



APALACHICOLA
THE TIMES
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THE STAR
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WEEKLY NEWS
FEBRUARY 22—29, 2024

Local people. Local stories. Local events.

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OUT TO SEE

Ilse Newell presents Bernard Simmons Saturday
Bernard Simmons and his band will perform at the Ilse Newell Fund for the Performing Arts concert this Saturday, Feb. 24, at 6 p.m. at the Holy Family Senior Center. For more information call (724) 550-6875 or email inconcert.apalachicola@gmail.com

Barkus Parade this Saturday

The Apalachicola Mardi Gras Barkus Parade and Street Festival will get started at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 24. With the theme "Git Along Li'l Doggies," the parade of decorated golf carts, boats, floats, and walkers – both the four-legged and two-legged kind – begins at 1 p.m. at Riverfront Park and winds through town. Registration is \$5 for walkers, \$25 for golf carts, and \$50 for floats. Dogs are free.

Apalach Farmers Market Saturday

The Apalachicola Farmers Market is this Saturday, Feb. 24 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Mill Pond Pavilion at the end of Market Street. For more info email farmersmarket@cityofapalachicola.com.

Friends of St. Joe State Parks meet Sunday

Join the Friends of St. Joseph State Parks for their annual membership meeting and chili party on Sunday, Feb. 25 from noon to 2 p.m. ET. All Friends members and the general public are invited to attend this free event.

Full moon climbs Saturday

The February Sunset and Full Moon Climb at Cape St. George Lighthouse on St. George Island will be Saturday, Feb. 24 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The climb at Crooked River Lighthouse in Carrabelle is from 6 to 8 p.m.



Gulf County ushered in Lent with a big Mardi Gras Fat Tuesday parade, Feb. 13 in downtown Port St. Joe. In this photo, Gogo "the Gator" Affolter stands between the King of Mardi Gras Kirk Jockell, left, and his wife Joy, the Queen of Mardi Gras. For more about the event, see page A7.

[KIRK JOCKELL | CONTRIBUTED]

Owl Cafe reopens with new look

David Adlerstein
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Apalachicola's famed Owl Cafe, which dates back to around 1914 with its founding by a pair of Greek immigrant brothers, has gotten a facelift.

After closing for remodeling Jan. 1, the restaurant had a soft reopening Monday, after completing in fewer than two months a whirlwind set of renovations by owner Forgotten Coast Hospitality Group, LLC.

Edward Reese, who directs the food and beverage operations for the group's four restaurants, which also include the Franklin at the Gibson Inn, and Longbills and the Smokehouse on Cape San Blas, worked closely with in-house contractor Samantha Kilbourn, to complete an extensive renovation.



Edward Reese, left, who directs the food and beverage operations for all four restaurants in the Forgotten Coast Hospitality Group, LLC, examines a kitchen fixture with Edward Busby, crew leader for Cates Electric Services, Inc. [DAVID ADLERSTEIN | THE TIMES]

The subfloor under the kitchen was replaced, and the kitchen was expanded, with nearly all the equipment replaced and a new freezer installed. The up-

stairs bathrooms were redone, the staircase to the second floor widened, new wallpaper and

See OWL CAFE, Page 7A

Rick Scott: 'This country is in deep trouble'



Sen. Rick Scott, left, shares a laugh during his introduction by Sheriff A.J. Smith.

[DAVID ADLERSTEIN | THE TIMES]

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If anyone had doubts Florida Senator Rick Scott has the fight in him to win re-election, Tuesday night's appearance at the Fort Coombs Armory for the annual Lincoln/Reagan Day Dinner likely dispelled them.

In a fiery nearly half-hour speech, Scott, 71, rallied the troops behind a message of better border security and limited government.

"We are losing this country," he said. "If Ronald Reagan was alive he'd say 'What the hell have you done to my country?' People are fed up with this; this cannot continue. This country's in deep trouble and it's our duty - we have to fight."

At a VIP reception preceding

See RICK SCOTT, Page 2A

THE TIMES



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2024

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THE STAR



More candidates file for Gulf County offices



Franklin County's 2024 campaign taking shape

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According to the website of Gulf County Supervisor of Elections John Hanlon, as of Feb. 19, 13 candidates had prefiled, signaling their intention to run for office.

Incumbent Republican Mike Harrison intends to seek another four-year term as sheriff. He is being challenged by Republican Vince Everett. The sheriff's job pays \$158,109 annually.

Republican Ashley Forehand and Democrat Candye Lewis plan to seek a four-year term as tax collector. Incumbent Democrat Shirley Jenkins has announced she does not plan to seek re-election to another term. The tax collector makes \$129,101 annually.

Incumbent Republican David Rich has filed to seek a four-year term as District 1 county commissioner. He is being challenged by Republican Christopher "Spike" McLemore.

Incumbent Republican Jack Husband, appointed last year by Governor Ron DeSantis, plans to seek a full four-year term as District 2 county commissioner. He is being challenged by Republican George

"Buddy" Cooper.

Incumbent Republican Patrick Farrell, Jr. has filed for reelection as District 3 county commissioner. He is being challenged by Republican Randy Pridgeon.

County commissioners make \$34,122 annually.

Incumbent Republican John Hanlon intends to seek another four-year term as supervisor of elections, a job which pays \$129,101 annually.

Incumbent Republican Jim Norton has filed his intent to seek another four-year term as superintendent of schools. He has so far drawn no opposition. The superintendent makes \$129,101 annually.

Gulf County Judge Tim McFarland, a Republican, intends to seek another four-year term as judge. He has so far drawn no opposition. The county judge makes \$180,616 annually.

Candidates formally file for office the week of noon, Monday, June 10, to noon, Friday, June 14. If a primary is necessary, that will be Aug. 20, with the general election Nov. 5.

The next election to be held is the Presidential Preference Primary, which is March 19.

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The race to succeed Rick Watson as Franklin County tax collector so far highlights the slate of candidates who have declared their intentions to seek office in the 2024 county elections.

Two members of Watson's staff, Republicans Amy Braxton Cook and Teresa Ann Martin, have filed with the supervisor of elections office to run for tax collector to succeed Watson, who announced his retirement earlier this year. Martin plans to run without party affiliation, so unless another Republican joins the fray, the two women will square off in the November election, possibly with a Democratic opponent.

The tax collector makes \$118,141 annually.

Another election that appears ready to head right to November is that of the superintendent of schools. Republican Steve Lanier has signaled his intent to seek re-election. Democrat Jill Rudd has declared her intent to challenge him.

Rudd, a former principal at Franklin County Schools as well as a district administrator, does not reside in the county, but that does not make her ineligible to seek the office,

said Supervisor of Elections Heather Riley.

She said candidates must swear an oath at the time of qualifying, which runs from June 10 to 14, that they are "a resident of Florida and the county wherein he or she registers to vote.

"However," the requirement continues, "this oath is considered prospective in nature – it becomes effective at the time of assuming office or at time of election."

So, if Rudd moves into the county prior to her assuming office, she would not run afoul of the law.

The superintendent makes \$118,141 annually.

Suzanne Michele Maxwell plans to run without party affiliation as she seeks another term as clerk of courts. She has so far drawn no opposition.

The clerk of courts makes \$118,141 annually.

Republican A.J. "Tony" Smith intends to seek a third four-year term as sheriff, and so far has drawn no opposition. In sharp contrast to the other candidates both this year and in years past, Smith has raised a jaw-dropping total of nearly \$135,000 in campaign donations.

He said that he intends to

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Two U.S. 98 crashes mar the weekend

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Two accidents, one of which caused serious injury to the driver, marred the Franklin County highways this past weekend.

A head-on collision between two pick-up trucks Saturday evening on the causeway just east of the John Gorrie Bridge between Apalachicola and Eastpoint spared the three people involved serious injury.

According to a news release from the Florida Highway Patrol, the accident occurred about a mile east of Apalachicola at about 5 p.m. when a truck, being driven westbound by a 61-year-old Eastpoint woman, was headed the wrong way in the eastbound lane.

The report said that at the same time a pick-up driven by a 64-year-old St. George Island man, with a 64-year-old island woman as his passenger, was headed east in the eastbound lane.

In order to avoid colliding with the approaching truck, the eastbound truck stopped in traffic, according to the report.

"The driver of (the westbound truck) was distracted by trying to reach her purse on the floorboard inside the vehicle," read the FHP report. "This resulted in (the westbound truck) coming off the south shoulder and into the eastbound lane into the direct path of (the eastbound truck)."

The two front bumpers collided in the eastbound lane. The report said the two people from St. George Island were each wearing their seatbelts, while the Eastbound woman was not. Only minor injuries were reported. FHP was assisted by the Franklin County Sheriff's Office and Weems EMS.

In connection with the accident, Donna Brown Sherman, 61, Eastpoint, has since been charged by FHP with DUI with damage to property or person, refusal to sub-

mit to a breath test and failure to drive in a single lane.

A 24-year-old Panacea man suffered serious injuries Sunday evening when his car struck a tree while he traveled north on U.S. 98 just east of Carrabelle.

According to a report from the Florida Highway Patrol, at about 9:16 p.m. the vehicle was about a half-mile north of Gulf Avenue (County Road 30-A) when the driver, while navigating a right curve, ran the car off the roadway to the right, when it hit a tree.

The collision ejected the driver, who was not wearing a seatbelt, and the car then overturned onto its roof, facing north.

FHP was assisted at the scene by units from the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, Weems EMS, and Survival Flight helicopter, which transported the man to the Bixler Trauma & Emergency Center at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital.

RICK SCOTT

From Page 1A

the dinner, Scott hobnobbed with Republicans from both Franklin and neighboring counties, as each had their photos taken.

In an interview at the reception, Scott replied tersely when asked about his Republican challenger Keith Gross, who has already made a campaign swing through Gulf and Franklin counties. "I never met him," he said. "I wouldn't run against me."

Following a presentation of the colors by the Franklin County High School Cadet Core, and an invocation by Estes, Kristy Branch Banks, chairman of the county's Republican Executive Committee provided an enthusiastic overview of the changes in party affiliation that have turned the county predominantly red.

She noted Sheriff A.J. Smith was the first elected Republican constitutional officer in modern history, and that following the upcoming election it appears likely all these countywide offices will be members of the GOP.

In his introduction, Smith offered a ringing endorsement of Scott's response

in 2017 to the Lime Rock Road fires in Eastpoint, followed by a track record of exemplary constituent services.

"I call him, and you know who fixes it? He does," said Smith. "He's the captain of the ship and that's why things get done. We're proud to have a senator who responds to the people of Franklin County.

"I'm proud he's my friend, I'm proud he's my senator, I support him and we're going to reelect him," he said.

In his remarks, Scott spoke of his successes as governor in creating jobs, cutting regulations and lowering taxes.

"We want to live our lives. We don't need government to dictate everything for us. Get the hell out of the way, and don't mess things up for us," he said. "Don't give us crappy schools, don't give us crappy law enforcement, don't have a regulation that doesn't make any sense, to make it difficult to open a business or rebuild after a hurricane."

The senator took aim at both leaders of the Senate, Democrat Chuck Schumer and Republican Mitch McConnell.

"Here's who you should admire, people who will stick their neck out," he said. "There are six of us in the entire Senate:

Ted Cruz, Mike Lee, Ron Johnson, Rand Paul, Mike Braun and me."

He defended his decision to oppose the recent legislation regarding the southern border.

"It was no border bill, it was an immigration bill," he said. "The only thing we cared about was the border would be secured now. There was nothing in the bill that required the border to be secured.

"What they (the Biden administration) want is Ukraine. They've already given \$100 billion to Ukraine and we don't know where it's gone. We said we will not give a dime on Ukraine unless we get more border security," Scott said.

He said the bill contained billions "to pay politicians' salaries in Ukraine" and "a slush fund for humanitarian aid" that gives money to Gaza and to the Palestinian Authority, which he said then goes to Hamas.

Scott also said he has seen President Biden make little or no mention of the five American hostages among the Israeli hostages being held by Hamas.

"We should know their names, we should know their families," he said. "He doesn't give a damn."

Mystic Krewe sends sheriff to the dogs

Special to the Times

At a Feb. 9 luncheon at the Station Raw Bar, the Mystic Krewe of Salty Barkers kicked off their Pawdi-Gras celebrations with the announcement that Franklin County Sheriff A. J. Smith would be Grand Marshal of the annual Apalachicola Mardi Gras Barkus Parade this Saturday, Feb. 24 at the city's Riverfront Park.

Each year the Krewe selects a person who has demonstrated efforts to improve the welfare of animals on the Forgotten Coast. Smith was chosen in recognition for his longtime efforts to help stop animal abuse and neglect.

A worker at the Station Raw Bar told the gathering that he once saw the sheriff almost arrest a person who had left an animal in a hot car. In his remarks, Smith educated the Krewe about what law enforcement can do when animal welfare is a concern, underscoring the fact that the department can only enforce the law as it is written.

He encouraged those who have concerns about an animal



Sheriff A.J. Smith taking part in the African-American History Festival Saturday morning. [DAVID ADLERSTEIN | THE TIMES]

living in dangerous conditions or enduring possible abuse or neglect to contact local and state lawmakers to share these concerns and change the way the laws are written.

Several dedicated members of the Krewe said they are willing to take on that future initiative.

This Saturday's Barkus Parade raises funds for both the Franklin County Humane

Society and Florida Wild Mammal Association. Animals and their people parade in costume-themed attire while helping raise money to assist with costs related to animal care, such as food, housing, medical care, etc.

Appearing as the Apalachicola Mardi Gras Queen will be June Bug, a goofy and affectionate 3-year-old Basset hound surrendered reluctantly by her former owner.

Making an appearance as king, also available for adoption, is Noa, a relaxed and gentle 3-year-old with border collie and blue heeler ancestry. He came to the shelter with a leg injury that has since healed.

Don't expect to see the sheriff's newly enlisted rescue dog Tucker out for the Barkus festivities. "Tucker is more of a

safe-at-home dog," said Smith. The sheriff will lead the parade in his traditional cowboy hat and boots, right in line with this year's theme of "Git along little doggies."

Populating the Mardi Gras-inspired festivities will be a parade of canines in Western-wear fashion, as well as dancing to local artists Flying-Fish, an auction, unique crafts and food vendors and a chance to shake the hand of the sheriff for his service to all, including the animals lucky enough to call the Forgotten Coast home.



Mardi Gras Queen June Bug [FRANKLIN COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY]



Mardi Gras King Noa [FRANKLIN COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY]

FRANKLIN ELECTION

From Page 2A

donate any unused funds to charity, with the highest priority being the sheriff's charity fund that he first established in the aftermath of the Lime Rock Road fires in Eastpoint to help secure housing for those affected.

The sheriff's job pays \$156,760 annually.

Republican James Terry Tipton, Jr. so far is the only candidate who has declared his intention to succeed incumbent Democrat Rhonda Skipper, who does not plan to seek another term in 2024.

The property appraiser makes \$118,141 annually.

Melonie Kay Inzetta has declared her intention to seek another term as school board member for District 1, which includes St. George Island and portions of Eastpoint. No

other candidate has filed their intent to run for the seat, which is non-partisan.

School board members make \$31,455 annually.

Candidates formally file for office the week of noon, Monday, June 10, to noon, Friday, June 14. If a primary is necessary, that will be Aug. 20, with the general election Nov. 5.

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Injected by Angela Mercer, PA-C

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OPINION



Americans should not live in echo chambers

I was struck — and saddened — by the import of two opinion articles in your Feb. 15 edition.

Columnist Kesley Colbert said that like most of your readers, he was raised to not lie, cheat or steal.

Reader/subscriber Douglas Sharp then claimed that Donald Trump “was the best President ever.”

No. Trump is out on bail for lying, cheating and stealing. Other presidents? George Washington refused to become our king; Trump wants power for life. Lincoln and FDR led us to victory in wars that threatened to destroy us; Trump cut taxes, but did nothing else. Bor-

der wall? Not built. Mexico laughs at paying for it. A \$4,000 income increase for every family? Hah! Food prices are soaring. Inflation ran rampant under Trump. There is much more to show that Trump is among our worst presidents. It is sad that so many people swallow his lies, ignore how he cheated thousands and accept his criminal thefts of money and classified documents.

Mr. Sharp, from Georgia, is 86. I am from Pennsylvania, a fellow octogenarian (81). Both of us are among your subscribers. Mr. Sharp does not want to read comments by Mona

See **BONAVITA**, Page 5A

It's all about being lost, and found



Kesley Colbert
Guest Columnist

I'm teaching a class at Gulf Coast State entitled, “Will You Know Where You Are When You Get Where You're Going.” I did not think up that moniker. I “borrowed” it from a guy taller, smarter, and funnier than I am. He explained his version to a laughing “Grand Ole Opry” crowd.

There is a section in the class where we discuss the importance of being, or at least feeling, independent. And we are talking about “independence” from its broadest national sense, right down to how it affects our individual thoughts, actions, and decisions.

We started with the American Revolution and the Dec-

laration of Independence. You can't get more national than that. And we zeroed in on Frederick Jackson Turner's thoughts on the subject as he outlined them in his “Frontier Thesis.”

Turner believed we might have gained our “on paper” independence with a war and a declaration, but it was not imprinted on our hearts until settlers started moving into the unknown lands of the American frontier. The first ones came to Kentucky while you could still smell the gunpowder from the revolution. More moved into Ohio the year before Washington was elected president.

They had to clear the land, hunt for food, build shelters, fight Indians, protect their property from fire, wind, rain, and pestilence, and keep a gun and knife close by — they were the police, doctor, school teacher, chief cook, and bottle-washer.... It wasn't that you might tend

to become a tad more independent; everyone's life depended on it!

This scene was repeated as our nation swept across the Midwest, Great Plains, and over the Rockies. Life was harsh and dangerous. You had to “get tough or die.” But don't you think there was more than just a bit of pride built in along the journey? They're the ones who ought to be singing, “We Did It Our Way!”

My older brother jumped into my mind right in the middle of the lecture. Good golly, I musta been listening to myself! Leon was the most independent of the Colbert boys by far. And it wasn't so much that he beat to his own autonomous drum, which he certainly did, but he seemed to live by some self-governing mantra... if he could think of it, he'd do it!

I was way too cautious. I was more comfortable getting someone's advice. I didn't want to

make waves by being one of those self-thinkers. And that could be a problem at times, like letting Yogi talk me into hopping a freight train to Memphis. Or Leon exhorting me to climb the First Baptist Church steeple, “You can see all the way to Huntingdon!”

Shoot, I couldn't hardly see past the city water tower.

In high school, when we started talking about graduation and leaving home at our Dairy Bar gatherings, most of the guys would get excited as all “git out” at the prospects. My French fries would turn cold, soggy, and tasteless.

I don't think I would have been a very good frontiersman.

College forced me into a different mode. I HAD to make decisions. By necessity, I became less dependent on other people's thoughts, opinions, or unsolicited advice. I steered clear

See **COLBERT**, Page 5A

The base wants the fight, instead of the victory



Mona Charen
Guest Columnist

The border bill circus is the latest demonstration of a bedrock reality of today's Republican Party: It does not exist to achieve political outcomes. Its chief function is fan service.

The overriding concern of GOP voters, according to polls and to elected Republicans, is immigration. In the ranty precincts of the right, they believe that the

southern border is open; that criminals, terrorists and drug dealers are crossing en masse. Among less febrile Republicans, the argument is that while legal immigration is good for the nation, we are swamped by illegal border crossers and must get control of a border that is out of hand.

Whichever version of the immigration argument they favor, every Republican who truly cared about solving the “crisis at the border” would presumably favor a bill that would have tackled -- or at least ameliorated -- the problem right now. In October, a group

of senators including Shelley Moore Capito and Todd Young sent a letter to the president warning that 169 people on the terrorism watch list had been apprehended in the preceding 10 months. In early January, a 60-member delegation of House Republicans traveled to Eagle Pass, Texas. They were enraged, they said, by the fentanyl coming across the border.

In reality, fentanyl is mostly smuggled by American citizens, not would-be asylum seekers. Ninety percent of seizures occur at legal border crossings and interior vehicle check-

points. In recent years, just 0.02% of people arrested for crossing the border illegally had any fentanyl in their possession.

Speaker Mike Johnson thundered that “One thing is absolutely clear: America is at a breaking point with record levels of illegal immigration.” Rep. Mark Green, who last week announced his retirement from Congress, claimed that the FBI director had testified that members of Hamas can “just walk right in.” But as The New York Times clarifies, Christopher Wray said no such thing. Rather, he explained in re-

See **CHAREN**, Page 5A



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Letters may be sent to: 221 Avenue E, Apalachicola, FL 32320, or emailed to dadlerstein@nevespublishing.com. Questions? Call 850-851-0724

Opioid epidemic demands every resource available



A.J. "Tony" Smith
Guest Columnist

Floridians are witnessing an alarming upswing in the number of deaths from drug abuse and overdose, especially

from heroin and prescription painkillers, also known as opioids. As the Franklin County sheriff, my team and I have seen firsthand how this epidemic has tragically unfolded in our community. Emergency calls are more and more frequent, and the worst situation is for our officers to arrive on the scene too late and be unable to save a life.

The epidemic has taken a turn for the worse in recent years due to the increased frequency of opioid use and deadlier opioids infiltrating Florida. In the first eight months of 2020, Florida experienced a 43% spike in drug overdose deaths compared to the year prior. Also in 2020, deaths attributed to fentanyl in Florida increased by more than 80%. The following year, Florida's emergency responders treated more than 105,000 drug overdoses, and more than 40,000 of those overdoses were suspected to have involved opioids. This crisis demands a comprehensive response, one that addresses the urgent need for additional resources to combat the growing threat.

When Florida introduced a standing order to provide access to all our first responders with naloxone, we thought it would be the solution that would turn the tide in the battle against opioid overdoses. While it has made a significant impact, fentanyl and synthetic opioids have grown in strength, and often our officers must adminis-

ter multiple doses of naloxone to reverse an overdose and save a life.

It is a daunting task to combat an epidemic that is growing in deadliness. Thankfully, FDA-approved, non-addictive medications have been developed that can treat stronger synthetic opioids more effectively. These drug overdose re-

See SMITH, Page 9A

With Biden incapacitated, who's running the country?



Ron Hart
Guest Columnist

Easter is coming. With a president of the United States who could hide his own Easter eggs

and throw himself a surprise party, we deserve to know one simple thing: Who's calling the shots in the White House? It is clearly under leftist Democrat rule.

Joe Biden butchered another press "chat" to respond to the DOJ deciding not to prosecute him -- not because he didn't "willfully" keep secret

documents and relay info to his ghost writer, but because Biden is old and cannot remember simple things. High praise indeed for the man with our nuclear codes.

In an unprecedented move, Biden demurred on a chance to talk to 100 million Americans in the traditional presidential soft-

ball CBS interview before the Super Bowl. But he said he'd be happy to throw out the first pitch.

He had just found out he was not going to be prosecuted for all the crimes that he committed more of than Trump. Biden knew all along that he wouldn't be prosecuted by the FBI,

because he had just spoken to J. Edgar Hoover.

We know James Carville et al called the shots for Bill Clinton, and Karl Rove and Dick Cheney for George Bush the Invader. Barack Obama had Eric Holder (his DOJ "Wing Man"), Susan Rice and Valerie Jarrett running his

show. Trump had Kellyanne Conway and Steve Bannon.

We all knew them. But nowadays no one can tell who is dressing up and loading the teleprompter for our Weekend at Bernie's POTUS.

So, who is writing this ridiculous "Border Bill?" The bill is so filled with

See HART, Page 9A

COLBERT

From Page 4A

of trigonometry, psychology, and advanced chemistry. I got in those long lines for P.E., clay modeling, and basket weaving. This newfound independence was growing on me.

By the time I moved to Florida to teach school and coach, I was actually feeling pretty good about my growth in so many areas. I knew better than to hop a freight to Jacksonville and shinnying up church steeples was no longer on my radar.

I was living large and enjoying life. I didn't bother with a bank; I just carried my money around in my front pocket for the whole world to see. Everyone in Port St. Joe was extra nice to me. I went back to Tennessee, found a girl who said she would marry me, and figured my life was pretty much set.

Way before I could get engaged, people started telling me, "You are going to give up your independence." Friends would come by the radio station, "Kes, you've been down here five years, this marrying thing will take away some of your freedom." Cliff Sanborn stopped me after football practice, "Has anyone mentioned you are fixing to kiss your independence goodbye..."

They were looking at it backwards. I'm thinking after living alone, by myself, with no one around, no one to eat with, no one to talk to if I "came up with" a good story.... Listen, if she can cook, wash clothes, clean this place up, knows how to open a bank account, rubs my back every now and then, and she's got a good-paying job.... MY independence can take a small hit!

Respectfully,
Kes

BONAVITA

From Page 4A

Charen, a centrist/liberal. The American way is not to just live in echo chambers, repeating things we like to hear. The American way invites debates in the marketplace of ideas, even clashes, so the truth becomes plain through those comparisons.

I commend your newspaper for presenting Trump's claims, though I despise his views. I commend your newspaper for also presenting Charen's views, though they are too far left for my tastes. I welcome the opportunity to test my opinions against all other viewpoints.

We should worship God, not politicians.

Denny Bonavita
Brookville, Pennsylvania

CHAREN

From Page 4A

sponse to a tendentious question, that he could not 100% guarantee that none of those who evaded the border patrol ("get-aways") were members of Hamas.

While the risk of terrorists crossing the southern border is not zero, CATO's Alex Nowrasteh has shown that the southern border is not a common vector for terrorists attempting to enter the United States.

But let's assume for the sake of argument that most Republicans are unfamiliar with Nowrasteh's research and fully believe the Mark Greens and Mike Johnsons of their party who claim that we are being overrun by terrorists and foreign drug smugglers, to say nothing of immigrants "poisoning the blood" of real Americans.

Would they not be outraged by their elected officials' decision to tank a border bill that would achieve many of their objectives? The base has not been shy about accusing Republican leaders of cowardice and betrayal over much less. Yet on this issue, supposedly the one they feel most passionate about, they are tamely accepting that GOP congressmen and senators passed up a unique opportunity to get much tougher enforcement just in order to give Trump a campaign issue?

Well, some might explain, the average Republican voter thinks that if Trump is reelected, they will get even better (i.e., harsher) measures to keep immigrants out. But that is false.

The only reason the Democrats are willing to agree to a lopsided border deal that gives Republicans 80% of what they demanded and get nothing in return (like a path to citizenship for Dreamers) is because Democrats are worried that the issue hurts them with voters -- and since Republicans linked support for Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan to

border security, Democrats would have to bend.

But that political calculation goes out the window if Trump is reelected. Democrats would not have any incentive to compromise.

So if GOP voters believe that illegals are flooding into the country to our sorrow and that we are in danger daily from infiltration by terrorists, how can they accept that Republicans would choose to continue this "unconscionable" status quo a day longer than necessary -- much less the years it will likely take before another deal is possible? And if the Republican Party is a political entity, don't voters have a duty to understand political realities, including that this was a unique moment to achieve their cherished objective?

But if the party doesn't exist to solve political problems, if instead it exists only to "fight," then the voters' passivity makes sense. The GOP doesn't need to get control of the border, merely to impeach Alejandro Mayorkas. Lauren Boebert released a triumphant video after the (second) impeachment vote boasting that "Just now we impeached Secretary Mayorkas who has endangered our country by deliberately handing over control of our southern border to the cartel. Now that's delivering for the American people!"

No, that was a gross misuse of government power against an official that even the GOP's favorite legal advisers had said did nothing to merit impeachment. Besides, it was a pointless, empty gesture since the Democrats control the Senate and will certainly acquit him (as he deserves).

The show is everything. Results don't count, only the fight.

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.

SPORTS

Wewa girl weightlifters make school history

David Adlerstein

dadlerstein@nevespublishing.com

It was a historic achievement last week for the Wewahitchka Lady Gators weightlifting program, as they finished as state runners-up in both the Olympic and Traditional competition for Class 1A at the FHSAA state weightlifting championships.

"This is the first time in the history of our program, boys or girls, that a team has brought home a trophy from state," said coach David Peavy. "And we're bringing home two."

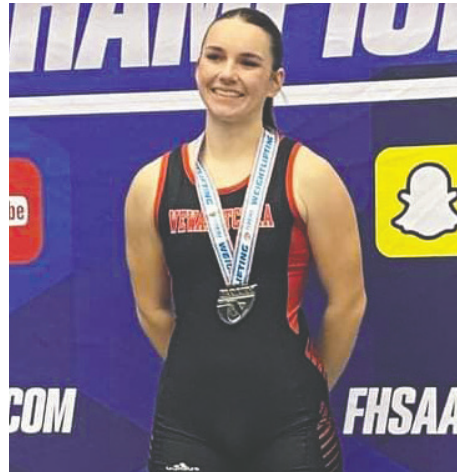
"I am proud but we have yet to reach our ultimate goal of being state champions," he said, "We will be back next year even more determined to bring home gold to our hometown that means the world to us. We Are Wewa!"

The competition was at the RP Funding Center in Lakeland Feb. 17 and 18, hosted by the Polk County Public Schools.

In the Olympic category, with 23 points Wewa finished second to Live Oak Suwannee, which won that category with 39 points.

In the Traditional category, Wewa also finished second to Live Oak, with 17 points, to 32 for the winner.

For the Olympic discipline, in



Riley Book [BOBBY JOHNS | CONTRIBUTED]



Ashlyn Ake [BOBBY JOHNS | CONTRIBUTED]

the 101-pound weight class, Paisley Bidwell was tied for ninth with 170 pounds.

In the 119-pound weight class, Ashley Thompson was fourth with 255 pounds.

In the 139-pound weight class, Riley Book was second with 310 pounds.

In the 154-pound weight class, McKenzie Hatcher finished third with 350 pounds.

In the 169-pound weight



Ashley Thompson [BOBBY JOHNS | CONTRIBUTED]

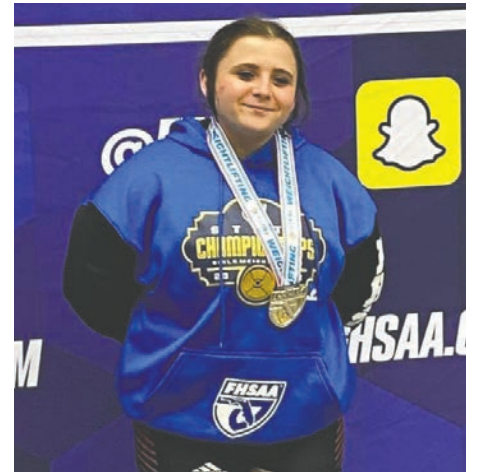


Emma Rustin [BOBBY JOHNS | CONTRIBUTED]

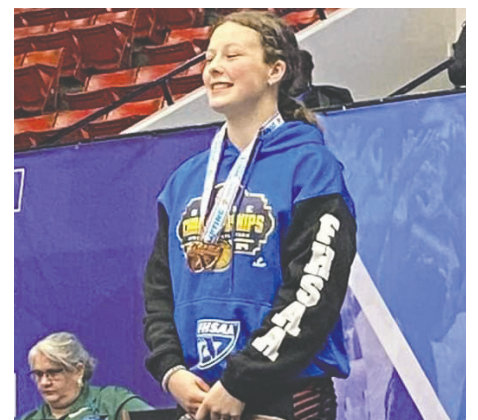
class, Ashlyn Ake was third with 320 pounds, and Emma Rustin was fifth with 315 pounds.

In the 183-pound weight class, Katlyn Kemp was second with 305 pounds.

For the Traditional competition, in the 119-pound weight class, Ashley Thompson was third with 280 pounds, and Hope Thompson was seventh with 270 pounds.



Katlyn Kemp [BOBBY JOHNS | CONTRIBUTED]



McKenzie Hatcher [BOBBY JOHNS | CONTRIBUTED]

In the 139-pound weight class, Riley Book was seventh with 310 pounds.

In the 154-pound weight class, McKenzie Hatcher finished second with 345 pounds.

In the 169-pound weight class, Emma Rustin was fourth with 330 pounds and Ashlyn Ake was seventh with 325 pounds.

In the 183-pound weight class, Katlyn Kemp was second with 355 pounds.

Mammography Open House

Tuesday, Feb. 27
3 pm - 5 pm

Weems Memorial
Hospital



Featuring

- Tours of new mammography room with advanced imaging
- Opportunity to schedule your annual mammogram
- While onsite, check out our new hospice care room
- Step over to Weems West Medical Clinic for a tour or more information on providers and services
- Light refreshments and giveaways

Help us celebrate advanced healthcare technology *new* to Franklin County!



Hosted in Partnership with Franklin Needs and the Weems Memorial Hospital Foundation

Learn more at weemsmemorial.com



The winners of the tournament's ladies division were, from left: Tricia McLemore, Helene Antel, PJ Kanline and Megan Selah. [WALTER WOODRICK | CONTRIBUTED]

Pickleball tourney boosts elementary education

Special to the Star

The local pickleball community held a flash tournament Oct. 15 to raise money for the teachers and paraprofessionals at Port St. Joe Elementary School.

Over \$3,350 was raised through player registration fees, donations, and silent auction proceeds.

Last September, local pickleball legend Ed Mitchem said that since "teachers spend a lot of their own money on their students and classrooms, we should have a fundraiser to help them."

Walter Woodrick of Woodrick Financial, the primary sponsor of the event, said that "when we saw we had a Saturday with a good weather forecast, we put this together in about a week. We have very generous pickleball players in Port St. Joe who

rallied together to show the elementary school teachers that they are loved and appreciated.

"It doesn't take long to raise money with pickleball and generous people," he said.

Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in America, and that growth is evident by the increasing number of players who regularly play the courts at Frank Pate Park and at Salinas Park.

"We are so thankful to have two places to play thanks to the vision and commitment from the City of Port St Joe and Gulf County," said Woodrick. "We had so many people sign up for this tournament, we had to use both locations. We already have a couple of ideas for fundraisers in addition to the Pickleball for Sea Turtles tournament that will be held March 14-17."

Port St. Joe Mardi Gras parade rolls along

David Adlerstein
dadlerstein@nevespublishing.com

Nine years after it first began with a small parade a year after some fanciers at the Haughty Heron whipped up some red beans and rice, Port St. Joe's annual Mardi Gras parade has swelled in size like a belly after a breakfast of beignets.

The size has varied from year to year, but the enthusiasm has not, last week's Fat Tuesday was marked by a colorful celebration in downtown Port St. Joe.

Dr. Patrick Conrad, the Weems Memorial

Hospital physician who helped found the Forgotten Krewe was on hand, as well as previous King Brian Bowen, this year's King author Kirk Jockell, the newly inaugurated King Baby Phil Cox, and Leisa Gruenewald, who helped put it all together.

Jim McKnight's Port St. Joseph Privateers, decked out in black like a good pirate ought to be, had three vehicles in the parade.

Gogo "The Gator" Affolter was on hand, dressed for the occasion, as well as a host of other floats, all bestowing beads and coins and candy on the onlookers.



Kirk Jockell was King of the Forgotten Krewe for Mardi Gras. [DEBBIE HOOPER | JOEBAY.COM]



Bassist Bruce Hoffman jams with Apalachicola's Hot Mess at the festivities. [DEBBIE HOOPER | JOEBAY.COM]



Chris, Owen, and Stephanie Petrie with Gogo "The Gator" Affolter. [DEBBIE HOOPER | JOEBAY.COM]



Phil Cox was the sucker who was named King Baby. [DEBBIE HOOPER | JOEBAY.COM]



Jim McKnight pilots a collection of the Port St. Joseph Privateers. [DEBBIE HOOPER | JOEBAY.COM]

OWL CAFE

From Page 1A

paneling put up, and most immediately noticeable, the kitchen, under the guidance of Chef Jamie Messer has been opened up to full view.

"The mystery is not gone," said Reese. "It's all right there in front of you."

The menu has been simplified with a number of new additions. "My biggest thing is to bring back the old Owl favorites that everybody really loved. "It was always a simple menu over the years," said Reese, who created and then sold off Edwards in Santa Rosa Beach, and then moved to Birmingham, Alabama where he became a protege of renowned chef Chris Hastings.

The menu has added raw oysters from Indian Lagoon and buys all its shrimp from Tommy Ward at 13 Mile.

Chicken marsala pasta, linguine carbonara, a tripletail reuben, filet mignon, ribeye, pork chops and of course fried shrimp and oysters are all on the new menu.

Reese said the restaurant employs anywhere from 30 people in the off-season to 45 in the busiest months.

The Owl will be open daily, from 11 a.m. to 9 weekdays, and until 10 p.m. weekends, when there will be a piano player in the Wine Room, and an acoustic guitarist for Sunday brunch, Reese said.

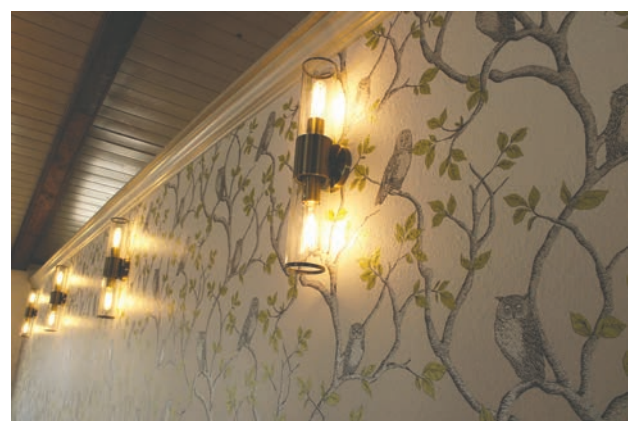
Next on the owners' agenda is to tackle the creation of a new Boss Oyster on the site of the old one and the Rainbow Motel, which are slated for demolition soon.



Chef Jamie Messer, from Carrabelle, is a graduate of California Culinary Arts Institute in San Diego.

[DAVID ADLERSTEIN | THE TIMES]

In addition the company has opened the Forgotten Coast Brewery Company in Mexico Beach.



The new wallpaper and lighting in the upstairs.

[DAVID ADLERSTEIN | THE TIMES]



Mystic Krewe of Salty Barkers

GIT ALONG LI'L DOGGIES

13th Annual Mardi Gras Pet Parade

Saturday, February 24, 2024

Festivities 11:00 am - 4:00 pm Parade 1:00 pm





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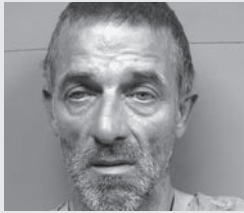
P. O. Box 8 Port St. Joe, FL 32357

850-229-6550

THE TIMES Arrest Reports

The following report is provided by the Franklin County Sheriff's Office.

FEB. 6



Bobby L. Barfield, 51, Eastpoint, six counts of animal cruelty (FCSO)

FEB. 8



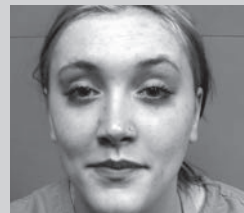
Daniel Joseph Ulm, 24, Berlin, Maryland, indecent exposure, resisting an officer without violence, disturbing the peace, violation of conditional release (FCSO)

FEB. 8



Eric Demond Smith, 41, Attapulgus, Georgia, trespassing - failure to leave property upon order by owner, violation of conditional release (CPD)

FEB. 9



Audry Jolynne Loui Yowell, 20, Eastpoint, possession of methamphetamine, violation of probation, possession or use of drug equipment (FCSO)

FEB. 10



Tony Lee Hartsfield, 36, Crawfordville, two counts of violation of probation (FCSO)

FEB. 11



Ronald Hunter Wayne Lee, 26, Carrabelle, contempt of court (FCSO)

FEB. 11



Emily Elizabeth Gragg, 19, Carrabelle, battery (FCSO)

FEB. 11



Cale Weston Dallas Barber, 21, Carrabelle, battery (FCSO)

FEB. 12



Austin Ryan Smith, 30, Apalachicola, two counts of violation of probation (FCSO)

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



THE STAR Arrest Reports

The following list of arrests are provided through an automated feed from the Florida VINELink based on data from the Gulf County Detention Facility. The detention facility is not under the operation and control of the Gulf County Sheriff's Office.

Feb. 9

Robert James Wright, 62, Wewahitchka, bond revocation by judge (GCSO)

Feb. 13

Robert James Price, 45, Wewahitchka, no charges available (GCSO)

Jonathan Robert Deboard, 31, Wewahitchka, out-of-county warrant (GCSO)

Feb. 14

William Warren Griffin, 31, White City, two counts of failure to appear for misdemeanor, (GCSO)

Robert Charles House, 54, Port St. Joe, violation of probation (GCSO)

Feb. 15

Charles Darnell, 54, Wewahitchka, DUI - first

offense (GCSO)

Apolonia Ortega Contreras, 39, Dothan, Alabama, no charge available (GCSO)

Ralph Logan Jamerson, 34, Wewahitchka, domestic battery (GCSO)

Rachel Nicole Jay, 28, St. Cloud, possession of drug paraphernalia, disorderly conduct, assault or battery on a law en-

See **GULF ARRESTS**, Page 9A

NOTICE FOR NEWSPAPER PUBLICATION

State of Florida
Department of Environmental Protection
NOTICE OF PERMIT ISSUANCE

The Department of Environmental Protection gives notice of its agency action, in File No. GU- 875, to grant a coastal construction control line permit pursuant to section 161.053, Florida Statutes, to Emil and Cathleen Filkorn, 8865 Highway 98, Port St. Joe, Gulf County, Florida for the construction of a three-story, single family dwelling seaward of the coastal construction control line. Project location: 8865 Highway 98, Gulf County, Florida (Parcel #03793-002R). The application file for File NoGU-875 is available for public inspection during normal business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays, at 2600 Blainstone Road, Tallahassee, Florida, and is available for inspection electronically at [https://depdms.dep.state.fl.us:443/Oculus/servlet/shell?command=hitlist&\[freeText=\]&\[folderName=\]&\[profile=Permitting_Authorization%2BPlans+and+Specifications\]&\[creator=\]&\[entityType=any\]&\[createdDateTo=\]&\[catalog=20\]&\[searchBy=Profile\]&\[sortBy=Document+Date\]&\[createdDate=\]&\[County=_EQ_GULF\]&\[District=_EQ_TLH\]&\[Facility_Site+ID=_EQ_BCS_GU000716\]](https://depdms.dep.state.fl.us:443/Oculus/servlet/shell?command=hitlist&[freeText=]&[folderName=]&[profile=Permitting_Authorization%2BPlans+and+Specifications]&[creator=]&[entityType=any]&[createdDateTo=]&[catalog=20]&[searchBy=Profile]&[sortBy=Document+Date]&[createdDate=]&[County=_EQ_GULF]&[District=_EQ_TLH]&[Facility_Site+ID=_EQ_BCS_GU000716]).

NOTICE OF RIGHTS

The agency action is final and effective on the date filed with the Clerk of the Department unless a petition for an administrative hearing is timely filed under sections 120.569 and 120.57, Florida Statutes, before the deadline for filing a petition. On the filing of a timely and sufficient petition, this action will not be final and effective until further order of the Department. Because the administrative hearing process is designed to formulate final agency action, the hearing process may result in a modification of the agency action or even denial of the application.

Petition for Administrative Hearing

A person whose substantial interests are affected by the Department's action may petition for an administrative proceeding (hearing) under sections 120.569 and 120.57, Florida Statutes. Pursuant to rules 28-106.201 and 28-106.301, Florida Administrative Code, a petition for an administrative hearing must contain the following information:

- (a) The name and address of each agency affected and each agency's file or identification number, if known;
- (b) The name, address, any e-mail address, any facsimile number, and telephone number of the petitioner, if the petitioner is not represented by an attorney or a qualified representative; the name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner's representative, if any, which shall be the address for service purposes during the course of the proceeding; and an explanation of how the petitioner's substantial interests will be affected by the agency determination;
- (c) A statement of when and how the petitioner received notice of the agency decision;
- (d) A statement of all disputed issues of material fact. If there are none, the petition must so indicate;
- (e) A concise statement of the ultimate facts alleged, including the specific facts that the petitioner contends warrant reversal or modification of the agency's proposed action;
- (f) A statement of the specific rules or statutes the petitioner contends require reversal or modification of the agency's proposed action, including an explanation of how the alleged facts relate to the specific rules or statutes; and
- (g) A statement of the relief sought by the petitioner, stating precisely the action petitioner wishes the agency to take with respect to the agency's proposed action.

The petition must be filed (**received by the Clerk**) in the Office of General Counsel of the Department at 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 35, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000 or via electronic correspondence at Agency_Clerk@dep.state.fl.us. Also, a copy of the petition shall be mailed to the applicant at the address indicated above at the time of filing.

Time Period for Filing a Petition

In accordance with rule 62-110.106(3), Florida Administrative Code, petitions for an administrative hearing by the applicant must be filed within 21 days of receipt of this written notice. Petitions filed by any persons other than the applicant, and other than those entitled to written notice under section 120.60(3), Florida Statutes, must be filed within 21 days of publication of the notice or within 21 days of receipt of the written notice, whichever occurs first. Under section 120.60(3), Florida Statutes, however, any person who has asked the Department for notice of agency action may file a petition within 21 days of receipt of such notice, regardless of the date of publication. The failure to file a petition within the appropriate time period shall constitute a waiver of that person's right to request an administrative determination (hearing) under sections 120.569 and 120.57, Florida Statutes, or to intervene in this proceeding and participate as a party to it. Any subsequent intervention (in a proceeding initiated by another party) will be only at the discretion of the presiding officer upon the filing of a motion in compliance with rule 28-106.205, Florida Administrative Code.

Extension of Time

Under rule 62-110.106(4), Florida Administrative Code, a person whose substantial interests are affected by the Department's action may also request an extension of time to file a petition for an administrative hearing. The Department may, for good cause shown, grant the request for an extension of time. Requests for extension of time must be filed with the Office of General Counsel of the Department at 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 35, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000, or via electronic correspondence at Agency_Clerk@dep.state.fl.us, before the applicable deadline for filing a petition for an administrative hearing. A timely request for extension of time shall toll the running of the time period for filing a petition until the request is acted upon.

Mediation

Mediation is not available in this proceeding.

Judicial Review

Once this decision becomes final, any party to this action has the right to seek judicial review pursuant to section 120.68, Florida Statutes, by filing a Notice of Appeal under rules 9.110 and 9.190, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure, with the Clerk of the Department in the Office of General Counsel, 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, M.S. 35, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000; and by filing a copy of the Notice of Appeal accompanied by the applicable filing fees with the appropriate District Court of Appeal. The Notice of Appeal must be filed within 30 days from the date this action is filed with the Clerk of the Department.

GULF ARRESTS

From Page 8A

forcement officer, firefighter or emergency medical technician, possession of marijuana less than 20 grams, resisting an officer with violence (GCSO)

Emilia Aguayo, 29, Wewahitchka, domestic battery (GCSO)

Charles Childs, 38, Port St. Joe, DUI - fourth

or subsequent offense, refusal to submit to a DUI test (GCSO)

Feb. 16

Enmanuel Baruca Ayala, 25, Blountstown, operating a motor vehicle without a valid drivers license (GCSO)

Chad Medley, 42, Wewahitchka, fleeing or eluding a law enforcement officer with lights and sirens active, operating a motorcycle without a valid license, out of county warrant (GCSO)

James Cleckley, 57, Wewahitchka, serving weekends (GCSO)

Feb. 17

Juan Pineda Hernandez, 21, Port St. Joe, DUI - first offense, operating a motor vehicle without a valid license (GCSO)

Feb. 18

Ashley Nicole Scruggs, 37, Port St. Joe, disorderly intoxication (GCSO)

SMITH

From Page 5A

versal medications work immediately and have a longer half-life, which helps reverse overdoses from highly potent opioids that stay in a victim's system longer.

To turn the tide on the impact of addiction and protect our children and communities, we must adopt public policies that will give those who protect and serve

the tools we need to save lives.

However, Florida currently restricts access to these life-saving medications, leaving first responders without the necessary resources to save lives. It is critically important that our state updates this standing order to make all FDA-approved overdose reversal medications available to first responders and medical personnel who need them.

This is a commonsense solution that

will save lives and combat the opioid epidemic plaguing our state.

People from all walks of life suffer from the debilitating disease of drug addiction. Preventing drug overdoses and saving lives is the first step we must take so that victims of addiction have a second chance at life and the opportunity to get on the road to recovery and health.

A.J. "Tony" Smith is the sheriff of Franklin County.

HART

From Page 5A

kickbacks for Ukraine (which owns the Biden family) and so little for border security that even the Democrats are ashamed -- and it is hard to make them ashamed. The White House will probably bury another \$25 billion somewhere in the bill to continue funding its ongoing war against Texas.

Tucker Carlson did a great interview with Vladimir Putin. It was the longest Putin has ever sat through an exchange with an American who was not hog-tied to a chair. It was historic, and it made clear why Putin is in Ukraine. But the bombshell was that Putin is ready and willing to settle the Ukraine war. He has made that known. But he says neither Biden nor any of his team has even reached out. I guess when lobbyist-laden defense contractors like Raytheon, Grumman and Halliburton make their profits for the quarter, they might try to settle.

As for who is running the clown show

for Biden, Kamala Harris is clearly not included in much. Even by Biden standards she has proven to be a disaster. Her staff turns over more than a U.S. CEO when Black Lives Matters asks for money. Kamala's staff defection rate is so high that the Government Printing Office is bleeding more money than the U.S. Postal Service just printing new business cards for her replacement staff.

There is some thought that Obama got his old band together and they are the quiet puppet masters of Biden. Ron Klain, the "Ebola Czar" under Obama (I presume he was against Ebola, but who knows), is Biden's chief of staff. Imagine introducing yourself at a party, sticking your hand out and saying, "I am the Ebola Czar." At least during COVID when Fauci stuck his hand out, Pfizer greased it.

I met Ron Klain while attending Georgetown University about 1982. He graduated in 1983. I was in a remedial reeducation program for wayward conservative Southerners and unwed mothers. We were never mainstreamed with the masses of leftist ideologues for fear

we would ask them questions that would infringe on their leftist indoctrination.

The liberal rag Axios reported on the leftist agenda: "Klain's private comments are yet another indication the White House has a core set of priorities it plans to fight for." Which is code for Biden is the left's empty canvas on which they can paint their agenda.

Klain was also Al Gore's right-hand man, so he knows how to mine for more votes for president without getting arrested like Trump.

Klain and Adam Schiff, like most Dems now, are hawks. They cannot seem to see a war that we should not be in. Perhaps on the ceiling of the White House West Wing there should be a Michaelangelo painting of "The Creation of Adam," where he paints Dick Cheney reaching his forefinger down from Heaven and touching Klain and Adam Schiff.

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

THE STAR

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<p>341 21 ST MORTGAGE CORPORATION, IN THE 14th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT Plaintiff, COURT IN AND FOR GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA</p> <p>Case No. 23-49-CA ROBIN TIARA OUTLAW: UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF ROBIN TIARA OUTLAW: and UNKNOWN TENANT Defendant.</p> <p>NOTICE OF SALE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment dated January 17, 2024, entered in Case No.: 23-49-CA of the Circuit Court in and for Gulf County, Florida, wherein ROBIN TIARA OUTLAW and UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF ROBIN TIARA OUTLAW, are the Defendants, that Rebecca L. Norris, the Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, will sell to the highest and best for cash, on March 21, 2024 beginning at 11:00 a.m. by electronic sale at www.gulf.realforeclose.com on the following described real property as set forth in the Final Judgment:</p> <p>BEGIN AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE WEST RIGHT OF WAY OF STATE ROAD NO. 71 AND THE NORTH LINE OF J. FOU PITTS ROAD AND RUN THENCE S89°57'45"W, ALONG SAID NORTH LINE, 267.78 FEET; THENCE N00°12'58"W, 200.47 FEET; THENCE N88°28'47"E, 246.68 FEET TO THE WEST RIGHT OF WAY OF SAID STATE ROAD NO. 71; THENCE</p>	<p>S06°03'25"E, ALONG SAID WEST RIGHT OF WAY, 208.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. SAID LAND LYING AND BEING IN THE NE 1/4 OF THE NE 1/4 OF SECTION 26, TOWNSHIP 3 SOUTH, RANGE 10 WEST, GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA.</p> <p>TOGETHER WITH A 2021 SOUTHERN HOMES 56 X 28 MANUFACTURED HOME BEARING SERIAL NO.'S: RUS080517ALA AND RUS080517ALB.</p> <p>NOTICE IF YOU ARE A PERSON CLAIMING A RIGHT TO FUNDS REMAINING AFTER THE SALE, YOU MUST FILE A CLAIM WITH THE CLERK NO LATER THAN THE DATE THAT THE CLERK REPORTS THE FUNDS AS UNCLAIMED. IF YOU FAIL TO FILE A CLAIM, YOU WILL NOT BE ENTITLED TO ANY REMAINING FUNDS. AFTER THE FUNDS ARE REPORTED AS UNCLAIMED, ONLY THE OWNER OF RECORD AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MAY CLAIM THE SURPLUS. Dated this 25th day of January, 2024. Clerk of the Circuit Court</p> <p>By: <u> </u> / <u> </u> As Deputy Clerk Notice If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator by mail at P. O. Box 1089, Panama City, FL 32402 or by phone at (850) 747-5338 at least seven (7) days</p>	<p>before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than seven (7) days. If you are hearing impaired, please call 711 or email ADARquest@jud14.flcourts.org . Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, & Washington Counties</p> <p>ADA Coordinator, P.O. Box 1089, Panama City, Florida 32402, Phone: 850-747-5338</p> <p>Fax: (850) 747-5717, Hearing Impaired: Dial 711, Email: ADARquest@jud14.flcourts.org February 15, 22, 2024</p> <p>342 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA</p> <p>IN RE: ESTATE OF PROBATE DIVISION JOYCE CLARA MCDANIEL FILE NO. 24-08-PR Deceased.</p> <p>NOTICE TO CREDITORS</p> <p>The administration of the estate of JOYCE CLARA MCDANIEL, deceased, File Number 24-08-PR date of death 11/4/2023 is pending in the Circuit Court for Gulf County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Gulf County Courthouse, 1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Blvd, Port St. Joe, Florida, 32456. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.</p>	<p>All Creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on who a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.</p> <p>All other creditors of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against the decedent's estate must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.</p> <p>ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.</p> <p>NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED WITHIN TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.</p> <p>The date of first publication of this notice is February 15, 2024. Attorney for Personal Representative: Charles A. Costin Post Office Box 98 Port St. Joe, FL 32457 Telephone: (850) 227-1159 Email: ccostin@costinlaw.com Florida Bar No. 699070 Representative: Personal Clyde R. McDaniel:</p>	<p>200 Evergreen Drive Wewahitchka, FL 32465 February 15, 22, 2024</p> <p>347 NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED</p> <p>NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that IDE TECHNOLOGIES, INC, the Certificate Holder of the following Tax Sale Certificate, has filed said Certificate for a Tax Deed to be issued thereon. The Tax Deed Application number, Real Estate number, Certificate number, Date of Issuance and Name(s) in which it was assessed are as follows:</p> <p>Application #2023-09</p> <p>Name in which assessed: GARY L. GILBERT, MICHAEL W. SCOGGINS, WARREN M. SCOGGINS, ROBERT C. SCOGGINS, CHRISTOPHER SCOGGINS</p> <p>Tax Sale Certificate #: 2020-645</p> <p>Date of Issuance 05/29/2020</p> <p>R.E. No.: 03339-200R</p> <p>Description of Property: Lot 20, East Bay Plantation, according to the official plat thereof, recorded in Plat Book 4, at Page 37, of the Public Records of Gulf County, Florida.</p> <p>All of said property being in Gulf County, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate will be sold to the highest</p>	<p>bidder ONLINE at: www.gulf.realtaxdeed.com on 03/20/24 at 11:00 a.m. ET or any subsequently scheduled sale date.</p> <p>DATED: February 12, 2024 REBECCA L. NORRIS CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA BY: Elaine Bland, Deputy Clerk</p> <p>Publish dates: 2/15/24, 2/22/24, 2/29/24, 3/7/24 February 15, 22, 29, 2024 March 7, 2024</p> <p>348 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA</p> <p>IN RE: ESTATE OF PROBATE DIVISION KAREN MARIE BUDDO, FILE NO.: 24-11 Deceased.</p> <p>NOTICE TO CREDITORS</p> <p>The administration of the estate of KAREN MARIE BUDDO, deceased, File Number 24-11, is pending in the Circuit Court for Gulf 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 petitioners is set forth below.</p> <p>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</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>All other creditors of the decedent and other 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.</p> <p>ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.</p> <p>NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE</p>	<p>DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.</p> <p>The date of first publication of this Notice is February 15, 2024.</p> <p>Personal Representative: Clayton B. Studstill, Esq. Florida Bar No.: 17088 The Studstill Law Firm, PLLC 326 Reid Avenue Port St. Joe, FL 32456 850-229-8800 clayton@thestudstill-lawfirm.com February 22, 29, 2024</p> <p>349 STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION NOTICE OF APPLICATION</p> <p>The Department announces receipt of an application from William Parker, ERP No. 0428048-002-EM/07, to recover pre-cut submerged timber from the Brothers</p> <p>River and nearby creeks beginning at Willis Landing and ending at the confluence of the Apalachicola River. The timber recoveries will be conducted in Gulf and Franklin Counties. The Department has determined that the use of sovereign submerged lands will require a private easement 42930 BOT# 190365651. February 22, 2024</p> <p>350 Notice is hereby given that Pelican Gulf Consulting, LLC, owner, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of St. Joe Pilates located at 187 Mosaic Dr., Port St Joe, Florida 32456 intends to register the said name in Gulf county with the Division of Corporations, Florida Department of State, pursuant to section 865.09 of the Florida Statutes. February 22, 2024</p>		

MOSS CREEK APARTMENTS

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TTY Acs 711

1 & 2 bedrooms
Family apartment community
Income guidelines apply
Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

This Institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer

UNFORGETTABLE COAST

With the new year comes beauty and excitement throughout Franklin and Gulf counties. The Times and the Star welcome readers to submit their best photographs. All subject matter is welcome, a beautiful place, interesting wildlife, a vivid person, an unusual image,

we want to share it on this page. **Please email photographs, labeled "Unforgettable Coast" and with a short description and name of the photographer, to Editor David Adlerstein at dadlerstein@nevespublishing.com**



Mexico Beach [LISA SHAW]



A rare photo of the white pelicans off St. George Island. [JO ELLEN PEARMAN]



Painted bunting spotted in Port St. Joe. [BECKY BLOCK]



Gulf County chickens at sunset. [JAE GLASS]



The Apalachicola water tower [DAWSON FISHER]



Dawn splendor over Apalachicola Bay through the Bryant Patton Memorial Bridge to St. George Island [PALMER PHILYAW]

PET OF THE WEEK

Franklin County Humane Society

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HomeServices



Mary Johnson
REALTOR®
Sales Associate
850-370-0044

Beach Properties of Florida
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St. George Island, FL 32328
www.sgiproperties.com



Maverick is a 1-2 yr old German Shepherd with slightly wonky ears. He is a social butterfly who loves people and gets along with other dogs and when nose to nose with a kitty, didn't react. He is an energetic young dog that needs room to run and an adopter who has time to spend teaching him manners and training him. He has a tremendous amount of potential and we are looking for an adopter who understands the breed and can give him all the time and love he deserves!
Franklin County Humane Society, 244 State Road 65, Eastpoint, FL 32328 | Phone: (850) 670-8417

www.forgottenpets.org

PET OF THE WEEK

St. Joseph Bay Humane Society



Hi, I'm Donna! I am a 1 year old domestic shorthair. I am a very independent kitty who loves lounging outside in the catio and getting treats. I am affectionate but stay to myself some as well. I am even dog friendly! I would make a wonderful addition to almost any family. Come by the shelter to meet me and all of my friends!

www.sjbhumanesociety.org



CELEBRATE COMMUNITY



The band Konkotion, which appeared at the 2023 Juneteenth celebration in Port St. Joe gave a great performance in front of a sparse crowd at the Apalachicola festival. [DAVID ADLERSTEIN | THE TIMES]



Coming down from Tallahassee to attend the festival were, from left: first grader Joi Fields, second grader Justice Barr and first grader Gianni Barr. They are admiring the ornate diamondback terrapin brought by the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve, one of several nonprofits and government organizations that had booths at the event. [DAVID ADLERSTEIN | THE TIMES]

Singing in the rain

Weather doesn't wash out festival's spirit

Special to the Star

A weekend full of persistent drizzle and light rain put a damper on the activities of the 31st annual African-American History Festival but it didn't cancel the celebration.

With the theme "The Dream, The Struggle, The Reality," the Hillside Coalition of Laborers for Apalachicola (H'COLA) did what it could to make the dream of a successful festival a reality, but ultimately had to cut back on different aspects of the event Saturday and Sunday at Sixth Street, adjacent to the Holy Family Senior Center.

"We didn't expect a crowd because the weather was so yucky," said Elinor Mount-Simmons, HCOLA resident. "It didn't stop the food vendors, many found they did quite well. The weather hindered some things but it was still a successful event."

The inclement weather did not stop the performances Saturday afternoon of the P & W Trio, out of Albany, Georgia, and Konkotion, out of Panama City.

Nor did it stop the noon festival parade, which was spared even a drop of rain. That parade was led by Grand Marshal Lorine Banks, who as a college student at Alabama State University in Montgomery, took part in a Selma to Montgomery march in 1965, walking only a few rows be-

hind Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Following her graduation from college in 1965, she moved to Apalachicola, where she taught for 38 years in the Franklin County School District.

Following the parade, which included County Commissioners Jessica Ward and Anthony Croom, Clerk of Courts Michele Maxwell, Sheriff A.J. Smith, Terry Tipton, a candidate for property appraiser, and Amy Cook and Teresa Ann Martin, the two declared candidates for tax collector, HCOLA representatives took to center stage to snip the ribbon.

HCOLA officials onstage included Vice President Fonda Davis, Sr. and wife Soudra, Tami Ray-Hutchinson, Greg Perkins, Trina Lockley, Brenda Ash and Sherry O'Neal, as well as City Commissioner Anita Grove.

Following the playing of a recorded version of the Star Spangled Banner, Margaret Conley Daniels from Apalachicola sang "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing," regarded as the Negro National Anthem.

After the ribbon cutting, Ray-Hutchinson introduced the Hillside Royal Court, as each of the four young ladies walked the runway and waved to the crowd, assisted by O'Neal. Selected for the honors were Miss Hillside Robyn Sanaa Jones; Junior Miss



Grand Marshal Lorine Banks rides in the festival parade. [DAVID ADLERSTEIN | THE TIMES]

Hillside Aubrianna Patrice Davis; Little Miss Hillside Rowan Norah-Lynn Ray; and Tiny Miss Hillside Khyla Elizabeth Nicole Wynn.

At the Feb. 9 kickoff event, HCOLA introduced two additions to its 2024 Black Legends collection, which celebrates local men and women in the community who have contributed to the legacy of Apalachicola's African-American community.

Added were retired Apalachicola Police Chief Anderson Williams and Florida A & M University professor Dr. Drealma Worthen.

The evening also honored members of the community who for the past 13 years have been an integral part of the "Santa Comes to the Hill."

These included members of the Apalachicola Volunteer Fire Department, who help power Santa's gas-powered sleigh, the Project Impact city

site, which helps make sure Santa has a place to appear, and Bernard Simmons II, who personally arranges for Santa's visit.

Because of the weather, Dance Kraze from Panama City could not appear, but they were replaced by Judos, an interactive dance troupe also from Panama City. The ethnic fashion show also had to be canceled.

The weather forced the festival to shut down at 6 p.m. both Friday and night, but that didn't spoil the indoor Black and Red galas, which called for formal attire. On Friday the guests were age 40 and older, and on Saturday, they were over 21, with Beanie Baby spinning the music each night.

On Sunday, due to the cold, the worship service was moved indoors to Holy Family, and after it concluded, the festival closed, although some food vendors remained well into the afternoon.



Junior Miss Hillside Aubrianna Patrice Davis waves to the crowd. [DAVID ADLERSTEIN | THE TIMES]



Members of Judos perform at center stage. [DAVID ADLERSTEIN | THE TIMES]

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



Bring Me A Book benefit helps expand its reach

Special to the Times

Bring Me A Book Franklin's Love of Literacy Benefit earlier this month attracted attendees from near and far, with close to 200 guests coming from Tallahassee, California and even Canada to raise money for home libraries for the children of Franklin and Gulf counties.

Fort Coombs Armory in Apalachicola provided a festive setting, accented with giant gold mirrored balloons and red and pink balloon bouquets.

The event opened with a cocktail hour featuring acoustic music by the Von Wamps, followed by a catered dinner,



Attending the Bring Me a Book Franklin Love of Literacy Benefit were, from left: Travis Pecot, wife of the Rev. Stephen Pecot, the priest at Trinity Episcopal Church; and Nissie McNair, a staffer, and Lucy Carter, the librarian, at the Apalachicola Margaret Key Library.

[DAVID ADLERSTEIN | THE TIMES]

dancing with the Bo Spring Band, a silent auction and several raffles. During dinner, guests enjoyed a short program which highlighted the many ways BMABF supports early childhood literacy in the community.

The program concluded by honoring Bunnie Ison, a long-time resident of Franklin County, as BMABF's Volunteer of the Year. Ison has been instrumental in organizing several of BMABF's initiatives and most recently, served as secretary of the organization and headed up the project to provide books to the Backpack Buddies at Franklin County School.

She and her husband, David, have moved from St. George island, where they lived for the past 11 years, to Tennessee to be closer to their children and grandchildren as she undergoes medical treatment, and so the couple's remarks of appreciation were delivered by Andrea Comstock.

"Throughout her career as teacher and diagnostician, she always would comment to me about child after child she had encountered that needed educational attention," David wrote. "Bunnie has always had a plan to raise the bar, so to speak."

He wrote of how among her many volunteer pursuits, his wife would read to elementary students every Thursday in Apalachicola, "but that was not good enough. She would plan a way to catch their attention, a plan to excite their zest for learning. She made a blue bunny pup-



Michaelin Watts, at left, who brought Bring Me A Book to Franklin County more than a decade ago, stands with Cherie Rowland, the current president of Bring Me a Book Franklin.

[DAVID ADLERSTEIN | THE TIMES]

pet and used it to speak to their hearts as well as their minds. When a child spotted her in a store, they would exclaim "There is Miss Blue Bunny!"

"I remember sitting on one of the decks at our house in Knoxville when she asked "Do you have any regrets in life?" David recalled. "Shocked at the question, I replied 'Of course, many' to which she retorted, 'I have none. Good or bad, I have learned from them all.'"

"Your honoring Bunnie as volunteer of

See BENEFIT, PAGE 4B

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Home of Iowa State University
- 5. ___-fi (slang)
- 8. Mottled green and yellow fruit
- 12. Capable of thinking and expressing oneself clearly
- 14. Sports broadcaster Eagle
- 15. Midday
- 16. Kinsmen
- 18. Cable network
- 19. Simpleton
- 20. Brunch beverage
- 21. Fed
- 22. European capital
- 23. Native inhabitants
- 26. Mechanical device
- 30. Rare geese native to Hawaii
- 31. Bedroom furnishing
- 32. The products of human creativity
- 33. Mass transit option
- 34. Made a mistake
- 39. Sacred sound symbol
- 42. Large N. American reindeer
- 44. Dull and flat
- 46. Partner to huffing
- 47. Written works
- 49. Monetary unit of Serbia
- 50. Midway between east and southeast
- 51. Peninsula of southwestern Asia
- 56. Widely used multiuser OS
- 57. Aggressive dog
- 58. Varnished
- 59. Hindu queen
- 60. Time units, abbr.
- 61. Farm animals
- 62. Capital of Latvia
- 63. Where golfers begin
- 64. Takes to civil court

CLUES DOWN

- 1. One who graduated
- 2. An inspired holy person
- 3. Electronic counter-countermeasures
- 4. A place to store things
- 5. Indian instrument
- 6. Spanish saloon
- 7. Whole number
- 8. Not fastened
- 9. Gives a boost
- 10. Lounges about
- 11. Interested in
- 13. Remove salt
- 17. Type of sword
- 24. Naturally occurring solid material
- 25. Gets involved without being invited
- 26. Feline
- 27. Bobby ___, NHL champ
- 28. "Kill Bill" actress Thurman
- 29. Hawaiian dish
- 35. Moroccan coastal region
- 36. Baseball statistic
- 37. Long period of time
- 38. Moved earth
- 40. Central Netherlands city
- 41. Take stock of
- 42. Central processing unit
- 43. Distinctive qualities one generates
- 44. Getting stuck
- 45. Loss of bodily movements
- 47. Veranda
- 48. Abrupt
- 49. What cats do
- 52. Expresses pleasure
- 53. Type of cheese
- 54. Professional STEM organization
- 55. Automatic data processing systems

See ANSWERS, PAGE 9B

Tyndall gifts dough to The Joe



The Joe Center for the Arts has received a Tyndall community service grant of \$2,000. Tyndall Federal Credit Union is proud to partner with local non-profit organizations that have a positive impact on their communities. The grant will be applied to these areas: general programming needs at the art center and providing materials and supplies for student art classes. John Davis, branch manager at the Tyndall Credit Union in Port St. Joe, center, is shown presenting the check to Cheryl Ploegstra, a member of The Joe, left, and Marcy Trahan, chair.

[CONTRIBUTED]

Rennick to tell the tale on Tuesday

Special to the Star

Before cave drawings existed, there were stories – the oldest art form of humanity. That's Robyn Rennick's story and she's sticking to it!

Southern storyteller Robyn A. Rennick will present at Tuesdays at Two on Feb. 27 at the Corinne Costin Gibson Memorial Public Library in Port St. Joe.

"Stories are a way to entertain, inform, warn, teach and did I say entertain?" she said. "We are all storytellers – around the table, at the office, meeting new people. Stories reveal who we are – or who we want you to think we are."

Rennick, who has been telling stories all her life, discovered the art of storytelling in the 90s. "I had been writing stories and reading them to a group in a retirement center, then I went

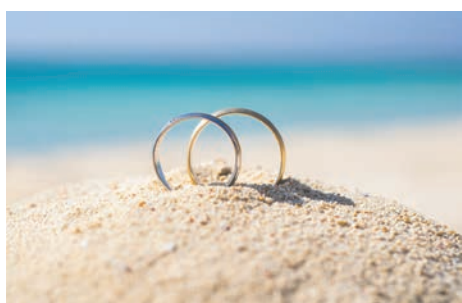


Robyn Rennick will tell stories on Tuesday, Feb. 27 at 2 p.m. ET at the Corinne Costin Gibson Memorial Public Library in Port St. Joe.

[CONTRIBUTED]

See LIBRARY TALE, Page 5B

BUSINESS



MARRIAGE LICENSES

Information for the newspaper's list of marriage licenses in Franklin and Gulf counties comes from the clerk of court's offices in the respective counties. The listings indicate the bride and groom, their ages, where they reside and 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.

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Saturday, Feb. 10

• Cecil Joe Pouncey, Jr., 53, and Michelle Gay Ward, 61, residing in Carrabelle

GULF COUNTY

Sunday, Feb. 4

• Mark Thomas Carden, 60, and Susan Lorraine Stake, 58, residing in Mexico Beach

Wednesday, Feb. 7

• Jeremy W. Huffman, 48, and Jamie L. Scott, 47, residing in Woodhull, Illinois

Tuesday, Feb. 13

• Christopher Dylan Haldeman, 32, and Cheyenne Noel Cole, 22, residing in Wewahitchka

Gulf County real estate sales

The following is a listing of real estate sales in Gulf County. Each entry includes the day the sale was recorded with the clerk of courts office, the address or approximate address, names of the seller and the buyer, and sales price. All information is provided by the office of Property Appraiser Mitch Burke.

DEC. 28: **336 Cove Lane, Port St. Joe**, from, D.R. Horton Inc. to Laura Beech and Brandon Armstrong, for \$390,800

DEC. 28: **358 Cove Lane, Port St. Joe**, from, D.R. Horton Inc. to Gretchen and Kevin Groeb, for \$368,900

DEC. 29: **Margies Lane, Wewahitchka**, from Wetappo Inc. to James and Deborah Osborne, for \$43,000

DEC. 29: **909 Backwater Road, Port St. Joe**, from D.R. Horton, Inc. to Riki and Frank Stenger, Jr. for \$446,000

DEC. 29: **296 Sea Grove Way, Port St. Joe**, from D.R. Horton, Inc. to Megan and Matthew Olson, for \$474,700

JAN. 2: **Tradewinds Drive, Port St. Joe**, from

See GULF REAL ESTATE, Page 4B



Franklin County real estate sales

The following is a listing of real estate sales in Franklin County. Each entry includes the day the sale was recorded with the clerk of courts office, the address or approximate address, names of the seller and the buyer, and sales price. All information is provided by the office of Property Appraiser Rhonda Skipper.

FEB. 8: **1302 Highway 67, Carrabelle**, tax deed from Edwin Morshuis to Eagleview Financial Services, LLC, for \$3,600

FEB. 8: **1302 Northeast First Street, Carrabelle**, tax deed from Edwin Morshuis to Eagleview

Financial Services, LLC, for \$4,300

FEB. 10: **426 Royal Tern Way, St. James Bay**, from Mary Elizabeth and Scott Anderson, to Gold Construction Company Inbc., for \$45,000

FEB. 13: **715 Mill Road, Carrabelle**, from 4 C's LLC to 9277-1609 Quebec, Inc. for \$300,000

FEB. 14: **212 and 312 Avenue L, Carrabelle**, tax deed from Edwin Morshuis to Eagleview Financial Services, LLC, for \$2,300

FEB. 14: **Palmer Pointe Townhomes, Bldg. A, Unit 1, Apalachicola**, from D.R. Horton, Inc. to Janet and Brian Jones, for \$258,000

YOUR Real Estate Source

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-Listing Agent-
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Office: 850.697.1010

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-Listing Agent-
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-Listing Agent-
Marcell Duarte
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Office: 850.227.7770

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-Listing Agent-
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4 bedroom, 4.5 bath home was one of the first homes built in the upscale and gated community of Jubilation Subdivision to the original and exacting standards. Situated on TWO lots with room for a pool and adjacent to government acreage. Additionally, a garage allows for a covered and secure entry. The second floor is a beautiful open floor plan that contains a full custom kitchen with solid wood cabinets, granite countertops w/ bar, Stainless appliances; Dacor range and microwave, GE built in refrigerator. Entertainer's dream with the dining area and great room with vaulted ceilings that includes; propane fireplace, gorgeous mantle, automatic hurricane shutter over a large westerly facing custom window. Great room opens to a westerly facing screen porch w/ remote controlled screen treatments. The master suite is at the opposite end and has a large bathroom with separate vanities, shower and garden tub, walk in closet, and beautiful covered deck. Other amenities; propane Generac generator, outside storage, & exterior elevator.

Rish Real Estate Group
Jessica Rish
jessica@floridagulfcoast.com
850-227-6956
William Rish, Jr.
850-227-5569
jay@floridagulfcoast.com

RISH REAL ESTATE GROUP

(850) 227-9600

www.rishrealestategroup.com

LANARK NEWS

Spring dance March 2 at Chillas Hall



Pat Sewell Funderburk
Guest Columnist

This article will be short this week. I misquoted the name of the Lanark Village Association dance coming up on Saturday, March 2. The dance will be

held at Chillas Hall, and it is the "Spring Dance at the Tiki Hut." We are looking forward to a great time and hope that you join us.

The Lanark Village Golf Club had to postpone the golf tournament last Saturday due to the weather forecast. Please watch out for a make-up date.

On Saturday, March 2, there will be a yard sale for the Lanark Village Golf Club, from 8

a.m. to noonish. This will replace the sale which they used to have on the first Monday of each month. Now it is every first Saturday. They have lots of great stull and will still accept donations on the sale day. Please, no donations of clothes. For information call 850-528-7662.

On Saturday, March 16, grab your green and come out for the Lanark Village Golf Club St.

Patty's Golf Cart Parade. All are welcome to decorate and join the fun. Line up in the Golf Club parking lot across from Chillas Hall at 3 p.m. ending up at the American Legion Post 82 on Oak Street at 4 p.m. for judging of the carts, food, music and karaoke (weather permitting).

All the weekly events will be available for your enjoyment. Here is

your rundown on what's going on this week: Thirsty Thursday/Covered Dish at Chillas, 5 to 7 p.m. and the Lanark Village Boat Club meeting at the Boat Club, starting at 6 p.m.; Friday, American Legion Burger Night, p.m.; Saturday, Lanark Village Boat Club pancake breakfast (still only \$7), 9 to 11 a.m. and Karaoke at the American Legion 7 p.m.; Sunday, Pizza at the

Legion, 5 p.m.; Taco Tuesday at the Legion, 5 p.m., and Lanark Village Game Night at Chillas starting at 6 p.m.; and Wednesday is Bingo at Chillas Hall, 6 p.m.

Love Lanark.

Pat Sewell Funderburk is the Times Lanark News columnist. Be sure to send news and society items about Lanark Village life to her at p.funderburk@yahoo.com

BENEFIT

From page 2B

the year is deeply touching and so very timely," he wrote in closing. "On her behalf, I am honored to accept your award of her recognition. Thank you David and Michelin Watts and board members for acknowledging and honoring her with this beautiful award."

BMABF gives books away throughout the year at community events, during well check visits at doctors' offices and health clinics in Gulf and Franklin counties and

at spring Book Bonanzas at elementary schools, where students choose four books to take home to help prevent summer slide.

Thanks to the funds raised at the Love of Literacy Winter Benefit, in 2024 BMABF will be able to sponsor Book Bonanzas at Port St. Joe Elementary, Wewahitchka Elementary, Franklin County School, and the Apalachicola Bay Charter School. The expansion to Gulf County represents a significant increase in the number of local children touched by BMABF's work.

"The success of the Love of Literacy Winter Benefit would not have been possible without our key sponsors: Duke

Energy, Caroline and Charley Kienzle, Michaelin and Dave Watts, and Paula Kendrick and Chip Darnell," said Cherie Rowland, president of Bring Me a Book Franklin. "We are grateful that so many people from the community came together to celebrate BMABF's 15 years of work in the community, and to help us further enhance and expand our literacy programs. It was a grand event, and I believe we achieved our goal of raising awareness of our mission to ignite the passion to read in young children."

Next year's Love of Literacy Benefit is slated for Feb. 1, 2025.



Silent auction bidders Reggie Corbett and Bill Hedges at the Bring Me A Book Franklin benefit.

[MANDI SINGER | CONTRIBUTED]



An overhead view of the Bring Me a Book Franklin Love of Literacy Benefit. [DAVID ADLERSTEIN | THE TIMES]

REAL ESTATE

From page 3B

Wynter C. Byrd to Charles and Elizabeth Cooley, for \$460,000

JAN. 2: **135 Jazzy Lane, Wewahitchka**, from Christopher Cummings to Benjamin F. Nunnery, Jr., for \$14,000

JAN. 2: **157 Jazzy Lane, Wewahitchka**, from Christopher Cummings to Benjamin F. Nunnery, Jr., for \$14,000

JAN. 4: **6717 Highway 71, Wewahitchka**, from Sarah and Roy Harper, Jr., to Sharon Chason and Shanae and David Whitfield, for \$240,000

JAN. 4: **2236 West Highway 98, Port St. Joe**, from Highland P2 PSJ, LLC to Madden Properties FL, LLC, for \$750,900

JAN. 5: **9425 and 9431 Starfish Avenue, Port St. Joe**, from Thad and Andrea Williams to Pearl Investors LLC, for \$805,000

JAN. 5: **222 North Squirrel Avenue, Wewahitchka**, from Harry and Judith Paul, to Jody S. Swineford, for \$155,000

JAN. 8: **8949 Auger Avenue, Port St. Joe**, from William Windham to G. Nearing and Sara Adams, for \$458,000

JAN. 9: **332 North Murphy Road, Wewahitchka**, from Carl, Roden and Patricia Barnes, to Clifford Gregg, for \$40,000

JAN. 9: **329 Sea Grove Way, Port St. Joe**, from Rosalyn and Joe Gay, to Margaret and Jeremy Viera, for \$505,000

JAN. 10: **1003 Marvin Avenue, Port St. Joe**, from Ralph J. Macomber to Cecilia Aguilar, for \$255,000

JAN. 11: **141 Amanda Street, Wewahitchka**, from Michael J. Ferrara to Timothy Taylor, Jr. for \$42,500

JAN. 11: **412 Barrier Dunes Drive, Cape San Blas**, from James and June LLC to Bearden Family Properties LLC, for \$540,000

JAN. 12: **232 Reid Avenue, Port St. Joe**, from Marie Stephens to Bamb Hold Co. LLC, for \$400,000

JAN. 12: **2451 Cherokee Street, Port St. Joe**, from Bobbi Ann Seward to Claude S. Gaines, Jr., for \$85,000

JAN. 12: **829 Secluded Dunes Drive, Cape San Blas**, from Prime Beach Properties, LLC to Bethany Enterprises, Inc., for \$5,449,700

JAN. 12: **Armstrong Road, Wewahitchka**, from Frank Pate, Jr. to Citizens of Gulf County Recovery Team Inc. for \$16,500

JAN. 15: **313 Firehouse Road, Port St. Joe**, from Richard Julian to Brandon Sullivan and Valerie Darling, for \$112,000

JAN. 16: **3050 West Highway 98, Port St. Joe**, from Donald E. Armour to Kevin Holt, for \$400,000

JAN. 16: **2396 Long Avenue, Port St. Joe**, from Grace and James Mayor, IV, to Katie Marks, for \$422,500

JAN. 16: **6934 Nellie Whitfield Road, Wewahitchka**, from Edward Murdock Trust to Florence and Daryll Daley, for \$160,000

JAN. 17: **146 Mirador Way, Cape San Blas**, from VDRA LLC to Betsy C. Anderson, for \$860,000

JAN. 17: **1207 Palm Boulevard, Port St. Joe**, from Jerrold and Shirley Smith to Kondtadino and Theodore Galanos, for \$333,000

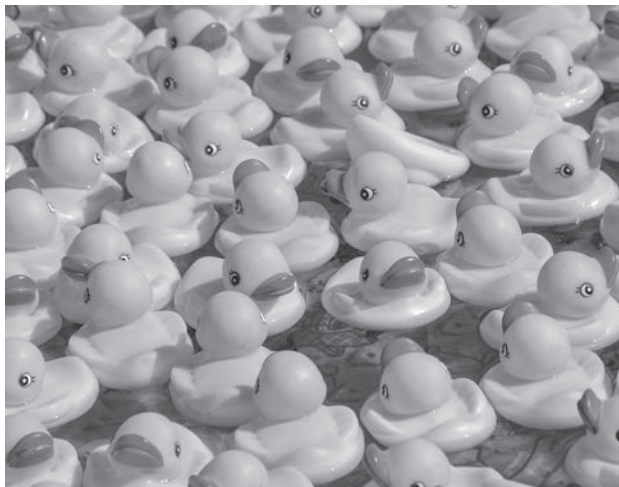
WEWAHITCHKA WOMAN'S CLUB NEWS

Scholarships available for women returning to work

Rhonda Alderman
Guest Columnist

Come to the Duck Derby Community Event on Saturday, March 9 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. CT at Lake Alice Park. We have a little over one week until a whole lotta quacking goes on!

Kicking off this exciting event will be a 5K Duck "People" Race benefiting the Wewahitchka cross country team with a start time of 9 a.m. CT. A Duck Derby is a fundraising event where rubber ducks, each tagged with a number corresponding to an individual who has previously "adopted" the duck for \$5, will "race" across Lake Alice. The lucky owners of the first ducks to cross the finish line will win one of our exciting prizes. For event flyer and more information and UPDATES – gfwc-wewahitchawomansclub.com and on the



dashboard choose "DUCK DERBY 2024. Thank you to the more than 25 sponsors.

Women returning to work are invited to apply for one of the three \$3,000 scholarships from GFWC Florida. Qualified candidates are women who need assistance with funding their education to achieve their

goal of becoming self-sufficient through gainful employment. You do not have to be a club member! Deadline to submit applications and references is March 1.

Application and reference forms can be accessed on gfwcwewawomansclub.com. For more information contact Patty Fisher at trishapatty1@aol.com

The GFWC Wewahitchka Woman's Club meetings are the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. at the Wewahitchka Senior Citizens Building. Join us to see how to make a positive difference in your community and more. Contact us at gfwcwewawomansclub@gmail.com. We are a non-profit, 501c (3) volunteer charity organization whose purpose is to promote and provide civic, educational, and charitable activities that enrich the lives and the environment in the service area of Wewahitchka.

Hear many a lie told Friday

Special to the Star

The Liars will be out and about again at the Haughty Heron, where on Friday, Feb. 23, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., everyone's invited to the 10th annual Liar's Challenge at The Haughty Heron where no story is too outlandish to tell.

Fish Tales, Tall Tales and Bear Tales – all are invited to tell a story for a maximum of nine minutes. Or just come to listen!

While the audience laughs, a panel of impartial and expert judges will be deciding who is the best liar on the coast. The Haughty Heron is providing the first prize winner with \$100. The Bay Storytellers will provide the second prize winner \$75 and third place \$50 will be presented by Coastal Community Association.

Robyn A. Rennick, a familiar local teller will emcee the event. You can trust anything she says, maybe. Pat Nease of Bay Storytellers and a state champion liar will see if she can top last year's tale.

Come from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. to hear The Ukulele Orchestra of the Forgotten Coast play. Sing along with them.

The Liar's Challenge is a benefit for the Gulf County Sheriff's Easter Basket Drive and charities of the Coastal Community Association. The Sheriff Department has 300 children they are providing Easter baskets for. An Easter Basket, a toy or a cash donation is asked for all who attend the event. The Coastal Community Association supports the Sheriff's Christmas Toy Drive and Easter Drive, as well as the Two Fish Food Market and Career Source Food Pantry, Citizens of Gulf County Recovery team, Hurricane Relief, and more.

This event is sponsored by the Coastal Community Association and The Haughty Heron. Other sponsors are Coast 2 Coast Printing, and Bay Storytellers.

The event will be held outside. Bring a chair – we anticipate a standing room crowd. Call 850 527-4671 for more information.



John Nagy has taken part in several Liar's Challenges.

[ROBYN RENNICK | CONTRIBUTED]

VITA offers free tax help again

Special to the Star

After assisting about 170 Gulf County residents with their 2021 federal tax returns and more than 250 with their 2022 federal tax returns, IRS-certified volunteers with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program have returned to local libraries again this winter, where they hope to assist even more taxpayers with their 2023 tax returns.

The Gulf County VITA program, operated by volunteers with the United Way of Northwest Florida, is just three years old, part of a 55-year-old program nationwide. The VITA program offers free tax help to people who need assistance in preparing and filing their own returns, including people who generally make less than \$60,000 a year, persons with disabilities and limited English-speaking taxpayers.

This year the Gulf County VITA volunteer team has 10 IRS-certified tax preparers, three of them tax-certified to prepare

returns for military taxpayers. The VITA volunteer team also includes six IRS-certified greeters who help taxpayers with making appointments and completing the interview form. To participate as a VITA Greeter or Tax Preparer, volunteers must complete a rigorous course of study and pass tests that cover the various types of tax situations they will handle at their sites.

Appointments are available at the Gulf County libraries from now through April 15. Taxpayers can make appointments at the Port St. Joe Library on Mondays and Thursdays and at the Wewahitchka Library on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Taxpayers do not need to be residents of Gulf County to benefit from VITA's free tax preparation and e-filing services. The Gulf County VITA volunteer team helped many taxpayers from surrounding counties with their 2021 and 2022 tax returns.

For more information about the pro-

gram, call 850-227-8737 to speak with Joan Hill, the Gulf County tax site coordinator. Taxpayers can make appointments by visiting www.bit.ly/RealSenseTaxes, or can call the tax site at 850-227-8737, and a VITA volunteer will make the appointment for them.

Taxpayers should bring the following items with them for their tax appointment: Photo IDs, Social Security cards for themselves and all dependents, a check with the routing number and account number for direct deposit of any refunds, W-2s and all other income forms, and the Form 1095-A, if the taxpayer received health coverage from the Marketplace.

During the 2023 tax filing season, dedicated IRS partners like United Way of Northwest Florida supported more than 8,800 VITA and TCE (Tax Counseling for the Elderly) programs, with more than 67,000 volunteers. VITA/TCE sites prepared and filed over 2.5 million tax returns across the country. For 2023, these IRS partners achieved an incredible 97.15% accuracy rate on returns prepared by volunteers.

LIBRARY TALE

From page 2B

to my first storytelling festival," she said. "After that weekend, I knew I could never read a story again. Telling it is so much more freeing."

Rennick likes to tell stories to teens and adults. "Stories aren't just for little kids," she said.

She has a range of stories, from nostalgic summers visiting her grandmother in the mountains, to gospel stories called The Gospel According to the Southern Women, to World War II stories, and more. She has told stories at the Southern Order of Storytellers, been a featured teller at the Florida Storytelling Festival and Northeast Storytelling, told at Tellabitations at the Carter Center and at the Madison County Storytelling Festival, and tells at

many churches and schools.

The lecture, free and open to the public, will be at 2 p.m. ET at the library at 100 Library Drive, Port St. Joe. It is made possible with support from the Friends of the Gulf County Public Libraries. Refreshments provided by local bakeries will be served prior to the event.

For more information call 850-229-8879 or visit www.nwrls.com.

FAITH

Our boasting hurts us and others



Sheryl Boldt
Guest Columnist

“We just closed on our million-dollar home. Our children will be going to the best schools in the country, of course ...”

I’ve never heard anyone say these exact words, but we’ve all heard similar remarks, especially at family or class reunions. It’s no fun being around a boastful person. I don’t even like being around myself when I hear myself bragging. It’s so un-

becoming.

What does our bragging say about us? When we feel the need to prove our worth by esteeming ourselves above others, we not only display our lack of love and respect for them, we also reveal a lack of love and respect for ourselves.

This week, as we tackle 1 Corinthians 13:4’s final challenge: “Love does not... boast; it is not arrogant” (ESV), perhaps we can minimize our temptation to brag by understanding God’s love. If we feel secure in Him, we won’t have to reach for validation from others – or ourselves. If we practice loving others with God’s love, then perhaps



they wouldn’t feel the need to boast.

In fact, when we’re boastful and arrogant, we become so self-focused we can’t see and recognize others’ accomplishments. Or we see their accomplishments as threats to our “importance.” Both are detrimental to our relationships and our

spiritual growth. Choosing to applaud another’s success rather than tooting our own horns is another way we can display genuine, godly love.

As we wrap up our discussion on 1 Corinthians 13:4, let’s look at this verse in its entirety once again: “Love is patient and kind;

love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant.” Which characteristic do you struggle with the most today? Patience? Kindness? Jealousy? Arrogance?

Would you consider going to your heavenly Father, acknowledging your weakness, and ask-

ing for grace to do better? Let’s do this together now:

Heavenly Father, we want to love others with the same love with which You love us. We want to love magnanimously! Please help us in the areas where we’re weak. When we’re tempted to be impatient, unkind, jealous and arrogant, help us instead to be long-suffering, caring, content and humble. May we feel so secure in Your love that we behave as Your dearly loved children.

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

Some prophetic messages are fake news



Michael J. Brooks
Guest Columnist

I thought about it lately when I perused a list of political memorabilia for sale by a dealer

in our hobby. She offered a beautifully framed edition of “The Chicago Tribune” from Nov. 3, 1948. The infamous headline read, “Dewey Defeats Truman.”

Thomas Dewey, the sitting governor of New York, was dashing and handsome, but his hopes for the presidency were dashed that

year.

The newspaper “jumped the gun” in order to publish this exclusive, but later vote tallies found Truman won with 303 electoral votes.

The price for this piece of history was almost \$3,500. Though I’d like to mount it on my office wall, I decided to forego purchase!

The accusation of “fake news” isn’t really new. Sometimes the print media gets it wrong, and sometimes the broadcast media gets it wrong. It even happened a few days ago when weathercasters predicted freezing rain. We canceled our

midweek services, only to find the weather clear and reasonably warm that evening.

One of the great stories in the Old Testament is about Jeremiah and his competitor, Hananiah. At the time, Judah cowered under threat from the rogue king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, who like Alexander, Napoleon and Hitler, dreamt of world domination.

Hananiah had a patriotic message. He said, in effect, “Don’t be afraid! God is with us. We can defeat Babylon and we’ll be safe.”

In contrast, Jeremiah had a more sobering message. “Submit to Babylon and God will spare us,” he said.

The Lord told Jeremiah to illustrate his message by wearing a wooden yoke around his neck. The yoke paired oxen to a plow, and symbolized submission. But Hananiah took the yoke and broke it in contempt, labeling Jeremiah a false prophet. But God spoke the final word when Hananiah died as a false prophet.

As Dr. Marvin Tate observed, if Hananiah had been correct, we’d be reading the

book of Hananiah, not the book of Jeremiah.

The church yet deals with prophetic messages. Some are valid and some aren’t.


I heard an Israeli ambassador on the radio lately who’s writing a book about modern Israel’s first 100 years. It struck me that Israel is almost 76 years old. I’ve heard prophets for years suggest 40 years from Israel’s founding would mark the end of the age. That 40-year mark was 1988, 36 years ago.

The Apostle Paul advised the Corinthians to listen to multiple prophets who would verify the message, not just to one prophet who may be speaking error (1 Corinthians 14: 32).

And in those areas of nonessentials and uncertainty, prophets should make it clear, as Paul did, “I speak my own opinion, not necessarily having a word directly from the Lord” (1 Corinthians 7:10)

Reflections is a weekly faith column written by Michael J. Brooks, pastor of the Siluria Baptist Church, Alabaster, Alabama. The church’s website is siluriabaptist.com.





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OBITUARIES

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

June Paulk Bellows

Born in Thomasville, Georgia June 19, 1928.
Died February 13, 2024 in Gulf Breeze, Florida. She was preceded in death by her husband of 66 years, Robert Easton Bellows, Jr. and her son, Richard

“Doc” Steven Bellows. She moved to Port St. Joe, Florida at the age of 14 and married Bob in 1953. June was a homemaker, hospital volunteer, and a champion for animals. She enjoyed sailing, traveling, and tending to her plants.



ENTERTAINMENT

ShrimpFest serves up succulent celebration

David Adlerstein
dadlerstein@nevespublishing.com

The St. George Island Lighthouse and Museum this year moved the third annual ShrimpFest from May to the second Saturday in February.

Based on how well the Feb. 10 event went, that's when it's going to be from here on out.

Amy Hodson, executive director of the St. George Lighthouse Association, which oversees the event, said that over the course of the day, marked by exceptionally warm and sunny weather, more than 2,500 people passed through the gate.

With about a dozen arts and crafts vendors joining the array of food trucks and tents of succulent shrimp dishes, ShrimpFest was its largest version to date since it began in 2022.

"We're expecting to net \$40,000 for the lighthouse," Hodson said.

The Blues Factor Band, from south Georgia, kept the crowd entertained all afternoon.

See SHRIMPFEET, PAGE 8B



An aerial view of ShrimpFest. [FOMO PHOTOGRAPHY | CONTRIBUTED]



The Blues Factor Band performs. [FOMO PHOTOGRAPHY | CONTRIBUTED]



Bill Parr, of Carrabelle, an Army veteran, stands with his sons at the Camp Gordon Johnston World War II weapons display at ShrimpFest. Son Derrick, 17, at left, was handling a M-1 carbine, while younger brother Bryce, 15, is holding a Thompson submachine gun. [DAVID ADLERSTEIN | THE TIMES]



Members of Franklin County's Boy Scout Troop 22 played a valuable volunteer role helping out at ShrimpFest. Pictured standing from left are: adult volunteers Erin Rodriguez and Jennifer Landrum, Kai Rodriguez, Josh Allen, Scoutmaster Daren Hoffman, and Assistant Scoutmaster Tim Goldstein, and in the wagon, dressed as a giant shrimp, Bobby Landrum. Not pictured are Assistant Patrol Leader Richie Lehnert and John Lehnert. [DAVID ADLERSTEIN | THE TIMES]

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Brannan, Farnsley inducted into Phi Kappa Phi

Special to the Times and Star

Savannah Brannan, of Carrabelle, and Sean Farnsley, of Port St. Joe, were recently initiated at Florida State University into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society.

Brannan and Farnsley are among approximately 25,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent

of juniors are eligible for membership.

Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann who desired to create an honor society that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. Today, the society has chapters on more than 325 campuses in the United States, its territories and the Philippines.

Since its founding, more than 1.5 mil-

lion members have been initiated into Phi Kappa Phi, with former President Jimmy Carter, NASA astronaut Wendy Lawrence, novelist John Grisham and YouTube co-founder Chad Hurley some of the organization's notable members.

Each year, Phi Kappa Phi awards \$1.3 million to outstanding students and members through graduate and dissertation fellowships, undergraduate study abroad grants, funding for post-baccalaureate development, and grants for local, national and international literacy initiatives. For more information about Phi Kappa Phi, visit www.phikappaphi.org.

Gulf Coast names top students in fall semester

Special to the Times and Star

Gulf Coast State College President Glen McDonald has announced that several students from Gulf and Franklin counties have been named to the President's and Dean's Honor Lists for the Fall 2023 semester.

The President's Honor List includes all

full-time students (enrolled for 12 or more college credit hours) who earned a grade point average of 3.90 to 4.00. Area students named to the list include Maelynn Butler, Tristen Foley, Madison Gant, Mikaleh Graham, Genesis Jones, Ashton Lakey, Eric Lau, Precious Lavine, Gavin Lee, Lauren Martina, Hester Peck, Hannah Riley, Hayleigh Small, Sarah Thompson

and Britt White.

The Dean's List is awarded to students enrolled in 12 or more college credit hours who earned a grade point average of 3.70 to 3.89. Area students named to the Dean's List are Shayla Bowles, Sadie Calareso, Ashley Ferrell, Aaliyah Herrera, Thomas Money, Roman Siclare and Mary Kate Wood.

Tips to set up an ideal home study space

Special to the Times and Star

Study skills are integral to academic success. Such abilities help students learn more efficiently and effectively, which can lead to better grades on assignments and tests. Developing strong study habits can prepare students for future success in life, as dedication to studying can be mirrored in habits related to job performance.

The desire to study is one component of being involved in the task. However, setting up an environment conducive to studying is another part of this important equation. Students looking to study longer and better may want to re-evaluate study environments at home. Here are some ways to implement positive changes.

- **Isolate from interruptions.** The first step to setting up a study location is to pick a spot away from the hustle and bustle of the

household. While a separate room or home office can be helpful, an out-of-the way nook or similar spot can be just as effective. By dedicating a study spot, you can train your brain to recognize this is a study area and you may immediately become more focused.

- **Keep only pertinent materials nearby.** It may be tempting to check your phone or watch videos or television if those devices are close to the study area. Make it stark and outfitted with only what's necessary for the study session.

- **Focus on good lighting.** To avoid eye strain and avoid difficulty focusing, make sure the study area has adequate lighting. Lighting behind you will help illuminate the pages of textbooks and additional reading materials. Avoid using computers in dimly lit rooms, as that may aggravate eye strain.

- **Aim for ergonomics and comfort.** You'll want to be comfortable while studying, but not so

much that you're falling asleep. Choose a chair that is supportive and keeps you seated in a neutral position.

- **Store supplies nearby.** Having to constantly get up and grab supplies increases the risk of distractions adversely affecting your study time. A zippered pouch or a tote bag that contains all of your study materials can be kept within reach.

- **Keep a clock in view.** A clock should not deter you from studying. Setting deadlines and time constraints on study time can encourage focus. Break down study sessions into chunks of time that are manageable to you.

- **Utilize noise effectively.** Some people need absolute quiet to study. Others appreciate some white noise or music to sharpen their focus. Identify what works for you and incorporate that into your study area. A fan or a running air purifier can produce enough white noise to drown out distractions.

Establishing a study area at home can help students improve their academic performance.

SHRIMP FEST

From page 7B

This year's successful ShrimpFest comes just two months after the lighthouse marked the 15th anniversary of the rebuilding of the Cape St. George Light in the middle of the island. For years it had stood on Little St. George Island, but erosion of the shoreline there gave rise to an effort to anchor it more firmly in the sand.

Eventually, water completely encircled

the aging structure and in July 2005, the fury of Hurricane Dennis caused it to topple.

Through a massive volunteer effort, the original bricks were recovered from the water, cleaned in Eastpoint, and used to form the outermost rings of a lighthouse rebuilt over three years.

Hodson said that anniversary effort, derailed by Hurricane Michael on the 10th anniversary in 2018, was postponed to the 15th anniversary, and is nearing its goal of raising \$15,000.



Samantha Stevens, co-owner of Tallahassee's Zomad Bakeries along with her boyfriend Calvin Overbay, stands at her ShrimpFest booth. The three-year-old bakery offers homemade pet treats, the recipes for which Stevens perfected while preparing foods during an illness of her dog Zoey Madeline. [DAVID ADLERSTEIN | THE TIMES]

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<p>LEGAL ADVERTISING</p> <p>346 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PLANNING & ZONING CITY OF APALACHICOLA, FLORIDA</p> <p>The Apalachicola Planning & Zoning Board will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, March 11th, 2024 immediately following the Planning & Zoning Regular Meeting at 6PM in the City Meeting Room, 74 6th Street, Apalachicola, Florida to address the following special exception requests and receive citizen comments relating to proposed changes on the parcel listed below. A decision will immediately follow. The following special exception</p>	<p>LEGAL ADVERTISING</p> <p>requests items will be discussed, considered, and decided upon:</p> <p>1. Proposed Accessory Structure at 119 12th Street, more specifically described as Block 78 Lot 6. Applicant is requesting approval of an accessory structure for use as a shed in the O/R Zone.</p> <p>The Apalachicola Land Development Code allows for such use if special exception approval is granted. All interested parties are encouraged to attend and be heard with respect to this request. For further information, contact the City Planner,</p>	<p>LEGAL ADVERTISING</p> <p>Bree Robinson, at 850-323-0985 or brobinson@cityofapalachicola.com. February 22, 29, 2024</p> <p>350 ATTENTION: PATIENTS OF SHEZAD SANAUULLAH, MD, HELEN NITSIOS, MD, AND CLAIRE SPENCE, ARNP</p> <p>This serves as notice that the practice of Cardiology and Internal Medicine Group of North Florida is closing permanently on March 29, 2023. The medical records of Dr. Shezad Sanaulah, Dr. Helen Nitsios, and Claire Spence, ARNP are available to their patients at Weems</p>	<p>LEGAL ADVERTISING</p> <p>Memorial Hospital. (850)653-8853. February 8, 15, 22, 29, 2024</p> <p>353 NOTICE TO RECEIVE SEALED BIDS</p> <p>The Franklin County Board of County Commissioners will receive sealed bids from any qualified person, company or corporation interested in constructing:</p> <p>OLD FERRY DOCK BOAT RAMP IMPROVEMENTS</p> <p>Project is located in Franklin County, Florida and consists of removing and existing boat ramp and concrete sheet pile wall and replacing them with a steel</p>	<p>LEGAL ADVERTISING</p> <p>sheet pile wall, two boat ramps, a fixed timber dock, and improvements to the access road at the Old Ferry Dock Boat Ramp in Eastpoint, FL.</p> <p>Plans and specifications can be obtained by contacting Shannon Renfro with Dewberry at srenfro@dewberry.com. The bid must conform to Section 287.133(3) Florida Statutes, on public entity crimes.</p> <p>Completion date for this project will be 180 days from the date of the Notice to Proceed presented to the successful bidder. Liquidated damages for failure to complete the proj-</p>	<p>LEGAL ADVERTISING</p> <p>ect on the specified date will be set at \$750.00 per day.</p> <p>Please indicate on the envelope that this is a sealed bid, for " OLD FERRY DOCK BOAT RAMP IMPROVEMENTS."</p> <p>Bids will be received until 4:30 p.m. eastern time, on Monday, March 18, 2024, at the Franklin County Clerk's Office, Franklin County Courthouse, 33 Market Street, Suite 203, Apalachicola, Florida 32320-2317, and will be opened and read aloud on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at the County Commission meeting at 34 Forbes Street, Apalachicola, FL.</p>	<p>LEGAL ADVERTISING</p> <p>The Board of County Commissioners 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 the best interest of Franklin County. All bids shall remain firm for a period of sixty days after the opening.</p> <p>All bidders shall comply with all applicable State and local laws concerning licensing and regulation of contractors doing business to the State of Florida.</p> <p>All technical questions must be addressed in</p>	<p>LEGAL ADVERTISING</p> <p>writing and emailed to Caleb Brown at cbrown@dewberry.com no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, March 8, 2024. February 15, 22, 2024</p> <p>355 NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT: Fig 20, LLC, the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a TAX DEED to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows: CERTIFICATE NUMBER: 15 CERTIFICATE YEAR: 2021 DESCRIPTION</p>	<p>LEGAL ADVERTISING</p> <p>OF PROPERTY: Lot 4, Block 3, SUN 'N SAND UNIT NO. 2, as per map of plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 4, Page 12, of the Public Records of Franklin County, FL. Together with that certain mobile home situated thereon. PARCEL ID: 32-06S-01 W-1061-0003-0040 PROPERTY ADDRESS: 591 Pine Street, Alligator Point 32346 NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: Jon V. Gable and Lynne B. Gable, husband and wife. All of said property being in the State of Florida, County of Franklin. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to the laws the</p>
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THE TIMES

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LEGAL ADVERTISING

property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the Courthouse door on April 3, 2024, at 11:00 A.M. Dated this 9th day of February 2024 Date of Publication: February 22, 2024, February 29, 2024, March 7, 2024, March 14, 2024. MICHELE MAXWELL CLERK OF COURT FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA BY: Amber Segree, Deputy Clerk February 22, 29, 2024 March 7, 14, 2024

356 NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT: **Fig 20, LLC**, the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a TAX DEED to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows: CERTIFICATE NUMBER: **132** CERTIFICATE YEAR: **2021** DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: **Lot 12, Block 6, LANARK VILLAGE UNIT NO. 1, according to the map of plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 2, Page 14-14a, Public Records of Franklin County, Florida, PARCEL ID: 12-075-006**

PROPERTY ADDRESS: **N/A NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: Julia Smallwood** All of said property being in the State of Florida, County of Franklin. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to the laws the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the Courthouse door on April 3, 2024, at 11:00 A.M. Dated this 9th day of February 2024 Date of Publication: February 22, 2024, February 29, 2024, March 7, 2024, March 14, 2024, MICHELLE MAXWELL CLERK OF COURT FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA BY: Amber Segree, Deputy Clerk February 22, 29, 2024 March 7, 14, 2024

357 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NUMBER: 2024-16 CP IN RE: ESTATE OF MICHAEL P. STROZYK, Deceased

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
A Petition for Summary Administration of the estate of MICHAEL P. STROZYK, deceased, Case Number 2024-16 CP is pending in the Circuit Court for Franklin County, Florida, the address of which

is 33 Market Street, Apalachicola, FL 32320. The name and address of the petitioner and the petitioner's attorney are set forth below.

All persons having claims against this estate who are served with a copy of this notice are required to file with this court such claim within the later of three 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 that person.

Persons having claims against the estate who are not known to the petitioner and whose names or addresses are not reasonably ascertainable must file all claims against the estate within three months after the date of the first publication of this notice.

ALL CLAIMS AND OBJECTIONS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is February 15, 2024.

Petitioner: Steven W. Kingsley 2814 Washout Road Glenville, NY 12302

RACHEL CHESNUT Attorney for Petitioner P.O. Box 501 Apalachicola, FL 32329 (850) 653-4611 Florida Bar No. 0048331 rchesnut@chesnut-lawfl.com

358 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION IN RE: ESTATE OF JOHN A. CHENEVERT File No. 24-14CP Division Probate Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of John A. Chenevert, deceased, whose date of death was September 4, 2023, is pending in the Circuit Court for Franklin County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 33 Market Street, Apalachicola, Florida 32320. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER

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

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 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 February 15, 2024.

Attorney for Personal Representative: Personal Representative: Robert Chenevert Kristy Banks (Feb 9, 2024 12:02 EST) Robert Chenevert (Feb 9, 2024 12:54 EST) Kristy Branch Banks Attorney Florida Bar Number: 517143 Post Office Box 176 Apalachicola, Florida 32329 Telephone: (850) 670-1255 Fax: (866) 601-4805 E-Mail: info@kbbllawfl.com Secondary E-Mail: erin@kbbllawfl.com Robert J. Chenevert 2802 Springdell Circle Valrico, Florida 33596 February 15, 22, 2024

359 NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT: **Robert E. Atzberger**, the holder of the following certificate, has filed said certificate for a TAX DEED to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows: CERTIFICATE NUMBER: **295** CERTIFICATE YEAR: **2018** DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: **Lots 13, 15, and 16, Block 5 (171) of KEOUGH'S SECOND ADDITION, a subdivision of the City of Carrabelle in Franklin County, Florida. PARCEL ID: 20-075-04W-4212-0005-0130** PROPERTY ADDRESS: **N/A NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: Cox Coastal Development, LLC, a Florida limited liability company.** All of said property being in the State of Florida, County of Franklin. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to the laws the property described in such certificate or certificates will be

redemmed according to the laws the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the Courthouse door on April 3, 2024, at 11:00 A.M. Dated this 9th day of February 2024 Date of Publication: February 22, 2024, February 29, 2024, March 7, 2024, March 14, 2024. MICHELE MAXWELL CLERK OF COURT FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA BY: Amber Segree, Deputy Clerk February 22, 29, 2024 March 7, 14, 2024

sold to the highest bidder at the Courthouse door on April 3, 2024, at 11:00 A.M. Dated this 9th day of February 2024 Date of Publication: February 22, 2024, February 29, 2024, March 7, 2024, March 14, 2024. MICHELE MAXWELL CLERK OF COURT FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA BY: Amber Segree, Deputy Clerk February 22, 29, 2024 March 7, 14, 2024

360 NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT: **Robert E. Atzberger**, the holder of the following certificate, has filed said certificate for a TAX DEED to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows: CERTIFICATE NUMBER: **38** CERTIFICATE YEAR: **2017** DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: **Lot 14, Block "V", PENINSULAR POINT, UNIT NO. 6, a Subdivision of Franklin County, Florida, as Same Appears of Record at Page 2, of Plat Book 2 of the Public Records of Franklin County, Florida. PARCEL ID: 06-075-01W-1046-000V-0140** PROPERTY ADDRESS: **1339 Alligator Drive 32346 NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: Sidney E. Gray and Lex C. Thompson** All of said property being in the State of Florida, County of Franklin. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to the laws the property described in such certificate or certificates will be

redemmed according to the laws the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the Courthouse door on April 3, 2024, at 11:00 A.M. Dated this 9th day of February 2024. Date of Publication: February 22, 2024, February 29, 2024, March 7, 2024, March 14, 2024. MICHELE MAXWELL CLERK OF COURT FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA BY: Amber Segree, Deputy Clerk February 22, 29, 2024 March 7, 14, 2024

361 NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT: **IDE Technologies, Inc.**, the holder of the following certificate, has filed said certificate for a TAX DEED to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows: CERTIFICATE NUMBER: **342** CERTIFICATE YEAR: **2018** DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: **Lots 14, 15 and 16, Old Block 61 (New Block 230), Keough's Second Addition to the City of Carrabelle, according to the Plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 2, Page 20, of the Public Records of Franklin County, Florida. PARCEL ID: 20-075-04W-4212-0061-0140** PROPERTY ADDRESS: **1101 NE 2ND STREET 32322** NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: **Joshua Stanley Whitten** All of said property being in the State of Florida, County of Franklin. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to the laws the property described in such certificate or certificates will be

redemmed according to the laws the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the Courthouse door on April 3, 2024, at 11:00 A.M. Dated this 9th day of February 2024 Date of Publication: February 22, 2024, February 29, 2024, March 7, 2024, March 14, 2024. MICHELE MAXWELL CLERK OF COURT FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA BY: Amber Segree, Deputy Clerk February 22, 29, 2024 March 7, 14, 2024

362 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA IN RE: ESTATE OF KATHLEEN GILBERT, FILE NO.: 2024 CP 0001

Deceased.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of Kathleen Gilbert, deceased, whose date of death was November 10, 2023, is pending in the Circuit Court for Franklin County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 33 Market Street, Apalachicola, Florida 32320. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

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

has determined that the use of sovereign submerged lands will require a private easement 42930 BOT# 190365651. February 22, 2024

364 NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP TO DISCUSS REGIONAL RURAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Notice is hereby given that on Wednesday, February 28th and Thursday, February 29th, 2024, beginning at 6:00p.m. (EST), the Apalachee Regional Planning Council will be holding public workshops on the Regional Rural Transportation Plan. The Regional Rural Transportation Plan will identify Franklin County's greatest transportation needs over the next 20 years. We welcome the public to attend and share their concerns on priority transportation projects. The meetings will be held on: **Wednesday, February 28, 2024 from 6:00PM-7:00PM EST at the Courthouse Annex Commission Meeting Room 34 Forbes St, Apalachicola, FL 32320 AND Thursday, February 29, 2024 from 6:00PM-7:00PM EST at Carrabelle City Hall 1206 Hwy 98 East Carrabelle, Florida 32322.** For additional information contact Kwentin Eastberg, Deputy Director at the Apalachee Regional Planning Council at 850-488-6211, or by email at keastberg@arpc.org. February 22, 2024

365 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: ESTATE OF CASE NO.: 23105CP
DOROTHY HUGHES, Deceased.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of Dorothy Hughes, deceased, whose date of death was September 16, 2023, is pending in the Circuit Court for Franklin County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 33 Market St #203, Apalachicola, FL 32320. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

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

366 NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP TO DISCUSS THE LANDINGS AT ST GEORGE ISLAND, FL

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, beginning at 5:00 p.m. (ET), the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners will conduct a public workshop discuss The Landings at St. George Island, FL (41 West Baysore Drive, St. George Island, FL 32328). This is not a public hearing to adopt an Ordinance for The Landings at St. George Island, FL and no vote will be taken at this workshop.

The Public is invited to attend this workshop. The meeting may be attended in person or via Zoom. The meeting will be held in the Courthouse Annex meeting room located at 34 Forbes Street, Apalachicola, FL 32320. A zoom link for the public workshop will be provided prior to the meeting and can be found on the Franklin County website at www.franklincountyflorida.com .

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 February 22nd - February 29th.

DONNA DUNCAN Florida Bar No. 63869 Attorney for Petitioner **DONNA DUNCAN, P.A.** P.O. Box 157 Apalachicola, FL 32329 (850)653-8976 ddduncan@fairpoint.net akeith@fairpoint.net

366 NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP TO DISCUSS THE LANDINGS AT ST GEORGE ISLAND, FL

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, beginning at 5:00 p.m. (ET), the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners will conduct a public workshop discuss The Landings at St. George Island, FL (41 West Baysore Drive, St. George Island, FL 32328). This is not a public hearing to adopt an Ordinance for The Landings at St. George Island, FL and no vote will be taken at this workshop.

367 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: ESTATE OF CASE NO.: 23105CP
DOROTHY HUGHES, Deceased.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of Dorothy Hughes, deceased, whose date of death was September 16, 2023, is pending in the Circuit Court for Franklin County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 33 Market St #203, Apalachicola, FL 32320. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

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

368 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA NOTICE OF INTENT TO AMEND A RULE

full replacement of roof membrane, and roof drains, concrete repairs, glazing of windows, some perimeter drainage improvements and other - see detailed bid specifications.

A complete digital set of construction documents can be obtained from MLD Architects, LLC. 211 John Knox Road, Suite 105, Tallahassee, Florida 850-385-9200, roosevelt@midarchitects.com . There is no charge for digital copies. For questions concerning this Bid, please contact JJ Scott, Principal Architect, or Roosevelt Bivens, Project Manager, at 850-385-9200.

The Board of County Commissioners 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 the best interest of Franklin County. All bidders shall remain firm for a period of sixty days after the opening. 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 February 22, 29, 2024

368 THE SCHOOL BOARD OF FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA NOTICE OF INTENT TO AMEND A RULE

RULE NUMBER(S)/ TITLE(S): Policy Revisions 3120, 5410.01, 5772, and 7217

A HEARING WILL BE HELD AT: PLACE: Willie Speed Boardroom 85 School Road, Eastpoint, FL 32328 DATE: March 28, 2024 TIME: 5:00 P.M. Public is invited to join meeting via Zoom at https://zoom.us/j/7028535326

A COPY OF THE PROPOSED RULE MAY BE OBTAINED BY WRITING TO: Franklin County School District 85 School Road, Suite 1 Eastpoint, FL 32328 850-670-2810 PUBLICATION: February 22, 2024 February 22, 2024

DESCRIPTION OF WORK: Waterproofing of the building's exterior by application of sealant, repairs of masonry joints, replacement of aged caulking, sealant of windows, repairs to roof drain structures and replacement of flashing, possible

CONTRACTORS MUST BE PRE-QUALIFIED TO BID ON THE PROJECT. Prequalification packets can be obtained from MLD Architects, LLC. 211 John Knox Road, Suite 105, Tallahassee, Florida 850-385-9200, roosevelt@midarchitects.com . Pre-qualification packets must be completed and submitted at the mandatory Pre-bid conference. A mandatory Pre-Bid conference will be held on **March 14th, at 10:00 a.m. at the Project Site**, 33 Market St, Apalachicola, FL 32320 and all bidders or their representatives are required to be in attendance. The Pre-Bid Conference date is subject to change. Bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope, plainly marked as a "SEALED BID", with bidder's name, address/contact information, date and time of opening, Bid of the Franklin County Courthouse Renovations.'

ANSWERS

From page 2B

CROSSWORD

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Carrabelle Cove APARTMENTS

Now Taking applications for: 1, 2 and 3 bedroom

Laundry facilities on site.
W/S included in rent, ch & a and window coverings provided.
On site management office.
Rental assistance available.
Income restrictions apply, reasonable accommodation.

Carrabelle Cove Apartments
807 Gray Avenue# 33
Carrabelle, FL 32322
850-697-2017
This institution is an equal opportunity provider & employer.

OUTDOORS

WEEKLY ALMANAC

DATE	HIGH	LOW	PRECIP
Thu, February 22	68°	61°	8%
Fri, February 23	72°	49°	49%
Sat, February 24	68°	46°	2%
Sun, February 25	68°	53°	3%
Mon, February 26	71°	59°	6%
Tues, February 27	72°	63°	6%
Wed, February 28	73°	57°	20%
Thu, February 29	70°	54°	24%

THE TIMES

APALACHICOLA

Date	Day	High Tide AM	High Tide PM	Low Tide AM	Low Tide PM
22	Thurs	1:22 1.1	4:33 1.0	9:41 -0.5	9:16 0.6
23	Fri	2:19 1.2	4:48 1.1	10:14 -0.4	9:55 0.5
24	Sat	3:05 1.2	5:00 1.1	10:40 -0.3	10:33 0.4
25	Sun	3:49 1.2	5:07 1.1	10:59 -0.1	11:07 0.3
26	Mon	4:32 1.1	5:13 1.2	11:13 0.0	11:38 0.1
27	Tues	5:16 1.1	5:21 1.2	11:29 0.1	
28	Wed	6:04 1.0	5:33 1.3	12:08 0.0	11:48A 0.2
29	Thurs	7:02 0.9	5:50 1.3	12:40 -0.2	12:09 0.4

CARRABELLE

Date	Day	High Tide AM	High Tide AM	Low Tide PM	Low Tide PM
22	Thurs		3:08 1.7	7:28 -0.9	7:03 1.0
23	Fri	12:54 1.9	3:23 1.7	8:01 -0.7	7:42 0.8
24	Sat	1:40 1.9	3:35 1.7	8:27 -0.5	8:20 0.6
25	Sun	2:24 1.9	3:42 1.8	8:46 -0.2	8:54 0.4
26	Mon	3:07 1.8	3:48 1.8	9:00 0.0	9:25 0.2
27	Tues	3:51 1.7	3:56 1.9	9:16 0.2	9:55 -0.1
28	Wed	4:39 1.6	4:08 2.0	9:35 0.4	10:27 -0.3
29	Thurs	5:37 1.4	4:25 2.1	9:56 0.6	11:05 -0.5

THE STAR

ST. JOSEPH BAY

Date	Day	High Tide AM	High Tide PM	Low Tide AM	Low Tide AM
22	Thurs		9:12 1.3	8:19 -0.3	
23	Fri		9:43 1.2	8:19 -0.2	
24	Sat	2:42P 0.4	10:07 1.1	5:53 -0.1	4:42 0.3
25	Sun	3:02P 0.4	10:16 0.9	6:10 0.0	5:32 0.2
26	Mon	3:07P 0.5	10:04 0.7	6:30 0.0	6:20 0.2
27	Tues	2:27P 0.6	10:08 0.5	6:48 0.1	7:07 0.2
28	Wed	2:43 0.5	2:27 0.8	10:19 0.3	12:10 0.4
29	Thurs	3:42 0.4	2:45 1.0	12:36 0.2	6:38A 0.3

APALACHICOLA BAY, WEST PASS

Date	Day	High Tide AM	High Tide PM	Low Tide AM	Low Tide PM
22	Thurs	12:55 1.0	4:06 0.9	9:14 -0.5	8:49 0.6
23	Fri	1:52 1.0	4:21 0.9	9:47 -0.4	9:28 0.5
24	Sat	2:38 1.0	4:33 0.9	10:13 -0.3	10:06 0.4
25	Sun	3:22 1.0	4:40 1.0	10:32 -0.1	10:40 0.3
26	Mon	4:05 1.0	4:46 1.0	10:46 0.0	11:11 0.1
27	Tues	4:49 0.9	4:54 1.1	11:02 0.1	11:41 0.0
28	Wed	5:37 0.9	5:06 1.1	11:21 0.2	
29	Thurs	6:35 0.8	5:23 1.1	12:13 -0.2	11:42A 0.4

SPONSOR THE WEEKLY ALMANAC
CALL TODAY! (850) 851-0724

App helps consumers find pollinator-friendly plants

Brad Buck
Contributing Writer

Florida is home to over 315 species of native wild bees, which thrive on flowers for survival. But some bees are in critical decline.

While the public is increasingly interested in conserving pollinators and in pollinator-friendly gardening, a 2020 University of Florida survey showed a knowledge gap in consumers' ability to identify a range of bee pollinators -- the plants to which they're attracted.

Knowing that, the Florida-Friendly Landscaping (FFL) program at UF developed an online and mobile app. The BeeGardens app helps the public identify bees and bee-friendly plants in their yards.

The app was designed to help the public quickly access information about more than 85 bee-friendly plants, which attract 12 types of bees. The app also gives tips on how to incorporate these plants into landscapes.

The app was built for the homeowner using the FFL plant database, to raise awareness of how landscapes can be designed to support bees year-round. "It is similar to the FFL butterfly app, but this one is specifically for bees," said Sandra Wilson, a UF/IFAS professor of environmental horticulture and lead author of



Bees [UF/IFAS PHOTOGRAPHY]

a new study on the app's effectiveness in student learning.

Since it was launched, the BeeGardens app has averaged more than 1,200 unique visits per month, revealing its popularity and wide use. That's 22,673 unique users from across Florida and beyond, Wilson said.

Despite all those online users, Wilson wanted to explore how the app can improve students' confidence in identifying bees and pollinator-friendly plants. To do the study, faculty were awarded a UF/IFAS College of Agricultural and Life Sciences grant for distance education improvement.

For this project, Wilson tested undergraduate students in two classes within the department of environmental horticulture in 2021 and 2022. In the classes -- Annual and Perennial Gardening and Florida Native Landscaping -- students increased their ability to identify bees and pollinator-friendly plants.

That's good news for those trying to increase pollinators in landscapes. A recent ASK IFAS document showed lots of people want to plant a pollinator-friendly landscape, but fewer actually do so.

"These findings should further boost the public's confidence in picking pollinator-friendly plants for their landscape, using the BeeGardens app," Wilson said. "The more pollinators we have, the better we can support our native biodiversity and food systems."

Brad Buck, a senior public relations specialist for UF/IFAS Communications, can be reached at bradbuck@ufl.edu



Dr. Sandra Wilson, a UF/IFAS professor of environmental horticulture, works with her students on the pollinator app. [ALEX LOPEZ | UF/IFAS]

FWC REPORT

During the week of Jan. 12 through 18, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission Master Officer M. Webb was on patrol checking anglers at a local park in Port St. Joe. He re-

ceived information about a fisheries violation and contacted a subject matching the description. A resource inspection revealed the subject was in possession of a 15-inch redfish. A citation was issued for undersized redfish.

Officers Gerber and Lip-

ford received information about individuals possibly shooting doves near a highway. They arrived on scene and found the area was baited and also discovered bag limit and license violations. The appropriate action was taken to address the violations.

Forgotten Coast Fishing Report

Special to the Times and Star

Inshore fishing has been pretty much a carbon copy of last week with black drum and sheepshead around structure. Keeper redfish are starting to pick up along with flounder live shrimp have been the bait of choice.

Even though most of our offshore fish are out of season, there are still fish out there that can go in the fish box! One of these is vermillion snapper, also called Beeliners. These smaller snapper are delicious, are never out of season, and only have to be 10-inches, with a 10-person limit. Target them on reefs in

the 80+ depth range using a 40-pound double drop rig with light wire 2/0-3/0 circle hooks baited with frozen shrimp or squid. Their mouths can easily tear on the way up if pulled too hard, so a medium offshore rod with the lightest weight possible will boat the most fish. Be sure to follow Dave Mason's Youtube Channel Forgotten Coast Fishing.

The rivers have been on the rise so if you go freshwater fishing, be careful; you might want to check out some lakes or ponds for better results.

Until next week, good luck and tight lines.

Tom Gannaway



Everything for your outdoor adventure!!

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