



WEEKLY NEWS  
MARCH 28—APRIL 4, 2024

*Local people. Local stories. Local events.* **\$1.25**

Weekly in print, daily online

THE STAR: Volume 85 - No. 13 GULFCOUNTY.NEWS | THE TIMES: Volume 138 - No. 50 FRANKLINCOUNTY.NEWS

**OUT TO SEE**

**Carrabelle presents vintage flea market Saturday**

The Crooked River Lighthouse will host an outdoor Country and Vintage Flea Market on Saturday, March 30 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 1975 U.S. 98 West outside Carrabelle. For more info, call 850-697-2732, carrabellelighthouse@gmail.com or www.crookedriverlighthouse.com.

**'Lend Me A Tenor' opens April 4**

The Panhandle Players will present the comedy "Lend Me A Tenor" Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings, April 4 to 7 p.m. and Sunday afternoon, April 7 at the Chapman Theatre in Apalachicola. Written by Ken Ludwig, the show won three Tony Awards and four Drama Desk Awards, and was a sensation on Broadway and in London's West End. The show is directed by Rob Pierce. Evening shows are at 7:30 p.m. and the matinee at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and available at panhandleplayers.org

**History museum presents Tate's Hell exhibit**

The Carrabelle History Museum is presenting a special exhibit, "Tate's Hell, the Legend, Tate's Hell, the Place" through Saturday, April 27. The museum is open Wednesdays from noon to 5 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays noon to 5 p.m. There is no charge for admission; donations are gratefully accepted to defray costs. For info call (850) 697-2141 or email carrabellehistorymuseum@gmail.com

**Want to learn about customer service?**

Gulf Coast State College will present a free Customer Service Workshop aimed at empowering restaurant employees to deliver exceptional service experiences on Monday, April 8 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Gulf/Franklin Campus, 3800 Garrison Avenue, Port St. Joe. This workshop is open to all restaurant staff members, with limited spots available. Lunch provided by the Gulf Coast State College Foundation. Interested individuals can register by visiting <https://bit.ly/GCSCCE> or reach out to Lara Herter at [lherter@gulfcoast.edu](mailto:lherter@gulfcoast.edu) or (850) 873-3583.

*The human race* 



Honeyville Park, just south of Wewahitchka, was the site Saturday morning for the Gulf County Easter Egg Hunt, presented by a coalition of organizations that united for a single countywide event. For more photos, see page B7. [MICHAEL YELVINGTON | FOMO PHOTOGRAPHY]

**War comes to our shores**  
**Diver explores history of Empire Mica**

David Adlerstein  
Dadlerstein@nevespublishing.com

A week shy of seven months after the day that will live in infamy marked the United States'

formal entry into World War II, an infamous night brought the war home to the Forgotten Coast.

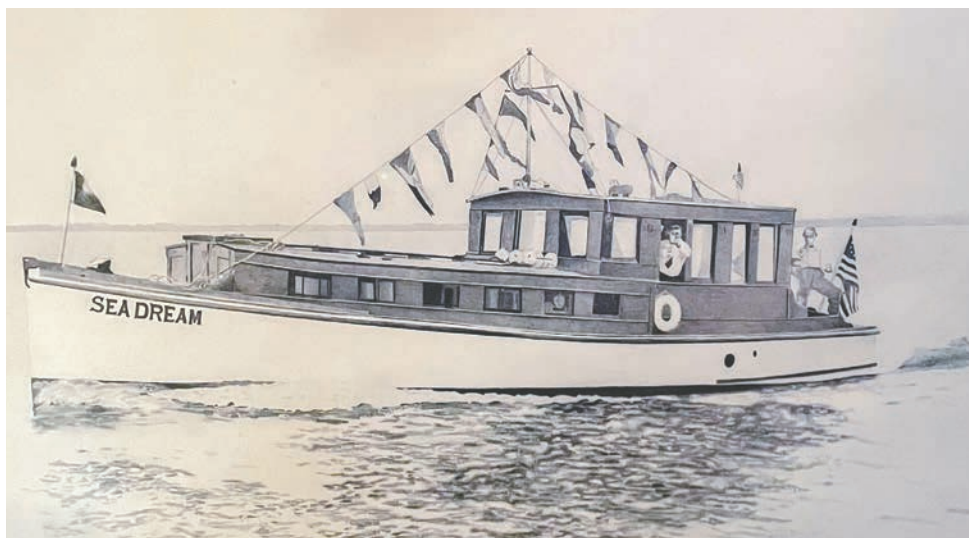
Beginning just after midnight on Monday, June 29, 1942, about

21 miles due south of Cape San Blas, beneath a brilliantly moonlit sky, a German U-boat had been shadowing the Empire Mica, a British oil tanker on its way back from Texas with a complete load of 12,000 tons of oil of immense value to the Allies for products such as kerosene and aviation fuel.

"It is very bright," Kapitänleutnant (Lieutenant Commander) Günther Müller-Stöckheim later wrote in his Daily War Diary, "but I hope he does not recognize (the presence of a U-boat) very much."

At about 1 a.m. the Empire Mica just three-fourths of a nautical mile away, the commander of U-67 ordered the firing of two steam-driven torpedoes.

The horrific effect of the explosion would send the 463-foot-long tanker to the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico about 110 feet below, where it became the



W.F. Randolph's Sea Dream was critical to the rescue of the 14 British sailors. [STATE ARCHIVES OF FLORIDA]

See DIVER, Page 2A

**Developer proposes dome homes for Eastpoint**

David Adlerstein  
Dadlerstein@nevespublishing.com

They look a bit like concrete igloos, and one developer thinks they might be just the thing to address the need for workforce housing in Eastpoint.

At a workshop Tuesday evening, March 19, Joshua Parker outlined details of what he termed a "planned eco-home development" on 75 acres off 100 Gilbert Street in Eastpoint which would feature as many as 45 units on 15 acres of uplands.

Parker, who created and then sold off the Eastpoint Beer Company, said during his time running the business, he and his wife "noticed a need for a deeper labor pool in Franklin County. (This) does a good job of addressing a problem the county has,



The exterior of a prototype of the dome houses. [DOMEAIA]

and provides workforce housing. The goal is to be able to offer a price point approachable by any hardworking person in Franklin County."

While the workshop served as an overall introduction of his concept, with no formal action by

the county commission, Parker plans to ask for a planned unit development for his Sea Shire development which if granted would allow him to increase density on the upland portion of the property for his domed units.

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THE TIMES



THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2024



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THE STAR



## GULF COUNTY

## Lewis seeks tax collector post



## Trump dominates Republican preference primary

**David Adlerstein**  
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Port St. Joe resident Candye Lewis has announced her intent to run for Gulf County tax collector.

Lewis, 60, of 111 Liberty Street, is seeking to succeed incumbent Shirley Jenkins, who has decided not to seek re-election.

A Democrat, Lewis would compete in the November general election if no other members of her party decide to run. Two Republicans, Gail Alsbrook and Ashley Forehand, have declared their intent to seek the office, and which member of the GOP would get the nomination would be decided in the August primary.

The following statement has been provided by the Lewis campaign:

My name is Candye Lewis



**Candye Lewis, candidate for Gulf County tax collector.** [ PROVIDED BY CANDIDATE ]

and I'm proud to announce I'm running to be your next Gulf County tax collector this upcoming election November 2024. My slogan "Experience Matters" is why I know I am the right candidate for this

See GULF ELECTION, Page 8A

**David Adlerstein**  
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The results in the March 19 Republican Presidential Preference primary were clear in both Gulf and Franklin counties.

About nine out of 10 GOP voters prefer that Donald Trump be their nominee for president.

Turnout was pretty modest, 13 percent in Franklin and 19 percent in Gulf, and of those Republicans who cast ballots, about 87.3 percent, or 1,099 of them, voted for Trump in Gulf County.

In Franklin County, the percentage was a whisker greater, at 88 percent, as 819 cast ballots for the former president.

Republican Nikki Haley ran second, with 8.4 percent of the votes in Franklin, and 7.2 percent in Gulf.

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis ran third in both counties, picking up 2.7 percent in Franklin and 4.9 percent in Gulf.

Republicans Chris Christie,

Asa Hutchinson and Vivek Ramaswamy each picked up votes in Franklin, although their combined total was fewer than 10.

Ramaswamy didn't get any votes in Gulf, but the other two men did, as did Ryan Binkley, who received a single vote.

In Franklin County, Supervisor of Elections Heather Riley had her vote tallies within 15 minutes after the polls closed, while it took Gulf County a little longer, since Supervisor of Elections John Hanlon decided it didn't pay to spend the extra monies to modern in vote totals.

Only slightly more than half the voters cast ballots on Election Day in Franklin, while fewer than half in Gulf voted on March 19, with almost as many voting early and the rest by mail.

In Franklin County, the second most popular option was to vote by mail.

## DIVER

From Page 1A

final resting place for 33 of the 47 sailors aboard the Empire Mica.

With Coast Guard auxiliary crews rushing to the scene, 14 of the sailors were rescued and taken to Apalachicola, with half of them transported to Panama City for medical attention.

The flaming head of war had flashed an evil grin into the faces of the Forgotten Coast.

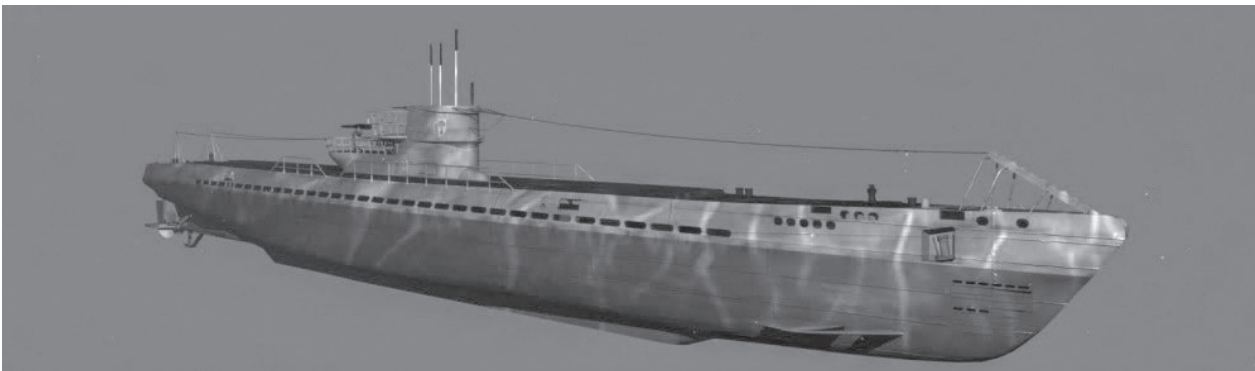
In a fascinating presentation earlier this month as part of the Apalachicola Area Historical Society's Spring Speak Series, diving enthusiast and amateur historian Grayson Shepard offered a detailed look at what took place at sea on that blood-soaked June morning.

Throughout his March 16 appearance, marked by a showing of several still images related to the wartime history, Shepard shared underwater video that he had taken when he and fellow diver Mandi Singer had explored the wreckage, now one of the most popular dive sites in Florida.

Shepard told of how the comparatively new Empire Mica, built just 11 months earlier, was returning from Baytown, Texas with a full load of oil. Captain Hugh Bentley opted not to take the 710-nautical-mile straight-line course, but instead steamed along the 100-fathom-curve hugging the Gulf Coast, tracking to the east-southeast



**This map shows the movement of the Empire Mica from Texas, and the U-boat after it rounded the Keys.** [ ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA ]



**The U-boat 67 that sank the Empire Mica had a range of 64 nautical miles submerged and more than 13,000 nautical miles surfaced.** [ GRAYSON SHEPARD | CONTRIBUTED ]

and eyeing lighthouses marking where the coastline turned south at Florida's Big Bend. Knowing he couldn't enter St. Andrew Bay or St. Joseph Bay safely at night, Bentley was running behind schedule to meet up with a convoy and cut the corner.

The German U-boat, with its crew of 51, had guessed the Empire Mica's route correctly, and the 249-foot sub, capable of moving at 7 knots submerged and 18 knots on the surface, readied to strike.

The two torpedoes that hit the Empire Mica found their target, and the ship burst into flames. Coastal lookouts in the lighthouse on Cape San Blas witnessed the explosion and telephoned Coast Guard Lt. Elgin Wefing, captain of the port at Apalachicola. The official Coast Guard vessel assigned to the Apalachicola area was in Panama City for repairs, so R.J. "Dick" Heyser, father of the man who would later become famous as the U-2 spy plane pilot whose photos triggered the Cuban Missile Crisis, volunteered his 32-foot Countess.

Wefing and Heyser, along with Coast Guard members Wade Grant and W.L. Mc-



**The Tower Hill Merchant Marine memorial in London.** [ GRAYSON SHEPARD | CONTRIBUTED ]

Cormick and civilians Belton Tarantino and Joe Thompson, sailed from Apalachicola at 2 a.m. to rescue any survivors.

Soon afterwards, W.F. Randolph and John Hathcock left Apalachicola in Randolph's larger and faster Sea Dream to assist the Countess and her crew with the rescue.

"Both crafts ran without lights because it was wartime," said Shepard. "They used only the moonlight and the fire on the burning British tanker far out at sea to guide them. The trip took several hours."

He said the Countess arrived first and found the Empire Mica adrift and ablaze with no survivors in the water. The crew spotted a life raft with 14 survivors and took them under tow. When the Sea Dream arrived, they circled the burning wreck searching for additional survivors, but found none. They then caught up with the Countess, took the survivors onboard, and delivered them to Apalachicola's Coombs Armory where a makeshift hospital had been set up.

Seven of the more seriously injured sailors were immediately transported to Panama City, while the remaining seven spent a week in Apalachicola where they were treated for their injuries and cared for by the local residents.

The Empire Mica burned and drifted for 24 hours until it sank at its current location approximately 25 miles southwest of West Pass.



**The Empire Mica** [ UBOAT.NET ]



**Kapitänleutnant Günther Müller-Stöckheim was lieutenant commander of U-boat 67.** [ UBOAT.NET ]

# DOMESTIC HOME

From Page 1A

This would be instead of building 15 conventional houses “that wouldn’t require rezoning and potentially be more lucrative,” said Parker, 50, who together with his wife are parenting two sons, ages 2 and 3.

“They’re growing up in Eastpoint and in 15 years they’ll be young men and going off on their own,” he said. “This honors the spirit of community and could provide roofs over peoples’ heads who need them.

“It’s no easy task and would require a lot of investment of both time and resources to accomplish,” Parker said. “The neat thing about the project is that all the buildable acres are all on the interior and will be hidden by green space that is wetlands, which provides a buffer. If a resident does not want to see this community, they never have to, as there is no visibility from the outside.”

The homes, designed by a firm named Domegaia, are what is known as Aircrete domes, made of Portland cement without aggregate in it. He said that with the addition of a forming solution mixed in, the slurry filled with air bubbles is poured into molds, resulting in walls both fireproof and strong, enabling the resulting structure to be engineered to withstand wind loads.

“It’s being done in the Third World, and in Australia, but just recently some engineers have stepped up to certify the technology and it became something that could put a person in a residential unit,”

he said. “You get 10 times the volume, and the resulting structures require less material costs and costs are lower. The exoskeletal design has no roof and no siding and there’s a lot of cost savings there.

He said he attended a 10-day workshop in Oregon put on by Domegaia, which has partnered with PSE Consulting Engineers. “They are at the ready to stamp prints,” Parker said.

He said construction does not require heavy equipment, but mainly requires a group stacking blocks and working together to build a home.

Parker said he envisions gravel roads, and preservation of the existing landscape. “We hope to preserve natural habitat as much as possible,” he said.

The units would be connected to Eastpoint Water and Sewer, he said, with staged construction that would start with 10 units, including one, two and three-dome units, and later the remaining 30 or so homes.

Parker said the efficiency units would be about 500 square feet, and could be sold for under \$100,000, with land included.

“You get hands to help build these and the construction style can be taught to just about anybody,” he said. “I want to be able to put anybody in Franklin County who wants to work hard into one of these.”

He said use of inverted heat pump technology can reduce energy costs, which would further lower carrying costs.

Chairman Ricky Jones said in talks with constituents, not many were familiar with

the concept, and questioned Parker on details, including the pricing.

“A lot of people use that term (workforce housing) because they know it appeals to us,” said Commissioner Jessica Ward.

Parker acknowledged the small interior space “is going to require a different mindset and different lifestyle. It’s something new and challenges the current idea. It’s being able to use a smaller space; maybe it requires not having the space to spread out.

“It’s perfect for the single or married couple, a little bit more of a challenge for a larger family,” he said.

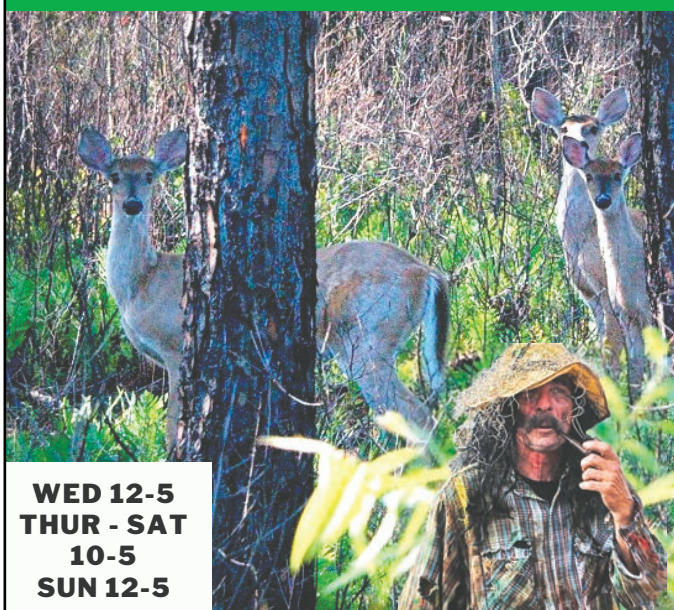
Members of the audience asked about garages (they

are not in the current plans), amenities (a community center is planned) and whether there would be rules in place forbidding short-term rentals.

“I commend Mr. Parker for his innovative approach but have some concerns,” said Cliff Butler, who is active in working to find workforce housing solutions. “I have great concerns about maintaining the affordable workforce housing aspect. Those houses look ideal for short-term rentals.”

Parker said he plans to have both owner-occupied and rental units for annual lease. “We would be looking (for a way) that would allow us to have short-term staying in the unit while the project is being completed.”

## EXHIBIT: TATE'S HELL, THE LEGEND TATE'S HELL, THE PLACE



WED 12-5  
THUR - SAT  
10-5  
SUN 12-5

Explore the legend of Tate's Hell, the misadventures of Cebe Tate, and how Tate's Hell State Forest got its name. Features wildlife & landscape photos by John Spohrer and Jon Johnson plus the Florida Folk Song & the FSU short film.

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FREE ADMISSION



## Apalachicola Bay Charter School

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### LIMITED ENROLLMENT

- Enrollment for 2024-25 is online only. The application link is on our website, at [www.abceagles.org](http://www.abceagles.org).
- To be considered for the 2024 lottery, you must submit your completed enrollment application by 3:30pm on March 29, 2024.
- ABC School Tours will be given Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11am-12pm. (School will be closed during Spring Break - March 11-15.)

**Apalachicola Bay Charter School**  
98 - 12th Street, Apalachicola, FL 32320  
653-1222 (phone) 653-1857 (fax)

[www.abceagles.org](http://www.abceagles.org)

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# OPINION

## Does modern society practice what Jesus preached?



**Danny Tyree**  
Guest Columnist

It's probably not the Easter message you expected, but for the sake of argument, let's set aside miracles, repentance, heaven, hell and claims of divinity.

Countless people who reject Jesus Christ as the Son of God will nonetheless grudgingly acknowledge him as a "good man" or "wise moral teacher."

But does modern society truly practice even the broadest principles that Jesus preached?

"Take heed and beware of covetousness," Jesus proclaimed.

America in 2024 celebrates covetousness in myriad ways, including the time-tested "keeping up with Joneses" pursuit of the Almighty Dollar.

Backstab your way up that corporate ladder! Gamble the food budget on lottery tickets! Gotta shower loved ones with more "stuff"!

And of course, stirring up class envy enshrines covetousness on a pedestal. You can practically set your watch by politicians' perennial "soak the rich in their magically inexhaustible pockets" schemes. (The Empty Tomb makes us uncomfortable, but mayors and governors have unshakable confidence that they can kill the goose that laid the golden egg and bring it back to life over and over.)

"Can the blind lead the blind?" asked Jesus. "Shall they not both fall into the ditch?"

Millions are swayed by self-appointed "experts" who are skilled at nothing except latching onto the latest grift. Legislators who have never met a payroll intuitively "know" that small businesses need oodles

See TYREE, Page 5A

## A third party is the coward's way out



**Mona Charen**  
Guest Columnist

During the all-too-brief one-on-one contest between Nikki Haley and Donald Trump for the Republican presidential nomination, there was a good deal of analysis declaring it the last stand of the Reaganite vision for the GOP versus the MAGA takeover. That was the wishest of wishful thinking -- and not just because such large segments of the current Republican Party delight in Trump. It's also because the Reaganite wing has

made such a poor showing for itself.

It's generous to call the desiccated exoskeleton of Reaganism a "wing" at all, and frankly, the use of the term "Reaganism" is not really accurate anyway. What people mean when they use the term is traditional Republicanism, which includes belief in free enterprise, smaller government, freer trade, respect for the Constitution, dedication to American world leadership and social conservatism, among other ideals. Republicans who continue to adhere to those principles embraced Haley as the last man (as it were) standing.

One reason there weren't more traditional Republicans was on display in a recent Wall Street

Journal op-ed. The world might look very different if traditional Republicans had been willing to stand firm for their values when they came under assault from an ignorant, cruel demagogue. So I was briefly optimistic when I saw that an honest - to - goodness Reaganite, John Lehman, who served as secretary of the Navy under Reagan, had weighed in. The headline was promising: "Reagan Would Never Vote for Trump." But after that bold beginning, the subhead was deflating: "He also didn't care much for Biden. Like me, he'd be looking for a strong third-party candidate to support."

Let's unpack that subhead. Reagan may not have "cared

much" for Biden in the 1980s; most conservatives didn't. But we cannot say how Reagan would view the 2024 Biden; many former Republicans like me consider him the more conservative choice in the most important respects, i.e., respect for the rule of law and adherence to the Constitution. As Lehman itemizes in his piece, Trump's departure from conservative ideals -- or just plain American ideals -- are "horrifying," including his "naked admiration of our enemies," "praise for Hezbollah," contempt for allies, and incessant denigration of America as a "third world country" and a "laughingstock."

One might suppose that given all

See CHAREN, Page 5A

## Fourth Estate should just have an estate sale



**Ron Hart**  
Guest Columnist

We have legacy corporate media that have stood by and asked no questions when the Democrats say Trump, MAGA and Republicans are a "threat to democracy."

All the while, Democrats seek to keep Trump off the ballot in several states, jail him, take his assets in New York, expand the Supreme Court, ban voter ID, censor speech, and suppress opposing thought on social media. They interfered in elections, for instance, by burying the Hunter laptop story (calling it "Russian disin-

formation") right before we voted.

Yet, somehow, they think THEY are saving democracy and Republicans are a "threat" to it?

What they have done is not much different than what Putin did in Russia. He just won his fifth term by a margin of 88% to 12%. Those 12% have been identified: Half of them died being dragged behind a car, and the other half were mysteriously pushed out of a 10th floor window. Or, as they call it in Russia and in the Clinton household, natural causes.

You have to hand it to Putin, he is the first to win an election there in a landslide without carrying Ohio or Michigan.

In what pretends to be news, shows like The View are just angry leftist tropes that poison the minds of stay-at-home moms and

shut-ins. It is ironic that the three most unpleasant women on TV are named Sunny, Whoopi and Joy. Their parents named them before they met them.

It is like whip-lash listening to the unhinged political rantings of The View. They have gone from "Defund the police" to "Put the National Guard in the New York subways." The National Guard troops are not allowed to do much but act like TSA agents, which at least slows down the New York City transit system, delaying hundreds of stabbings.

The Oscars ratings continue to go down, as does the quality of movies being produced. No one is watching the woke tripe they put out. Oppenheimer won best picture. It was like being valedictorian of summer school, just an acted-out

documentary that you could have seen anywhere. The mental acuity of those who view these movies continues to go down. Oppenheimer did not do well overseas; it was not even shown in Japan since they have already seen it twice.

Joe Biden took Hunter to see Oppenheimer. Hunter did mushrooms to prepare for the movie.

The old mantra in media was, "If it bleeds it leads," which has now been replaced by, "If it bleeds, it is Trump's fault." The media call Trump anti-Semitic. His daughter, Ivanka, is now Jewish, as are his grandkids and son-in-law. Trump moved the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem. And they call him "Hitler"? But try telling that to the Gestapo!

The media's

See HART, 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.

# Remembering when the Irish ruled the ring



Joe Guzzardi  
Guest Columnist

The date: Sept. 7, 1892. The place: New Orleans. The event: the World Heavy Weight title battle, featuring challenger John J. Corbett taking on champ John L. Sullivan.

No Super Bowl has so captivated the nation's attention and aroused its passion more than the bout between Gentleman Jim and Sullivan, who most referred to as John L. "the Boston Strong Boy,"

America's first sports hero.

Corbett and Sullivan were both sons of Irish immigrants. Sullivan had won the title 10 years earlier and had defended it against all comers, including a 75-round bare-knuckle title defense marathon in 100-plus degree heat against Jake Kilrain.

Sullivan was the last of the bare-knuckle champions, pugilists who slugged each other fearlessly in fights that lasted for hours. He won the bare-knuckle title 1882 from another intrepid Irishman, Tipperary-born Paddy Ryan, six years older, at least ten pounds lighter, but an inch or two

taller, which gifted him with greater reach.

With the crowd estimated at 5,000 and following an old tradition, Sullivan tossed his hat in the ring at 11:45 am, and Ryan entered moments later. The men then approached the scratch line in the center of the ring and shook hands. From the first round, Sullivan took charge. After nine rounds and only twenty minutes, Sullivan knocked Ryan out with a final right-handed punch, the last-ever bare-knuckle heavy-weight championship.

In the decade between capturing the crown from Ryan

and accepting Corbett's challenge, Sullivan defended his title dozens of times, which led to his braggadocio dare: "I can lick any SOB in the house." Sullivan had a well-deserved reputation as a street brawler and a drunk.

When Sullivan and Corbett faced off, boxing was in transition from a mostly illegal to a legitimate sport. Corbett's ascendancy to the top challenger's slot helped improve boxing's image. College-educated and a bank clerk before he turned to boxing, Corbett began his career in 1886. He fought his matches wearing padded gloves that the new Marquis of Queensberry

rules permitted. Other revolutionary changes included three minutes followed by a minute of rest; declared wrestling illegal, imposed the mandatory ten second count, and introduced weight divisions

Because he wore his hair in a full-grown pompadour, dressed fashionably and used excellent grammar, Corbett became known as "Gentleman Jim," and because of his advance, then retreat style, became recognized as modern boxing's father.

On the big night, a crowd of over 10,000 jammed the arena. Sullivan weighed in at 212 pounds - 25 pounds heavier than his challenger.

Betting was heavy with Sullivan, a prohibitive favorite. Two thousand miles away and connected by telegraph, beacon lights atop New York City's Pulitzer Building alerted the fans below as to which fighter was winning - red for Sullivan, white for Corbett.

Years later, Corbett published a book which described the blow-by-blow. From the first round, Sullivan was aggressive; he wanted to eat Corbett up right away.

"I sidestepped out of the corner and was back in the middle of the ring again, Sullivan hot after me. I allowed him to back me into

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## TYREE

From Page 4A

of new rules and regulations. Bureaucrats who don't know one end of a gun from the other lecture us on "common sense" firearms restrictions.

"But rather give alms of such things as ye have," Jesus implored in reference to personal charity. Somehow that has metastasized into forcing someone Else to "donate" to your pet projects. Even collectively, we don't actually give of what we have; we give of what we Don't have, running up trillions of dollars of debt.

"Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful," Jesus challenged. Such a concept is completely alien today. Observe the sheer giddiness when someone on "the other side" is slandered in the media, harassed in public, bankrupted or stabbed in prison.

Pro-choice advocates are swift to assert that the Gospels don't include any sermons in which Jesus explicitly mentioned abortion; but neither did Matthew, Mark, Luke or John record anything about "trigger warnings," "safe spaces," "body positivity," "toxic masculinity," "cultural appropriation," "follow the science," "saving the planet," "defund the police," onerous voter ID requirements, saintly indigenous peoples or "systemic" anything.

Jesus spoke of truth, but somehow neglected to mention "your own truth" or "lived experience" or "you're great just the way you are."

He denounced the hypocrisy of his opponents without censoring them or whining about "disinformation."

For some unfathomable reason, he urged his Jewish disciples to prepare for the future, instead of rallying them

to seek reparations from the Egyptians, Babylonians, Medes, Persians, Greeks and Romans.

The wise teacher told a parable of a wise man who built his house on a firm foundation, but our culture is built on volatile emotions, shaky logic, "living documents," unnamed sources, self-serving dignitaries, virtue signaling and faith(!) that "by golly, socialism will work next time."

I'm not here for a "come to Jesus moment" in a religious sense. But if you're going to admit Jesus was a wise teacher, walk the walk.

I yearn for something more eternal. In the meantime, we could have a veritable heaven on earth.

Danny Tyree welcomes email responses at [tyreetyrades@aol.com](mailto:tyreetyrades@aol.com) and visits to his Facebook fan page "Tyree's Tyrades."

## CHAREN

From Page 4A

of that and so much more, Lehman would counsel that Trump's reelection would be a disaster and, accordingly, that he would vote for Biden. But no, Lehman makes a feeble accusation in the final paragraph that Biden has "turned his platform over to socialist Bernie Sanders" and accordingly, Lehman will vote for the No Labels candidate.

That's rubbish. Biden has done no such thing. Lehman, like so many who should know better, is failing to take responsibility for the decision we must all make. His longing for purity is overwhelming his judgment. If Trump is reelected, none of the things he worked for as Navy secretary is safe.

Anything that erodes the anti-Trump coalition makes it more likely that Trump will prevail. So those who vow to write in a non-Trump Republican, or who like Lehman will vote for the No Labels candidate, are increasing the chances that a man who promises to pardon the Jan. 6 insurrectionists, imprison his critics and become an ally of Russia, will be elected.

The No Labels candidacy is cotton candy. Though advertised as providing a "unity ticket" that will provide "common sense" solutions for America's problems, the reality is that No Labels has no chance of winning 270 electoral college votes. Last year, they predicted that they would achieve bal-

lot access in 32 states by now. Instead, they have access in only 16 states. Oh, and No Labels might as well be called No Candidate. Like dominoes, one possible candidate after another has turned down their offer to run: Jon Huntsman, Joe Manchin, Larry Hogan, Kyrsten Sinema, Nikki Haley, Ken Buck, Brian Kemp and, just this week, Geoff Duncan.

As William Galston, a founder of No Labels who broke with the group last year, has explained, there are more moderate voters in the Democratic Party than in the GOP. Accordingly, No Labels will attract more Democrats than Republicans.

No Labels claims that it is only interested in fielding a ticket that can win outright and has no desire to serve as a spoiler. But polling shows that even a nationally known figure like Haley would only claim 9% of the vote in a four-way race that also contained Robert F. Kennedy Jr. Their projections also presume that a No Labels candidate would carry states that Biden won by double-digit margins in 2020.

No Labels is playing a dangerous game. Some believe it has forfeited the benefit of the doubt and is a full-fledged stalking horse for Trump. It wouldn't be so dangerous were it not for feckless lightweights like John Lehman.

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.

## HART

From Page 4A

"Trump Derangement Syndrome" has caused them to lose all objectivity, which is why journalists at legacy papers and media are being laid off by the thousands.

Because the media have not done their job by reporting facts and letting the people decide whom they want to vote for, we only have Biden and Trump to vote for in the fall. If the "journalists" were not advocates and just reported the facts, their credibility would not be shot. Nikki Haley got out, but she would get more votes if she ran as "None of the Above."

If the media had not dumbed down America, we would have better candidates and be more engaged in the issues. In his speeches, Biden has even taken to quoting characters from Sesame Street to make his point about shrinkflation, saying the Cookie Monster is taking cookies out of packs of Snickers. The president is doing this. Is this administration now brought to you by Sesame Street and the letters W T F?

The atom bomb, created by Oppenheimer and others, ended World War II. Its creation was aided by immigrants from Germany like Einstein, Otto Hahn, Lise Meitner, and Fritz Strassman. This is back when we decided who we let into the country. Nuclear weapons have threatened the world ever since. Cockroaches can survive a nuclear bomb, but they cannot live if you swat them with a newspaper. That, my friends, tells you all you need to know about how lethal the media are.

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](mailto:Ron@RonaldHart.com) or [@RonaldHart](https://twitter.com/RonaldHart) on Twitter.

## SPORTS

## Red Pepper Run draws huge field

David Adlerstein  
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Once again the Red Pepper Run 5K, held the first Saturday in March on St. George Island, drew an enormous field, making it among the most popular running events in Franklin County.

Under the expert direction of Shelley Shepard, 158 runners ran the 5K on Saturday, March 2, the morning of the annual St. George Island Regional Chili Cookoff.

Taking the win was Franklin County High School junior Josiah Friddle, who ran a 19:34.5 to finish more than a middle ahead of Ryley Sullivan, 29, who ran a 20:59.6.

The fastest female was Eden Keene, 41, who ran a 24:22.0 race.

The top youth male was Peter Desantis, 13, who clocked a 27:51.0, and best youth female was Franklin County freshman Addyson Paul, 14, who ran a 24:58.9.

The best Masters finish for males was Bob Marcella, 76, who totaled a 31:05.4. The best Masters finish for female runners, was Mary Stutzman, 75, who ran a 38:34.7.

The following are the names, ages and times for the top 50 finishers. The rest of the field can be



A record start from the Pine Street fire station. [SHELLEY SHEPARD | CONTRIBUTED ]

viewed at [forgottencoast.news](http://forgottencoast.news).

- Josiah Friddle, 16, 19:34.5
- Ryley Sullivan, 29, 20:59.6
- Kasey Chism, 33, 24:05.3
- Harry Curtains, 27, 24:05.3

- Barney Ray, 61, 24:05.3
- Nathan Treutel, 31, 24:16.9
- Eden Keene, 41, Female, 24:22.0

- Zachary Helbling, 22, 24:29.0
- Addyson Paul, 14, Female, 24:58.9

- Genee Meleski, 55, Female, 25:05.6

- Devin Gunter, 24, 25:32.9
- Stevie McNeill, 58, 25:46.0
- Sophia Fonseca, 27, Female, 25:47.1

- Tanner Klink, 30, 26:59.5

- Levi Bilbo, 21, 27:09.6
- Damien Freeman, 23, 27:11.7
- Peter Desantis, 13, 27:51.0
- Gerard Dube, 54, 27:53.0
- Joseph Fann, 11, 27:56.6
- Cydney Szymanowski, 38, Female, 27:58.8

- Sophia Reglat, 18, Female, 28:11.7

- Julie Clark, 62, Female, 28:25.3

- Rob Pierce, 60, 28:29.7
- Kaia Hathcock, 12, Female, 28:46.6

- Belinda Wharton, 63, Female, 28:47.6

- Isabelle Fann, 14, Female, 28:53.2

- Emily Roden, 22, Female, 28:57.4

- Shelly Newton, 57, Female, 29:34.5

- David Minacci, 53, 29:34.9
- Daniel Newton, 62, 29:38.0

- Sam Milam, 56, 29:43.4
- Keith Jewell, 65, 30:07.7

- Bobby Keene, 57, 30:19.1
- Paisley Strohecker, 11, Female, 30:26.7

- Kimberly Fleming, 29, Female, 30:54.5

- Kyle Hale, 54, 30:56.4
- Keith Sperry, 71, 31:00.1

- Bob Marcella, 76, 31:05.4
- Melanie Conway, 64, Female, 31:17.7

- Erin Griffith, 43, Female, 31:44.4

- Dave Miller, 73, 31:46.2
- David Millard, 30, 31:57.7

- Anna Bull, 39, Female, 32:07.1

- Clark Klinkenberg, 32, 32:17.7

- Nicole Richardson, 40, Female, 32:19.7

- Angela White, 46, Female, 32:42.3

- Randall Main, 64, 32:55.5

- Chris Fox, 66, Female, 33:11.8

- Greta Bruckelmyer, 44, Female, 33:39.0

- Sarah Treutel, 29, Female, 33:42.7



Race organizers covered the entry fees for members of the Franklin County High School Cadet Core. [SHELLEY SHEPARD | CONTRIBUTED ]



Eden Keene, left, the top female, celebrates her win with Bobby Keene and Genee Meleski. [SHELLEY SHEPARD | CONTRIBUTED ]

## Larkin sparkles over spring break in Alabama

David Adlerstein  
dadlerstein@nevespublishing.com

The Franklin County Lady Seahawks went to Alabama over spring break with their softball bats on their knees, and came back with a pretty darn good showing.

And none was happier than junior Charity Larkin, a longtime journeyman member of the team who managed to blast her first varsity home run in the team's opener against the the Arab (Alabama) Lady Knights March 11 in Orange Beach, where the tournament drew some of the finest competition in the Southeast.

Larkin, who also smacked a double,



Franklin County assistant coach Allen Ham and Charity Larkin get ready to take a huge bungee jump during an amusement park break during the Orange Beach tournament. [FCHS ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT ]

batted in three runs, as she went 2 for 2 at the plate.

Juniors Michalyn O'Neal and Raegan Dempsey, and freshman Lilah Millender each drove in a pair of runs, with freshman Ashton Carey tallying one RBI.

Junior Sarah Ham and freshman Jayla Creamer combined to twirl a three-hit 12-3 win in five innings.

Later that day, the Lady Seahawks shut out the Cherokee (Alabama) Lady Indians 2-0, as Larkin again had a stellar game, driving in both of the Hawks' runs while going 2 for 2 at the plate.

Millender smacked a double and O'Neal hit a single and scored a run. Ham struck out nine and gave up just two hits and walked nine.

On March 12, the Lady Seahawks suffered their first loss, a 5-3 defeat by the Lincoln County (Tennessee) Lady Falcons.

Ham struck out three and walked one, while giving up three earned runs on six hits.

O'Neal and sophomore Averie Johnson each drove in a run, as she, Ham and Creamer each scored one.

Franklin County got back on the winning track later that day, as they managed a 3-1 win over the Brentwood (Tennessee) Lady Bruins.

Ham twirled a three-hitter, giving up just one earned run while striking out 10 and walking none.

The Lady Seahawks got the win when they ended a 1-1 tie with a two run rally



Junior Charity Larkin holds her first home run ball, together with, from left, assistant coaches Allen Ham and Mike Todd, and Coach Scott Collins. [FCHS ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT ]

in the bottom of the seventh.

Sophomore Alexis Webb drove in a run, as did Dempsey, while seventh grader Shasta Butler and Creamer each delivered two hits.

In their final game of the tournament, the Lady Seahawks were rocked by the Hazel Green (Alabama) Lady Trojans, a 6A powerhouse.

Ham faced a power-packed lineup and managed to strike out two while giving up six earned runs on 10 hits in the five-inning affair.

Dempsey doubled in the bottom of the fifth, and Millender drove her home for the team's only run.

# DeSantis signs bill on teen work rules

David Adlerstein  
dadlerstein@nevespublishing.com

TALLAHASSEE – Gov. Ron DeSantis on Friday signed a measure that will ease decades-old regulations on the hours that 16- and 17-year-old Floridians can work.

The bill (HB 49), one of 25 signed Friday by DeSantis, was toned down in the waning days of this year's legislative session but still drew concerns about the impact of longer work hours on students' studies and the potential use of teens to address labor shortages.

But proponents countered that the bill, backed by groups such as the Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association and the National Federation of Independent Business-Florida, would provide flexibility in standards imposed in 1986 because of child-labor violations in the state.

NFIB-Florida President Bill

Herrle said the bill will give parents control over the hours worked by teens.

"No one wants young people to work longer hours or work under unsafe conditions," Herrle said in a statement Friday. "House Bill 49 simply gives parents and guardians the right to decide what's right for their teens and helps Florida's small businesses find workers."

On March 8, the final day of the legislative session, the House voted 76-33 to pass the bill, while the Senate passed it 27-11.

Democrats, who are in the minority in both legislative chambers, unsuccessfully sought to make changes to the bill to provide more state oversight for teen workers.

Rep. Anna Eskamani, D-Orlando, called it ironic that lawmakers earlier on March 8 passed a measure (HB 7063) that would prevent strippers under age 21 from working

in adult-entertainment establishments. That bill was designed to curb human trafficking.

"I really think that the most vulnerable age for trafficking actually is going to be less than 18, and unfortunately service jobs have very high rates of sexual harassment," Eskamani said March 8. "And we're not providing protection for young people."

The bill drew heavy debate early in the legislative session, as the House proposed eliminating a restriction on 16- and 17-year-old youths working more than eight hours when school is scheduled the next day. The proposal also would have eliminated a restriction on 16- and 17-year-olds working more than 30 hours in a week when school is in session.

But the Senate proposed less far-reaching changes, ultimately resulting in the version signed Friday by De-

Santis.

The law, which will go into effect July 1, will maintain a 30-hour work week limit for 16- and 17-year-olds when school is in session. But parents, guardians or school superintendents could waive the 30-hour limit.

Also, the measure will allow 16- and 17-year-olds to work more than eight hours on Sundays and holidays when school is the next day. It will require that 16- and 17-year-olds working eight or more hours in a day get 30-minute meal breaks after four hours of work.

Other bills signed Friday included a measure (HB 533) that will require state prison inmates to submit DNA samples if they have not previously done so and a measure (SB 1746) that was a follow-up to a controversial 2023 law that placed additional restrictions on public-employee unions.

## GUZZARDI

From Page 5A

all four corners, and he thought he was engineering all this, that it was his own work that was cornering me," Corbett wrote. "But I had learned what I wanted to know – just where to put my head to escape his blow if he should get me cornered and dazed. He had shown his hand to me." Sullivan taunted, "Sprinter!" The fight's pattern had been established.

By the time the 21st and final round arrived, Sullivan had been beaten as much by his advancing age as by the skills of the younger boxer. Bruised, bloodied, and beaten, Sullivan hung on to the ropes to address the crowd, still chanting his name, "Gentlemen, I stayed once too long. I met a young man. I'm glad the title remains in America."

Sullivan's only career defeat came against Corbett.

Sullivan retired to his farm in Abing-

ton, and after a lifetime of overindulging in alcohol and food, died a pauper at age 59. Corbett treasured his title and held on to it as a vehicle to promote other ventures. In 1887, Bob Fitzsimmons knocked Corbett out in the 14th round. In 1933, age 66, Corbett died of liver cancer.

*Joe Guzzardi is a Society for American Baseball Research and Internet Baseball Writers' Association member. Contact him at guzzjoe@yahoo.com.*

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# Unemployment improves, with Gulf third best in Florida

**David Adlerstein**  
Dadlerstein@nevespublishing.com

Joblessness in both Forgotten Coast counties dropped slightly in February, with Gulf County doing one-half of 1 percentage point better than Franklin in overall unemployment.

According to preliminary data released Friday by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, both Franklin and Gulf County joblessness improved by two-tenths of 1 percentage point last month over January's numbers, as Gulf dropped to 2.9 percent and Franklin to 3.4 percent.

Gulf's joblessness tied it with Wakulla as the third best county in the state, behind only Monroe at 2.1 and Miami-Dade at 1.6 percent.

Franklin's unemployment rate placed in the middle range of Florida's 67 counties, and behind the overall Florida rate of 3.1 percent.

In Gulf, seven people left the

jobless rolls, lowering them to 159, while the labor force grew by 21 people, from 5,439 to 5,460.

In Franklin, seven people left the unemployment line, dropping them to 164, as the labor force grew by 47 people, from 4,786 to 4.833.

One year ago, the unemployment rate was lower in both counties, 2.4 in Gulf and 2.8 in Franklin, and both the labor force and the jobless rolls were smaller, with both counties at 129 people on unemployment.

Florida's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.1 percent in February, unchanged from the January rate, and up 0.3 percentage point from a year ago. There were 345,000 jobless Floridians out of a labor force of about 11.09 million. The U.S. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.9 percent in February.

Florida's seasonally adjusted total nonagricultural employment was about 9.9 mil-

## February Area Unemployment

COUNTY	2023	2024
BAY	2.7%	3.2%
FRANKLIN	2.8%	3.4%
GULF	2.4%	2.9%
LEON	2.8%	3.3%
LIBERTY	3.0%	3.8%
WAKULLA	2.5%	2.9%

lion in February, a decrease of 5,500 jobs (-0.1 percent) over the month. The state gained 226,200 jobs over the year, an increase of 2.3 percent. Nationally, the number of jobs rose 1.8 percent over the year.

Nine of 10 major industries experienced positive over-the-year job growth in February. The industries gaining jobs over the year included education and health services (+57,500 jobs, +4.0 percent); trade, transportation, and utilities (+48,300 jobs, +2.5 per-

cent); leisure and hospitality (+35,000 jobs, +2.7 percent); total government (+32,000 jobs, +2.9 percent); construction (+21,000 jobs, +3.4 percent); other services (+11,200 jobs, +3.1 percent); manufacturing (+10,500 jobs, +2.5 percent); financial activities (+7,100 jobs, +1.0 percent); and professional and business services (+4,300 jobs, +0.3 percent).

The only major industry losing jobs over the year was information (-900 jobs, -0.6 percent).

## GULF ELECTION

From Page 2A

position.

I have been employed at the tax collector's office for over 23 years. I am currently the Florida Department of Motor Vehicles and Drivers License supervisor. I had the opportunity to attend classes to become certified as a tax collector assistant by the Florida Department of Revenue.

I am in direct communication with the tax collector and work closely with other personnel to assist in the daily operations of the office. I am customer focused and understand the importance of providing excellent customer service to you, your families and businesses.

My top priorities will be innovation, convenience, and accessibility to our services. I will strive to make it as easy as possible to do business with the tax collector's office while ensuring fiscal

accountability.

I humbly ask for your vote and support. Remember "experience matters" and so does your vote.

Each candidate for elected office in Gulf County is provided with the opportunity to run one announcement of their campaign in *The Star* free of cost. These announcements are submitted by the candidates' campaigns and must be submitted in advance of qualifying week, June 10 through 14.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER Missed Monitoring City of Port St. Joe

Our water system recently became aware that we failed to collect drinking water samples in accordance with our approved monitoring plan. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants. Results of triennial monitoring are an indicator of whether our drinking water meets health standards. During the 2023 monitoring period, fluoride, chloride, sulfate, and a second set of Synthetic Organic Contaminants (SOCs) were not sampled; therefore, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time for the following contaminants:

<b>Inorganic Contaminant</b>	Fluoride	
<b>Secondary Contaminants</b>	Chloride	
	Sulfate	
<b>Synthetic Organic Contaminants</b>		
2,3,7,8-TCDD (Dioxin)	Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate	Hexachlorobenzene
2,4-D	Dibromochloropropane	Hexachlorocyclopentadiene
2,4,5-TP(Silvex)	Dinoseb	Lindane
Alachlor	Diquat	Methoxychlor
Atrazine	Endothall	Oxamyl
Benzo(a)pyrene	Endrin	Pentachlorophenol
Carbofuran	Ethylene dibromide (EDB)	Picloram
Chlordane	Glyphosate	Polychlorinated biphenyls
Dalapon	Heptachlor	Simazine
Di(2-ethylhexyl)adipate	Heptachlor Epoxide	Toxaphene

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours. *Some people who drink water containing SOCs and inorganic contaminants in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill. Health effects language for individual contaminants can be obtained by visiting the EPA website at [www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/table-regulated-drinking-water-contaminants](http://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/table-regulated-drinking-water-contaminants) and <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/secondary-drinking-water-standards-guidance-nuisance-chemicals> or by contacting Florida DEP at 850-595-8300.*

Any customers who are concerned about their exposure to these contaminants can choose alternative sources of water for ingestion.

### What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do. You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. If a situation arises where the water is no longer safe to drink, you will be notified within 24 hours. We will announce any emergencies on WMBB TV, WJHG TV, Oyster Radio, and our Code Red System.

### What happened? What was done?

Due to a laboratory error, test results were incomplete for the 2023 monitoring period. The appropriate number of samples were taken in early 2024 and the results were satisfactory. A new laboratory has been chosen and our sample plan has been updated.

For more information, please contact: Chad Mack at 850-229-6395

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by the City of Port St. Joe  
Potable Water System ID#: 1230545  
Date distributed: 03/18/2024



THE STAR

# Classifieds



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**LEGAL ADVERTISING**

**359 NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

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:

Application #2023-06 Name in which assessed:

DAVID BYRD, CAS-SANDRA RUSS, JEFFERY DIXON, DOROTHEA PETERSON, BARBARA BAXTER, JAMES MCGEE

Tax Sale Certificate #: 2020-337

Date of Issuance: 05/29/2020

R.E. No.: 01733-000R

Description of Property:

BEGIN AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 15, TWP 4 SOUTH RANGE 10 WEST, AND RUN EAST FOR 740 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, THENCE RUN SOUTH TO THE NORTH SIDE OF OLD PANAMA AND WEWA ROAD; THENCE RUN SOUTHEASTERLY ALONG THE NORTH SIDE OF SAID ROAD FOR 263 FEET MORE OR LESS TO LAND DEEDED TO DAVID FASION; THENCE RUN NORTH TO THE NORTH LINE OF SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SOUTHEAST 1/4; THENCE RUN WEST 250 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, SAID LAND LYING AND BEING IN SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 15 TWP 4 SOUTH RANGE 10 WEST, LESS AND EXCEPT THAT PORTION CONVEYED BY VICTORIA PRICE TO JAMES ROUSE AND LUCILLE ROUSE BY WARRANTY DEED DATED SEPTEMBER 9, 1963 BEING THE SAME PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 32 AT PAGE 571 OF THE OFFICIAL RECORDS OF GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA.

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 bidder ONLINE at: www.gulf. realtaxdeed.com on 04/17/24 at 11:00 a.m. ET or any subsequently scheduled sale date.

**DATED:** 03/11/24  
**REBECCA L. NORRIS CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
**BY: Elaine Bland, Deputy Clerk**

**Publish dates:** 3/14/24, 3/21/24, 03/28/24, 04/04/24  
March 14, 21, 28, 2024  
April 4, 2024

**360 AMENDED Summons and AMENDED Petition for Dissolution:** ROSS RUTHERFORD v. CANDICE VOLKMAN  
State of California, Fresno County Superior Court, Family Law Division Case No. 23CEFL05278  
To the Respondent, Candice Volkman, Petitioner, Ross Rutherford has petitioned for dissolution of marriage in the State of California, Fresno County Superior Court. The Petition and Summons were

**LEGAL ADVERTISING**

issued on September 21, 2023. Due to an administrative error, an **AMENDED** Petition and **AMENDED** Summons was reissued on November 20, 2023. The **AMENDED** Petition and **AMENDED** Summons seek to dissolve marriage of Ross Rutherford and Candice Volkman. A Status Conference has been set for July 9, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. in Department 202 of the Fresno County Superior Courthouse located at 1130 "O" Street, Fresno, California 93721. If you object to the dissolution of marriage, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file a Response and Request for Dissolution of Marriage. Your appearance is mandatory by you and your attorney, if you are able to hire one to represent your interests. You may examine the file kept by the Court. You can fulfill this request by calling the Court Clerk or by contacting Attorney for Petitioner. Attorney for the Petitioner: Amy R. Lovegren-Tipton, APLC, 225 W. Shaw Avenue, Suite 105, Fresno, California 93704. (559) 421-9137.  
March 14, 21, 28, 2024  
April 4, 2024

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

JAMES GESSLEIN AND KATHY GESSLEIN, Plaintiffs, v. CASE NO.: 2024-CA-0010 DIVISION: KENNETH BROCK; JADWIGA H. GARCIA AND THOMAS E. GARCIA, CO-TRUSTEES, OR THEIR SUCCESSORS IN TRUST UNDER THE GARCIA LIVING TRUST, DATED OCTOBER 20, 1997, Defendants.  
**NOTICE OF ACTION**  
To KENNETH BROCK; JADWIGA H. GARCIA AND THOMAS E. GARCIA, CO-TRUSTEES, OR THEIR SUCCESSORS IN TRUST UNDER THE GARCIA LIVING TRUST, DATED OCTOBER 20, 1997 :  
**YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED** that an action to Quiet Title to real property described as: SEVEN SPRINGS LAKE PB 5 PG 18 LOT 21 BLK A ORB 364/806 FR LITTLE RIVER CAMP LLC MAP 95A More commonly known as: Seven Springs Drive, Wewahitchka, FL 32465 **AND/OR** S7 T6 R11 SUNSHINE FARMS (UNRECORDED) LOT 29 5.18 AC M/L ORB 814/104 TX FR GARCIA MAP 14C More commonly known as: West Kelly Drive, Port St. Joe, FL 32456  
has been filed by Plaintiffs, JAMES GESSLEIN AND KATHY GESSLEIN, and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, on Alisha Wilkes, Esq., 13400 Sutton Park Dr., S., Suite 1204, Jacksonville, FL 32224, (904)620-9545 on or before April 22, 2024 and file the original with the Clerk of Court and Plaintiff's attorney, otherwise a default and judgment will be entered against you for the relief demanded.  
Witness my hand and the seal of this court on this 4th day of March, 2024.  
Clerk of the Circuit Court

**362 NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

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:

Application # 2023-05  
Name in which assessed: Christopher Anthony Rouse, Jimmie Lewis Rouse, Margie L Rouse, Janie Beverly, Shirley Ragin, Brenda Rouse, Christopher Rouse, John D Rouse

Tax Sale Certificate #:2020-333

Date of Issuance: 05/29/2020

R.E. No.: 01723-000R

Description of Property:

COMMENCING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE SW 1/4 OF SE 1/4 OF SECTION 15, TOWNSHIP 4 SOUTH, RANGE 10 WEST, AND RUN WEST FOR 300 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; SAME BEING THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF LAND OWNED BY ROBERT FAISON; THENCE RUN WEST 100 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH TO THE NORTH SIDE OF THE OLD PANAMA & WEWA HIGHWAY; THENCE RUN SOUTHEASTERLY ALONG OLD WEWA & PANAMA ROAD, TO A POINT DUE SOUTH OF THE POINT OF BEGINNING, BEING 100 FEET MORE OR LESS; THENCE RUN DUE NORTH FOR 375 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, SAID LAND LYING & BEING IN THE SW 1/4 OF SE 1/4, IN SECTION 15, TOWNSHIP 4 SOUTH, RANGE 10 WEST.  
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 bidder ONLINE at: www.gulf. realtaxdeed.com on 04/17/2024 at 11:00 a.m. ET or any subsequently scheduled sale date.  
**DATED:** 03/04/2024  
**REBECCA L. NORRIS CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
**BY:** Leslee Bennett, Deputy Clerk  
**Publish dates:** 3/14/24, 3/21/24, 3/28/24, 4/4/24  
March 14, 21, 28, 2024  
April 4, 2024  
**365 NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that Gulf County Board of County Commissioners, 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

**LEGAL ADVERTISING**

By: Deputy Clerk  
**Please publish for 4 consecutive weeks.**

**Please send invoice and copy to:** Alisha Wilkes, Esq., Wilkes & Mee, PLLC 13400 Sutton Park Dr., S, Suite 1204 Jacksonville, FL 32224  
March 14, 21, 28, 2024  
April 4, 2024

**362 NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

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:

Application # 2023-05  
Name in which assessed: Christopher Anthony Rouse, Jimmie Lewis Rouse, Margie L Rouse, Janie Beverly, Shirley Ragin, Brenda Rouse, Christopher Rouse, John D Rouse

Tax Sale Certificate #:2020-333

Date of Issuance: 05/29/2020

R.E. No.: 01723-000R

Description of Property:

COMMENCING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE SW 1/4 OF SE 1/4 OF SECTION 15, TOWNSHIP 4 SOUTH, RANGE 10 WEST, AND RUN WEST FOR 300 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; SAME BEING THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF LAND OWNED BY ROBERT FAISON; THENCE RUN WEST 100 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH TO THE NORTH SIDE OF THE OLD PANAMA & WEWA HIGHWAY; THENCE RUN SOUTHEASTERLY ALONG OLD WEWA & PANAMA ROAD, TO A POINT DUE SOUTH OF THE POINT OF BEGINNING, BEING 100 FEET MORE OR LESS; THENCE RUN DUE NORTH FOR 375 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, SAID LAND LYING & BEING IN THE SW 1/4 OF SE 1/4, IN SECTION 15, TOWNSHIP 4 SOUTH, RANGE 10 WEST.  
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 bidder ONLINE at: www.gulf. realtaxdeed.com on 04/17/2024 at 11:00 a.m. ET or any subsequently scheduled sale date.  
**DATED:** 03/04/2024  
**REBECCA L. NORRIS CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
**BY:** Leslee Bennett, Deputy Clerk  
**Publish dates:** 3/14/24, 3/21/24, 3/28/24, 4/4/24  
March 14, 21, 28, 2024  
April 4, 2024  
**365 NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that Gulf County Board of County Commissioners, 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

**LEGAL ADVERTISING**

Name(s) in which it was assessed are as follows:

**Application#2023-02**

**Name in which assessed: KIM GLAZE; WILLIAM H GLAZE;**

**Tax Sale Certificate #: 2015-104**

**Date of Issuance: 05/29/2015**

**R.E. No.: 00540-000R**

**Description of Property:**

Commence at the Northwest corner of the Chipola River Dead Lakes Bridge and run North to the State Road right of way line and thence run in an Easterly direction along the Northside of State Road right of way a distance of 2400 feet for a point of beginning. From said point of beginning run thence Easterly along the North right of way line of State Road 22A a distance of 200 feet; thence turn 90° left and run Northerly a distance of 100 feet; thence turn left and extend a line Westerly 200 feet parallel to the North right of way line of State Road 22A: thence turn left and run 100 feet more or less to point of beginning, same being a part of Section 17, Township 4 South, Range 9 West, Gulf County, Florida.  
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 bidder ONLINE at: www.gulf. realtaxdeed.com on 04/17/24 at 11:00 a.m. ET or any subsequently scheduled sale date.  
**DATED: MARCH 11, 2024**  
**REBECCA L. NORRIS CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
**BY: Elaine Bland, Deputy Clerk**  
March 14, 21, 28, April 4, 2024  
**370 Notice to Receive Sealed Bids**  
RFP 2024-06  
The City of Port St Joe will receive sealed bids from any qualified person, company or corporation interested in constructing:  
**Wastewater Treatment Facility: Sprayfield Zone 3 Clearing**  
This project is located in Port St. Joe, Florida and includes clearing of approximately 19 acres for use as a new spray field zone. Site clearing work to include, but not limited to removal of trees and other vegetation, topsoil stripping, clearing and grubbing, and final smooth grading. Extent of site clearing is shown on drawings.  
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.  
Completion date for this project will be 90 days from the date of the Notice to Proceed presented to the successful bidder. Liquidated damages for failure to complete the project on the specified date will be set at \$500.00 per day.  
Please indicate on the envelope that this is a sealed bid, for "WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY: SPRAYFIELD

**LEGAL ADVERTISING**

**ZONE 3 CLEARING".**

Bids will be received until **3:00 PM Eastern Time, on April 5, 2024**, at the City of Port St. Joe City Hall, 305 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd, Port St. Joe, Florida 32456, and will be opened and read aloud on Friday, **April 5, 2024 at 3:05 PM Eastern Time.** The City of Port St. Joe is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action, Drug Free Work Place Employer.  
The City of Port St. Joe reserves the right to waive informalities in any bid, to accept and/or reject any or all bids, and to accept the bid that in their judgment will be in their best interest. All bids shall remain firm for a period of sixty days after the opening.  
All bidders shall comply with all applicable State and local laws concerning licensing registration and regulation of contractors doing business to the State of Florida.  
If you have any questions, please call Philip Jones at (850) 571-1210.  
ADVERTISMENT FOR BIDS-00010  
March 21, 28, 2024

**371 City of Port St. Joe Request for Qualifications: Professional Planning Services RFQ 2024-01**  
The City of Port St. Joe is requesting the submittal of statements of qualifications from interested planning professionals or firms for a Continuing Professional Planning Services Contract until 5:00 p.m., EDT, on Friday April 12, 2024, to complete any or all of the following types of services on an as needed basis:  
Initiating and conducting public workshops/charettes  
Community, neighborhood and comprehensive planning  
Collecting and evaluating data and analysis  
Preparing textual revisions and essential narratives for the Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Regulations  
Developing and preparing overlay districts  
Analyzing growth and development patterns  
Preparing the Evaluation and Appraisal Report amendments  
Review of the Comprehensive Plan, Land Development Regulations to recommend revisions and updates  
Preparing, and implementing Findings of Necessity Studies, Community Redevelopment Agency Plans and Budgets  
Perform ancillary services as required  
This contract is intended to be a time saving device for City staff to augment in areas where specific expertise is not available or where workload will not permit timely accomplishment of budgeted projects. This contract will allow the City to solicit proposals directly from the consultant for each project or task. Work will be awarded to the consultant on an as needed basis. The City reserves the right to select firms based solely on the content of the qualifications that are received. The City

**372 CITY OF PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA NOTICE TO RECEIVE SEALED BIDS**  
RFP 2024-08  
**Wastewater Treatment Plant Telehandler**

Sealed bids for the City of Port St. Joe for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Telehandler will be received at City Hall, 305 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd., Port St. Joe, Florida 32456 up until 3:00 PM EST, Friday, April 12, 2024. Bids will be publicly opened and acknowledged, Friday, April 12, 2024, at 3:05 PM EST, at City Hall.

**IN RE: The Estate of J. RALPH COMPTON, also known as JAMES RALPH COMPTON, deceased.**  
/

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

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

The ancillary administration of the estate of J. RALPH COMPTON, deceased, whose date of death was October 27, 2023, File Number 24-21 PR is pending in the Circuit Court for Gulf County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Gulf County Courthouse, Probate Division, 1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Blvd., Port St. Joe, FL 32456. The name and address of the ancillary personal representative and that ancillary personal representative's attorney are set forth below.  
Pursuant to F.S. §733.702, all creditors of the Decedent and other persons who have claims or demands against Decedent's Estate, including un-matured, contingent, or un-liquidated claims, and who have been served a copy of this Notice, must file their claims in proper form with this Court WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.  
All other creditors of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent, including un-matured, contingent, or un-liquidated claims, must file their claims in proper form with this Court WITHIN THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.  
ALL CLAIMS OR DEMANDS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.  
**NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.**  
The date of the first publication of this Notice is  
./s/ Thomas S. Gibson  
./s/ Richard Kenneth

**LEGAL ADVERTISING**

reserves the right to reject any and all bids. Responses will be evaluated with the following criteria:

- Qualifications of firm, staff, and consultants
- Previous Comprehensive Planning and Land Development Regulation experience in North Florida
- Reputation of client references
- Understanding and familiarity of the City's Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Regulations
- Claims and litigation history

March 21, 28, 2024

**373 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR GULF COUNTY.** CASE NO. 24-21 PR IN PROBATE

**IN RE: The Estate of J. RALPH COMPTON, also known as JAMES RALPH COMPTON, deceased.**  
/

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

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

The ancillary administration of the estate of J. RALPH COMPTON, deceased, whose date of death was October 27, 2023, File Number 24-21 PR is pending in the Circuit Court for Gulf County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Gulf County Courthouse, Probate Division, 1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Blvd., Port St. Joe, FL 32456. The name and address of the ancillary personal representative and that ancillary personal representative's attorney are set forth below.  
Pursuant to F.S. §733.702, all creditors of the Decedent and other persons who have claims or demands against Decedent's Estate, including un-matured, contingent, or un-liquidated claims, and who have been served a copy of this Notice, must file their claims in proper form with this Court WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.  
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ALL CLAIMS OR DEMANDS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.  
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The date of the first publication of this Notice is  
./s/ Thomas S. Gibson  
./s/ Richard Kenneth

**LEGAL ADVERTISING**

McNeal Thomas S. Gibson Richard Kenneth McNeal McNeal Rish, Gibson & Scholz, P.A. 6323 Fall River Drive 116 Sailor's Cove Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80918 Port St. Joe, Florida 32457 Ancillary Personal Representative (850) 229-8211 Attorney for Ancillary Personal Representative FL Bar No. 0350583  
(Publish 2 times)  
March 28, 2024  
April 4, 2024

**374 CITY OF PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA NOTICE TO RECEIVE SEALED BIDS**  
RFP 2024-08  
**Wastewater Treatment Plant Telehandler**

Sealed bids for the City of Port St. Joe for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Telehandler will be received at City Hall, 305 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd., Port St. Joe, Florida 32456 up until 3:00 PM EST, Friday, April 12, 2024. Bids will be publicly opened and acknowledged, Friday, April 12, 2024, at 3:05 PM EST, at City Hall.

Bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope, plainly marked with bidder's name, address, date and time of opening, and RFP 2024-08 for "Wastewater Treatment Plant Telehandler."

**DESCRIPTION OF WORK**  
Seeking Telehandler with minimum lift capacity of 7,000 pounds; Minimum 42' reach; 60" forks, enclosed cab with A/C and heat. Note to vendor, use the JLG 5527 as minimum specs. Separate bids per company for different brands will be accepted.  
For questions concerning this Bid, please contact Kevin Pettis or Joe Harris at 850-229-6395 or kpettis@psj.fl.gov or jharris@psj.fl.gov

**376 CITY OF PORT ST. JOE PROJECT #50146280 DOWNTOWN WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 2**

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

This project is located in Port St. Joe, Florida and includes construction of approximately 4,957 LF of 6" (PVC) watermain, (443 linear feet of 2" (PVC) watermain, 1,018 LF of 6" Fusible PVC (FPVC) directional bore, and associated connections and services. Work shall be performed by both open cut and directional drilling methods. There will also be asphalt patching, sidewalk removal and replacement, and other restoration associated with this work to restore the alleys and roadways once the project is complete.  
Plans and specifications can be obtained at Dewberry Engineers Inc., 324 Marina Drive, Port St. Joe, Florida 32456 by contacting Shannon Renfro at srenfro@dewberry.com. The bid must conform to Section 287.133(3) Florida Statutes, on public entity crimes. There is no charge for electronic copies for the

**375 CITY OF PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA NOTICE TO RECEIVE SEALED BIDS**  
RFP 2024-07  
**Wastewater Treatment Plant Bar Screen Replacement**

Sealed bids for the City of Port St. Joe for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Bar Screen Replacement will be received at City Hall, 305 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd., Port St. Joe, Florida 32456 up until 3:00 PM EST, Friday, April 12, 2024. Bids will be publicly opened and acknowledged, Friday, April 12, 2024, at 3:05 PM EST, at City Hall.

Bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope, plainly marked with bidder's name, address, date and time of opening, and RFP 2024-07 for "Wastewater

**LEGAL ADVERTISING**

Treatment Plant Bar Screen Replacement."

**DESCRIPTION OF WORK**  
Located at 250 Kenny Mill Road in Port St. Joe, FL the current Bar Screen is a Schreiber 48" Front Loader Bar Screen with a Channel Depth of 4'8" and is 480/120V AC. The replacement Bar Screen must meet the following criteria: Ability to handle 5 MGD Flow Rate; Turnkey project, all electrical, mechanical, controls, and supplies are to be included with this project. Screen should be able to remove heavy debris such as towels, jeans, rags, etc. Screening should be able to screen out anything larger than 3/8" wide. All bolting hardware is to be s/s Manual on site for review. Replacement parts available in the U.S. Must connect to our existing SCADA System for fault monitoring. Will accept separate bids per company for different styles or brands.  
For questions concerning this Bid, please contact Kevin Pettis or Joe Harris at 850-229-6395 or kpettis@psj.fl.gov or jharris@psj.fl.gov

The City of Port St. Joe reserves the right to accept or reject any and all Statements of Bids in whole or in part, to waive informalities in the process, to obtain new Statements of Bids, or to postpone the opening pursuant to the City's purchasing policies. Each Statement of Bid shall be valid to the City of Port St. Joe for a period of sixty (60) days after the opening.  
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**376 CITY OF PORT ST. JOE PROJECT #50146280 DOWNTOWN WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 2**

The City of Port St. Joe reserves the right to accept or reject any and all Statements of Bids in whole or in part, to waive informalities in the process, to obtain new Statements of Bids, or to postpone the opening pursuant to the City's purchasing policies. Each Statement of Bid shall be valid to the City of Port St. Joe for a period of sixty (60) days after the opening.  
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**376 CITY OF PORT ST. JOE PROJECT #50146280 DOWNTOWN WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 2**

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

**DOWNTOWN WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 2**

This project is located in Port St. Joe, Florida and includes construction of approximately 4,957 LF of 6" (PVC) watermain, (443 linear feet of 2" (PVC) watermain, 1,018 LF of 6" Fusible PVC (FPVC) directional bore, and associated connections and services. Work shall be performed by both open cut and directional drilling methods. There will also be asphalt patching, sidewalk removal and replacement, and other restoration associated with this work to restore the alleys and roadways once the project is complete.  
Plans and specifications can be obtained at Dewberry Engineers Inc., 324 Marina Drive, Port St. Joe, Florida 32456 by contacting Shannon Renfro at srenfro@dewberry.com. The bid must conform to Section 287.133(3) Florida Statutes, on public entity crimes. There is no charge for electronic copies for the

**FOR RENT**

**ST. GEORGE ISLAND RENTAL**

SGI Long Term Rental 1100 sq ft, 1BR/1BA Unfurnished Apt. Washer/Dryer. Electric & Water included. \$1,900 per month Call (850) 370-6001

**LEGAL ADVERTISING**

Plans and Specifications

The completion date for this project will be **270** days for Substantial Completion and **300** days for Final Completion from the date of the Notice to Proceed presented to the successful bidder. Liquidated damages for failure to complete the project on the specified date will be set at **\$1,750.00** per day.

Please indicate on the envelope that this is a sealed bid, for the "RFP 2024-09 DOWNTOWN WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 2".

Bids will be received until **3:00 P.M., Eastern Time, on Friday, May 3, 2024** at the City of Port St. Joe City Hall, 305 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd, Port St. Joe, Florida 32456, and will be opened and read aloud at **3:54 P.M. Eastern Time**. The City of Port St. Joe is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Handicapped Accessible/Fair Housing Jurisdiction.

The City of Port St. Joe reserves the right to waive informalities in any bid, to accept and/or reject any or all bids, and to accept the bid that in their judgment will be in their best interest. All bids shall remain firm for a period of sixty days after the opening. A **mandatory** Pre-Bid conference will be held at the office of Dewberry, 324 Marina Drive, Port St. Joe, FL (850) 227-7200 at 10:30 AM EST, April 10, 2024.

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

If you have any questions, please contact Josh Baxley in writing at jbxaxley@dewberry.com by April 19, 2024.  
March 28,

# UNFORGETTABLE COAST

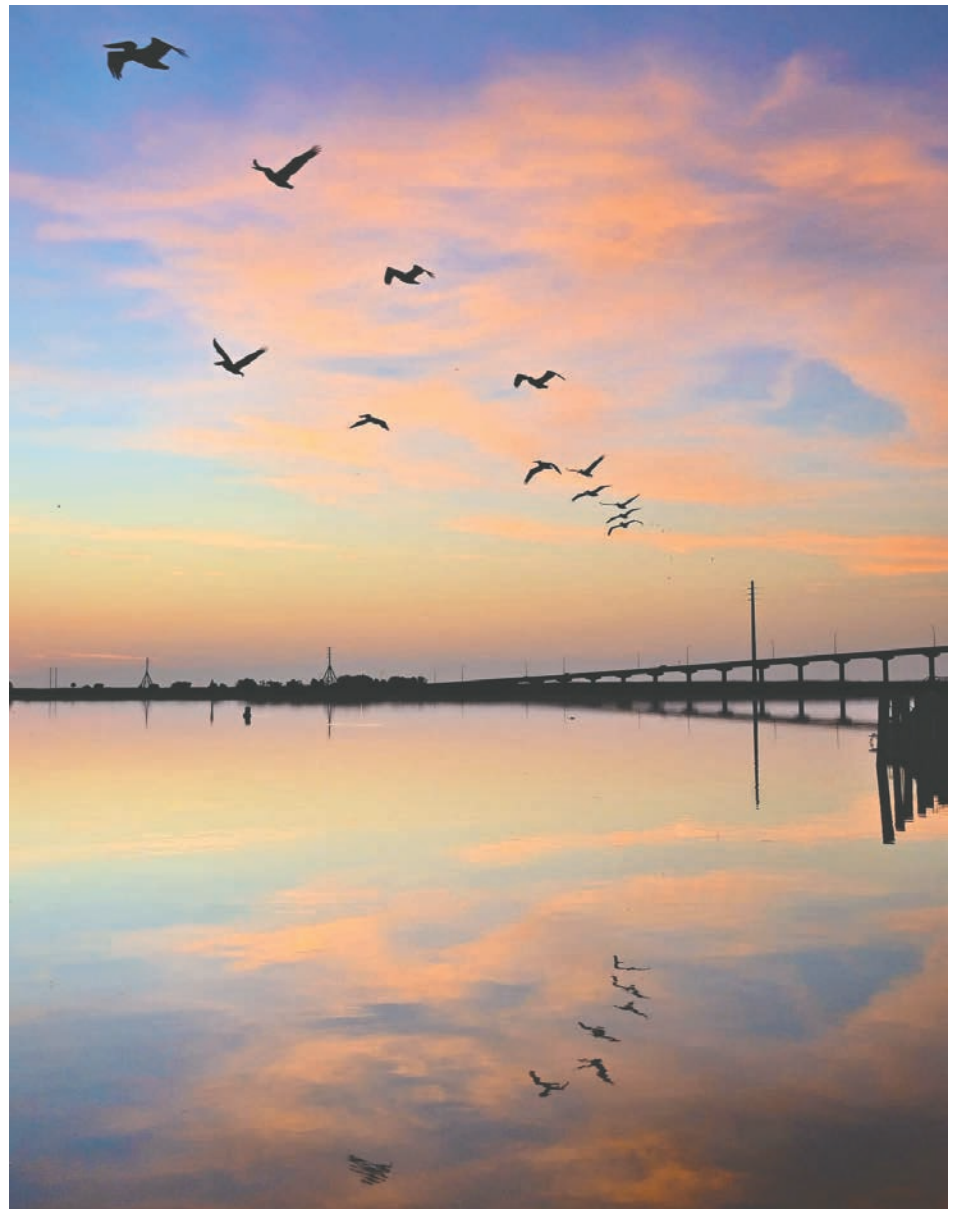
Spring has arrived and with it comes beauty and excitement throughout Franklin and Gulf counties. The Times and the Star welcome readers to submit their best photographs. All subject matter is welcome, a beautiful place, interesting wildlife, a vivid person,

an unusual image, we want to share it on this page.

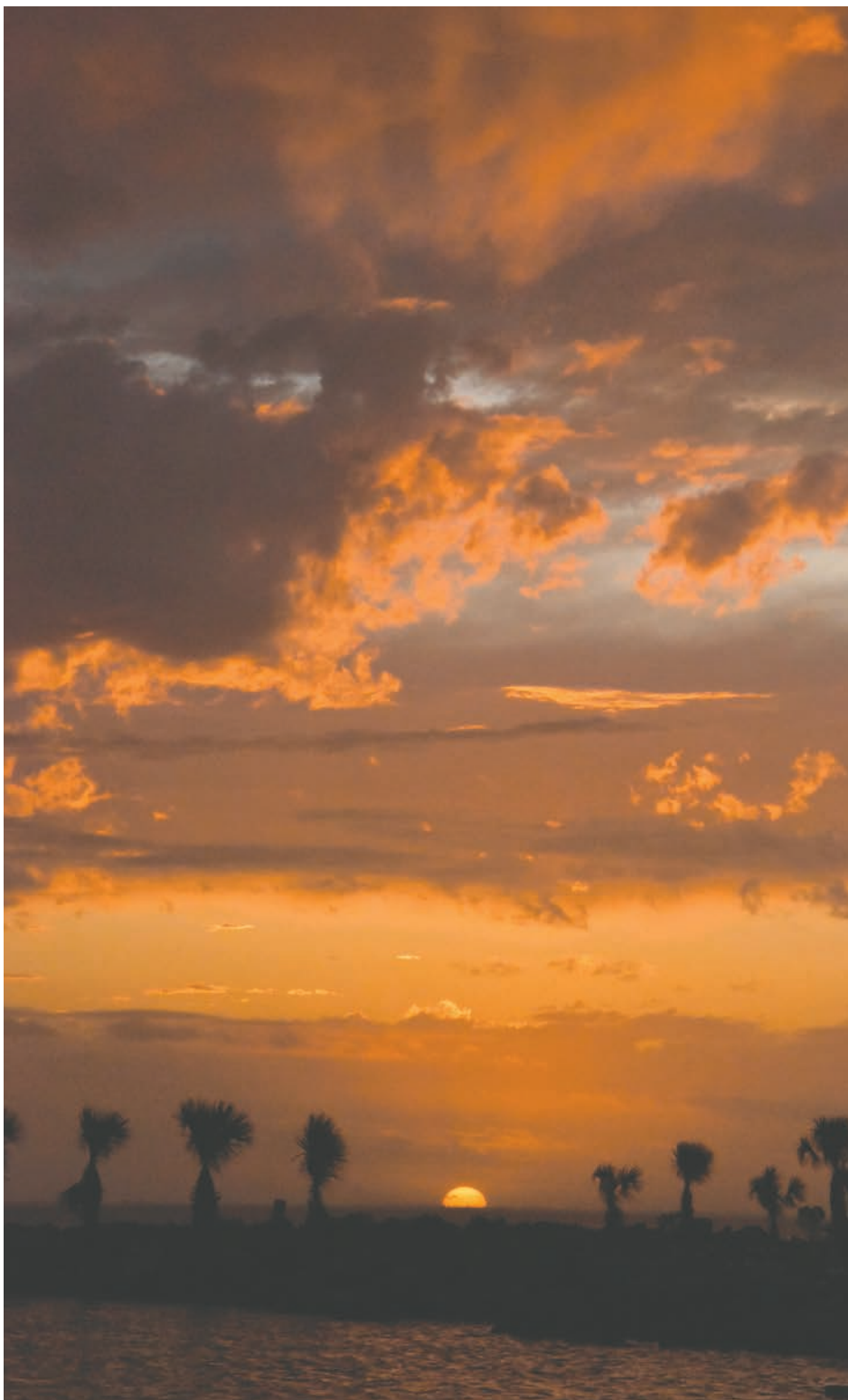
**Please email photographs, labeled "Unforgettable Coast" and with a short description and name of the photographer, to Editor David Adlerstein at [dadlerstein@nevespublishing.com](mailto:dadlerstein@nevespublishing.com)**



A pair of rainbows arch over Port St. Joe [ PATTI SEESHOLTZ ]



Dawn splendor on the Apalachicola River [ PALMER PHILYAW ]



Sunset over St. Joe Bay [ NANCY BLAKE ]



Buoys bob on a gray day on the Apalachicola River. [ DIANE BREWER ]

## PET OF THE WEEK

**Franklin County Humane Society**

**Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices**

**Mary Johnson**  
REALTOR®  
850-370-0044

**Beach Properties of Florida**  
140 W. 1st Street  
St. George Island,  
FL 32328  
[www.sjiproperties.com](http://www.sjiproperties.com)

Emma is a gorgeous 1 yr old Chocolate Lab mix and as sweet as she is pretty. She is calm, gentle and eager to please. This beauty should make an ideal family pet!

**Franklin County Humane Society, 244 State Road 65, Eastpoint, FL 32328 | Phone: (850) 670-8417**

[www.forgottenpets.org](http://www.forgottenpets.org)

## PET OF THE WEEK

**St. Joseph Bay Humane Society**

Hi, I'm Turbo! I am a 6 month old male domestic shorthair tabby with the softest hair you'll ever feel. I am super affectionate and playful. I love batting around a toy or palling around with the other cats. I even like dogs! I would make a wonderful addition to any home. Come by the shelter to meet me and all of my friends!

[www.sjbhumane.org](http://www.sjbhumane.org)

**Coastal Realty Group**  
[www.gulfcoastalproperties.com](http://www.gulfcoastalproperties.com)

# CELEBRATE COMMUNITY



**Bobby Blackmon, a blues man from Central Florida, and his band closed out the day with a powerful performance.** [ DAVID ADLERSTEIN | THE STAR ]



**Kaylah August, from Sopchoppy, gets into the spirit of the music through dance.** [ DAVID ADLERSTEIN | THE STAR ]

## Avenue for the blues

**David Adlerstein**  
dadlerstein@nevespublishing.com

Now the streets of Rome are filled with rubble, so wrote Dylan, and you can go barrelin' down the boulevard lookin' for the heart of Saturday night, as Tom Waits lyricized.

But when it comes to the blues, the place to find them is along Reid Avenue, on a sunny afternoon such as last Saturday, when a sizeable crowd took in the Blues on Reid street festival, sponsored by the Gulf County Chamber of Commerce.

Aided by a load of sponsors, and a large crop of street vendors, the audience, content to

relax in the folding chairs they brought with them, took in a vibrant array of blues musicians beginning with JC and The Backscratchers at noon, and ending with an early evening jam by headliner Bobby Blackmon.

In between, the audience, and a modest smattering of exuberant listeners who could not resist the impulse to dance, enjoyed Corey Hall Music, Kelly \$ the Healers and The Cat Daddy Blues Band.

Vendors said they did well, t-shirts were all but gone by the end of the day and by all accounts it was a hot time in the old town.



**Preschooler Nolan Corbine, and his mom Cristina Corbine, from Yorkville, Illinois outside Chicago, were visiting family in Mexico Beach and took in the Blues on Reid event.** [ DAVID ADLERSTEIN | THE STAR ]



**The Cat Daddy Blues Band jammed in the late afternoon.** [ DAVID ADLERSTEIN | THE STAR ]



**Port St. Joe elementary school art teacher Kelly Deal, front left, works on painting the face of Crystal Reid, visiting from Liberty, South Carolina, while Laura Barkalow, back left, the children's pastor at the PSJ UMC Church, creates a design for Port St. Joe first grader Whitley Tune.** [ DAVID ADLERSTEIN | THE STAR ]



**Donna Johnson, from St. Joe Beach, holds up one of her creations, made from wood from the now defunct Fish House in Mexico Beach, while her husband Claude sits at right. 'He totes, he carries,' she said. 'He's the lifter.'** [ DAVID ADLERSTEIN | THE STAR ]



**David Hansel, who offers tie dye lessons at The Joe Center for the Arts, shows Nancy Culver how to create a t-shirt at his vendor booth.** [ DAVID ADLERSTEIN | THE STAR ]

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



# Port St. Joe duo join in presidential helicopter squadron reunion

Special to the Star

Members of the Marine Presidential Helicopter Squadron One (HMX-1) who served under then-commanding officer Col. Mel DeMars, gathered in Franklin, Tennessee the weekend of March 14 to 17 for a reunion to renew old friendships and relive past memories of providing executive helicopter transportation service to the White House during the period 1991-95.

Present at the reunion - and proudly representing Port St. Joe - were retired Marine Lt. Col. Robert Creamer and retired Marine Major Tommy Wright. They both graduated from Port St. Joe High School, Creamer in 1973, and Wright in 1980.

Creamer went on to graduate from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1977 with a bachelors in physical science, and received a commission as a Marine second lieutenant.

In addition to multiple overseas deployments, he served as White House Aircraft Commander and White House Liaison Officer, Marine Helicopter Squadron One (HMX-1) during President George H. W. Bush's administration from 1988-1992, and retired from the Corps in 2004, completing a 27-year career.

He continued to serve as Joint Training Systems Specialist, U.S. Pacific Command with the Camber Corporation and later as International Engagement Officer Socialist Republic of Vietnam with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, retiring for good in 2018.

Creamer is married to the former Randi Pittman and resides in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Wright attended Gulf Coast Community College and the University of West Florida, graduating in 1984 with a bachelors in systems science and received a commission as Marine second lieutenant.

In addition to multiple overseas deployments and other significant USMC assignments, he served as White House Aircraft Commander and White House Liaison Officer, Marine Helicopter Squadron One (HMX-1) during President Clinton's administration from 1994-98 and retired from the Marine Corps in 2004 after completing a 20-year career.

In his second career, Wright continued to serve in the national security sector as systems engineer and manager for The MITRE Corporation - a Federally-Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC) supporting numerous aspects of the Department of Defense programs,



Retired Marine Lt. Col. Robert Creamer, left, and retired Marine Major Tommy Wright both attend Port St. Joe High School and later served with Marine Presidential Helicopter Squadron One. [ CONTRIBUTED ]

from 2004-22.

Wright is married to the former Lisa Cornett of Lynn Haven. They now are enjoying the retired lifestyle in St. Petersburg.

Who could have predicted during a chance encounter at a Shark football game in 1979, these two native sons would later serve in direct support of the president of the United States?

## Honor Walk bricks can be installed by Memorial Day

The Honor Walk at Gulf County Veterans Memorial Park, located at Beacon Hill Park, has become a destination for veterans as well as other visitors to Gulf County. Visitors are often seen viewing the monuments and memorial bricks.

The Honor Walk Committee is still accepting requests for memorial bricks and would like to have another order placed as soon as possible in an attempt to have bricks installed by Memorial Day 2024.

Anyone wishing to purchase a brick to honor a veteran please submit your request by Friday, April 5. Brick order forms are available online at [www.veteransparkhonorwalk.com](http://www.veteransparkhonorwalk.com) or pick up an application at the Port St. Joe Piggly Wiggly service counter.

Persons needing more information can contact a committee member through the Facebook page The Honor Walk at Veterans Memorial Park at Beacon Hill, or email [honorwalkinfo@gmail.com](mailto:honorwalkinfo@gmail.com)



Members of the Marine Presidential Helicopter Squadron One (HMX-1) gathered for a reunion in Franklin, Tennessee the weekend of March 14 to 17. [ CONTRIBUTED ]

# Gulf County vets back Easter drive



Gulf County veterans groups recently held several fundraisers in support of the Gulf County Sheriff Office's annual Easter Basket drive. The groups presented a combined monetary donation along with baskets and stuffed animals. Pictured, from left, are: Wanda Wawruck, adjutant, Willis V. Rowan American Legion Post 116; Robin Elstad, president, VFW Auxiliary Post 10069; Sheriff Mike Harrison; and Bob Ray, commander, John C. Gainous VFW Post 10069. [ CONTRIBUTED ]

## LANARK NEWS

# Easter egg hunt planned for Saturday



Pat Sewell Funderburk  
Guest Columnist

Hi Y'all,  
Happy Easter!  
Lanark Village had a successful clean-up morning on Saturday. We only do this once a year and it is very helpful to the Village residents who do not have the room to store junk or ways to dispose of it to the dump. Thanks to resident Joan Matey who began working with the county to make this happen and the many volunteers who come to help, we can rid ourselves of junk. I believe that if more people would participate in putting their junk on the side of the road, this clean-up could be more successful.



Winners at the Chili Cook-off were, from left: third place Tony Johnson, second place Tim Woxman and first place Debbie Howells. [ PAT SEWELL FUNDERBURK ]

Please keep in mind that this is the only time residents are allowed to throw their junk on the sides of the road.

Guess what's back? Shuffleboard! The shuffleboard court was refurbished by Norm Gemple and is on Lanark Village Golf Club's property near their garage. A group of residents, backed by the golf club, have started to play shuffleboard on Saturday afternoons when the weather permits. If you see the group playing, go watch or join in the game. After the clean-up it was time for a little fun. On to Chillas Hall to prepare for the second annual Chili Cook-off. There were 11 donated prize-winning chilis with all the sides, with

See LANARK, PAGE 4B



## 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, March 13**

• Theodore C. Williams, 76, and Lyra M. Erath, 72, residing in Alligator Point

### GULF COUNTY

**Wednesday, March 16**

• Devon Alan Croya, 30, and Eden Nicole Starnes, 30, residing in Greenville, South Carolina

## 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.

FEB. 29: **314 Cove Lane, Port St. Joe**, from D.R. Horton Inc. to Mark E. Williams trustee, for \$317,000

FEB. 29: **889 Backwater Road, Port St. Joe**, from D. R. Horton, Inc. to Jennifer

and Dustin Lawon, for \$489,900

MARCH 1: **196 Sly Street, Port St. Joe**, from Mark E. Williams Trust to Tammy and Scott Thurtell, for \$195,000

MARCH 1: **7199 West Highway 98, Port St. Joe**, from Karen Trawick and Vickie Geibel to Jennifer and Rodney Helgeson, for \$680,000

MARCH 1: **5090 State Route 30-A, Port St. Joe**, from Amanda and Brandon Smith to Kasey and Gregg Gentiluomo, for \$370,000

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.

MARCH 8: **12 Fred Meyer Street, Apalachicola**, from Jo Ellen and James Hall

to Allan Olson, for \$450,000

MARCH 11: **712 Georgia Street, Carrabelle**, from Deborah Bennett to Ronald Kelly, for \$150,000

MARCH 11: **238 and 242 Royal Tern Way, St. James**, from Ryan William Frost to James Donald Johnson, for \$ 565,000

MARCH 11: **Vacant lots in Keough's Addition, Carrabelle**, from Robert Atz-

See FRANKLIN REAL ESTATE, Page 4B

# Good article for the grandkids



**Walter L. Woodrick CFP**  
Guest Columnist

As I write this article from Cape San Blas, I can't help but wonder how many people will actually read it. So, how about we make a deal? I will give you a copy of my book *Seven Steps to Serious Money* if you

will contact me with code word "half." I would also love to know what topics you would like to see me address in this newspaper article in the future.

This week, my intent is to share with you the advice

I have been giving to my children and clients for years: whatever income you earn each year, only plan to spend half. If you are single and have a salary of \$60,000, you need to think, "My income is \$30,000,"

and make all decisions based upon that \$30,000 and not the \$60,000. Here are two reasons why I say this.

The first is because half is probably pretty close to what you will actually receive. The

first 7.65% goes to Social Security and Medicare. Then, I hope that you give something around 10% to your church and/or charity. After that, you hopefully put at least 10% into some type of savings or investment. From there, you pay income taxes, and this can

See WOODRICK, PAGE 9B

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# EDUCATION

## DOLPHINS THAT DAZZLE



This month's Dazzling Dolphins at Port St. Joe Elementary School are, back row, from left: Kinley Lovejoy, Haley Thomas, Annabelle Snow, T.J. Peterson, Ellasyn Hensley, Collins Anderson, Ivy Graziano. Middle row, from left: Emma Yoder, Madisyn Powell, Kaylynn Henderson, Mavren Sorensen, Henry Armstrong, Gemma Brock, Finley Grady; and front row, from left: Ny'Leigh Ellis, Mason Calderon, Harlee Ragsdale, Brantley Knox and Dallas Daniels. [PSJES | CONTRIBUTED]

## WEWA CELEBRATES GOLDEN GATORS



Wewahitchka Elementary School named its Golden Gators for the month of March. Pictured are Olivia Holmes, Rya Messervy, Summer Jamerson, Justin Hathaway, Shianne Price, Noah Suber, Brooklyn Combs, Rexton Patrick, Marlene Andrews. [WES | CONTRIBUTED]

## LANARK

From page 2B

an extra surprise with hot dogs being donated. The winners were first place Debbie Howells, second place Tim Woxman and third place Tony Johnson. All of the other participants were awarded consolation prizes. This was a wonderful time had by all.

There was also a wonderful silent auction. Let's talk about a silent auction,



Playing shuffleboard at the newly refurbished court adjacent to the golf course. [PAT SEWELL FUNDERBURK]

everything is donated. Some would say, "if you bid a dollar, the organization is a dollar ahead." Thank you to the many local merchants and restaurants who donated to this benefit to help the Lanark Village Association maintain the building and be able to have functions for the residents to enjoy. Please remember that this is not about getting a steal, it is about raising money.

This Saturday, March 30, the golf course will come alive with an Easter Egg Hunt for the little ones, ages 2 to 10, from 2 to 3 p.m. The children need to bring their own baskets; all children must be accompanied by an adult. There will be lots of candy, prizes, and fun. It is also a fun event to watch, so bring a chair and enjoy the little ones.

Also on Saturday, the Riders of the American Legion Post 82 on Oak Street will host a benefit to help end veterans' suicides. Please come to support this worthy cause. There will be chicken chili gumbo and pork chili gumbo along with cornbread and cookies, all for a donation of \$7. They will also have 50/50 and

a wonderful silent auction, with great donated stuff. Please remember when you bid, it is a donation to a good cause. For your pleasure they will have live music by Duke Manfro from 6 to 8 p.m. The public is welcome at this event.

The Lanark Village Association will have their April meeting on Monday, April 1, at 6:30 p.m. at Chillas Hall. This will be (to my knowledge) the last members' meeting until September. Please remember that the bylaws are being changed and it is the responsibility of the members to be aware of these changes. Please make it a priority to read the changes that will be made. If you have any suggestions, you must let the LVA board know.

The golf club will have their yard sale on Saturday, April 6, beginning at 8 a.m. This sale is to help keep the "front yard of Lanark beautiful" and keep the medical heliport maintained.

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*

## FRANKLIN REAL ESTATE

From page 3B

berger estate to The Land Republic, LLC for \$15,000

MARCH 12: **581 West Gorrie Drive, Neptune's Palace, St. George Island**, from Darrel Rye to Denise and Steve Sokoloski, for \$365,000

MARCH 12: **1101 Gulf Beach Drive, St. George Island**, from Suzi Raymond to Susan and Jason Huddy, for \$270,000

MARCH 15: **506 West First Street, Carabelle**, from Kristina Bray to Michael McGuyer, for \$345,000

MARCH 18: **1673 Landing Street, Carabelle**, from Megan and Robert Ceska to Kari Smith, for \$31,000



## GULF REAL ESTATE

From page 3B

MARCH 1: **Hardy Street, Port St. Joe**, from John Arnold to Theresa and John Mallory, and Scott Wachsmann, for \$20,000

MARCH 1: **1705 Garrison Avenue, Port St. Joe**, from Marvin Cross Estate to Karen and William B. Nelson, for \$270,000

MARCH 4: **102 Riverview Drive, Wewahitchka**, from Bridget Valenzuela to Chap Investments LLC for \$240,000

MARCH 4: **9108 West Highway 98, Port St. Joe**, from James I. Murphy to Winston Lane LLC for \$305,000

MARCH 4: **111 Florida Avenue, Mexico Beach**, from Kimberly Harmon to CSBBH Enterprises LLC for \$610,000

MARCH 4: **Pinnacle Drive, Cape San Blas**, from Gantz Farms LLC to Kathryn and Philip Corder for \$212,000

MARCH 5: **139 Commerce Boulevard, Port St. Joe**, from Robertson 2030 LLC to M & J Holdings II LLC, for \$11,400

MARCH 5: **335 Santa Anna Street, Port St. Joe**, from Betty Hardon to Daniel Martinez for \$150,000

MARCH 5: **931 Backwater Road, Port St.**

**Joe**, from D.R. Horton, Inc to Cheryl and Benjamin Strickler, for \$460,000

MARCH 6: **401 16th Street, Port St. Joe**, from William Heiney and Rachel Hanlon, to Lora and Danny Thompson, Jr. for \$467,000

MARCH 6: **North Dianna Street, Wewahitchka**, from Lisa and Robert Pettis to Brenda and Charles Laird, for \$55,000

MARCH 6: **211 Mosaic Drive, Port St. Joe**, from Arazzo on Madison LLC to Cynthia and Mark Moore Trust, for \$339,000

MARCH 6: **Constitution Drive, Port St. Joe**, from Preferred Coastal Properties to Daniel May for \$265,000

MARCH 6: **403 Front Street, Port St. Joe**, from Williams Property Holdings LLC to Brenda and Mark Grimes for \$1,440,000

MARCH 7: **East Highway 98, Port St. Joe**, from St. Joe Timberland Company of Delaware, LLC to Gulf County Food/Beverage LLC, for \$860,300

MARCH 7: **Gardenia Street, Wewahitchka**, from Myra Weimorts to George Newman, Jr. for \$115,000

MARCH 7: **212 Robbie Lane, Wewahitchka**, from Neva Blackmon to Cara Fambro Johnson for \$32,000

MARCH 7: **5119 State Route 30A, Port St.**

**Joe**, from Vernon Elliott and Margaret Pearce to Lee McGriff IV, for \$812,500

MARCH 8: **255 Fork Drive, Wewahitchka**, from Paul Francis to Jerry Gaddis for \$80,000

MARCH 8: **Columbus Street, Port St. Joe**, from Charles Hargraves to Herman Brown, Jr. for \$252,000

MARCH 8: **Indian Pass Road, Indian Pass**, from Ina Meyer to NKMP LLC for \$1,250,000

MARCH 8: **260 Fork Road, Wewahitchka**, from Paul Francis to Jerry Gaddis for \$80,000

MARCH 11: **301 Williams Avenue, Port St. Joe**, from John B. Miller DMD PC to Erika and Jim Norton, for \$175,000

MARCH 11: **Starfish Avenue, Port St. Joe**, from E. Paul Sabiston to Pearl Investors, LLC for \$107,500

MARCH 11: **210 Cove Lane, Port St. Joe**, from D.R. Horton, Inc to Jose Antonio Perez, for \$388,000

MARCH 12: **Highway 71 South, Wewahitchka**, from Maria and William Ramsey to Diana and Rex Rousseau, for \$16,000

MARCH 12: **Charlie Gaskin Drive, Wewahitchka**, from William and Shirley Ramsey to Sandra Husband, for \$18,000

# Murphy Family Foundation addresses key needs in Gulf County

**Robyn A. Rennick**  
Guest Columnist

What's not to like about Gulf County? Beautiful beaches to frolic in, great green spaces protecting wildlife habitat, a bay that is an unparalleled estuary and wonderful fishing spot, great food and shopping in downtown Port St. Joe.

Many come to visit and some come to stay, or become part-time residents.

"When you become a resident, you see not only the wonderful natural beauty of Gulf County but the generosity of the citizens of Gulf County and the needs of their less fortunate neighbors, that they try to help," said Brendan Murphy who moved here with wife Cindy in 2004.

They spend about two-thirds of their time living here and the rest in their home in

Atlanta.

"We began getting involved with the Coastal Community Association, the Lion's Club and several other groups, and through them, we began to realize the need to work to retain the beauty of our community but we also realized the great poverty and needs in the county," he said.

Murphy said data shows Gulf County has an 18% poverty rate, according to the U.S. Census, higher than the state's average poverty rate of 11.5%. "Food insecurity, housing issues, and disabilities or medical conditions make it very difficult for many families to feel secure in their lives," Murphy said. "Many are one paycheck or one repair bill away from being able to pay their rent or other bills."

In 2018, the Murphys talked with their three adult children and their spouses about what they could do in Gulf County, and they started the Murphy Family Foundation. "We realized that our donations could make a much bigger difference in Gulf County than in a large city like Atlanta," Cindy Murphy said.

The Murphy family has identified organizations in Gulf County with great track records in helping their clients and providing not just a hand-out but a hands-up.

Among the organizations they donate to is The Christian Community Development Fund Inc., a 501(c)(3) that provides home renovations at no cost for Gulf County and Mexico Beach low to very low-income



Receiving a donation at Two Fish Food Market are, from left: Chandler Robbins, associate pastor, and Dave Barkalow, pastor of First United Methodist Church of PSJ; Cindy and Brendan Murphy, and Vicki Abrams, director of Caring Ministries of First United Methodist Church of PSJ. [TWO FISH FOOD MARKET | CONTRIBUTED]



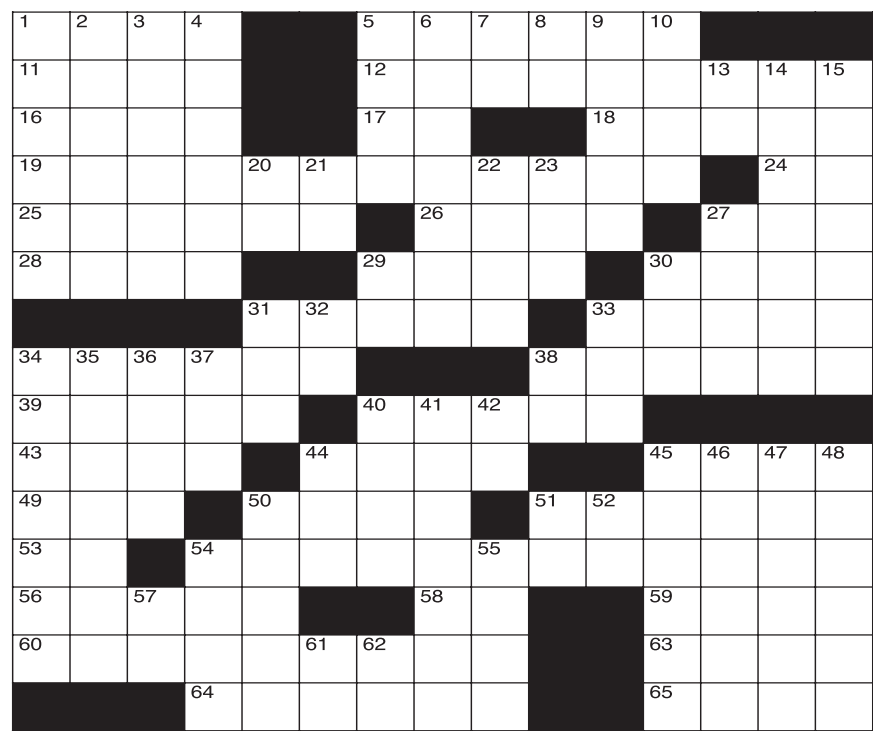
Presenting a donation at the Senior Center are Cindy and Brendan Murphy, with Tammy Farmer, advisory board member. [GULF COUNTY SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION | CONTRIBUTED]

elderly and disabled homeowners.

"These types of donations provide much needed matching monies which allow us to receive other grants," said Diana Burkett, executive director. In January the Murphy Family Foundation presented CCDF with a \$10,000 donation.

Having a better quality of life is another focus of the foundation. Over the years they have supported the Senior Center which brings over 60 senior citizens together through having congregate meals or delivering meals to them at home. "We provide seniors, who would often be isolated in their homes, with a community that allows them to socialize and an organization that cares about their well-being," said Eddie Fields,

See MURPHY FAMILY, Page 8B



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Database management system
- 5. Medical procedures
- 11. \_\_\_ Clapton, musician
- 12. Defender
- 16. Exert oneself
- 17. Indicates position
- 18. Quay
- 19. Atrocities
- 24. A way to address an adult man
- 25. Ends
- 26. Unable
- 27. Taxi
- 28. Gratuities
- 29. A famous train station
- 30. Japanese persimmon
- 31. Sours
- 33. Beneficiary
- 34. Baseball official
- 38. Confused situation
- 39. Unworldly
- 40. Yemen capital
- 43. Type of soil
- 44. Beloved beverage \_\_\_-Cola
- 45. Lying down
- 49. \_\_\_ Angeles
- 50. Fail to amuse
- 51. Collapsible shelter
- 53. Commercial
- 54. Taste property
- 56. Lordship's jurisdictions
- 58. It cools your home
- 59. Dismounted
- 60. Charge in a court of law
- 63. One less than one
- 64. Spoke
- 65. Famed garden

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Show a picture of
- 2. Small sultanate
- 3. Unfortunate incident
- 4. A way to ski
- 5. Abba \_\_\_, Israeli politician
- 6. Observed
- 7. "Westworld" actor Harris
- 8. Belonging to me
- 9. Shoelace tube
- 10. Takes to civil court
- 13. Early multimedia
- 14. Produces anew
- 15. Horse races
- 20. Of I
- 21. Equally
- 22. Changes color
- 23. A place to stay
- 27. Town in Galilee
- 29. Mathematical figure
- 30. Klingon character
- 31. They \_\_\_
- 32. Atomic #58
- 33. Showed up extinct
- 34. Loosen grip
- 35. Unpleasant smell
- 36. Innermost membranes enveloping the brain
- 37. Esteemed college "league"
- 38. Partner to Pa
- 40. Small American rail
- 41. A salt or ester of acetic acid
- 42. Sodium
- 44. Military figure (abbr.)
- 45. Lighted
- 46. Paid to get out of jail
- 47. All of something
- 48. Ohio city
- 50. More abject
- 51. A radio band
- 52. Scientific development (abbr.)
- 54. Monetary unit
- 55. Scored perfectly
- 57. A punch to end a fight
- 61. The Golden State (abbr.)
- 62. The Beehive State (abbr.)

See ANSWERS, PAGE 9B

## WEWAHITCHKA WOMAN'S CLUB

# Duck Derby raises nearly \$5K for community projects

**Rhonda Alderman**  
Guest Columnist

The 2024 Gulf County Easter Egg Hunt was Egg-cellent! The Junior Service League, GFWC Wewahitchka Woman's Club, HIPPY, Florida Department of Corrections, Centennial Bank, Gulf County TDC and Gulf County Sheriff's department came together and held a huge Easter Egg Hunt for the children of Gulf County. Honeyville Park and Community Center was the site for hunting over 2,000 filled eggs, games, hotdogs, crafts, and prizes for the children. Even the Easter Bunny was there.

In the month of March, we held our annual Duck Derby and what an amazing time for all. There were 1,291 Ducks in the water. The first place duck was adopted by Barbara Morris and received \$500. Debbie Wibberg adopted the second place duck and she received a two-night stay at The Port Inn. There were 22 additional ducks winning prizes.

The day started with a Duck Dash 5K. Of the 31 finishers, the top female overall was Kaitlin Thompson of Mexico Beach, and top male was Leonardo Canete of Tallahassee. Our club raised almost \$5,000 for projects within our community. The ducks will migrate back to Wewa in Spring



Michele Gionet and the Easter Bunny at Saturday's Gulf County Easter Egg Hunt at Honeyville Park. [WEWAHITCHKA WOMAN'S CLUB | CONTRIBUTED]

2025.

The GFWC Wewahitchka Woman's Club meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. at the Wewahitchka Senior Citizens Building. Join us to learn how you can be a part of an 87-year-old club and as a volunteer make a positive difference in your community and more. Contact us at gfwcwewawomansclub@gmail.com.

The club is a non-profit, 501(c)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.



Sandy Averill, right, and Vera White share goodies at Saturday's Gulf County Easter Egg Hunt at Honeyville Park. [DAVID ADLERSTEIN | THE STAR]

# FAITH

## What if we had witnessed Jesus' crucifixion?



**Sheryl Boldt**  
Guest Columnist

The words on the page are vivid. So excruciatingly vivid that you wish the plot would read differently. Emotions catch in your throat, and suddenly, you're there – part of the

story. "Stop!" you scream as soldiers viciously beat Jesus. But the slapping, mocking and whipping continues. You cover your ears, desperate to shut out the pounding of the hammer and the sound of Jesus' screams as the nails tear through His flesh. When you look up, you see Him hanging on a wooden cross – beaten and bloody. Unrecognizably bloody. Six agonizing

hours pass before He bows His head and dies.

"No!" You drop to your knees in devastating grief. "Why?!" The scene fades, but your heart continues to ache. As you read on, more tears fall. Tears of amazement. Tears of indebtedness. After years of not understanding the Gospel message, you finally get it. "You suffered all of that..." you whisper as the reality sinks in, "... for me?"

What would inspire such an act of amazing, incomprehensible love? Hebrews 12:2 (ESV) answers this question: "Who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross."

I'm confident Jesus looked forward to defeating Satan by His death, resurrection, and return to heaven. Yet as magnificent as those motivations were, I believe we (each one of us) were a big part of the joy that was

set before Him. Our heavenly Father knew that if Jesus didn't die and rise from the grave, we would suffer the unbearable consequences of our sins – from the moment we were born all the way through eternity. Had Jesus not borne the punishment for our sins, life and death would be unimaginably, horrifically different.

Picture yourself enslaved to sin. Devoid of uncondition-

al love. Hopeless with no assurance of an eternity with our Savior.

Thankfully, we don't have to envision these scenarios.

Our Savior, "for the joy that was set before him," chose to endure the cross – even before we knew we needed Him to.

*Sheryl H. Boldt, a Franklin County resident, is the author of the blog, [www.TodayCanBeDifferent.net](http://www.TodayCanBeDifferent.net). Connect with her at [SherylHBoldt@gmail.com](mailto:SherylHBoldt@gmail.com).*



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## A Friday to remember




**Michael J. Brooks**  
Guest Columnist

The wind in my face was bitterly cold in downtown Dallas a few years ago since the winter weather was yet lingering. My continuing education classes had ended at the seminary in nearby Ft. Worth,

so the afternoon was free for some sightseeing.

A chill came over me independent of the temperature when I walked onto Dealey Plaza and saw firsthand those sights emblazoned in my memory from childhood: Elm Street, the triple overpass and the sixth-floor window.

I thought back to that terrible Friday in November 1963. Our class had just returned from lunch when Mr. Vines, our



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See **BROOKS, PAGE 7B**

## OBITUARIES

**Ada White Long**

Ada White Long bounded into this world on May, 20, 1945, in St. Louis, Missouri, and left it behind on February 4, 2024, on St. George Island, Florida. In the intervening years, she transformed the lives of hundreds of students, collaborated with colleagues in pursuit of the preservation of liberal education, fought for equity in universities and beyond, and loved with her whole heart. Ada was raised in St. Louis with her sister, Lydia, and her brother, Claxton. She earned a BA from Stanford University, and a PhD in English from SUNY-Albany. In 1982, she became the founding director of the University of Alabama at Birmingham's Honors Program, an interdisciplinary undergraduate program that was the first of its kind in the nation. She invited students of all kinds and from all places to gather in the sanctuary of the honors house for an education whose value came as much from the diversity of characters as from the content of the discourse. She shepherded students through torment and transformation when they landed, one after another, in the comforting cave of her doorless, smoke-filled office,



in need of direction, wisdom, an extension on a re-write, or just a place to rest. Ada had a rare ability to take deep interest in someone's story and then look straight past that story to perceive the individual anew so that the brightest version of a person could take shape. Ada's students portrayed the depth of her impact with this collection of comments: "Ada, you established a "safe space" before these words had any meaning or society gave much thought... For many broken and lost souls, that church was a respite. A welcoming retreat. A home... This universe is less without you. But, I know if there is a realm beyond here, you are opening the minds of that world in new grand ways... She made everything she touched a little smarter, a little funnier, and a little earthier... Ada was

a fabulous teacher, an amazing storyteller, a startlingly sophisticated cook, and a natural magnet to all kinds of people who could appreciate her brilliance and enthusiasms... We will miss you. You made a hell of a dent in our universe." After retiring in 2004, Ada founded the St. George Island Trash Patrol, organized the annual Franklin County Coastal Cleanup, and volunteered with Apalachicola Riverkeeper and the Elder Care Community Council. But perhaps most importantly, she built a new sanctuary, a place where friends and family took refuge in rich conversation, debate, literature, music, and connection over food and drink that nourished souls. Ada is preceded in death by her beloved partner, Dail Mullins. She is survived by her sister, Lydia Long, her stepson, Christopher Mullins, her stepdaughter Ashley Mullins, her grandchildren, Cleo and Fox, six nieces and nephews, and 10 great-nieces and great-nephews. Contributions in Ada's honor may be made to the Ada Long Creative Writing Workshop Endowed Support Fund at UAB at <https://go.uab.edu/adalong>.

**"As long as there is love and memory, there is no true loss."**

**- Cassandra Clare**

**Clyde Edward "Eddie" Summers**

Clyde Edward "Eddie" Summers, 68, of Port St. Joe, passed away peacefully at his home, surrounded by his family on Sunday, March 17, 2024. Eddie was born on August 2, 1955 in Bristol. He graduated from Port St. Joe High School in 1974. Eddie excelled at playing Football and Baseball and from an early age, developed a life-long love of sports. He married his wife, Cindy in 1979 and raised their two girls in Port St. Joe. Eddie was employed for many years at Basic Magnesium and Box USA before their closures, and finished his career as a Field Appraiser for the Gulf County Property Appraiser's Office. He had many interests and passions, including deer hunting, photography, growing flowers and motorcycle riding. Eddie was an animal-lover and enjoyed having pets



of all types, with many remembering fondly his flock of pet ducks. Some of the most memorable moments in Eddie's life were traveling the country by motorcycle with the love of his life, Cindy. He was a confident person who loved to mentor and share his insight with everyone he met. Eddie loved to laugh and had a great sense of humor. His family adored him and his absence will be felt deeply by all who had the pleasure of knowing and loving him. He is preceded in death by his parents, James

and Reatha "Bill" Summers; and brother, Ricky Summers. Left to treasure his memory is his wife of 45 years, Cindy Summers; daughters, Angela "Niki" Moore (Tom) and Jessica Summers Shirvan (Kash); grandchildren, Mary Pollock (Raul Letona), Gabriel Stephan, Mila Abeyta, Maggie Moore and Liam Moore; great-granddaughter, Paisley Stephan; brother, Greg Summers (Pam); many aunts, nieces, nephews and cousins; and his beloved dog Chico. A funeral service will take place on Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. EST at Long Avenue Baptist Church. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the church. Interment will follow at Holly Hill Cemetery. Those wishing to extend condolences online may do so at <http://www.heritagefhllc.com>.



# Gulf County unites for Easter Egg hunt

**David Adlerstein**  
dadlerstein@nevespublishing.com

At first it seemed like it might be a washout, but on the contrary, Saturday morning's unified Gulf County Easter Egg Hunt turned out to be an exceptional, albeit overcast, event.

A combined effort of the Junior Service League, the Wewahitchka Woman's Club, HIPPY, Florida Department of Corrections, Centennial Bank, Gulf County Tourist Development Council and Gulf County Sheriff's Department brought the Honeyville Park and Community Center

to life. Miss Port St. Joe Celie White counted down for the kids to begin racing in their respective hunting grounds, divided by age, for over 2,000 filled plastic eggs that were scattered throughout the park.

Once they were all gathered, and cracked open for their prizes inside, it was time for games, hot dogs, cakes and candy, crafts, face painting, and prizes for the children inside the community center, and of course a chance to meet the Easter Bunny, whose visit was arranged by Wewahitchka High School sophomore James Hardy.



As she waited for the start of the Easter egg hunt, 3-year-old Emberleigh Arnold, accompanied by her mother Jaden Arnold, of Wewahitchka, carefully tore up a large colorful sticker and decorated her face with it. [DAVID ADLERSTEIN | THE STAR]



Pre-kindergartner Sonari Pittman, daughter of Latrika Quinn-Pittman, meets the Easter Bunny. [DAVID ADLERSTEIN | THE STAR]



Sara Adams, with the Junior Service League, works with pre-kindergartner Sadie Haddock, from Blountstown, at the fishing game, as her fellow member of the service league Casi Knowles, not pictured, puts prizes on the hooks. [DAVID ADLERSTEIN | THE STAR]



Raelyn Harrelson, 7, rests on a swing as she awaits the start of the hunt. [MICHAEL YELVINGTON | FOMO PHOTOGRAPHY]



Faith Hodge and daughter Annaleah Harrison, a Wewahitchka first grader, are pleased with the face painting done by Andrea Morgan, at left. [DAVID ADLERSTEIN | THE STAR]



Ocia Ratliff, with the Port St. Joe Garden Club, was on hand to promote the "Flower Power" zinnia growing contest it is conducting in conjunction with the Corinne Costin Gibson Memorial Library in Port St. Joe and the Charles Whitfield Public Library in Wewahitchka. [DAVID ADLERSTEIN | THE STAR]

## BROOKS

From page 6B

principal, made an announcement on the intercom.

"Boys and girls," he said, "some of you may have heard already that our president's been shot. Let's try to finish out the day in school and I'll let you know the latest news when I hear more."

It seems strange now that the principal's table radio was our only connection to the nation's pulse.

Nevertheless, the senseless death of President Kennedy so paralyzed us that I don't remember our doing much work in school that Friday afternoon. I remember my family and I glued to the old black-and-white television throughout the weekend and during the president's funeral the next week.

That Friday in November will live in the bad memory section of my brain forever.

This week the world remembers another bleak Friday on which Jesus of Nazareth was murdered.

His death was senseless, too, for he'd done no wrong. In fact, bribed witnesses were brought in to lie about him at his trial. One of the thieves who died with him realized Jesus' innocence when he said, "We

are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong" (Luke 23: 41).

British writer Richard Jefferies told of a little boy who gazed at a graphic painting of Calvary and exclaimed, "If God had'a been there, he wouldn't have let them do it!"

But God was there! He wasn't removed from the event at Calvary. Paul insisted "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself" (2 Corinthians 5:19).

God was present at the cross, and he showed us that he loves us in spite of disobedience, that he offers forgiveness to all and that he wants to be our partner in building a life filled with hope.

God's redemptive plan wasn't completed on Friday. The Father was faithful to his son and raised him on the third day. Now God promises to welcome all his children on the other side of death.

In light of God's ultimate plan we believers have renamed that awful Friday.

We call it Good Friday. And so it is.

*Reflections is a weekly devotional column written by Michael J. Brooks, pastor of the Siluria Baptist Church in Alabaster, Ala. The church's website is siluriabaptist.com.*

BAY AREA CHORAL SOCIETY

Celebrate  
Music  
WHY WE SING



Conductor: Dana Langford, Pianist: Dr. Ian Henning, Instrumentalists: FSU

Friday, April 12, 6 PM EDT

First United Methodist Church  
Port St. Joe

Saturday, April 13, 6 PM EDT

Trinity Episcopal Church  
Apalachicola

Ticket Price: \$20 adults, \$5 students  
All tickets are available at  
tinyurl.com/BACS-tickets

Tickets for the Port St. Joe Concert can also be purchased at No Name Books & Gifts.

BACS will debut a work by Ed Hogan, composer, commissioned for this concert. This effort was underwritten in part by the Tapper Foundation of Port St. Joe.

We will be performing at Carnegie Hall, NYC December 2!

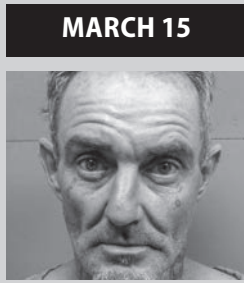


## THE TIMES Arrest Reports

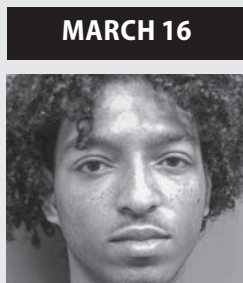
The following report is provided by the Franklin County Sheriff's Office. All defendants are to be considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



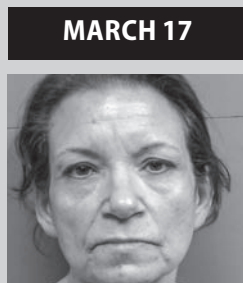
**William Jason Pemberton, 46**, Eastpoint, carrying a concealed weapon into an unauthorized location, possession or use of drug equipment (FCSO)



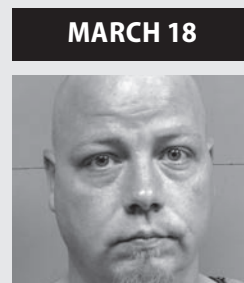
**Howard Lee Enfinger, 49**, Apalachicola, disturbing the peace (FCSO)



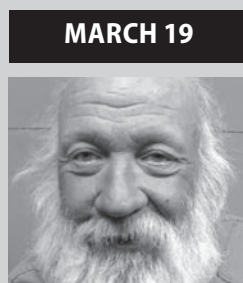
**Zaccheus Maurice Michael, 21**, Tallahassee, possession of marijuana with intent to sell, manufacture or deliver, possession or use of drug equipment (FCSO)



**Frances Elizabeth Pouncey, 53**, Eastpoint, violation of an injunction for protection against domestic violence (CPD)



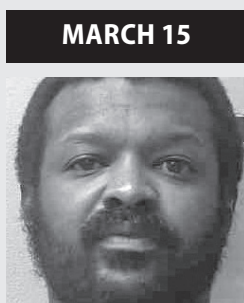
**Mark Anthony Laughlin, 31**, Apalachicola, possession of marijuana - less than 20 grams (FCSO)



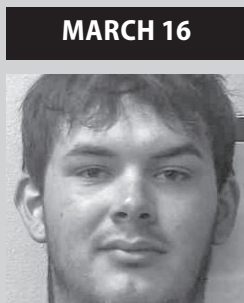
**Darin Wayne Cruson, 57**, Carrabelle, hold for Wakulla County, failure to appear (CPD)

## THE STAR Arrest Reports

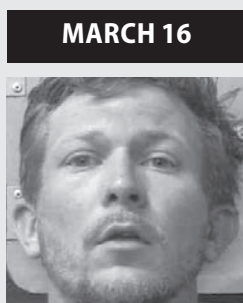
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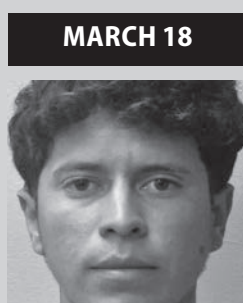
**Quinnaland Jerome Rhodes**, criminal mischief - value over \$1,000, burglary, larceny, vehicle theft (Court)



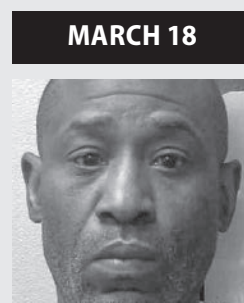
**Tyler Hunter Brogdon**, driving while license suspended or revoked (GCSO)



**Christopher Scott Hohnbaum**, driving while license suspended or revoked (GCSO)



**Emilyson Noe-Galo Chavarria**, operating a motor vehicle with no valid drivers license, giving false information to a law enforcement officer (GCSO)



**Danny Ray Wallace**, failure to appear - felony driving while license suspended or revoked (GCSO)

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



Supporting the Women's Diagnostic Center at Sacred Heart Gulf are Cindy and Brendan Murphy with Kelly Beach, administrator and chief nursing officer, center. [ASCENSION SACRED HEART GULF | CONTRIBUTED]

### MURPHY FAMILY

From page 5B

executive director. "The Murphy Family Foundation's donation of \$7,500 this year will allow us to finance the meals and help us in transportation of our clients. What a blessing."

The foundation is also concerned about food insecurity in the community. Two Fish Food Market, operated by the First United Methodist Church of Port St. Joe, is providing meals for over 250 families each month. "Our members come twice a month and can choose the food they want just like a grocery store. The amount of food they can receive is based on their family size," said Vicki Abrams, director of the Caring Ministries of FUMC. "Being

able to supplement their grocery money by our groceries means they have additional monies to put towards unexpected bills or the monthly bills such as gas or utilities."

Two Fish was able to purchase all of their food last year through cash donations. Their building and part-time employee are paid through revenues made by The Care Closet, another mission of FUMC.

"We have been blessed by the Murphy Family Foundation in their continued support and donations of Two Fish," said Abrams. "Their \$10,000 donation will go towards buying 50,000 pounds of good quality food for our members."

The Murphy Family Foundation has also supported the Sacred Heart Gulf Women's Diagnostic Center with total donations of \$60,000 from 2023 and this year. "We are committed to investing in our community and hospital," the Murphys said. "With this gift, we want to ensure every woman in Gulf County has access to the latest, life-saving technology."

Adrienne Maygarden, president of the Sacred Heart Foundation, said "we extend our deepest thanks to The Murphy Family Foundation for their investment in the women of Gulf County, which will change lives and change futures."

Cindy Murphy noted that "We have been financially blessed in our families and we feel that we need to share those blessings." But every size donation is valuable to these organizations, \$25, \$50, all go a long way towards helping our neighbors."

The Murphy Family Foundation helps many smaller local fund-raising efforts like the Sheriff's Christmas Toy Drive and the Easter Basket/Food Drive, all of which have a positive impact in this small rural community. Their challenge to others is for all to share their talents, time and fiscal abilities and to reach out to help others in need in our community through our community organizations.

## Local leaders with a long-term view.



L to R: Bill Reid, Phil Early, Eugene Ratfield, Shirley Jenkins, Mark Costin, Chip Luke & Clay Smallwood

### MEET OUR GULF COUNTY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**The Apalachicola Bay Charter School is seeking the following for the remainder of the 2023-24 school year:** Testing Proctors, Substitutes, and Tutors (Part-time, full-time & contracted available). **2024-25 Positions: Certified Elementary and Middle School teachers.** Applications are available at the school's website: [abcagles.org](http://abcagles.org). Email completed applications to the CEO/Principal, Elizabeth Kirvin, [ekirvin@abcagles.org](mailto:ekirvin@abcagles.org). Employment of personnel in ABC School is in compliance with Federal and State Laws regarding nondiscrimination and preference. Any person who believes he/she may need reasonable accommodations during the application or interview process should notify Elizabeth Kirvin.

# Vivian Kane celebrates 94th birthday

Special to the Times

Carrabelle resident Vivian Kane celebrated her 94th birthday last week, on Wednesday, March 20.

She was born Vivian Thompson in Harveston City on March 20, 1930, sister to the late Vernon Thompson, for whom the Carrabelle Airport is named.

Harveston City, which had a mill at the time, no longer exists, having been transformed into Camp Gordon Johnston during World War II.

When she was a young girl, much of the industry in the area fizzled, and the family in 1932 moved into Carrabelle,

where she attended high school. During a good portion of her adult years, she lived in Jacksonville, where she raised her four children: Julia Franklin, Dolly Beasley, Randall Yarborough and Ronald Yarborough. She has a total of 10 grandchildren and at least as many great-grandchildren.

She was married for 30 years to her first husband, Wesley Yarborough, a member of the Navy. She is the widow of Charlie Kane, of Jacksonville, to whom she was married for 14 years. She and Charlie bought the house she lives in now in Carrabelle. She moved back permanently around 15 years ago.



Vivian Thompson Kane together last week with her granddaughter, Susan Bayer, of Raleigh, North Carolin. (CONTRIBUTED)

## WOODRICK

From page 3B

range from 10% to 37% (let's just say 20% for this example). These percentages equal 47.65%.

It is prudent to spend roughly 30% of one's income on housing (rent/mortgage, utilities, insurance, taxes). 30% of \$30,000 is \$9,000 per year or \$750 per month. This is reasonable and affordable, and it may require roommates or a sacrifice in one's standards. But, we would be proud of our kids and grandkids if this is what they spent on housing, and they would be laying a foundation for a solid financial

future that would allow them the flexibility to work a job they enjoy or to have one spouse stay home with the kids. The problem that exists is that people today don't want roommates or what can be afforded for those dollars – so they bite off more than they can chew with long-term, potentially generational, consequences.

Second: All too often, I see the financial decisions made by a teenager or 20-something dictate later how their children are raised and by whom. Prudence at an early age can avoid the discomfort of needing multiple jobs, kids being raised by strangers making minimum wage or by aging grandparents, and families being constantly behind the financial eight-ball.

In today's day and age, it is hard to find people willing to sacrifice today in order for greater benefit tomorrow. We have an obligation to teach younger generations financial awareness, prudence, sacrifice, and future value. Maybe someone in your family can benefit from this perspective? I'd love to hear from you!

Gulf County resident Walter L. Woodrick is a Certified Financial Planner practitioner, and the author of two books. His website is WoodrickFinancial.com. You can text Walter at 850.724.1369. Securities and advisory services are offered through LPL Financial, a Registered Investment Advisor, Member FINRA/SIPC. 555694-1

# THE TIMES Classifieds

Place your classifieds by calling 850.851.0724

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**378**  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION IN RE: ESTATE OF File No. 2024CP015

Division  
JEFFREY ALAN CURRY,  
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of JEFFREY ALAN CURRY, deceased, whose date of death was August 10, 2023, is pending in the Circuit Court for Franklin County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 33 Market Street, Suite 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.

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 PERIOD 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: March 28, 2024.  
Robert D. Hines, Esq. Attorney for Personal Representative Florida Bar No. 0413550  
Hines Norman Hines, P.L.  
1312 W. Fletcher Avenue, Suite B Tampa, FL 33612 Telephone: 813-265-0100  
Email: rhines@hnh-law.com  
Secondary Email: jrivera@hnh-law.com

**379**  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: ESTATE OF KODY DALLAS RYAN PATE

File No. 16-2024-CP-0005 Division: Probate Deceased.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

The administration of the estate of KODY DALLAS RYAN PATE, deceased, whose date of death was May 15, 2023, is pending in the Circuit Court for Franklin County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 33 Market Street, Suite 203, 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 March 21, 2024.

Attorney for Personal Representative: Personal Representative: THOMAS M. DONAHO, JR. Florida Bar No. 078530 MICHELLE MEDINA Florida Bar No. 772623 Attorneys for Personal Representative DONAHO & MCMENAMY, P.A. 245 Riverside Avenue, Suite 150 Jacksonville, Florida 32202 Telephone: (904) 354-8080 Fax: (904) 791-9563 Email: eservice@dmjxlaw.com

KRISTI PATE P.O. BOX 146 Eastpoint, Florida 32328  
March 21, 2024, 2024

**383**  
**RONALD F. VALENTINE**  
Deceased.  
File No. 2024-23CP

Division PROBATE

The administration of the estate of Ronald F. Valentine, deceased, whose date of death was February 18, 2024, 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.

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The date of first publication of this notice is March 28, 2024.

Attorney for Personal Representative: Personal Representative: 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@kbblawfl.com

Secondary E-Mail: erin@kbblawfl.com  
Russell Valentine, Jr 78 Unquowa Place 504Fairfield, Connecticut 06824-5086  
March 28, 2024 April 4, 2024

**384**  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION IN RE: ESTATE OF

LOUISE LARKER

File No. 2024-25CP Division PROBATE Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of Louise Larker, deceased, whose date of death was April 1, 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.

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The date of first publication of this notice is March 28, 2024.

Attorney for Personal Representative: Personal Representative:

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@kbblawfl.com Secondary E-Mail: erin@

kbblawfl.com  
Lewis Wayne Larker 160 Rim Trail Circle-Hayesville, North Carolina 28904  
March 28, 2024 April 4, 2024

**386**  
**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

FDOT FPID NO. 448610-1-54-01 The Franklin County Board of County Commissioners is seeking civil engineering services relating to the construction engineering and inspection (CEI) for the widening and resurfacing improvements on Hickory Dip Road in Eastpoint from Old Ferry dock Road to North Bayshore Drive. The total length of the project is 0.372 miles. The scope of the project includes widening and resurfacing the existing lanes, drainage improvements, signage upgrades and pavement markings. Consideration will be given to only those firms that are qualified pursuant to law and that have been prequalified by FDOT to perform the indicated types of work.

Information regarding the proposal and the complete Request For Proposals package can be obtained from Kimberly Raffield, Assistant Grants Coordinator, 850-653-5779 or Kimberly.aff@franklincountyflorida.gov. In order to ensure a fair, competitive, and open process, once

Work Types: 10.1 – Roadway Construction Engineering Inspection Response Deadline: Monday, May 6, 2024, at 4:30 P.M. Eastern Time Opening Date: Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at the County Commission meeting which begins at 9:00 A.M. Eastern Time This project is funded with assistance from the FDOT. By submitting a letter of response, the Consultant certifies that they are in compliance with FDOT Procedure No. 375-030-006 (Restriction on Consultants Eligibility to Compete for Department Contracts) and that no principle is presently suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible or voluntarily excluded from participation on this transaction by any government department or agency. Information regarding the proposal and the complete Request For Proposals package can be obtained from Kimberly Raffield, Assistant Grants Coordinator, 850-653-5779 or Kimberly.aff@franklincountyflorida.gov. In order to ensure a fair, competitive, and open process, once

FOR RENT

**ST. GEORGE ISLAND RENTAL**  
SGI Long Term Rental 1100 sq ft, 1BR/1BA Unfurnished Apt. Washer/Dryer. Electric & Water included. \$1,900 per month Call (850) 370-6001

## ANSWERS

From page 5B

### CROSSWORD

D	B	M	S		E	N	E	M	A	S				
E	R	I	C		B	O	D	Y	G	U	A	R	D	
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U	M	P	I	R	E				M	O	R	A	S	S
N	A	I	V	E		S	A	N	A	A				
C	L	A	Y		C	O	C	A			A	B	E	D
L	O	S		B	O	R	E		C	A	B	A	N	A
A	D		P	A	L	A	T	A	B	I	L	I	T	Y
S	O	K	E	S			A	C			A	L	I	T
P	R	O	S	E	C	U	T	E			Z	E	R	O
				O	R	A	T	E	D		E	D	E	N

# OUTDOORS

## WEEKLY ALMANAC

DATE	HIGH	LOW	PRECIP
Thu, March 28	72°	47°	24%
Fri, March 29	70°	53°	2%
Sat, March 30	74°	58°	7%
Sun, March 31	76°	61°	23%
Mon, April 1	76°	61°	31%
Tues, April 2	74°	58°	41%
Wed, April 3	70°	55°	31%
Thu, April 4	71°	57°	24%

## THE TIMES

### APALACHICOLA

Date	Day	High Tide AM	High Tide PM	Low Tide AM	Low Tide PM
28	Thurs	7:27 1.2	5:29 1.6	12:42 -0.1	12:13 0.9
29	Fri	8:34 1.2	5:54 1.6	1:13 -0.3	12:41 1.0
30	Sat	10:07 1.2	6:24 1.6	1:51 -0.3	1:09 1.1
31	Sun		6:59 1.6	2:41 -0.3	
1	Mon		7:44 1.5	3:54 -0.3	
2	Tues		9:08 1.4	5:24 -0.3	
3	Wed	3:11P 1.3	10:53 1.4	6:52 -0.3	6:42 1.2
4	Thurs		3:26 1.3	7:59 -0.3	8:02 1.0

### CARRABELLE

Date	Day	High Tide AM	High Tide PM	Low Tide AM	Low Tide PM
28	Thurs	6:02 2.0	4:04 2.5	10:00 1.4	11:00 -0.4
29	Fri	7:09 1.9	4:29 2.6	10:28 1.5	11:38 -0.5
30	Sat	8:42 1.9	4:59 2.6	10:56 1.7	
31	Sun		5:34 2.6	12:28 -0.5	
1	Mon		6:19 2.4	1:41 -0.5	
2	Tues		7:43 2.3	3:11 -0.5	
3	Wed	1:46P 2.1	9:28 2.2	4:39 -0.5	4:29 1.9
4	Thurs	2:01P 2.1	11:10 2.3	5:46 -0.5	5:49 1.6

## THE STAR

### ST. JOSEPH BAY

Date	Day	High Tide AM	High Tide PM	Low Tide AM	Low Tide PM
28	Thurs	11:16 1.4	10:56 0.1		8:53 0.0
29	Fri	11:47 1.5		1:08 0.0	
30	Sat		12:32 1.6	1:43 -0.2	
31	Sun		1:44 1.6	2:22 -0.3	
1	Mon		3:14 1.7	3:11 -0.3	
2	Tues		4:21 1.7	4:12 -0.3	
3	Wed		5:42 1.6	5:12 -0.3	
4	Thurs		7:09 1.5	6:07 -0.2	

### APALACHICOLA BAY, WEST PASS

Date	Day	High Tide AM	High Tide PM	Low Tide AM	Low Tide PM
28	Thurs	7:27 1.2	5:29 1.6	12:42 -0.1	12:13 0.9
29	Fri	8:34 1.2	5:54 1.6	1:13 -0.3	12:41 1.0
30	Sat	10:07 1.2	6:24 1.6	1:51 -0.3	1:09 1.1
31	Sun		6:59 1.6	2:41 -0.3	
1	Mon		7:44 1.5	3:54 -0.3	
2	Tues		9:08 1.4	5:24 -0.3	
3	Wed	3:11P 1.3	10:53 1.4	6:52 -0.3	6:42 1.2
4	Thurs		3:26 1.3	7:59 -0.3	8:02 1.0

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## Go slow, look out below for manatees

Special to the Times and Star

Watching for manatees while boating is always important and spring is a particularly important season for boaters to go slow and lookout below for the slow-moving mammals as they naturally disperse from their winter refuges.

Manatees overwinter in Florida springs, power plant discharges and other warm-water sites, relying on water that is warmer than 68 degrees Fahrenheit. As spring brings warmer temperatures, manatees gradually disperse from their winter habitats and are more likely to be in rivers, canals and nearshore waters.

Although adult manatees are large, spotting them in the water can be challenging. Going slow and looking out below helps boaters and personal watercraft users better spot manatees that might be in the area. People on the water can help manatees by wearing polarized glasses, following all manatee protection zones, keeping an eye out for visible snouts or manatee “footprints” — large circles on the water that are indicators that manatees are below the surface, and always giving manatees space.

From April 1 through Nov. 15, seasonal manatee zones require boaters to slow



Manatees on the Santa Fe River. [ KAREN PARKER | FWC ]

down in certain areas to prevent manatees from being injured or killed by motorboats or personal watercrafts. Boat strikes continue to be a major threat to Florida manatees. FWC law enforcement officers patrol state waters to inform boaters of the seasonal manatee speed zones and take appropriate enforcement actions. Boaters are reminded to abide by the regulatory signs they see on the water. Manatee protection zones are marked by waterway signs and maps of manatee protection zones are available online at MyFWC.com/Manatee by clicking on “Data and Maps.”

As a reminder, manatees are a protected species and it is illegal to feed, harass or harm them. Physically handling a distressed or stranded manatee can cause additional harm to the manatee and could put you at risk of serious injury. Instead, report injured, distressed, orphaned, sick or dead manatees to the FWC’s Wildlife Alert Hotline at 888-404-FWCC (3922) so trained responders can assist.

Resources for boaters, educators and other interested members of the public are available at MyFWC.com/Manatee. What should you do if you see a manatee? The Viewing Guidelines page provides helpful tips on respectfully viewing manatees, additional guidelines for boat and personal watercraft operators, and information on what you can do to help these amazing aquatic mammals.

Are you interested in supporting the FWC’s manatee research, rescue and management efforts? You can purchase a Florida manatee license plate or donate \$5 to receive a collectable FWC manatee decal. Both are available from your local Tax Collector’s office.

Spring is an active time for many of Florida’s wildlife species. For more information, visit MyFWC.com/News and click on “Spring Wildlife News.”



Boat strikes continue to be a major threat to Florida manatees. [ ANDY WRAITHMELL | FWC ]

## Forgotten Coast Fishing Report

Special to the Times and Star

Things are really starting to heat up offshore, Dave Mason reporting that the amberjack, while not in season, are definitely a workout, with vertical jigging, such as slow pitch or 2 to 3 Bucktails, seem to be the ticket. Working them quickly up from the bottom. AJ’s like a fast-working bait with quick stop and starts. A 6000 series spinning reel and a heavy offshore rod works well. Captain Chase Wilder of Signal 0 Charters had a happy crew with catches of vermilion snapper, sheepshead, as well as grouper and red snapper, which although closed are a fun fight. Capt. Pete Barwick had another week of home runs with sheepshead topping the chart. He also caught and released red snapper and gag grouper.

The water temperatures inshore have finally hit 70 degrees and you can sure tell it with the fishing reports from our

local captains. Lots of redfish and trout are biting in numbers, not to mention the Spanish are in town. Capt. Chris Lance of Gettin’ Reel Sport Fishing had a variety of fish to report this week, including redfish, sheepshead and trout. Capt Tim Wilder of T-Man charters, as well as Capt. Lee Thompson of Shallow Sea charters had a great week as well. I talked to Capt. Phil of Phil’s Charter this morning and he had a stellar week of nearshore and bay fishing with black drum and sheepshead. They boated an 11-pound sheepshead on that trip.

Our freshwater fishing has been really good as well with catfish hitting stink bait, as well as cut bait on Lake Wimico, and at last report, the crappie were still doing well on live minnows. With a front moving in, be careful out there. Wear your lifejackets and don’t forget to hook up your lanyards. Until next week, good luck and tight lines.



Everything for your outdoor adventure!!

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