, looking inside my vehicle. I reached for the sandwich I had made for myself. It was a

sacrifice—I was traveling and needed it. Even so, I didn’t want him to go hungry and didn’t have time to find him something.

I handed it through the window, and he immediately shook his head. “No,” he said.

“It’s good. Peanut butter and homemade jam on Ezekiel bread.”

“No,” he said, again, stepping back from my car.

“But you said you liked peanut butter.”

“I don’t like that kind.”

Okay, I laughed. What I haven’t told you is that the sandwich didn’t look exactly right—I had sat on half of it.

But I kept trying.

“Honestly, it’s good,” I said. “It just looks a little—”

He eyed the squashed side. I turned the good side to him.

“No,” he said, walk-

ing away.

I left but thought of him later while eating that great sandwich. I recalled the story of Jesus and the nameless blind man. Let me show you why.

When Jesus encountered that blind man, the Lord spit on the ground and placed mud on his eyes. What did Jesus say?

“I am the Light of the world.”

Here’s the passage: “As Jesus passed by, He saw a man who had been blind from birth . . . (and said) ‘I am the Light of the world.’ When He had

said this, He spit on the ground, and made mud from the saliva, and applied the mud to his eyes and said to him, ‘Go, wash in the pool of Siloam’ (which is translated, Sent).” (John 9:1-7)

How did the blind man respond? Now remember, he has mud on his eyes from Jesus’ spit. Did he walk away, disgusted? Or did he ask Jesus to come with him, hoping the mud would really work?

Here’s the rest of the passage:

“... and (Jesus) said to him, ‘Go, wash in

the pool of Siloam’ (which is translated, Sent). So he left and washed, and came back seeing.” (John 9:7)

He hadn’t asked Jesus anything. He simply believed.

But healings didn’t always go like that. Blind Bartimaeus received a much better deal. Here’s the passage:

“... as (Jesus) was leaving Jericho ... a beggar who was blind named Bartimaeus ... began to cry out ... And Jesus said to him, ‘Go; your faith has made you well.’

And immediately he regained his sight...” (Mark 10:46-52)


Bartimaeus was healed at once. Everyone who saw Jesus and needed healing had faith, right?

Hardly.

Recall when Jesus was teaching in his hometown of Nazareth: “Jesus ... came into His hometown ... began to teach ... and the many listeners were astonished, saying, ‘Where did this man learn these things, and what is this wisdom ... Is this

See MATHEWS, Page 10B





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OUTDOORS

Female rough-toothed dolphin in rehab after rescue

Gulf World Marine Institute

On Saturday, July 28, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission alerted Gulf World Marine Institute to a live-stranded dolphin on St. Vincent Island National Wildlife Refuge in Franklin County.

GWMI reached out to the beachgoers onsite and confirmed that a dolphin had been found actively stranding in shallow waters on the Gulf side of the Island. Eager to help, the beachgoers agreed to stay on scene with the animal until help could arrive.

Law enforcement officers with the Franklin County FWC office agreed to transport the GWMI team to the location by boat where upon arrival, they were able to confirm the species, collect blood samples, and do a basic health assessment.

Determining the female rough-toothed dolphin (*Steno bredanensis*) was fit enough for rehabilitation, the team carefully loaded her



The female rough-toothed dolphin has begun swimming on her own. [GWMI | CONTRIBUTED]

assisted in the habitat.

The female rough-toothed dolphin weighs about 77 kilograms (170 pounds), and must be monitored around the clock. As with all debilitated animals that wash ashore, rescue team members must be alert to her condition and behavior at all times. So far, she has done well in habitat, and is already swimming on her own. She has also started to accept fish that are tossed into the habitat. Bloodwork was collected to test for possible infections that might have caused her stranding.

All marine mammal response activities are conducted under appropriate stranding agreements with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

For those interested in donating to GWMI's stranding and rehabilitation efforts, go to www.gwmi.info. Marine mammal rehabilitation efforts are extensive and expensive, and can cost over \$15,000 in the first week alone.

Hammerhead shark washes up on shore

David Adlerstein
dadlerstein@
nevespublishing.com

Imagine waking up on vacation on St. George Island and finding a large hammerhead shark on the sand beneath your feet.

That's what Christopher Norris found at about 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 3, where he and his sister, Katie Roth, and their family were staying for a week in the Plantation.

"It was very surprising," said Roth. "He was

on the beach first; he was going to start fishing. That's when he ran back up and called my kids. We all ran down."

Roth said people looked at the deceased shark all morning. "We rolled it over a little," she said. "There were a couple superficial cuts, but from what we could tell it wasn't attacked."

The family had fished on the beach the night before until 9 p.m. "We definitely did not catch a shark, and we didn't see any fishermen," Roth said.

She said she spent the day calling everyone from their rental agency, to the sheriff's office to county parks and recreation to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Faith Flawn, public information director for FWC's Northwest Region, said those spotting washed-up sharks are encouraged to report it to FWC's Fish Kill Hotline at 1-800-636-0511. "Sometimes we will collect the carcass for research and other times we will just document it," she said.

Roth said that up until the family left on Saturday, FWC had not been out to remove it.

"Not sure why they didn't want it since it is pretty large and such a unique shark," she said. "Nobody will remove the shark since the beach isn't monitored by any particular organization. They all say let nature take its course."

"The shark is still here and decomposing," Roth said. "It was starting to get bloated and had some whiffs of something funky."



Karla Norris stands next to the large hammerhead shark, estimated to be about 7 feet long. [KATIE ROTH | CONTRIBUTED]

WEEKLY ALMANAC

DATE	HIGH	LOW	PRECIP
Thu, August 10	90°	79°	35%
Fri, August 11	90°	80°	24%
Sat, August 12	90°	80°	49%
Sun, August 13	90°	80°	58%
Mon, August 14	91°	79°	51%
Tues, August 15	90°	79°	43%
Wed, August 16	91°	79°	34%

ST. JOSEPH BAY

Date	Day	High Tide	High Tide	Low Tide	Low Tide
10	Th	5:23a	2.0	4:40p	-0.2
11	Fr	6:15a	2.1	5:27p	-0.2
12	Sa	7:07a	2.1	6:08p	-0.2
13	Su	7:58a	2.0	6:44p	-0.1
14	Mo	8:49a	2.0	7:15p	-0.1
15	Tu	9:37a	1.9	7:41p	0.1
16	We	10:25a	1.8	8:02p	0.2

APALACHICOLA BAY, WEST PASS

Date	Day	High Tide	High Tide	Low Tide	Low Tide				
10	Th	9:34a	1.6	7:20p	0.1				
11	Fr	10:26a	1.6	8:18p	0.0				
12	Sa	11:30a	1.6	9:06p	-0.1				
13	Su	5:09a	1.4	12:39p	1.6	8:06a	1.5	9:48p	-0.1
14	Mo	5:20a	1.4	1:43p	1.6	9:03a	1.4	10:23p	0.0
15	Tu	5:33a	1.4	2:40p	1.6	9:47a	1.3	10:53p	0.1
16	We	5:43a	1.4	3:30p	1.6	10:24a	1.2	11:18p	0.2

SPONSOR THE WEEKLY ALMANAC

CALL TODAY! (850) 227-1278

FWC REPORTS

During the week of July 14 through 20, while patrolling on St. George Island Sound, Officers Hartzog and Forbes conducted a boating safety and resource inspection on a recreational fishing vessel during which the operator was observed to be impaired and was asked to conduct standardized field sobriety tasks. After completing the tasks, the operator was determined to be operating a vessel while under the influence. While arresting the operator, a vessel occupant became belligerent and continued to board their patrol vessel after being instructed not to. The occupant and the operator were arrested and transported to Franklin County Jail.

While on patrol south of Franklin County, Lieutenant Smith and Officers Hartzog and

Nelson observed a recreational fishing vessel with several individuals onboard fishing. During a resource inspection, officers found the occupants of the vessel in possession of out-of-season gag grouper and not in whole condition file, and undersized red snapper, flounder, and out-of-season, undersized greater amberjack. The officers documented the violation and forwarded details of the violation to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

From Gulf County, Senior Officers M. and H. Webb were working the Blue Angels Air Show in Pensacola. While patrolling the Santa Rosa Sound, the officers stopped a recreational vessel leaving Little Sabine Bay. Officer H. Webb conducted a boating safety and resource inspection on the vessel and noticed the operator showing signs of impairment.

He administered seated standardized field sobriety tasks on the operator and determined he had been operating the vessel while impaired. The operator was arrested for boating under the influence, and transported and booked into the Escambia County Jail.

During the week of July 21 to 27, Officer Gerber was on patrol in Gulf County when he observed a vessel with no navigation lights operating at night. The officer stopped the vessel to address the violation and conduct a resource inspection, during which a device capable of producing an electrical current sufficient to stun or shock freshwater fish was discovered on board. Other components were located, and the operator admitted the device was used for shocking catfish. The operator of the vessel was issued the proper citations for the violation.

2023

BLUE WATER OUTRIGGERS

Everything for your outdoor adventure!!

Monday - Saturday: 6am - 6pm EST Sunday: 6am - 6pm EST 121 W. Highway 98 • Port St. Joe • (850)229-1100

COMMUNITY



A nice stroll through wooded areas on Pig Pen Road is restful. [BUFFER PRESERVE | CONTRIBUTED]

Explore Pig Pen Road for a glimpse at some of the state’s most prolific wildlife

Sandra Cole
St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve

If we walk all the trails, roads, and paths at the St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve we will have covered 5, 027 acres. Wow! What an adventure on the road to getting heathy!

This fall will be an even better time to walk the trails as it will be a little cooler (we hope). A former neighbor reported that he had walked every road, trail, path many times — and saved himself heart surgery in the process.

The next road on our trail map is Pig Pen Road.

The name of this road is of obvious origins and was named while the property belonged to a private individual. The pig pens that dotted the area have since been removed by site volunteers, alternative spring breakers, and Buffer staff.

Pig Pen is 0.79 miles from Treasure Road to Grassy Road. On the

map you see a 0.2 loop which dead ends and you must go back the way you came. If it has not been cut recently you might just want to put it on a list for another time.

At the beginning of restoration efforts deer stands, along with the pig pens, near Pig Pen Road were removed by staff and volunteers. They have been disposed of as there is no hunting allowed now on Buffer Preserve property.

Pig Pen Road overlooks a wetlands area of the Preserve. It has undergone prescribed burning twice in the last few years.

“This zone is one that had no history of being burned. In order to reduce the fuel load, it was deemed necessary and important to burn the area,” said Dylan Shoemaker, preserve manager. “If a wildfire should result from a lightning strike it will be much easier to maintain. It’s in everyone’s best interest to keep the burns current and in proper rotation to reduce chances of

wildfire for the Buffer Preserve and our neighbors.”

Let’s think about the pigs on Pig Pen Road and in the Uplands. One question to consider — how did they get to our area? Hernando DeSoto brought them to the New World in 1539. It’s their descendants, nearly 500 years later, who number in the millions. Now that number is closer to three million and growing.

It’s a fact: all 67 counties in the state have feral hogs, and they are in at least 35 states, reports from the University of Florida research publication tell us.

A wild hog (*Sus scrofa*) by any other name might be feral hog, feral swine, feral pig, wild boar, wild pig or piney woods rooter. While they are not native to Florida, they have been here for hundreds of years.

They are prolific reproducers. When a group actively hunting them tries to locate them to eradicate them, they are not to

be found. Even with traps they are hard to capture.

While these wild hogs usually weigh from 100 to 200 pounds, and they might measure 5 to 6 ft long, their favorite food is acorns, however, they will eat almost anything. Researchers Bill Giuliano and George Tanner of the University of Florida determined this from their research.

Why are they a nuisance? They root the ground, disturb rare plants, disturb soil and ground cover, vegetation and leave the area looking like it’s been plowed.

They feed by rooting with their broad snouts. While their favorite food is acorns, they will eat anything. In our area they eat a wide variety of plants and animals but prefer oak-cabbage, palm hammocks, freshwater marshes and sloughs in pine flatwoods or agriculture areas.

They travel in small groups or alone and have been seen occasionally crossing the roads. Sometimes employees can hear them in the uplands and still not see them. According to an accomplished hunter, the male boar will be the lone hog or single track, as females travel in packs.

The problem with the pigs is their rooting (the effects of consuming, knocking down and trampling large amounts of native vegetation and crops) in the Buffer Preserve, where they don’t distinguish the non-important plants/roots from the rare and very protected ones. They leave evidence when they have been rooting though – you can’t miss it. It can look like a large piece of heavy equipment has been used.

George Tanner, from the University of Florida reports in his research, “Wild hogs compete for food with other game animals such as deer, turkeys and squirrels, and they may consume the nests and young of their fine sense of smell, wild hogs can find and consume young domestic livestock, including poultry, lambs and goats. Millions of dollars are spent each year to



No more pig pens, just nature at its finest. [BUFFER PRESERVE | CONTRIBUTED]

See TRAILS, Page 10B



CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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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		

- CROSSWORD CLUES
- CLUES ACROSS

1. A way to pick up

5. Presents

10. Type of guitar

14. Actor Idris

15. A citizen of Iran

16. Creative

17. Harness

18. Weight unit

19. You better call him

20. Utterly devoted

22. Male cat

23. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation

24. Risk-taker

27. A team’s best pitcher

30. Cool!

31. Women’s __ movement

32. Georgia rockers

35. Step-shaped recess

37. The princess could detect its presence

38. Type of truck

39. Butterhead lettuces

40. Angry people see it

41. Lines where two fabrics are sewn together

42. Soviet city

43. Carpet

44. Traveled all over

45. Thin, straight bar

46. Body art (slang)

47. Congressman (abbr.)

48. No seats available

49. Breaks apart

52. Arabic name

55. Ballplayer’s tool

56. Type of sword

60. Baseball team

61. Upper bract of grass floret

63. Italian Seaport

64. Ancient Syrian city

65. Shoelace tube

66. The Miami mascot is one

67. South American nation

68. Popular video game “Max __”

69. Body part

- CROSSWORD CLUES
- CLUES DOWN

1. German courtesy title

2. Ancient Greek City

3. Ancient Hebrew calendar month

4. Long-legged frog family

5. Photo

6. Delivered a speech

7. Lute in classical Indian music

8. Decorated

9. Take a seat

10. Belonging to a bottom layer

11. Member of a Semitic people

12. Part of a ticket

13. Defunct Guinean money

21. Challenges

23. Popular BBQ food

25. Subway dweller

26. By way of

27. Shady garden alcove

28. Egyptian city

29. Partner to “flowed”

32. Widens

33. Old Eurasian wheat

34. Act incorrectly

36. European pipeline

37. Al Bundy’s wife

38. Ocean

40. Root eaten as a vegetable

41. Sound units

43. Style of music

44. A way to drench

46. Hot beverage

47. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish

49. Rumanian city

50. Urge to action

51. Vaccine developer

52. Canadian law enforcers

53. Wings

54. “Perry Mason” actor Raymond

57. Small fry

58. __ Clapton, musician

59. Take a chance

61. Bland food

62. Consumed

GUESS WHO

Guess Who?

I am an actor born in Australia on August 11, 1983. I began my career on an Australian soap opera. Despite appearances in many films, I am best known for my portrayal of a god in a series of Marvel movies.

SUDOKU

SUDOKU

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

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

MATHEWS

From Page 6B

not the carpenter ...” (Mark 6:1-4)

The people of Nazareth took offense, thinking Jesus was acting bigger than His britches. Scripture says: “And He was amazed at their unbelief.” (Mark 6:6)

The blind man took his muddied eyes, went, and washed without asking anything. He had what the people of Nazareth did not. He had blind faith.

God has handed me many ugly sandwiches and mud pies. He’s led me down paths I didn’t want to walk, guided me on journeys that

couldn’t possibly be right.

But God knew what He was up to. A woman recently asked me, “What will you be doing in five years?”

What I’m doing right now.

It’s true. I love everything God has given to me: writing, representing children and the mentally ill, and mediating disputes. Believe me, I didn’t want to go to law school. I won a three-year full academic scholarship. And then I won the American Jurisprudence Award in Mediation from a top ten law school when everyone in my class laughed at it. They wanted to be litigators. Five years later, mediation was big, and they were asking me

how to do it.

Prayer is answered differently for different people. Yours might come immediately as it did for Bartimaeus. Or you may get answers that you don’t want. The old panhandler didn’t want my sandwich, but he missed out!

God isn’t always going to give you what “looks right.” When the Lord speaks to you, whatever you’re guided to do, follow Him blindly.

Jesus is the light of the world.

The Rev. Mathews, BA, MDiv, JD, is a newspaper faith columnist, attorney, mediator, and the author of “Reaching to God.” Contact her at Hello@RAMathews.com to join her 1-Minute Bible Study.

TRAILS

From Page 6B

prevent damage from hogs.”

Are you likely to see wild pigs on your walks in the Buffer Preserve? It’s not likely at all. Only occasionally is one spotted in the distance, maybe crossing the road. There have not been any scares or encounters with these pigs in the Preserve.

If you have any questions, we will find the answer. You can call 850-229-1787. Things you might want to bring are sunscreen, water, phone, sturdy shoes or boots. Everything is dry right now however, at times there is areas with standing water. Get out in the sunshine, enjoy nature, find something interesting then google it when you return home. You are never too old to learn (or relearn) about nature!

As stated, in previous articles, our volunteers are our greatest resource. Some come from near or far and stay on site to help us. Some are locals who live here, shop here, belong here, and support our efforts and goals. These local volunteers make up the Board of the Friends of the St. Joseph Bay



Just one of many feral pigs in our area [BUFFER PRESERVE | CONTRIBUTED]

Preserves.

Stop in the Visitors Center for an application or check out the Friends’ website at stjosephbaypreserve.org for an application.

This story is part of a series exploring the many trails at the St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve. To read about other trails, visit The Star’s website at gulfcounty.news.

Classifieds

Place your classifieds by calling 850.227.1278

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207
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA

IN RE: ESTATE OF SAMUAL A. ADKISON, File No. 2023-50 PR Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of SAMUAL A. ADKISON, deceased, File Number 23-50 PR, is pending in the Circuit Court for Calhoun County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 1000 Cecil G. Costin Blvd. Port St Joe , FL 32456 . The name and addresses of the petitioner is set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate, on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM. All other creditors of the decedent and other

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persons having claims or demands against the decedent's estate, must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this Notice is August 3, 2023.

Personal Representative: Amanda Knowles

Attorney for Personal Representative: Clayton B. Studstill, Esquire
Florida Bar No.: 17088
The Studstill Law Firm, PLLC
326 Reid Avenue
Port St. Joe, FL 32456
850-229-8800
clayton@thestudstill-lawfirm.com
August 3, 10, 2023

208
Notice of Public Auction

LEGAL ADVERTISING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following individuals are indebted to Storage-PUP of Mexico Beach for past due rent and other charges. Auction will be conducted pursuant to Florida Self-Storage Facility Act (Chapter 83). Auction will be conducted online at storage treasures.com starting August 17, 2023 through August 28, 2023. Sale of a unit is subject to cancellation in the event of a settlement between Landlord and obligated party. Vanessa Branda --#56BS---- Boxes, Accessories, Clothing, Chair, Bags, Misc. Items, Plastic Containers, Buckets filled with Items, Company Name – StoragePUP
Billing Address – P.O. Box 7867, Paducah, KY 42002
Phone Number – (850)-648-5276
Personal Contact – Hunter Golightly, store@storagepup.com
August 3, 10, 2023

209
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 14 JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
Case No.: 19 160 DR
Division: _____
Christina Lamont,

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Petitioner and Brian Larsen, Respondent.

NOTICE OF ACTION FOR

{Specify action}
Paternity
TO: {Name of Respondent} Brian Tate Larsen
{Respondent's last known address} Jacksonville, FL

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for {Identify the type of case} Paternity/Modification has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on {name of Petitioner} Christina Lamont, whose address is 609 Old Transfer Road, Wewahitchka, FL 32465 on or before {date} _____, and file the original with the clerk of this Court at {clerk's address} 1000 Cecil G Costin Sr Blvd, Port St Joe FL, before service on Petitioner or Immediately thereafter. If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.

{If applicable, insert the legal description of real property, a specific description of personal property, and the

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name of the county in Florida where the property is located)

Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. You may review these documents upon request. You must keep the Clerk of the-Circuit Court's office notified of your current address, (You may file Designation of Current Mailing and E-Mail Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915.) Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed or e-mailed to the addresses on record at the clerk's office.

Instructions for Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.913(a)(2), Notice of Action For Family Cases With Minor or Dependent Child(ren) (06/18)

WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including

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dismissal or striking of pleadings.

Dated: 3/27/23
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
By: {Deputy Clerk} Melissa Haun
August 10, 17, 24, 31, 2023

210
POTENTIALLY IN-ELIGIBLE REGISTERED VOTER'S NOTICE
The Gulf County Supervisor of Elections has received information that the person(s) listed below is potentially ineligible to be registered to vote. Failure to contact this office within 30 days after this notice is published may result in a determination of ineligibility by the supervisor of elections and removal of the registered voters' name from the statewide voter registration system. You should contact this office by calling 850-229-6117 to receive information regarding the basis for the potential ineligibility and instructions on how to resolve the matter or request additional assistance if needed. An administrative hearing will be held regarding the potential ineligibility of these persons on September 10, 2023, at 9:00 AM EST in the Supervisor of

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Elections Office @ 401 Long Ave, Port St Joe, FL 32456. The Supervisor of Elections will make a determination no less than 30 days after this published notice and will notify the voter of the determination and action taken. Joshua Bell 103 Venus Dr Port St. Joe, FL.32456
Timothy Pickron PO Box 753 Wewahitchka, FL 32465
Jessie Glover 664 Marlin St Port St Joe, FL. 32456
Bobby Clark 1141 Hwy 71 Wewahitchka, FL 32465
This notice published August 10, 2023, John M. Hanlon Gulf County Supervisor of Elections
August 10, 2023

211
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR GULF COUNTY. CASE NO. 23-71 PR IN PROBATE

IN RE: The Estate of JERALD STEPHEN SABO, deceased.
/ NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO ALL PERSONS

LEGAL ADVERTISING

HAVING CLAIMS OR DEMANDS AGAINST THE ABOVE ESTATE: The administration of the estate of JERALD STEPHEN SABO, deceased, whose date of death was November 1, 2022, File Number 23-71 PR, is pending in the Circuit Court for Gulf County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Gulf County Courthouse, Probate Division, 1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Boulevard, Port St. Joe, FL 32456. The name and address 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 within 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 AFTER 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

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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 DEMANDS 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 August 10, 2023

/s/ /Thomas S. Gibson
/s/ Betty Strickland Sabo
Thomas S. Gibson Rish & Gibson, P.A. 116 Sailor's Cove Drive Port St. Joe, Florida 32456
(850) 229-8211
Attorney for Petitioner
FL Bar No. 0350583

Publish 2x

Betty Strickland Sabo, Petitioner
4046 Signal Ridge Lilburn, GA 30047
August 10, 17, 2023

ANSWERS

From page 9B

GUESS WHO

CHRIS
HEMSWORTH

SUDOKU

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

CROSSWORD

H	E	A	R		P	O	S	E	S		B	A	S	S
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B	I	B	B	S		R	E	D		S	E	A	M	S
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P	E	R	U		P	A	Y	N	E		N	E	C	K