

Community
Events

National Garden Week
Chipley Garden Club is sponsoring activities in observance of National Garden Week the week of June 4-10 starting with counting Monarch spinners. Garden Day will be Tuesday, June 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Washington County Public Library. Activities will include terrarium making, making a floral design, herbal magic, recycling ideas, pine needle basket weaving, clean water, "critters," local wildflowers, bees, birds and more. On Friday, June 9 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., all are invited to show their creativity by decorating the sidewalks with chalk flowers at the Washington County Historical Society's pavilion. Chalk will be provided. All activities are free to attend and participate in. For more information, contact Garden Club President Gweneth Collins at 850-260-4049.

Panhandle Watermelon Festival
The 67th Annual Panhandle Watermelon Festival is slated for June 23-24 at Jim Trawick Park in Chipley. Gates open Friday night at 5 p.m. with entertainment kicking off at 6 p.m. The fun continues Saturday with a pancake breakfast at the Panhandle Shrine Club, 5k Hot Trot, watermelon parade, classic car show, arts crafts and food vendors. For a full schedule of events, visit panhandle-watermelon.com.

Orange Hill Fourth of July Celebration
The Orange Hill Volunteer Fire Department is hosting a Fourth of July Celebration on Saturday, July 1 from 2 to 10 p.m. The community celebration is a fire service recruitment event and fundraiser for the fire department. There will be food and snacks, music, local craft vendors, bounce house and slides, and fireworks after dark. The event will be held at 1927 Orange Hill Rd. in Chipley.

Submit your community event to: news@washingtoncounty.news or news@holmescounty.news.

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4th annual Vortex Spring Rodeo draws huge crowd
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‘Methamphetamine is the culprit behind this death’
Parents charged in death of toddler

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Holmes County Sheriff John Tate held a press conference May 17 regarding the death of a toddler, Margie June McLean.
At 3:43 p.m. on May 16, Holmes County Dispatch received a 911 call from a hysterical female, and within two minutes a HCSO deputy arrived on scene of a house on Highway 81 in Prosperity. The deputy was met by an individual carrying an unresponsive child. The deputy immediately began administering CPR on the child until EMS arrived and took over. The child was pronounced deceased at 3:59 p.m. by Holmes County EMS.
The mother of the child, 23-year-old Kathreen Adams, told investigators she had found the child unresponsive in the house. HCSO transported Adams and the father, 32-year-old Christopher McLean, to the sheriff's office to begin interviews in order to piece together what happened. After piecing together clues both from the scene and interviews, HCSO requested that EMS take a body temperature of the child which



HCSO investigators responded late in the afternoon May 16 to a residence in the Prosperity community after it was reported that a child was unresponsive. (JENNIFER RICH | THE NEWS AND ADVERTISER)

was determined to be 107 degrees. It was then, Tate said, they knew something wasn't adding up.
"With interviews from the parents and witnesses on scene, it was determined that the child had been in a car," Tate said. "When the mother was confronted with the information, she was forthcoming and admitted the child had been in the car."
See TODDLER, Page 2A

13 juveniles charged for vandalism of Bonifay Rec Center



Thirteen juveniles are facing charges in heavily destructive vandalism of Bonifay Rec Center after Holmes County Sheriff's Office school resource officers identified leads and completed the investigation. (JENNIFER RICH | THE NEWS AND ADVERTISER)

JENNIFER RICH
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Thirteen juveniles are facing charges in connection with heavy vandalism at Bonifay Recreational Center.
Holmes County Sheriff's Office school resource officers had previously identified the juveniles and picked up with the investigation now that HCSO is currently han-

dling all law enforcement services inside the Bonifay city limits while the city internally restructures Bonifay Police Department.
Holmes County Sheriff John Tate said they learned about the vandalism at Holmes County Commissioner meetings. The HCSO resource officers were able to identify

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Commissioners extend one contract, approve rebidding of another

DIANE M. MOORE
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The Washington County Board of County Commissioners talked contracts, bids, live streaming and land use changes when they met in regular session on May 18.
A one-year contract extension was requested by Emergency Management Director Lynne Abel for Wheeler Emergency Management Contractors who has been overseeing all the county's FEMA work since Hurricane Michael. Commissioner Wesley Griffin requested to hold off on the vote until he could gain more information from Abel and the Clerk of Courts office for clarification purposes.
Commissioners voted 4-1 to extend the contract for 90 days to allow Griffin the time he needs. Commissioner Alan T. Bush was the sole no vote. The matter will be brought back before the board at an upcoming meeting when commissioners will decide to either grant an extension or rebid the contract.
A feeding contract extension for Hickory Properties,

LLC was up for vote on the consent agenda but was relocated to the agenda for further discussion. Hickory Properties has had the contract to feed county workers during long work hours since June 2020. When the bid was initially advertised, only two companies submitted with Hickory Properties being the low bidder.
Commissioner David Corbin pointed out that the original bid was done during COVID, and many businesses were not open and therefore unable to bid. In the end, commissioners voted to place the contract out to bid once more to allow local companies the chance to bid.
Director of Human Resources Wendy White was asked to provide the board with an update on the status of live streaming commission meetings. White said staff members were being trained to run the equipment and programming.
"We are about 60 days out from being able to live stream, tentatively," White said. "We just have to finish
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TODDLER

From Page 1A

The mother told investigators that she had gotten off work from the Tom Thumb in Ponce de Leon around midnight and went to pick her children, a 4-year-old boy and 2-year-old Margie, from the babysitter’s home. After arriving at home, both Adams and McLean decided to leave Margie in the car because she was sleeping.

“The parents ultimately fell asleep after smoking marijuana and did not wake up or realize she was still in the car until 3:41 the next afternoon when they found her unresponsive,” Tate said. “There is still a gray area of time from when they found the child and when they called 911. We are investigating that part and trying to piece together the puzzle. Adams admitted to leaving the child in the car for around 14 hours. McLean has been uncooperative with the investigation. He invoked his Fifth Amendment rights and

said he did not wish to speak to us at that time.”

Search warrants were executed on the residence and the car. Inside the home, numerous bags of methamphetamine were found - with some being in the child’s bag - marijuana, CBD gummies, methamphetamine smoking pipes and various other illegal items. FDLE began forensic testing on the car the next morning.

The Department of Children and Families and Gulf Coast Children’s Advocacy Center were on scene to assist in the investigation along with the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit Medical Examiner’s Office and the State Attorney’s Office.

Both Adams and McLean have been arrested and are charged with child neglect, possession of methamphetamine and possession of paraphernalia. Additional charges are expected after the completion of blood tests and the autopsy which was scheduled for May 17.

“They are currently

in our jail under \$48,000 or \$50,000 bonds,” Tate said. “There will be more charges coming but I can’t say when. Once we get the forensic test results back, we will confer with the State Attorney’s Office and they will face some type of manslaughter or murder charges.”

The 4-year-old is in the custody of the Department of Children and Families. According to Adams’ statement, the 4-year-old had gotten out of the car and came into the house. Tate says HCSO is investigating that particular part of the incident as well.

Sheriff Tate says the biggest message to the public in cases such as this is simply, “Don’t do drugs.”

“I honestly believe that methamphetamine is the culprit behind this death,” Tate said. “When you use drugs, you lose sense of reality and this kind of stuff happens. If they weren’t on drugs, we probably wouldn’t be here today. We are ultimately here today to get justice for that toddler.”



Holmes County Sheriff John Tate held a press conference in the case of the death of a toddler May 17. Pictured from left: Investigator Bill Pate, Tate, Investigator Brett Wilson and Investigator Jason Stafford. [BLAKELY HITZELBERGER | THE NEWS AND ADVERTISER]



Christopher McLean



Kathreen Adams

VANDALISM

From Page 1A

potential vandals and turned the information over to BPD.

But the leads were not followed up to the point of charges being ultimately filed against 13 kids from Holmes, Washington and Walton Counties. The Department of Juvenile Justice will determine outcomes on charges of burglary,

criminal mischief and criminal trespassing for the 13 suspects.

Vandalism has been an ongoing problem at city parks and Bonifay’s sports complex. The vandals left graffiti and destroyed bathroom fixtures, ripped out ceilings and lighting fixtures and busted out glass windows.

Tate said he hopes juveniles will realize that defacing someone else’s property has consequences.

REBIDDING

From Page 1A

up training and set up.”

County Planner Dawn McDonald presented two land use changes for agriculture/silviculture to general commercial. The first was a 99.90-acre parcel and the second was for a 6.79-acre parcel, both in the southern/central area of the county. Commissioners approved both requests.

In other items, updates on county

parks were presented to the board. All brick-and-mortar bathrooms at every park in the county are functional and are on a scheduled rotation for upkeep and maintenance. Cameras have also been placed at each park and are in good working order. A schedule for making upgrades to the parks has been established and includes paint, walls and playground equipment. Board members were pleased to hear the positive news.

The commission will meet again in regular session at 9 a.m. June 15.

Commissioners finalize location for new government complex

DIANE M. MOORE

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Holmes County Commissioners awarded a bid to replace the roof on the county health department facility when they met in regular session May 16.

County Attorney Nate Nolin and County Manager David Corbin opened seven bids during the meeting and commissioners ultimately voted on the lowest bidder for the job. Johnson Roofing Solutions will replace the current roof with shingles at a cost of \$42,095. The job will have a 10-year workmanship

warranty along with a manufacturer’s 50-year warranty on the shingles themselves. The board opted to go with shingles rather than galvanized aluminum, saving the county \$14,504.

After hearing from engineer Cliff Knauer, commissioners made a final decision on the location of the government efficiency building construction. The location will be where the pole barn sits currently on the agricultural center property. When the bid advertisement goes out there will be three different size buildings to bid on – 80x180, 80x160 and 80x120. The largest of the three

is a 14,400-square-foot building and the smallest is an 8,000-square-foot building. The county will then decide which will be the best fit for the funding and to meet their needs. Knauer advised commissioners the property would allow for 125 to 150 parking spaces.

Commissioners opted to wait on signing a letter of support for the Ponce de Leon Fire Department until a final decision on appropriated funding comes down from the governor’s office. As of May 16, there is \$2 million in the state budget earmarked for the volunteer fire and rescue department.

The wait now is for the governor to make cuts from the budget. The Advertiser will continue to follow this and will update when a decision is made.

After disbanding their fire department several months ago until they could decide how to move forward, the Town of Noma requested \$2,000 from the county to bring it back. Commissioners approved the request which will be paid out of board contingencies.

The Holmes County Board of County Commissioners will meet again in regular session at 6 p.m. June 6.

South Carolina man wanted on fraud and theft charges

STAFF REPORT

The Holmes County Sheriff’s Office is looking for a South Carolina man wanted for fraud and theft charges.

On May 4, a man noticed \$1,000 had been withdrawn from his account at a local bank. After speaking with a bank representative, he learned that another man withdrew the money using fake identification bearing his name and date of birth.

The bank and victim reported the case to the Bonifay Police Department, who requested the assistance of the Panama City Police Department to enhance images from the bank’s security footage in hopes of identifying the suspect.

While providing law enforcement services on behalf of the BPD, Holmes County Sheriff’s Office investigators picked up the case and continued working with PCPD to



Michael Scott Hillwig of Hardeeville, South Carolina is wanted on fraud and theft charges after using fake identification to fraudulently withdraw money at a local bank. Hillwig was identified after authorities enhanced security camera footage. [CONTRIBUTED]

identify the suspect. The suspect has been identified as Michael Scott Hillwig of Hardeeville, South Carolina. Hillwig’s identity was confirmed by the Hardeeville Police Department, who informed investigators that he is

being sought by multiple agencies for similar crimes.

A warrant has been issued for the arrest of Michael Hillwig. He is wanted in Holmes County on charges of fraud and theft.

Holmes County Sheriffs Office seeking Middlebrooks Park vandal

STAFF REPORT

A Holmes County Sheriff’s Department deputy performing an extra patrol of the area around Middlebrooks Park discovered some

vandalism in the female restroom on May 12.

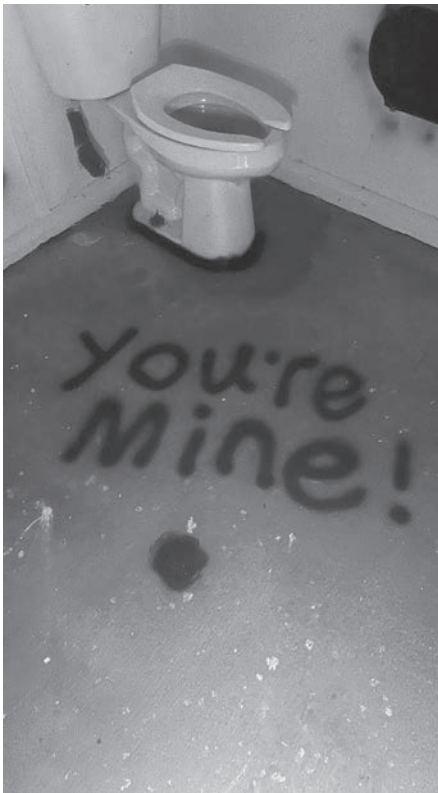
The images and words that were spray painted on the floors and walls appear to be directed at someone

named “Jessica.”

Anyone with information on the vandalism or who is responsible is asked to call Lt. Morris at 850-547-4421.



[CONTRIBUTED]



[CONTRIBUTED]

County awarded SAFER grant

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Washington County was recently awarded a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant which will pay to have two full-time firefighters in the county over the next four years.

Grant Coordinator Karen Shaw applied for the funding in 2021 and was recently made aware the county was approved for \$1,096,000. The grant is through FEMA and is designed to directly fund fire departments and volunteer firefighter in-

terest organizations to help them increase or maintain the number of trained, “front line” firefighters available in their communities, according to FEMA’s website.

This is the second SAFER grant the county has received with the first being in 2014. The idea behind this grant is to help counties and departments have paid firefighters on duty and at the end of the four years to be able to keep them on and county funded. With the first round of the grant, the county was unable to find the fund-

ing source to keep the employment going due in large part to Hurricane Michael and the destruction and unexpected costs incurred from the disaster.

Both Shaw and County Administrator Jeff Massey are confident this time will be different.

“When Michael came in and changed some of the funding sources, we intended to use it to pay those firefighters we were unable to keep it going,” Shaw said. “We will be looking at other sources that are more dependable this time.”

“I was just coming

on board when the first SAFER was running out and I didn’t know enough about it to do anything,” Massey said. “We will find a way to keep paid firefighters in our county, we have to, our citizens need them.”

With these funds the county will be able to purchase new gear for each firefighter, scheduling software, a stand-by volunteer stipend, pay per call stipends, training for new and existing firefighters, advertising and more.

“Washington County is growing, and we need a fire service that can

support that growth,” said Fire Coordinator Justin Leach. “The award of this grant is a great thing for our county. Mrs. Shaw worked tirelessly to get this grant for us, and we will make sure that her hard work pays off.”

Leach says he and Massey are working on a solid plan and hope to put it into effect soon. There is no word yet on which stations will house the two firefighters, but they will be centrally located throughout the county to provide as much coverage as possible Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The goal is to hire from within the county departments those volunteers that already have Firefighter II certification. However, any of the volunteers that have Firefighter I certification can go to school on the county’s dime and attain Firefighter II.

With the shortage of volunteers making coverage hard, the SAFER grant couldn’t have come at a better time as a Recruitment and Retention Officer can be on the payroll to help increase fire service numbers.

For more information on the SAFER grant or how to become a firefighter, call Leach at 850-415-5026 or email him at jleach@washingtonfl.com.

Library unveils nature trail to walk, learn

DIANE M. MOORE
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A ribbon cutting was held last week at the Washington County Library’s Chipley branch for the newly installed United Way Born Learning Trail.

The trail is

the product of a partnership between the Washington County Health Department and the Washington County Public Library.

“We are passionate about kids learning,” Library Director Renae Rountree said. “And because of that we are excited to partner

with DOH to bring the first, but hopefully not last, Learning Trail to Washington County.”

With the help of The United Way of Northwest Florida, DOH was able to purchase the trail from the national United Way. There are trails such as these all over

the United States.

The trail is made up of a series of 10 signs in both English and Spanish for parents and caregivers to use as a tool to help better engage their children in learning. Each stop on the trail has a different task for the children to do such as

think, identify, learn or use their imagination. The sidewalk is home to stencils that correspond with each sign.

For added fun, there are two small bird feeders along the trail for visitors to interact with nature. For those who visit during

library hours, they may go inside and pick up a small portion of birdseed from the front desk for their child to place in the bird feeder.

To experience the Born Learning Trail, visit the Chipley Library at 1444 Jackson Avenue. For more information, call 850-638-1314.



Washington County Library Director Renae Rountree cut the ribbon on the Born Learning Trail surrounded by library staff and public officials. [BLAKELY HITZELBERGER | THE NEWS AND ADVERTISER]



This little one is excited to start her journey on the Born Learning Trail. [CONTRIBUTED]



Each sign on the trail gives instructions on how to get your child more involved in learning. [BLAKELY HITZELBERGER | THE NEWS AND ADVERTISER]



These two young ladies enjoyed putting seed in the bird feeder on the Born Learning Trail. [BLAKELY HITZELBERGER | THE NEWS AND ADVERTISER]



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OPINION

Disorder on the border by executive order



Ron Hart
Guest Columnist

I fear that if aliens land in the USA and say, “Take me to your leader,” it will be very embarrassing for us. I say this because, among many other things, our border policy is a disaster. The illegal immigration debate never gets past vilifying those who want to control our borders calling us “inhumane animals.” Just because we think that we need to have rules that we enforce at our southern border does not make us animals. Maybe being an animal is not such a bad thing. The differ-

ence between humans and animals is simple: Animals would never allow the dumbest among them to lead. Title 42 was allowed to run out. It was a gimmick that said we could turn back illegals trying to cross the border because they could bring COVID with them, I guess from its origins, that “wet market” in Wuhan, China. The immigration game is played like this. They know they can come; they say they were tortured or are fleeing gangs or domestic violence as they have been told to say. They are let in and given a court date four years out to appear before some stooge immigration judge. By then they will have 3 anchor babies and one slip-and-fall lawsuit. Few ever show up to court. It is laughable. And they are laughing at us. Venezuelan and Honduran illegals tell

border officials that they are fleeing the catastrophe of corrupt socialist rule to live under the Biden administration. Well, at least they got a nice long walk out of the deal. With the surge at our already porous southern border, Joe Biden has had the worst month of his presidency—until next month. We are looking at a guy here who is bent on improving his ineptness score monthly. His approval ratings are 33 percent, below DeSantis, Trump and Bud Light’s fired head of marketing. This is the same guy who told us his massive borrow-and-spend “Inflation Reduction Act” could work. Well, his “Border Democrat Voter Stimulus Plan” is working. Illegals technically cannot vote, but they do count in the census and swell the population of Democrat districts who then get more representa-

tion. It’s a game. There are no new oil pipelines since Biden canceled them — but there is a well-established pipeline now for fentanyl from Mexico to the United States. Police in California say they have seized enough fentanyl to kill 35 million Californians, many of them Americans. Watching Biden “president” the country is, for most of us, like being tied to a chair and forced to watch a five-year-old boy play with a loaded gun. The current government dolt running the Department of Homeland Security is Alejandro Mayorkas. He is a lawyer and lifelong Democrat politician. He is purely a Deep State bureaucrat and uses weasel words when he speaks. For years now he has assured us that the border is secure. If you believe that, you will believe that last year was Elton John’s final

farewell tour. Biden ignored it for as long as he could, then finally sent someone to visit the border: Kamala Harris, so you know he was just going through the motions. DHS Sec. Mayorkas panicked and started cleaning up the border like a bachelor cleaning up his studio apartment an hour before a date when he realizes he might get laid. The leftist mainstream media cover the issue with misinformation and paint it as a “humanitarian crisis.” This appeals to our emotions. Fox News covers it as they do, always interviewing the hottest young chicks crossing the border. The main story you saw was Border Patrol agents twirling their horses’ reins to push back illegals crossing the river. The agents were cleared of wrongdoing by DHS — but cited for not using electric horses.

If you think unchecked immigration won’t change a nation, just ask our Native Americans. It is just a matter of time before proper English becomes our fourth language behind Spanish, ebonics and ChatGPT. Ever the politician in survival mode, Joe Biden declared he would run for president again and began acting like he would crack down on the border — only because it is costing him politically. Demos spent years assailing Trump for his strong border stance. Now Biden is echoing Trump. My campaign slogan for Biden for 2024? “I am Joe Biden, and I approve Trump’s message.” A libertarian op-ed humorist and award-winning author, Ron does commentary on radio and TV. He can be contacted at Ron@RonaldHart.com or @RonaldHart on Twitter.

South Korea bets arsenal ships will give North Korea and China second thoughts



Austin Bay
Guest Columnist

Threatened by North Korean nuclear weapons and communist Chinese conventional air and missile fires, South Korea has decided to spend serious

money on an old but often spurned military concept: the arsenal ship. The concept is simple. Take a very large but comparatively inexpensive civilian commercial ship. Oil supertankers and huge container carriers fit the profile perfectly -- they’re inexpensive when compared to navy warships. Now pack the ship with vertical launchers and several hundred long- and mid-range missiles capable of destroying enemy shore

targets and perhaps enemy surface ships. Add short-range air and missile defense weapons and presto, enormous sea mobile firepower bang for the buck, or in South Korea’s case, bang for their wons. The arsenal ship concept has bred aerial arsenal concepts, with 747s and military transport aircraft (e.g., USAF C-5s) launching missiles a thousand miles from the target then fleeing. In some ways, the USAF’s 21st-century B-52s are arsenal planes. Russian air-launched missile attacks on Ukrainian cities demonstrate that long-range standoff attack can be deadly. South Korea’s interest in arsenal ships isn’t new. But in mid-April, Seoul selected a design team and indicated it will buy three “joint firepower ships,” which is military lingo for arsenal ships. Instead of a commercial ship, South Korea may consider a modified destroyer hull. However, in April

the Naval Market Forecast Newsletter noted that even if destroyer hulls are used, the ships will carry land attack cruise and ballistic missiles, not anti-submarine weaponry or anti-surface guns. When they are built and deployed, South Korea’s ships will tell North Korea and China that a surprise attack will not destroy its ability to retaliate. North Korea focuses on South Korean land targets. Another message: Should South Korea feel threatened by imminent attack, the ships are offensive platforms capable of precision strike. Precision means striking within a few meters of the center of the target. This month interestingengineering.com wrote that South Korea’s joint firepower ships are “similar” to the arsenal ship concept the U.S. abandoned in the 1990s. That comment is accurate. I first encountered the arsenal ship concept in 1992 when

I read an unclassified think tank paper on the concept. I was working as a consultant in strategic wargaming in the Office of Net Assessments. 1992 was Post-Desert Storm. The Soviet Union was recently kaput. 1992 was the era of The Peace Dividend. Many of us -- yours truly included -- were amazed the Cold War ended with a whimper and the bad guys lost. I write this on memory. The paper’s author argued arsenal ships are cheap and quick to acquire. A merchant ship can become an arsenal ship bearing tremendous missile firepower that could support U.S. Navy battle groups. I remember thinking, if you can use a merchant ship, could you use a barge? One summer when I was in college, I worked offshore on a derrick barge in the Gulf of Mexico. The barges are huge — but slow and sitting ducks. Seeking informed opinions, a naval expert

told me arsenal ships are a new take on an old and worthwhile idea. But the U.S. Navy had little interest. Remember, this chat occurred in 1992 or 1993. However, in 2002, to meet a strategic arms reduction requirement, the USN converted four “Ohio class” ballistic missile submarines into cruise missile carriers. Bye-bye, nuclear warheads. Now the Ohios carried Tomahawks with conventional munitions. Cold War “boomer” subs became a type of arsenal ship. 2023 in the Pacific: the USN confronts communist Chinese land and sea forces determined to prevent American carrier battle groups from approaching the Chinese coast. I think small, stealthy, fast attack craft armed with strike missiles foil China’s strategy. But South Korean arsenal ships will give Beijing additional doubts, especially if they coordinate with small strike craft. And that’s a very good idea.

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Florida tourism climbs

NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA

First-quarter tourism into Florida was up 6.7 percent from a year ago, with overseas visitors still under pre-COVID-19 figures, according to a release from the governor’s office Friday. Florida’s tourism agency Visit Florida

estimated a record 37.9 million travelers into the state during the first quarter of 2023, up from a prior single-quarter high of 35.528 million in the first three months of 2022. The first quarter estimates “show that 2023 is on track to continue Florida’s outstanding performance in welcoming visitors,” Visit

Florida President and CEO Dana Young said in the release. Visitors from other states continue to drive tourism growth, accounting for more than 91 percent of the first-quarter numbers. The latest figures include 1.8 million overseas visitors, an increase of 36 percent over last year but a decline from the

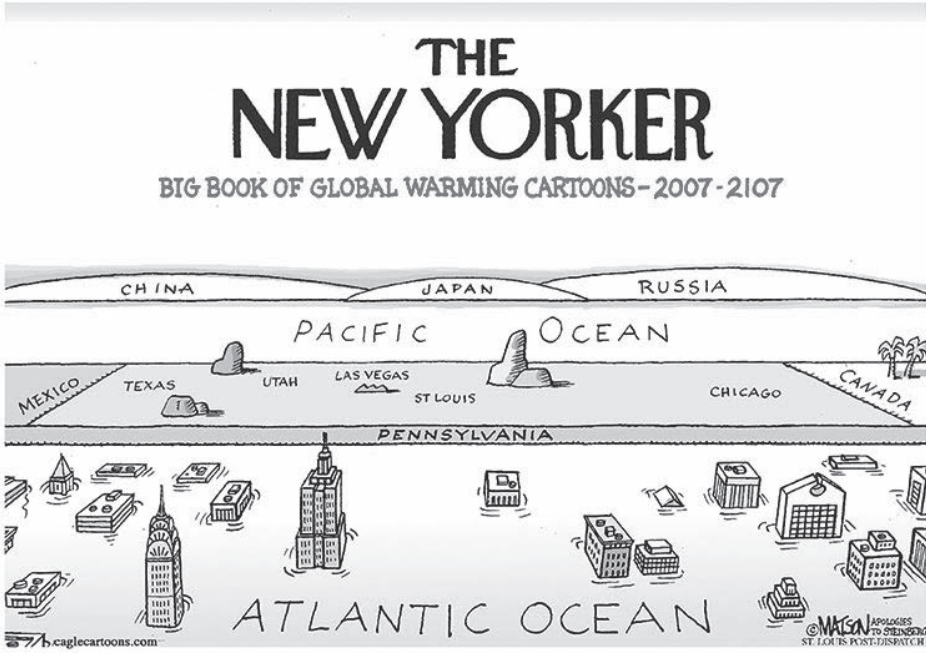
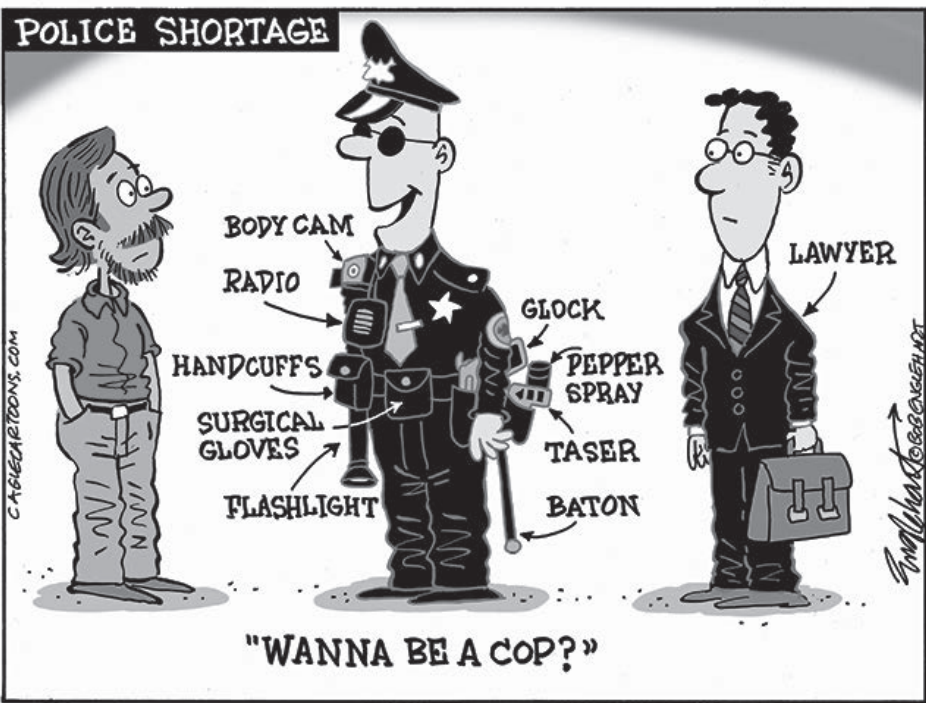
2.276 million visitors who traveled to the state in the first quarter of 2019, the last full year before the pandemic. State lawmakers agreed to provide \$80 million for Visit Florida during the upcoming 2023-2024 fiscal year, an increase of \$30 million from the current year. The state spending plan (SB 2500) awaits delivery to Gov. Ron DeSantis.

Have something to say?

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

Letters may be sent to 1364 N. Railroad Ave., Chipley, FL 32428 or emailed to jrich@nevespublishing.com.

Questions? Call 850-638-0212



School start time changes raise questions

NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA

School officials will soon be gearing up to push back start times for many high schools under a new law that mandates changes to the beginning of the school day — but some lawmakers and education experts are wary of the challenges that could come with such a change.

The changes stem from a measure (HB 733) approved by the Legislature earlier this month and signed by Gov. Ron DeSantis days later. Under the law, which goes into effect in July, middle schools will be prevented from beginning the “instructional day” earlier than 8 a.m., while high schools will be barred from starting the school day before 8:30 a.m.

High schools will experience the most significant changes. About 48 percent of Florida’s public high schools start school before 7:30 a.m., according to the Legislature’s Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability.

Senate bill sponsor Danny Burgess, R-Zephyrhills, and other supporters of the measure touted the mandate as a way to help students get more sleep before the school day begins.

“This is one of those pieces of legislation where we understand the ‘why’ very well. Studies, medical science, has shown that this is what’s best. What we’re doing now is not what’s best for our kids. For the adolescents especially,” Burgess said during a May 4 Senate debate on the proposal.

As the bill advanced, Rep. Bruce Antone, D-Orlando, repeatedly raised concerns about increased costs and other challenges for school districts. In a recent interview with The News Service of Florida, Antone commended the idea of trying to ensure students get more sleep. But he also questioned whether imposing start times on districts throughout the state was “well-thought out.”

“It was just something that sounded like a great idea,” Antone said. “And then they were like, we’re going to pass it and y’all are going to figure

it out.”

Antone represents an area that includes one of Florida’s largest school districts, Orange County Public Schools. Antone told the News Service that a one-size-fits-all approach could put an outsized strain on Orange and other large districts.

“It puts some hard start times in place. And even though it gives the school districts until 2026 to begin implementing the plan, I’m not sure this bill should be

larger costs. For example, the later start times could force Orange and other large districts to purchase more school buses and hire additional bus drivers.

“That money begins to add up to potentially easily \$100 (million), \$200 million dollars,” Antone said.

Chris Doolin, a lobbyist who represents the Small School District Council Consortium, also raised concerns about the bill’s potential impacts on small districts. As an example,

at 8 o’clock (a.m.),” Doolin said.

Doolin also raised questions about how the changes would affect extracurricular activities such as sports, particularly in rural communities where, “county to county,” it would “take time to get kids to where they need to be.”

And Antone and Doolin both noted that some high-school students have after-school jobs.

At least two large districts already have studied the is-

Jacksonville, voted for the bill but pointed out that his home school district in Duval County also previously declined to change its start times.

“Duval County had looked at doing this a few years back, and then opted not to change some of the start times. There’s a big impact on transportation, obviously on families if they have multiple siblings especially in different grade levels,” Yarborough said during the May 4 floor debate.

The bill also requires school districts to inform local communities “about the health, safety, and academic impacts of sleep deprivation on middle school and high school students and the benefits of a later school start time and discuss local strategies” to implement the new start-times.

Sen. Tracie Davis, a Jacksonville Democrat, said she appreciated the three-year period for implementation, but added that her reservation about the bill centered on not taking community input prior to putting the changes in place.

“I appreciate the fact that you have given a three-year period for school districts to talk about it with all of those stakeholders. The challenge I have for that is, I wish we would do that first before we actually made it a bill that we’re voting on to put it in law,” Davis said.



dictating what’s best for Orange County Schools, what’s best for Miami-Dade, what’s best for Broward, Palm Beach, Duval,” Antone said.

The measure includes what Burgess described as a “three-year glide path,” giving districts until July of 2026 to implement the changes.

Lawmakers also during the 2023 legislative session earmarked \$5 million to help implement the start-time changes, including a requirement that the state Department of Education survey “six department-selected school superintendents which represent two small, two medium, and two large counties regarding the estimated costs to implement such school start times.”

But Antone warned the changes could lead to much

Doolin argued that shifting the order of different grade levels’ start times could pose safety concerns.

“Right off the bat, you’re going to have elementary and younger kids at the side of the road at bus stops earlier, and there’s a safety concern there,” Doolin told the News Service.

Another sticking point about the bill, for Doolin, is its potential effect on families’ work schedules.

People in rural Holmes County, for example, largely are employed by state prisons, the county or the school district, according to Doolin. He pointed to rural Holmes County.

“You’ve got the prison system, you’ve got the county workforce and you’ve got the school workforce. Now, all those work schedules, I would say the majority, start

sue of changing start times.

In 2019, Orange County’s district sought community input on potential plans to change start-times. The district, which begins the day at 7:20 a.m. for high schools and at 9:30 a.m. for middle schools, presented three plans for alternate start times.

The district received tens of thousands of responses, the bulk of which came from parents and guardians. Of the options presented to respondents, only one would have complied with the new law. “Model D,” as it was called, proposed starting high schools’ days at 8:45 a.m. and middle schools at 10:15 a.m.

Survey results showed that 67 percent of respondents opposed the plan, according to a district spokesman.

Sen. Clay Yarborough, R-

Burgess acknowledged his colleagues’ concerns, saying “change can be hard.” But he said his service in the U.S. Army Reserves influenced his approach to the legislation.

“If we don’t put out our command intent, and say, ‘We’re getting to yes,’ and we’re doing it by this date, then these things never come to fruition,” Burgess said. “So what we’ve done here is laid out the command intent. And we’re giving a three-year glide path to get to yes.”

The reporting requirements over the next three years will “ensure that we’re uncovering any potential landmines, pitfalls, or holes that we need to look to plug,” he said.

Book objection list eyed

NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA

The state Board of Education is slated next week to consider a new rule that would lead to Florida’s education commissioner publishing an annual list of library books and instructional materials that people have objected to, carrying out part of a controversial 2022 law.

The proposed rule lays out a process for districts to report materials “subject to an objection by a parent or resident” of school districts “so that the Department of Education can publish an annual objection report, identifying materials removed or discontinued as a result of an

objection.”

The 2022 law requires the commissioner to “disseminate the list to school districts for consideration in their selection procedures.” Under the proposal, districts would be required to submit a form detailing objections by June 30 of each year. The districts also would have to include details, such as the types of materials objected to, and the reasons for the objections, based on various criteria. For example, districts would have to list whether objections claim the materials contain pornography, are not “suited to student needs and ability to comprehend the material,” or are inappropriate for a grade level. Districts also

would report actions taken on the materials, including whether the “material was removed, discontinued or access limited.”

Last year’s measure (HB 1467) was designed to ramp up scrutiny

of library books and instructional materials, giving parents and members of the public increased access to the process of selecting and removing school library books and instructional materials. Gov. Ron DeSantis on Wednesday signed a measure (HB

1069) passed by the Republican-controlled Legislature during the 2023 session that, in part, will bolster last year’s law.

The new law includes a requirement that books objected to on claims that they contain pornographic material or describe

“sexual conduct” be removed within five days of an objection and remain unavailable to students until the objection is resolved. The state board is scheduled to consider the proposed rule during a meeting Wednesday at Miami-Dade College’s Hialeah campus.





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Florida jobless rate holds steady

NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA

Florida’s low unemployment rate remained unchanged for a third straight month, with new jobs continuing in the fields of professional services, education and health, and hospitality.

Meanwhile, construction jobs declined for a fourth consecutive month as rising mortgage rates diminished the demand for new residential homes.

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity on Friday put the state’s jobless figure at 2.6 percent for April, reflecting an estimated 281,000

Floridians qualified as out-of-work from a labor force at 10.96 million. The jobless total is down 2,000 from March while the workforce is up 38,000. Gov. Ron DeSantis



more than 200,000 new business openings over the past year, as the state bested the national unemployment rate of 3.4 percent.

“In Florida, we are combatting negative national economic headwinds by promoting policies that support Florida businesses and families and attract record numbers of tourists every day,” DeSantis said in a press release announcing the latest unemployment figures.

Friday’s release also included first-quarter tourism results from Visit Florida. The report indicated an estimated 37.9 million domestic and international travelers into the state during the

See JOBLESS, Page 8A

74 applicants vie for pot licenses

NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA

Seventy-four prospective operators applied for 22 medical marijuana licenses during a five-day application cycle that ended April 28.

The applications were a step toward doubling the number of businesses operating in the state’s legal cannabis industry. Florida Department of Health officials in February issued a long-awaited rule announcing they

would accept applications for new licenses between April 24 and April 28. The applications were submitted more than six years after Florida voters approved a constitutional amendment broadly authorizing medical marijuana and after lawmakers in 2017 approved a framework for the industry.

Health officials on Tuesday confirmed they received 74 applications for the licenses. But the health agency

has not released the names of the applicants or redacted versions of the applications. Florida has 22 licensed medical marijuana operators and more than 800,000 registered patients. The April round of applications was the first major opportunity for newcomers to the state’s industry to vie for licenses since the 2017 legislation passed. An earlier round of licenses was based on a 2014 law that legalized non-euphoric cannabis

for a limited number of patients.

The 2017 law set up a schedule for new licenses to come online as the number of patients increases. Under the law, health officials are required to issue at least 22 more licenses. Gov. Ron DeSantis’ administration put the licensing and rulemaking processes on hold while awaiting the outcome of a Florida Supreme Court ruling in a key lawsuit challenging part of the 2017 law

that requires operators to conduct all aspects of the marijuana business – growing, processing and dispensing – rather than allowing companies to handle individual components of the marijuana trade. The court upheld the law in May 2021.

The April applications also come amid legal wrangling over a license earmarked in the 2017 law for a Black farmer who was part of class-action litigation over discriminatory lending practices by federal agriculture officials. The Department of Health in Sep-

tember announced it had issued an “intent to approve” a medical marijuana license for Terry Donnell Gwinn, who vied with 11 other applicants for the license.

Losing applicants have challenged the decision, however, and health officials have not issued Gwinn’s license. The Legislature last week approved a bill that would pave the way for Gwinn and an undetermined number of other Black farmer applicants to receive licenses.

Caryville man arrested for burglary

STAFF REPORT

A Caryville man is behind bars on multiple charges after an investigation by the Washington County Sheriff’s Office.

On May 15, WCSO deputies responded to a call regarding firearms that were stolen from a residence on

Brackin Road. Upon arrival it was determined that multiple firearms, valued in excess of \$3,000, had been stolen from the residence.

Investigators began conducting an investigation and developed a suspect very early on. With the help of a home surveillance

system, the suspect was seen prying the door open, entering the home and exiting a short time later with several firearms.

A concerned resident noticed a suspicious person riding a bicycle in the area prior to and after the burglary and made a call to WCSO. The

suspect was identified and detained for questioning. During the suspect’s interview, a confession was given and information pertaining to the location of the firearms was revealed.

35-year-old Phillip Dale Adkins was arrested and charged with burglary while

armed, felony possession of a firearm, dealing in stolen property, unlawful use of two-way communication device and grand theft of firearms.

With the assistance of the Calhoun County Sheriff’s Office, all stolen firearms have been recovered.



Phillip Dale Adkins

Washington County Arrest Reports

The following arrests were made in Washington County between May 12 and May 18 as reported by the Washington County Jail. All subjects are considered innocent until convicted.

Jerry Raphael Pitts, 18, Vernon - Battery, Possession of child pornography [WCSO]

Justin Mitchell Yrle, 33, Address not listed - Battery on LEO, Criminal mischief-property damage 1,000 or more [WCSO]

Mallie Nicole Kelly, 34, Ebro - Trespassing [WCSO]

Arthur Eugene Uptain, 39, Homeless - Out of county warrant [WCSO]

Keri Leigh Butler, 41, Geneva, AL - Possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute [WCSO]

Justin Lee Cannon, 39, Chipley - Possession of controlled substance without a prescription, DWLS-first offense, Fleeing/eluding [WCSO]

Dallas Heath Payne, 34, Westville - Felony battery-domestic violence by strangulation [WCSO]

Brenda Miller Bishop, 42, Defuniak Springs - Petit theft - first offense [WCSO]

Solon Lee Earnest, 53, Vernon - Petit theft - first degree - more than 100 less than 750 [WCSO]

Joseph Aaron Smith, 35, Chipley - Felony battery-domestic violence by strangulation [WCSO]

Helen Rebecca Montgomery, 36, Chipley - Possession of paraphernalia, Possession of marijuana less than 20 grams [WCSO]

David Scott Barnhill, 57, Defuniak Springs - Trespassing [WCSO]

Aaron Christopher Smolen, 26, Chipley - Sale of marijuana [WCSO]

Thomas Lavon Tew, 62, Graceville - VOP - Possession of controlled substance without a prescription - Liberty County [WCSO]

Phillip Dale Adkins, 35, Caryville - Burglary, Use of two-way device to facilitate felony, Trafficking in stolen property, Possession of weapon by convicted felon, Grand theft of firearm [WCSO]

Brandon Edward Andrews, 42, Homestead, FL - Child support - two counts [WCSO]

Holmes County Arrest Reports

The following arrests were made in Holmes County between May 12 and May 18 as reported by the Holmes County Jail. All subjects are considered innocent until convicted.

Jerry Lee Moon, 66, Hartford, AL - Possession of methamphetamine, Possession of paraphernalia [HCSO]

Keri Leigh Butler, 32, Geneva, AL - Out of county warrant [HCSO]

Montez Jaque Turner, 19, Panama City - Possession of marijuana more than 20 grams, Possession of paraphernalia [HCSO]

Zechariah Hooks, 20, Bonifay - Possession of marijuana more than 20 grams, Possession of paraphernalia [HCSO]

Amy Michel Windham, 42, Ponce de Leon - VOP, Possession of hallucinogen with intent to distribute [HCSO]

Phillip Matthew Ward, 21, Defuniak Springs - Out of county warrant [HCSO]

Arthur Joseph Whitney, 53, Homeless - VOP - possession of harmful drug without a

prescription [HCSO]

Yelena Lomonosva, 53, Miami, DUI [FHP]

Dave Robert Odom, 18, Bonifay - VOP - no valid drivers license, VOP - no valid registration [HCSO]

Christopher McLean, 32, Westville - Child neglect, Possession of methamphetamine - five counts, Possession of paraphernalia - six counts, Resisting arrest without violence [HCSO]

Kathreen Adams, 23, Westville - Child neglect, Possession of methamphetamine - five counts, Possession of paraphernalia - six counts, Resisting arrest without violence [HCSO]

Ethan Lee Lewis, 27, Bonifay - FTA - knowingly DWLSR [HCSO]

Drew Daniel Labar, 34, Pensacola - FTA - fleeing/eluding, FTA - knowingly DWLS [HCSO]

Patricia Ann Lawhorn, 45, Samson, AL - Trespassing [HCSO]

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JOBLESS

From Page 7A

first quarter of 2023, up from 35.528 million in the first three months of 2022. Jimmy Heckman, the Department of Economic Opportunity’s chief of workforce statistics and economic research, credited the April job numbers to growth in “a lot of different areas in Florida.” “I think this month the fastest growing industry was professional and business services, which have a lot of high wage, high skill jobs in those sectors,” Heckman told reports during a conference call

Friday. From March to April, the professional and business services sector added 10,900 jobs, while education and health services added 7,100 jobs. Jobs involving accommodations and food services also gained, increasing by 3,400 from March. Meanwhile, positions involving transportation, warehousing, and utilities dropped by 4,800 and construction jobs declined by 1,300 in April, marking a fourth consecutive month of shrinking numbers. Heckman attributed the drop in construction jobs on “rising mortgage rates that affects demand for new

housing.” “We’re seeing that play out in other metrics too ... like new housing, construction permits and housing starts and things of that nature,” Heckman said. “So really, we’re really looking at the interest-rate environment that’s driving that specific trend.” Another trend being watched is job openings. The state currently lists 464,000 jobs posted online, a 12.3 percent decline from a year ago, Heckman said. Since April 2022, when the unemployment rate was 3.0 percent, Florida’s labor force has grown by 248,000 people and the number of people listed as

unemployed has declined by 36,000. The education and health-service sectors topped the past year’s job growth, adding 90,600 positions from April 2022 to April 2023. Jobs in the leisure and hospitality industries followed, with 89,200 new jobs. Meanwhile, jobs in the professional business sector grew by 50,200, manufacturing added 13,300 positions and construction added 8,600. Among Florida’s metropolitan-statistical areas, the lowest unemployment rate in April was 2 percent in the Crestview-Fort Walton Beach-Destin area. The Miami-Fort Lau-

derdale-West Palm Beach, Naples-Immokalee-Marco Island and the Panama City regions were each at 2.1 percent. The Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, Pensacola-Ferry Pass-Brent and Jacksonville areas were each at 2.3 percent. The highest unemployment rates were in the Homosassa Springs area, at 3.4 percent; the Sebring area, at 3.3 percent; and the Villages, at 3.1 percent. The statewide unemployment rate is seasonally adjusted, while the regional rates are not adjusted.

Washington County

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<p>000151 NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED</p> <p>Notice Is Hereby Given JAMES CHARLES GESSLEIN, the holder of the following Tax certificate, has filed said certificate for a Tax Deed to be issued thereon. The Parcel number, Certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:</p> <p>Certificate #: 18-00-02045</p> <p>Year of Issuance: 2018</p> <p>Parcel: 000000000-02-0266-0008</p> <p>Assessed To:</p> <p>JULIANN LOCKHART, KENNETH A LOCKHART</p> <p>Description:</p> <p>SUNNY HILLS UNIT #2 LOT 8 ORB 240 P 187 BLK 0266</p> <p>All of said property being located in the County of Washington, State of Florida.</p> <p>Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such Certificate will be sold to the highest bidder ONLINE AT WASHINGTON.REALTAXDEED.COM ON JULY 18, 2023 at 10:00 AM CT.</p> <p>Lora C. Bell Clerk of Court, Washington County Florida By: Kelsey Odom, Deputy Clerk May 17, 24, 31, 2023 June 7, 2023</p>	<p>highest bidder ONLINE AT WASHINGTON.REALTAXDEED.COM ON JULY 25, 2023 at 10:00 AM CT.</p> <p>Lora C. Bell Clerk of Court, Washington County Florida By: Kelsey Odom, Deputy Clerk May 24, 31, 2023 June 7, 14, 2023</p> <p>000198 STORAGE TRESURES A Safe Storage, LLC First Lien Holder, will hold a ONLINE PUBLIC AUCTION. The auction will be held online at www.StorageTreasures.com on June 1, 2023 or thereafter to satisfy past due rents. 11/30/2022 Auction Units E025, F028 Tina Sheffield 12140 County Highway 81 Ponce De Leon, FL 32455, G026 Clinton Kelly 456 1st Street Chipley, FL 32428, F006 Charles Shield 3263 Dereese Dr., Bonifay, FL 32425, H006 Laurie Messner PO Box 465 Grandridge 32442, H007 Angela Mott 1621 HWY 177A Bonifay, FL 32425, X002 Tiffany Reavis 1191 5th Ave Chipley, FL 32428, X412 Amirah Rolhac 904 Christy Lane, Chipley, FL 32428, X104 Richard Walker 3810 Robbins Rd, Montgomery, AL 36109 , Unless otherwise noted, the contents are: All household, personal, & business goods, all boxes, & any/all other items contained in the unit(s). Legal Notice Posted May 18, 2023, and May 25, 2023. End of ad Publication Dates May 24, 2023</p> <p>000199 The following vehicle will be sold at public auction at Nichols Auto Repair and Towing at 1146 Jackson Avenue, Chipley, FL 32428 at 8:00 am on the following date: 2014 CHEV 2G1WB5E36E1166807 JUNE 12 May 24, 2023</p> <p>000200 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY, FLORIDA</p> <p>Freedom Mortgage Corporation,</p> <p>Plaintiff, vs.</p> <p>The Unknown Heirs or Beneficiaries of The Estate of Robert Clarence Eddins a/k/a Robert C. Eddins, Sr. a/k/a Robert Eddins, Deceased, et al.,</p> <p>Defendants.</p> <p>/</p> <p>GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION</p> <p>Case No. 22000045CAAXMX</p> <p>NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE</p> <p>NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the Final Judgment and/or Order Rescheduling Foreclosure Sale, entered in Case No. 22000045CAAXMX of the Circuit Court</p>	<p>of the FOURTEENTH Judicial Circuit, in and for Washington County, Florida, wherein Freedom Mortgage Corporation is the Plaintiff and The Unknown Heirs or Beneficiaries of The Estate of Robert Clarence Eddins a/k/a Robert C. Eddins a/k/a Robert Eddins, Sr. a/k/a Robert Eddins, Deceased; Tabatha Marie Eddins a/k/a Tabatha Eddins; ROBERT CLARENCE EDDINS, Jr.; CYNTHIA WOOD PARK; Clerk of the Court, Washington County, Florida are the Defendants, that I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at, The Lobby of the Courthouse, 1293 Jackson Avenue, Building 100, Chipley, FL 32428 , be g i n n i n g a t 10:00 AM on the 14th day of June, 2023. , the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:</p> <p>A PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN SECTION 31, TOWNSHIP 1 NORTH, RANGE 14 WEST, WASHINGTON COUNTY, FLORIDA; BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:</p> <p>COMMENCE AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 31; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 18 MINUTES 09 SECONDS WEST, ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 31, 900.93 FEET; THENCE NORTH 01 DEGREES 05 MINUTES 14 SECONDS EAST, 508.77 FEET; THENCE NORTH 15 DEGREES 30 MINUTES 00 SECONDS WEST, 808.66 FEET, TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE SOUTH 83 DEGREES 43 MINUTES 30 SECONDS WEST, 1132.25 FEET, TO THE EASTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF A 60 FOOT ROAD; THENCE NORTH 25 DEGREES 24 MINUTES 58 SECONDS WEST, ALONG SAID EASTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE, 111.11 FEET, TO A POINT OF CURVATURE; THENCE NORTHWESTERLY ALONG THE ARC OF A CURVE TO THE LEFT, 73.91 FEET, SAID CURVE HAVING A RADIUS 280.00 FEET, A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 15 DEGREES 07 MINUTES 27 SECONDS, AND A CHORD BEARING AND DISTANCE OF NORTH 32 DEGREES 58 MINUTES 42 SECONDS WEST, 73.70 FEET; THENCE NORTH 83 DEGREES 43 MINUTES 30 SECONDS EAST, 1174.06 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 15 DEGREES 30 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST, 173.04 FEET, TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.</p> <p>A PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN SECTION 31, TOWNSHIP 1 NORTH, RANGE 14 WEST, WASHINGTON COUNTY, FLORIDA, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:</p> <p>COMMENCE AT THE SOUTHEAST</p>	<p>CORNER OF SAID SECTION 31, THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 18 MINUTES 09 SECONDS WEST, ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 31 FOR 900.93 FEET; THENCE DEPARTING SAID SECTION LINE, RUN NORTH 01 DEGREES 05 MINUTES 14 SECONDS EAST, 506.76 FEET; THENCE NORTH 15 DEGREES 30 MINUTES 00 SECONDS WEST, 981.69 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE SOUTH 83 DEGREES 43 MINUTES 30 SECONDS WEST FOR 1,174.06 FEET TO THE NORTHEASTERLY CURVING RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF RIVER LAKE DRIVE (60.00 FOOT WIDE RIGHT-OF-WAY); THENCE NORTHWESTERLY ON THE ARC OF A CURVE CONCAVE TO THE SOUTHWEST A DISTANCE OF 62.25 FEET; SAID CURVE HAVING A RADIUS OF 280.00 FEET AND A CHORD LENGTH OF 62.12 FEET, BEARING NORTH 46 DEGREES 54 MINUTES 35 SECONDS WEST; THENCE DEPARTING SAID NORTHEASTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE, RUN NORTH 77 DEGREES 57 MINUTES 22 SECONDS EAST, 958.61 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 72 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST, 281.08 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 15 DEGREES 30 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST, 28.31 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.</p> <p>TOGETHER WITH MOBILE HOME VIN NO. GAFLT54A78145 AND VIN NO. GAFLT54B78145</p> <p>Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim before the clerk reports the surplus as unclaimed.</p> <p>Dated this 8th day of May, 2023 .</p> <p>Lora Bell As Clerk of the Court</p> <p>By: JoAnn Hayes As Deputy Clerk</p> <p>PUBLISH IN: THE WASHINGTON COUNTY NEWS</p> <p>If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator by mail at P. O. Box 1089, Panama City, FL 32402 or by phone at (850) 747-5338 at least seven (7) days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than seven (7) days. If you are hearing impaired, please call 711.</p> <p>May 24, 31, 2023</p> <p>000201 Notice Under Fictitious Name Law Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes</p>	<p>NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of Taylor & Burch Clothing located at 1165 Cottonwood Rd , in the County of Washington (Address of Business) (Name of County) in the City of Cottondale, Florida 32431 intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida.</p> <p>Dated at Cottondale, Florida, this 16th day of May 2023 .</p> <p>Ethan Taylor May 24, 2023</p> <p>000202 Notice is given that Environmental Resource permit number IND - 133-310577-1 was issued on April 24, 2023 to Sheri Kocher of Florida Power & Light, Co. for the construction of a new surface water management system. The project is located at 1195 Jackson Avenue in Chipley, Washington County.</p> <p>May 24, 2023</p> <p>000203 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY, FLORIDA</p> <p>IN RE: ESTATE OF</p> <p>JANE R. SHUMAKER, f/k/a LORENA JANE SHUMAKER PROBATE DIVISION File No. 2023-CP-48 Division U Deceased.</p> <p>NOTICE TO CREDITORS</p> <p>The administration of the estate of Jane R. Shumaker, deceased, whose date of death was January 8, 2023, Case Number 23-38-CP, is pending in the Circuit Court for Washington County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 1293 W Jackson Ave # 100, Chipley, FL 32428 . The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.</p> <p>All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>The date of first publication of this notice is _____, 2023.</p> <p>Attorney for Personal Representative: STEVEN E. QUINNELL Attorney Florida Bar Number: 586595 913 Gulf Breeze Parkway Suite 8 - Harbourtown Gulf Breeze, FL 32561 Telephone: (850) 432-4386 Fax: (877) 829-6329 E-Mail: EFILING@QLAWFLORIDA.COM</p> <p>DAWN SHUMAKER SMITH 401 Bryant Rd. Pensacola, FL 32507 May 24, 31, 2023</p> <p>000204 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION</p> <p>IN RE: THE ESTATE OF</p> <p>Case No.: 23-38-CP LONNIE THOMAS CROPPER, Deceased.</p> <p>NOTICE TO CREDITORS</p> <p>The administration of the Estate of Lonnie Thomas Cropper, deceased, whose date of death was January 8, 2023, Case Number 23-38-CP, is pending in the Circuit Court for Washington County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is the Washington County Clerk, 1293 W. Jackson Ave #100, Chipley, FL 32428 . The names and addresses of the Petitioner and the Petitioner's attorney are set forth below.</p> <p>All creditors of the decedent and other persons who have claims or demands against decedent's Estate, including unmatured, contingent, or unliquidated claims and who may have been served a copy of this notice must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.</p> <p>All other creditors of the decedent and other persons who have claims or demands against the decedent's Estate, including unmatured, contingent, or unliquidated claims must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.</p>	<p>ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIMS FILED TWO YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.</p> <p>The date of the first publication of this notice is: May 24, 2023.</p> <p>TIA LYNN CROPPER Petitioner/executor 3939 Gates Ave. Chipley, FL 32428</p> <p>KRISTI MILLER NOVONGLOSKY Florida Bar No. 0182044 Post Office Box 1129 Chipley, Florida 32428 Telephone: (850) 638-7587 Attorney for Petitioner knovonglosky@gmail.com May 24, 31, 2023</p> <p>000205 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 14TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION: CASE NO.: 21000060CAAX</p> <p>U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff, vs.</p> <p>MATTHEW J. THORNE; FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION; MADALYN P. THORNE; UNKNOWN TENANT IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY, Defendants.</p> <p>RE-NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE (Please publish in THE WASHINGTON COUNTY NEWS)</p> <p>NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order on Motion to Cancel and</p>	<p>Reschedule Foreclosure Sale dated the 16 th day of May 2023 and entered in Case No. 21000060CAAX, of the Circuit Court of the 14th Judicial Circuit in and for WASHINGTON County, Florida, wherein U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION is the Plaintiff and MATTHEW J. THORNE FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION MADALYN P. THORNE UNKNOWN TENANT; and IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY are defendants. LORA C. BELL as the Clerk of the Circuit Court shall sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the, LOBBY OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 1293 JACKSON AVE CHIPLEY, FL 32428, 10:00 AM central time on the 26th day of July 2023, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:</p> <p>LOT 4, ADAMS AND MURPHY SUBDIVISION BEING A REPLAT OF A PART OF LOT 1, BLOCK B HAGERMAN'S ADDITION TO THE TOWN OF CHIPLEY, FLORIDA SECTION 33, TOWNSHIP 5 NORTH, RANGE 13 WEST, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 43, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, FLORIDA.</p> <p>IF YOU ARE A PERSON CLAIMING A RIGHT TO FUNDS REMAINING AFTER THE SALE, YOU MUST FILE A CLAIM WITH THE CLERK NO LATER THAN THE DATE THAT THE CLERK REPORTS THE FUNDS AS UNCLAIMED. IF YOU FAIL TO FILE A CLAIM, YOU WILL NOT BE ENTITLED TO ANY REMAINING FUNDS. AFTER</p>	<p>THE FUNDS ARE REPORTED AS UNCLAIMED, ONLY THE OWNER OF RECORD AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MAY CLAIM THE SURPLUS.</p> <p>If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator by mail at P. O. Box 1089, Panama City, FL 32402 or by phone at (850) 747-5338 at least seven (7) days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than seven (7) days. If you are hearing impaired, please call 711 or email ADARquest@jud14.flcourts.org.</p> <p>Dated this 17th day of May 2023.</p> <p>LORA C. BELL Clerk Of The Circuit Court By: Kelsey Odom Deputy Clerk</p> <p>Submitted by: De Cubas & Lewis, P.A. P.O. Box 771270 Coral Springs, FL 33077</p> <p>DESIGNATED PRIMARY E-MAIL FOR SERVICE PURSUANT TO FLA. R. JUD. ADMIN 2.516 eservice@decubaslewis.com FILE NO. 21-00586 May 24, 31, 2023</p> <p>LAND/ACREAGE</p> <p>1-Acre plot and 2-Acre plot in Jacob City Florida (850)849-9338</p>

HELP WANTED

Join Our Team

Job Opening

Street Crewman III

The City of Chipley is accepting applications for a **Street Crewman III**.

Minimum Qualifications: Knowledge of general maintenance tasks and procedures; knowledge of grounds maintenance, including preventative maintenance and operating various equipment. Must be able to operate a cement mixer, set forms, pour, shovel and level concrete. This position acts as assistant to the Street Department Foreman and must in the Foreman's absence, supervise the crew and continue all duties with minimum interruption to work. This position is subject to on-call requirements.

Education and Experience: High School diploma or possession of an acceptable equivalency diploma. Two (2) years of experience operating heavy equipment. Must possess a valid State of Florida Driver's License Class "B" CDL.

A job description is available upon request. Mail or hand deliver application and/or resume to Assistant City Administrator/City Clerk, City of Chipley, 1442 Jackson Ave., Post Office Box 1007, Chipley, Florida 32428. Deadline: Open until filled.

Equal Opportunity Employer/Drug Free Workplace.

City of Chipley Benefits Package includes:

" Annual Leave - 13 days paid each year

" Sick Leave - 13 days paid each year

" Personal Day - 1 day paid each year

" Holidays—12 days paid each year

" Medical Insurance - 73% paid for employee and family coverage

" Life Insurance - \$10,000 paid for each employee

" Florida Retirement System (FRS)

CELEBRATE COMMUNITY

4th annual Vortex Spring Rodeo draws huge crowd

DIANE M. MOORE
Dmoore@nevespublishing.com

The fourth annual Vortex Spring Rodeo drew thousands over the weekend to the home of the ‘Diver Down Flag’ for some good old fashioned family fun.

“We aim to bring more and more tourism to Holmes County and especially the ‘wild west side,’ better known as Vortex Spring and Ponce de Leon,” said Vortex Spring Adventures owner Angela Dockery. “Build it, then fill it. Numerous equestrian organizations are saying, ‘wow, we can bring our organization here to ride! We can camp, swim, dive, ride side by side, horses and Jeeps, all at the same location.’”

The event drew hundreds of professional cowboys and cowgirls. From team roping, breakaway roping, saddle and bareback bronc riding, calf roping, steer wrestling,

barrel racing, bull riding and crowd favorite mutton busting, there was something for everyone.

Entertainment after Friday night’s action was provided by Shane Owen, a local favorite. Saturday’s headliner at the Rustic Ranch Farms was William Lee Golden and The Golden’s. Golden’s name may sound familiar as he was a member of The Oakridge Boys.

Vortex Spring Rodeo is sanctioned by the Professional Cowboy Association (PCA) and was voted in 2021 as the PCA’s Best New Rodeo.

Dockery said many worked behind the scenes to help make the rodeo a reality, and she plans to keep presenting the event for years to come.

“We’d like to thank Chase Crow for going above and beyond the call of duty to help us produce the best rodeo yet,” she said. “We look forward to many more to come. Let’s grow this.”



The Grand Entry kicks off the Vortex Spring Rodeo. [CHERYL GAINER MCCALL | CONTRIBUTED]



Team roping has these two cowboys showing the definition of teamwork. [CHERYL GAINER MCCALL | CONTRIBUTED]



This saddle bronc rider earned his entry fee with this ride. [CHERYL GAINER MCCALL | CONTRIBUTED]



Breakaway roping is a solo event this cowgirl does with determination. [CHERYL GAINER MCCALL | CONTRIBUTED]



Little miss is doing her best to stay on her sheep during mutton bustin’ at the Vortex Spring Rodeo. [CHERYL GAINER MCCALL | CONTRIBUTED]



Barrel racers start early in their sport as seen by this contestant at the Vortex Spring Rodeo. [CHERYL GAINER MCCALL | CONTRIBUTED]



Bull riding is a top draw for rodeo goers at the Vortex Spring Rodeo. [CHERYL GAINER MCCALL | CONTRIBUTED]



A cowboy awaits his ride at the Vortex Spring Rodeo. [CHERYL GAINER MCCALL | CONTRIBUTED]







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

Southern Lights talent competition auditions wrap up *Over \$18,000 in cash and prizes*

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS AND ADVERTISER

Southern Lights Productions is in its fifth year helping talented people reach new heights with this year shaping up to be the biggest talent event we’ve seen yet. This year there will be more prizes than ever from up to \$10,000, recording deals, studio time, Chipola scholarships, a video deal and even the audience choice award. The audition period concludes May 31 so there are only a few days left for people to submit their audition videos.

This year, the live event will once again be hosted by Chipola College in Marianna. Anyone with a family friendly talent in South Alabama, South Georgia and Northwest Florida is encouraged to enter this year’s event. All family friendly talent is welcome from singers, musi-

cians, songwriters, magicians, comedians, etc. This is the opportunity you’ve been looking for. For details about how to enter this year’s talent event, more information can be found at www.SouthernLights.cc

Hosted by Charlie Dykes and executed by a volunteer board of community supporters, Southern Lights was launched in 2019 as a platform for individuals passionate about performing arts and entertainment who reside in small towns and rural communities of our region. This year in conjunction with Chipola College, Jackson County TDC, and many other sponsors, Southern Lights is bringing back this incredible event and giving away over \$18,000 in cash and prizes. Visit <https://www.southernlights.cc/> for more information.



Charlie Dykes
Southern Lights Productions Inc
770-557-2411
www.southernlights.cc
#SouthernLightsFL

Panhandle Lumber celebrates ribbon cutting



The Holmes County Chamber of Commerce celebrated a ribbon cutting with members at Panhandle Lumber & Supply. The locally owned building supply store has been in business since 1994 and has given the store a recent renovation. Manager Miranda Hudson said the great customer service is the same while the store has grown their inventory. [TAYLOR MAPLES | CONTRIBUTED]

Disney ditches \$1 billion Central Florida effort

THE NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA

TALLAHASSEE — Walt Disney Company on Thursday scrapped plans to build a nearly \$1 billion office complex and relocate 2,000 California-based cast members to Florida.

The move comes after Disney earlier this year announced reorganization plans to cut costs by \$5.5 billion, including \$3 billion related to content spending, while the entertainment giant faces a growing legal and ideological clash with Gov. Ron DeSantis.

Josh D’Amaro, Disney’s theme park and consumer products chairman, told cast members that “changing business conditions” spurred the decision to cancel the planned 1.8 million-square-foot Lake Nona corporate complex outside Orlando.

Walt Disney World Resort President Jeff Vahle expressed similar sentiments in a letter to community leaders Thursday.

“Since we first announced this project, several dynamics have changed, including a change in company leadership and evolving economic and business conditions,” Vahle wrote.

Vahle added the company’s core business that helps draw “millions of visitors” annually to Central Florida continues to plan on investing \$17 billion into the region over the next 10 years, creating 13,000 new jobs.

“We hope those plans will become a future reality,” Vahle said in the statement.

The company also expects to break ground next year on a 1,400-unit affordable and attainable housing development that is going up on 80 acres, Vahle added.

Disney CEO Bob Iger, who replaced Bob Chapek last November, and DeSantis, as he prepares an anticipated presidential run, have elevated their barbs in a fight that stemmed from the company’s opposition to a 2022 law that limits classroom instruction about gen-

der identity and sexual orientation. Critics disparagingly dubbed the measure the “don’t say gay” act.

The dispute has spread into multiple courtrooms and prompted state lawmakers to pass legislation recently signed by DeSantis that calls for state oversight of Disney’s iconic monorail system.

During the company’s second-quarter earnings call last week, Iger said questions about risks to Disney’s future should be directed toward the state.

“Does the state want us to invest more, employ more people and pay more taxes or not?” Iger replied when asked how investors should view the short- and long-term impacts of DeSantis’ clash with Disney.

Iger also used the quarterly call to outline how Florida has benefited from its half-century partnership with the company, as Disney pays more than \$1.1 billion a year in state and local taxes and employs more than 75,000 people.

In an interview with The American Conservative released Monday, DeSantis elaborated on approach to Disney. He characterized the company as being held hostage by “a cabal of people who will go berserk if they don’t get their way.”

“Sometimes you just need an executive to come in and tell them to pound sand,” he said.

Democrats were quick to blame DeSantis for Thursday’s announcement.

“Florida just lost 2,000 jobs and millions in additional revenue because of Ron DeSantis’ unhinged personal vendetta against Disney,” Florida Democratic Party Chairwoman Nikki Fried said in a statement.

Orlando Democratic Sen. Linda Stewart called the decision “understandable given the business climate we are in as a state.”

Former President Donald Trump, who has repeatedly lashed out at DeSantis as an

anticipated opponent in the 2024 Republican presidential race, also chimed in.

“Ron DeSantis’ failed war on Disney has done little for his limping shadow campaign, and now is doing even less for Florida’s economy,” Trump’s campaign said in a statement.

The Lake Nona plans were announced in July 2021 but started to hit turbulence by March 2022, when Chapek expressed the company’s opposition to the education measure.

Employees in California were initially advised they had 18 months to move to the East Coast, but by January of this year the completion date of the complex was pushed into 2026.

DeSantis and state lawmakers have taken a number of steps targeting Disney in response to the company’s criticism of the education law.

Lawmakers, at DeSantis’ behest, last year stripped Disney of its unique self-governing power in Central Florida. The special taxing district was created in the 1960s and gave Disney control over issues such as sewage and roads.

In February, the Republican-controlled Legislature gave DeSantis the power to appoint board members of the renamed Central Florida Tourism Oversight District.

The state and Disney are also in a dispute over development agreements reached between the company and members of the former Reedy Creek Improvement District.

As the state moved to nullify the agreements, Walt Disney Parks and Resorts filed a federal lawsuit alleging retribution orchestrated by DeSantis has economically harmed the company and violated its constitutional rights in speaking out against a state law.

The current board has countered with a state lawsuit seeking to overturn the agreements, and DeSantis recently signed legislation that sets up a process to nullify the development agreements reached by the former board.

Signature deadline nears for disaster, ‘Freedom’ holidays

THE NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA

TALLAHASSEE — Retailers are awaiting action by Gov. Ron DeSantis as two of the six sales tax “holiday” periods included in a nearly \$1 billion proposed tax-relief package are scheduled to begin this weekend.

Key components of the tax package (HB 7063) include a 14-day period in which sales taxes would be lifted on hurricane supplies, common household items and pet supplies, along with a separate three-month effort encouraging people to be more physically active, dubbed “Freedom Summer.” The proposal accompanies the state budget (SB 2500), which also is pending action by DeSantis.

The two upcoming sales-tax holidays, strongly supported by the Florida Retail Federation, are vastly expanded from previous years’ tax breaks. According to state economists, the holidays are expected to account for nearly 40 percent of the \$965.6 million in sales tax and time-limited tax credits in the tax package.

But Scott Shalley, president and CEO of the Tallahassee-based lobbying group, said it’s uncertain how shoppers will respond to the proposed tax breaks.

“We really don’t have a feel yet because it’s new. And because we are on a relatively short schedule here with regard to the approval of the governor,” Shalley told The News Service of Florida. “We’re very appreciative of how robust the factors are. We just want to make sure that people are educated and that they get out and shop.”

Much of the initial focus will be on storm-preparation discounts, which would now go beyond batteries and portable radios to include common household supplies such as laundry, trash bags and even pet foods. The already-active 2023 Atlantic Hurricane season officially begins on June 1.

“Keep in mind, this is a holiday that is intended to be geared towards disaster preparedness, but certainly not restricted to that,” Shalley said. “So, it’s a great time to shop for those items and get out and save a few dollars.”

If approved by DeSantis, the “disaster preparedness” holiday period would run from Saturday to June 9. It will be rerun just before the peak of the storm season, from Aug. 26 to Sept. 8.

The second upcoming holiday would lift sales

taxes throughout the summer on a variety of items for outside activities, from exercising and camping to attending a ball game, concert or art museum.

The “freedom” holiday for the past two years was a week-long tax holiday that ran across the Independence Day weekend. This year’s plan would stretch from Monday to Labor Day, Sept. 4.

State economists have estimated that the disaster-prep periods would save shoppers \$143.8 million, with “Freedom Summer” carrying a \$229.9 million price tag for state and local revenue.

The tax package also would lift taxes on Energy Star appliances and gas ranges for all of fiscal year 2023-2024, which starts July 1. The proposal also includes sales-tax holidays on school items from July 24 to Aug. 6 and again from Jan. 1 to Jan. 14, and a tax break on skilled workers’ tools from Sept. 2 to Sept. 8.

As of Monday, the governor had not yet received the tax package or the record \$117 billion state spending plan.

Here is a look at what lawmakers included in the disaster-preparedness holiday:

- Items \$10 or less: cans or pouches of wet dog food or cat food.
- Items \$15 or less: manual can openers, pet waste disposal bags, cat litter pans, collapsible or travel-sized food bowls or water bowls, and hamster or rabbit substrate.
- Items \$20 or less: reusable ice, pet leashes, collars and muzzles, and pet pads.

- Items \$25 or less: cat litter weighing 25 or fewer pounds.
- Items \$30 or less: laundry detergent and supplies, such as fabric softener, dryer sheets and bleach; toilet paper; paper towels, paper napkins and tissues; hand soap, bar soap and body wash; sunscreen; dish soap and detergents; cleaning or disinfecting wipes and sprays; hand sanitizer; and trash bags.
- Items \$40 or less: portable self-powered light sources and pet beds.
- Items \$50 or less: batteries, not including automobile and boat batteries; gas or diesel fuel tanks; portable self-powered radios; two-way radios; and weather-band radio.

Welcome, Buck



Holmes County Sheriff's Office has a brand new four-legged deputy patrolling the roads. K9 Buck recently passed his narcotics certification and is ready to start working with his handler Deputy Bo Smith. [CONTRIBUTED]

LOW INCOME DOES NOT HAVE TO EQUAL "LOW HEALTH"

If your household income is within the ranges listed below, you may qualify for health insurance!


You likely qualify for free or low monthly premiums

Our **certified NAVIGATORS** can help you complete an application with the Federal Health Insurance Marketplace **for FREE**, as well as:

- Comparing plans
- Renewing coverage
- Switching/locating providers
- Account updates
- Answer questions

Family Size:	Family Income:
1	\$13,590 - \$20,385
2	\$18,310 - \$27,465
3	\$23,030 - \$34,545
4	\$27,750 - \$41,625
5	\$32,470 - \$48,705

Navigators offer free help. We work for you, not insurance! Make an appointment at bigbendahec.org or call us today at 850-224-1177.



FOOD

Life, death, and sharing banana bread



Stephanie Hill-Frazier
Guest Columnist

Nothing brings out the generosity of a Southern cook like the birth of a child or the loss of a loved one

We Southerners have a long-standing tradition of



Perfect Banana Bread
[STEPHANIE HILL-FRAZIER]

feeding people during emotional times in our lives, such as sickness, childbirth, or the death of a loved one. These occurrences in life bring on a thoughtful and delicious onslaught of casseroles, cakes, breads and sweet tea. It truly is a lovely custom, intended to express to the family of a new baby that you celebrate the arrival with them, or to the family of the departed that you share their grief.

Sharing food during life changes like these is meant to show love and to remove the burden of preparation from the family in question. Occasionally, though, we overdo it, and the family is faced with more food than their refrigerator and freezer could possibly hold.

As a solution, I have moved to smaller food offerings for both post-childbirth and post-funeral offerings. Quick breads are an offering that I hope will easily be stuck into a freezer if there is no immediate need of it, and that will nourish a new mama or offer a quick, no-preparation-required breakfast for one who is

grieving and doesn't feel like cooking.

My favorite quick bread (and a favorite of thousands of my website visitors) is what I call "perfect banana bread," because it offers the perfect balance of banana flavor and moist texture, and it is quite easy to make. This makes a wonderful breakfast with a glass of milk or cup of coffee, which can be a real blessing to have handy during stressful times. I hope that it helps bring comfort and nourishment to anyone who needs it in your life this week.

You need not save this recipe for sharing with others, of course; make a loaf or two for yourself when you have some nice, spotty bananas begging not to be wasted. Enjoy with a tall glass of cold milk or a steaming cup of coffee or tea, and get your day off to a flavorful start.

I decided to share another sweet, delicious bread recipe for those who may not care for bananas but want to bake something delicious this week. This apple bread recipe is a favorite of my old-



Mama Steph's Apple Bread [STEPHANIE HILL-FRAZIER]

est son; I make it for him as often as I can when we're in the same town, and I've even wrapped tins of it up as one of his Christmas gifts a few times. He's always thrilled; that's how much he loves it. It's definitely a wonderful treat; the flavor of the cinnamon, the moisture of the apples, and the crunch of the nuts make this a wonderful treat to share. It makes two generous loaves.

Give them a try, and let me know how it turns out

for you by emailing me at Steph@whatsouthernfolkseat.com.

Stephanie Hill-Frazier is a writer, food blogger and regional television chef, whose on-air nickname is "Mama Steph." She grew up in Gulf County, on St. Joe Beach, a place she will forever call home. She is married and has three sons who are substantially taller than she is. You can find more of her recipes at WhatSouthernFolksEat.com.

Perfect Banana Bread

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, at room temperature
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1 1/2 cups plain flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup mashed very ripe bananas (about 3)
- 1/2 cup sour cream or Greek yogurt

- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts or pecans, or mini semi-sweet chocolate chips (optional)

Method:

- 1 - Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Use cooking spray or butter to coat inside of a loaf pan; set aside. In an electric mixer, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add eggs, and beat until well-blended.
- 2 - In a separate medium bowl, whisk together flour, baking soda, and salt. Add this to the butter mixture, and mix until just combined. Add bananas, sour cream, and vanilla; mix well. Stir in nuts, if using, and pour into prepared pan.
- 3 - Bake until a toothpick inserted into the center of the cake comes out clean, about 1 hour 10 minutes. Cool in pan for 10 minutes, then turn out onto a cooling rack. Allow to cool completely before wrapping in foil or plastic wrap, if that is your intention.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS BID NAME: Chipley Communications Tower

BID NUMBER: 2023-06

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons or firms that sealed bids, submitted in triplicate, will be accepted by the City of Chipley, located at the Chipley City Hall, 1442 Jackson Avenue, Chipley, Florida 32428, until 2:00 p.m., local time on June 22, 2023, for the following item or items:

Chipley Communications Tower to service First Responders Communications of the City of Chipley. The Communications Tower will be built and placed at 1044 Highway 90, Chipley, Florida 32428.

Bids will be opened in the Meeting Room in the City of Chipley City Hall located at 1442 Jackson Avenue, Chipley, Florida 32428 at 3:00 p.m., local time on June 22, 2023.

Detailed specifications and a bid sheet may be obtained from:
Scott Thompson, Chief of Police
Chipley Police Department
1430 Jackson Avenue
Chipley, Florida 32428
Phone: (850) 638-6310
Email: sthompson@cityofchipley.com

IMPORTANT: Bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope marked:

"Chipley Communications Tower" and identified by the Name of the Company, Name and Number of the Bid, along with the date and time of opening. Bids will be received by either hand delivery to the City Clerk's Office located at 1442 Jackson Avenue, Chipley, Florida or by mail at City of Chipley, Attention: City Clerk's Office, Post Office Box 1007, Chipley, Florida 32428 by the Bid closing deadline. Late submittals received after the aforementioned deadline date, either by mail or otherwise, will not be considered and will be returned unopened. The time of receipt will be determined by the time received in the City of Chipley City Hall – City Clerk's Office. It is the sole responsibility of the firm for assuring that the bid is received in the City Clerk's Office by the designated date and time. No faxed, electronic or oral bids will be accepted.

SPECIAL NOTE:

The City requires a business license tax be paid for the privilege of engaging in any business within the city limits. Please contact the City Clerk's Office for a fee schedule.

No bid may be withdrawn for a period of fifteen days after the scheduled closing time for receipt of bids.

The City of Chipley reserves the right to waive any informality or to reject any or all bids.

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER
HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE/FAIR HOUSING
JURISDICTION**



Mama Steph's Apple Bread

Ingredients:

- 1 cup oil
- 3 eggs
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 3-4 cups diced apples (about three big apples; I don't peel them.)
- 3 cups plain flour
- 2 teaspoons of cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup of chopped nuts, optional

Method:

- 1- Mix dry ingredients, except sugar, together in a mixing bowl, and set aside. In mixer bowl, cream together oil, eggs, sugar, and vanilla. Blend it for a couple of minutes, until it lightens in color and looks whipped.
 - 2- Turn mixer to lowest setting, and add the dry ingredients, about 1/2 cup at a time, until mixture is well incorporated and uniform. Then gently add in chopped apples. (By the way, I've even used plain old Red Delicious apples in this with good results. Use whatever you have.)
 - 3- Scoop the thick batter into two greased and floured loaf pans, or three disposable aluminum loaf pans.
- Bake in two loaf pans or 3 foil pans for 1½ hours at 300 degrees.

EDUCATION

Tigers are 1A Baseball Champs



Chipley High School baseball team traveled to Fort Myers this week where they played in the state championship game against the Lafayette Hornets. With a score of 10-1, the Tigers brought home the State Baseball Championship to CHS. [CONTRIBUTED]

Dylan Richards signs with Warner University



Bethlehem High School senior Dylan Richards recently signed with Warner University to play baseball on the collegiate level. Not only was Richards awarded a \$52,000 scholarship, he graduated Summa Cum Laude with a GPA of over 4.0 and earned a Medallion Bright Futures Scholarship. He is the son of Rodney and Sheila Richards. [CONTRIBUTED]

Roman Purvee signs with Wallace Community College



Bethlehem High School's Roman Purvee is the first ever student to receive a golf scholarship in school history. Purvee recently signed with Lurleen B. Wallace Community College to play golf on the collegiate level. Purvee graduated Summa Cum Laude and was also a recipient of the Tyler Erickson Golf Scholarship. He is the son of Howard and Lisa Purvee.. [CONTRIBUTED]

PUBLIC NOTICE RFP-FSMC

Request for Proposals-Food Service Management Company
April 26, 2023 2:00 p.m. cst

Request for proposals will be received from eligible vendors at the School District of Holmes County (hereinafter the District), 701 E. Pennsylvania Ave., Bonifay, FL 32425, until May

26, 2023 at 10:00 AM local time. The purpose and intent of this RFP is to secure a proposal for services from a Food Service Management Company for the 2023-2024 school year. All Proposals submitted shall be on the RFP response form included in the RFP specifications, a copy of which may be reviewed or obtained from the District or by downloading from Holmes County School District's website at: www.hdsb.org.

Questions: Questions regarding specifications shall be submitted via email to carmen.bush@hdsb.org. Questions are due no later than May 10, 2023.

The District does not discriminate based on age, race, color, gender, religion, national origin, disability or marital status.

The School District of Holmes County
701 E. Pennsylvania Ave.
Bonifay, FL 32425
BY: Carmen Bush

Publicly posted in the lobby of the Holmes County School District Board Office

on _____.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or if all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.) If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250- 9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish). "USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

FOLICK TO EDUCATION

THE NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA

Joe Follick will join the Department of Education as director of communications on Monday. Follick, 45, heads to DOE from the Department of Children and Families, where he has been communications director since October 2009. Follick is a former reporter, having gone to DCF after working for the then-New York Times Regional Newspapers and came to Tallahassee in 2000 to work for the Tampa Tribune. He also worked at newspapers in Indiana and Michigan. He's a graduate of the University of Cincinnati.



JOE FOLICK

NOTICE OF QUALIFYING FOR THE CITY OF CHIPLEY GENERAL ELECTION AND REGISTRATION BOOK CLOSING

On Tuesday, August 1, 2023, a General Election will be held for the City of Chipley at Chipley City Hall, 1442 d cko n Avenue. Term of office expires on September 30, 2023 for the following positions: Council Member Ward 2 and Council Member Ward 3. These offices will be opened to qualified candidates. Qualifying for these offices will begin at 8:00 a.m., Monday, June 5, 2023, and end at 4:00 p.m., Friday, June 9, 2023. The qualifying fee for each office is \$252.00. Those wishing to qualify may do so with the City Clerk at Chipley City Hall during the above stated time period. The Voter Registration book will close on July 3, 2023. All city residents within the city limits of Chipley, who are registered to vote by June 3, 2023, are eligible to vote in this election regardless of where you live in the city. City elections are non-partisan and political party affiliation does not apply. Please contact Patrice A. Tanner, Asst. City Administrator/City Clerk at (850) 638-6350 should you have any questions or need other information regarding the upcoming city election.

FAITH

Remember the fallen



CALEB DUNCAN
Guest Columnist

Memorial Day is a solemn holiday in which we take a moment to reflect and remember the brave men and women who have sacrificially served our great nation. Those who have served in

the U.S. military have made the greatest sacrifice for our freedoms and deserve the greatest respect. If it were not for their service, we would not be able to enjoy the freedoms we have today.

Jesus has a special place in his heart for those who have laid down their lives for others. In John 15, Jesus tells us about the death that he was about to face. He said there is a certain type of love demonstrated by those who would die to protect their friends. John 15:12, “This is my commandment, that

you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.”

This type of love is shown by men and women who have died to protect the freedoms of Americans. And this is the same type of love that Jesus faced on the cross. When He died, He died for you and me. His sacrifice secured the freedoms that we now have as Christians. When Jesus laid down his life for us, his forgiveness was immediately available to all who would

put their trust in Him. 1 John 2:1 says, “He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”

The freedom that we have as Americans allows us the freedoms we have to live a free life in Jesus Christ: to worship, to pray openly without fear of persecution, to gather together as a body of Christ and listen to the preaching of God’s word, and so many more things. The joy that we experience in this life has come to us with a cost to others. And if you are grieving this Memorial Day weekend, you are not alone.

If anyone knows about the grief of life loss, it is Jesus Christ. Near the very end of his life, his disciples knew that He would soon be leaving them. He comforts them with words like, “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.” (John 14:1-3)

While this upcoming weekend typically includes a break from

work and time spent with family, we must not neglect to remember and pray for the families of these brave men and women. Take a moment and call a friend, message a family member, let them know you are praying for them this weekend. There are many who are grieving the loss of loved ones on this upcoming Memorial Day.

Caleb Duncan is the Director for the West Florida Baptist Association in Chipley, and holds an M.A. in Ethics, Theology and Culture from Southeastern Seminary. Email him at WfbaDom@outlook.com or follow his twitter @calebtduncan.

Teaching the next generation to pray for America



SHERYL BOLDT
Guest Columnist

What would happen if we taught our children and grandchildren to pray for our nation?

How different might our future generations be if more of us earnestly prayed for those who serve in our armed forces? Think of how glorious our intercession could be

for America – and for the nations who benefit from her influence.

Conversely, imagine where our country would be today if no one ever prayed for our nation and our military and their families. Or if we neglected our Gold Star families (families of fallen service members).

We owe a great debt to those who are serving and have served. Without them, we’d be vulnerable to our adversaries and suffer unthinkable terror and bondage like some nations are experiencing.

We want our children and grandchildren (and their children and grandchildren)

not only to live in a free country, but to understand the cost of freedom and to never take our great (albeit imperfect) country for granted.

Earlier this month, we prayed for our nation as we celebrated the National Day of Prayer. Now, on Memorial Day, we honor those who have died defending our country. What better way to honor them than by continuing to pray for America, especially for our military?

Let’s place the protection of our armed forces high on our prayer list. Let’s also intercede for the soldiers’ families – especially those who can never welcome their soldiers back home.

I’m thankful God blessed me with people who modeled prayer as a way of life. Because of their example, I endeavored to model the same to my children. If we teach our younger generations well, perhaps they’ll learn to respect our nation’s leaders and our military. Maybe

they’ll be more likely to honor our flag and better appreciate our Gold Star families.

Paul, in 1 Timothy 2:1-2, urges us to pray for all people: “First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.”

If we commit to intercede for America, especially for our leaders and our armed forces – and teach future generations to do the same – we could become a country whose values God can bless.

Do our country and its leaders really need our prayers? Would our military and their families notice if we were to intercede on their behalf?

What do you think? *Sheryl H. Boldt is the author of the blog, www.TodayCanBeDifferent.net. Connect with her at SherylHBoldt@gmail.com.*

OBITUARY

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

MARGIE ELENA JUNE MCLEAN

Margie Elena June McLean, received her angel wings on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 just before her second birthday.

Margie was born May 31, 2021 at Jackson Hospital in Marianna, FL. During her short time here on earth, Margie touched many lives. She was not only a great sister to her brother, Oliver and Cullen, but a loving daughter, granddaughter and friend. She copied every move that Oliver made and loved having play time, eating, dancing and giving big hugs.

She is survived by her two brothers, Oliver and Cullen McLean; grandparents, Laddie and Rae

McLean, Becky Mullins Adams and Scott Adams; uncle, Jeff and wife, Jenna Norton;

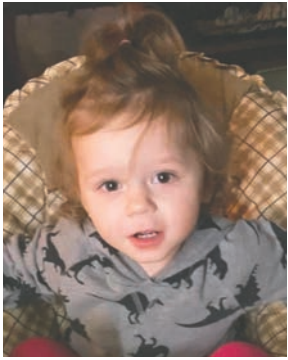
aunts, Madison McLean, Brianna Adams and Foster McLean.

A graveside funeral service will be 1:30 p.m. Tuesday,

May 23, 2023 in the Westville Cemetery (2041 US-90 Westville, FL 32464) with Marianna Chapel Funeral Home directing.

The family will receive friends for a time of visitation from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at Marianna Chapel Funeral Home.

Condolences may be submitted online at <http://www.mariannachapel.com>



The old man who lives under the bridge



R.A. TEA MATHEWS
Guest Columnist

It happened one dark night. I had gone for a drive, worrying about something and trying to clear my head. That’s when I spotted him—an old, homeless man.

It was bitterly cold, and I thought he must be desperate to be out in that weather. I found a drive-thru and brought him hot chili and a sandwich. But I carefully kept my distance, putting the food on the

corner opposite him. After that night, I saw him during the day at the same intersection. If the light was red, I would talk to him through the window, eventually learning that he lived under the bridge.

I thought of that old man when my neighbor stopped by last Saturday. Here’s why.

Mel works long, hard hours throughout the week, but every weekend I get a text from her, “I’m at your back door.”

I injured my knee, and Mel is determined to help me.

“No,” I always say. “Sit and let’s catch up.”

“I will, but first—” And then she starts a project.

“No, Mel.”

See MATHEWS, Page 7B

MATHEWS

From Page 6B

“But it makes me happy.”

How is that possible, I thought, eyeing her on Saturday. That’s when I remembered the old man who lives under the bridge.

Christmas Day, I had spotted him on his corner. Immediately, I searched through a gas station, the only thing open. I explained the matter to the clerk who quickly helped me put together a Christmas dinner.

At the cash register, another shopper had overheard the conversation and turned to me.

“Here,” she said, handing me money. I could have said,

“No, I’ve got this.” But I didn’t. She wanted to help, to also care for him on Christmas Day.

Mel and that shopper remind me of an important moment in Scripture. Do you recall whose feet Jesus washed?

1. Mary Magdalene’s

2. Lazarus’

3. All of the disciples’ feet, except those of Judas

4. None of the above

Lock in your answer. Here’s the passage from the 13 th chapter of John.

“Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus ... got up from supper and laid His outer garments aside; and He took a towel and tied it around Himself. Then He poured water into the basin, and began washing

the disciples’ feet and wiping them with the towel which He had tied around Himself ... Then, when He had washed their feet ... He said to them, ‘...if I, the Lord and the Teacher, wash your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.’” (John 13:1-14)

The correct answer is No. 4, “None of the above.” Jesus washed all of the disciples’ feet, including Judas’.

What happened after Jesus washed their feet?

1. Judas kissed Jesus.

2. Jesus led them to a garden.

3. Jesus healed a blind man.

4. Jesus was arrested.

Lock in your answer. If you have the red-letter version of the Bible, chapters 13

through 17 of John’s Gospel are mostly red. That’s five chapters of Jesus speaking after He washed the disciples’ feet.

Five chapters!

You can almost see John closing his eyes as he writes, listening to the Lord’s words.

You can do the same. “YouVersion” is a free Bible app for your phone. It’s easy to use to listen to Jesus.

Our Lord left the Last Supper with His disciples in chapter 18, heading toward a garden.

The correct answer is No. 2, “Jesus led them to a garden.”

But what did Jesus say immediately after He washed the disciples’ feet?

1. “I am the Good Shepherd.”

2. “I am about to be arrested.”

3. “Judas will betray Me.”

4. “I am giving you a new commandment.”

Lock in your answer. Here’s the passage:

After washing the disciples’ feet, Jesus said, “I am giving you a new commandment ... just as I have loved you ... also love one another. By this all people will know that you are My disciples: if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35)

The correct answer is No. 4.

Can you imagine what that would look like? If a man spoke to his child, nodding toward a passerby, saying, “There goes a Christian.”

“Daddy, how do you

know that?”

“You can tell by the way he loves.”

But this new commandment does more than separate you as a Christian. It will bring you joy.

If you’re worried, if darkness is discouraging you, ask God to show you someone in need. For me, it’s an old man who lives under the bridge. For Melanie Ezell, it’s me, her across the street neighbor.

Caring for another is a great source of happiness.

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

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Holmes County Classifieds

Place your classifieds by calling 850.638.0212

LEGAL ADVERTISING	LEGAL ADVERTISING	LEGAL ADVERTISING	LEGAL ADVERTISING	LEGAL ADVERTISING	LEGAL ADVERTISING	LEGAL ADVERTISING	LEGAL ADVERTISING	LEGAL ADVERTISING
<p>000038 NOTICE TO CREDITORS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR HOLMES COUNTY, FLORIDA -PROBATE DIVISION IN RE: ESTATE OF MARY A. SKIPPER, DECEASED File No. 23000028PRAXMX</p> <p>NOTICE TO CREDITORS The administration of the estate of Mary A. Skipper, deceased, whose date of death was July 26, 2026, is pending in the Circuit Court for Holmes County, Florida, Probate Division the address of which is 201 N. Oklahoma Street, Bonifay, Florida 32425. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below. All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE 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. 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 May 10, 2023. Personal Representative: Owen Powell P.O. Box 789 Bonifay, Florida 32425 Benjamin S. Armstrong Attorney for Personal Representative Florida Bar No. 0609382 200 Grove Park Lane, Suite 670, Dothan, Alabama 3630 (334)793-2629 May 10, 17, 24, 2023</p> <p>000041 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL</p>	<p>CIRCUIT IN AND FOR HOLMES COUNTY, FLORIDA</p> <p>PROBATE DIVISION Case No.: 23 CP 000115 IN RE: ESTATE OF HARVEY LEO SIMMONS Deceased.</p> <p>NOTICE TO CREDITORS</p> <p>The administration of the estate of HARVEY LEO SIMMONS, deceased, whose date of death was October 18, 2017, and the last four numbers of whose social security number is 6389 is pending in the Circuit Court for Holmes County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Clerk of the Circuit Court, Holmes County Courthouse, 201 N. Oklahoma Street, Bonifay, Florida 32425. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.</p> <p>All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.</p> <p>NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF</p>	<p>DEATH IS BARRED.</p> <p>The date of first publication of this notice is May 17, 2023.</p> <p>Attorney for Personal Representative:</p> <p>Reça Rene Youell, Esq.</p> <p>Janene A. Simmons, Personal Representative 1250 Circle Drive 526 Passion Flower Street DeFuniak Springs, Florida 32435 DeFuniak Springs, FL 32433 Telephone: (850) 892-7363 Email: reneyouell@outlook.com May 17, 24, 2023</p> <p>000043 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 14TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR HOLMES COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION: CASE NO.: 22-00340 FEDERAL HOME LOAN MORTGAGE CORPORATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR FREDDIE MAC SEASONED CREDIT RISK TRANSFER TRUST, SERIES 2020-3, Plaintiff, vs. UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DE- VISEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDI- TORS, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHERS WHO MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST IN THE ESTATE OF DEBBIE R. MONTGOMERY; KENNETH AARON MONTGOMERY; UN- KNOWN TENANT IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY, Defendants.</p> <p>RE-NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE (Please publish in HOLMES COUNTY TIMES)</p> <p>NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order on Motion to Cancel and Reschedule Foreclosure Sale dated the 1st day of May 2023, and entered in Case No. 22-00340, of the Circuit Court of the 14TH Judicial Circuit in and for HOLMES County, Florida, wherein FEDERAL HOME LOAN MORT- GAGE CORPORA- TION, AS TRUSTEE FOR FREDDIE MAC SEASONED CREDIT RISK TRANSFER TRUST, SERIES 2020- 3 is the Plaintiff and UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DE-</p>	<p>WISEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDI- TORS, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHERS WHO MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST IN THE ESTATE OF DEBBIE R. MONTGOMERY KEN- NETH AARON MONT- GOMERY DEBBIE R. MONTGOMERY; and UNKNOWN TENANT IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY are defendants. SAM BAILEY as the Clerk of the Circuit Court shall sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the FRONT STEPS OF THE HOLMES COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 201 N. OKLAHOMA STREET, BONIFAY, FL 32425, 11:00 AM on the 6 th day of July 2023, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit: COMMENCE AT THE SE CORNER OF NE 1/4 OF NE 1/4 OF SECTION 35, TOWNSHIP 4 NORTH, RANGE 17 WEST OF HOLMES COUNTY, FLORIDA; THENCE NORTH 88 DEGREES 03'45" WEST 45" WEST 695.00 FEET ; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 45'30" EAST 160 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE NORTH 00 DE- GREES 45'30"EAST 160 FEET; THENCE NORTH 88 DE- GREES 03'45" WEST 236.81 FEET TO THE EASTERLY SIDE OF A GRADED ROAD; THENCE SOUTHERLY ALONG SAID GRAD- ED ROAD 160 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO A POINT BEARING NORTH 88 DEGREES 03'45" WEST FROM 03'45" WEST FROM THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE SOUTH 88 DEGREES 03'45"WEST FROM THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE SOUTH 88 DEGREES 03'45" EAST 241.10 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.</p> <p>IF YOU ARE A PERSON CLAIMING A RIGHT TO FUNDS REMAINING AFTER THE SALE, YOU MUST FILE A CLAIM WITH THE CLERK NO LATER THAN THE DATE THAT THE CLERK REPORTS THE FUNDS AS UNCLAIMED. IF YOU FAIL TO FILE A CLAIM, YOU WILL NOT BE ENTITLED TO ANY REMAIN- ING FUNDS. AFTER THE FUNDS ARE REPORTED AS UN- CLAIMED, ONLY THE OWNER OF RECORD AS OF THE DATE OF</p>	<p>THE LIS PENDENS MAY CLAIM THE SURPLUS.</p> <p>If you are a per- son with a disabili- ty who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordina- tor by mail at P. O. Box 1089, Panama City, FL 32402 or by phone at (850) 747- 5338 at least seven (7) days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this noti- fication if the time before the sched- uled appearance is less than seven (7) days. If you are hearing impaired, please call 711 or email ADAResquest@jud14.flcourts.org.</p> <p>Dated this 2 ND day of May 2023.</p> <p>SAM BAILEY Clerk Of The Circuit Court</p> <p>By: TARA HICKS Deputy Clerk</p> <p>Submitted by: De Cubas & Lewis, P.A. P.O. Box 771270 Coral Springs, FL 33077 Telephone: (954) 453-0365 Facsimile: (954) 771-6052 Toll Free: 1-800-441-2438</p> <p>DESIGNATED PRI- MARY E-MAIL FOR SERVICE PURSUANT TO FLA. R. JUD. ADMIN 2.516 eservice@decu- baslewis.com</p> <p>File No. 22-02066 May 17, 24, 2023</p> <p>000044 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDI- CIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR HOLMES COUNTY, FLORIDA</p> <p>PROBATE DIVISION Case No: 23 PR 037 IN RE: ESTATE OF CHARLIE JUNIOR ALRED Deceased.</p> <p>NOTICE TO CREDI- TORS</p> <p>The administra- tion of the estate of CHARLIE JUNIOR ALRED, deceased, whose date of death was Novem- ber 13, 2022, and the last four numbers</p>	<p>of whose social security number is 9853 is pending in the Circuit Court for Holmes County, Florida, Probate Di- vision, the address of which is Clerk of the Circuit Court, Holmes County Courthouse, 201 N. Oklahoma Street, Bonifay, Florida 32425. The names and addresses of the personal repre- sentative and the personal representa- tive's attorney are set forth below.</p> <p>All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or de- mands against de- cedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN 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.</p> <p>All other credi- tors 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.</p> <p>ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOR- EVER BARRED.</p> <p>NOTWITHSTAND- ING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECE- DENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.</p> <p>The date of first publication of this notice is May 17, 2023.</p> <p>Attorney for Personal Represen- tative:</p> <p>Reça Rene Youell, Esq.</p> <p>Charlie Wade Alred, Personal Representative 1250 Circle Drive 2124 North High- way 81 DeFuniak Springs, Florida 32435 Westville, Florida 32464 Telephone: (850)</p>	<p>892-7363 Email: reney- ouell@outlook.com May 17, 24, 2023</p> <p>000046 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT, IN AND FOR HOLMES COUNTY, FLORIDA</p> <p>PROBATE DIVI- SION CASE NO.: 22 PR 39</p> <p>IN RE: ESTATE OF JOHN GARLAND ROBERTS,</p> <p>Deceased. /</p> <p>NOTICE TO CREDI- TORS</p> <p>The administra- tion of the estate of John Garland Roberts, deceased, File No. 22 CP 39., is pending in the Circuit Court for Holmes County, Florida, Probate Di- vision, the address of which is 201 N. Oklahoma Street, Bonifay, Florida 32425. The name and address of the Personal Repre- sentative and the Personal Represen- tative's attorney are set forth below.</p> <p>All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is served within three (3) months after the date of the first publication of this notice must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS DE- MANDS AND OBJEC- TIONS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.</p> <p>The date of the first Publication of this notice is : _____.</p>	<p>Virginia Marie Holbrook Personal Repre- sentative 37520 Harper Avenue Clinton Township, Michigan 48036</p> <p>Dennis L. Pratt Florida Bar No. 814954 770 Baldwin Avenue DeFuniak Springs, Florida 32435 (850) 951-2244 May 24, 31, 2023</p> <p>000048 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR HOLMES COUNTY, FLORIDA</p> <p>IN RE: ESTATE OF JEFFERSON WEL- SCH SWINDLE, Deceased.</p> <p>File No. 23-60 PR Division PROBATE</p> <p>NOTICE OF AD- MINISTRATION AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS</p> <p>The Administra- tion of the estate of JEFFERSON WELSCH SWINDLE, deceased, whose date of death was December 14, 2022, and whose social security num- ber is XXX-XX-0397, is pending in the Circuit Court for Holmes County, Florida, Probate Di- vision, the address of which is 201 N. Oklahoma Street, Bonifay, FL 32425. The estate is testate and the date of the decedent's Will is October 10, 2022. The names and ad- dresses of the per- sonal representative and the personal representative's at- torney are set forth below.</p> <p>Any interested person on whom a copy of the notice of administration is served must object to the validity of the will (or any codicil), qualifications of the personal repre- sentative, venue, or jurisdiction of the court, by filing a petition or other pleading requesting relief in accordance with the Florida Pro- bate Rules, WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THE NOTICE ON THE OBJECTING PERSON, OR THOSE OBJEC- TIONS ARE FOREVER BARRED.</p> <p>Any person entitled to exempt property is required to file a petition for determination of</p>	<p>exempt property WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW OR THE RIGHT TO EXEMPT PROPERTY IS DEEMED WAIVED. Any person entitled to elective share is required to file an election to take elective share WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW.</p> <p>All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or de- mands against de- cedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOR- EVER BARRED.</p> <p>NOTWITHSTAND- ING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AF- TER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.</p> <p>The date of first publication of this notice is May 24, 2023.</p> <p>JOSHUA G. WHITE Attorney for Personal Represen- tative Florida Bar Num- ber: 655791 P.O. Box 760 Bonifay, FL 32425 Telephone: (850) 270-1918 E-Mail: joshua. white@jgwhitelaw. com</p> <p>Personal Repre- sentative: Virginia Eileen Werkheiser Swindle 1910 N Highway 79 Bonifay, FL 32425 May 24, 31, 2023</p>

Small details fill big state budget

THE NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA

TALLAHASSEE – Florida lawmakers this month passed a record \$117 billion budget that covers more than 500 pages and includes high-profile issues such as money for schools, health care, environmental projects and road construction. But also tucked inside the spending plan are more than 1,500 projects pushed by individual lawmakers and fine print that details how tax dollars must be used. The budget, which will take effect July 1, still needs approval from Gov. Ron DeSantis, who has line-item veto power. Here are examples of some of the details

included in the budget:

- \$8 million for the Florida State University Institute for Politics to implement “an online accurately depicted statewide history program adhering to all state standards.”
- \$6 million to design and plan “a new state office building and parking garage” at the Capital Circle Office Complex in Leon County.
- \$3.35 million to expand efforts to remove Burmese pythons and other non-native fish and wildlife. The money also would go to “research and to assess risk and the efficacy of control efforts.”
- \$2 million for the Cattle Enhancement Board to expand uses of Florida beef and to

market the state’s cattle industry.

- \$2 million to replace the Elliot Building across Monroe Street from the Capitol with “Memorial Park.”
- \$1.75 million for a meat-processing and training facility in Newberry. A funding request by Sen. Keith Perry, R-Gainesville, and Rep. Chuck Clemons, R-Newberry, said the purpose is “to serve small cattle, pig, sheep and goat ranchers within a 100-mile radius. It will also provide high-skill workforce training in butchery and other value-added meat processes in coordination with UF/IFAS and Santa Fe College.”
- \$1 million for the Florida Department of Health to study “the

long-term health impacts of exposure to blue green algae and red tide toxins to residents, visitors and those occupationally exposed in Florida.”

- \$1 million for the Department of Children and Families to establish a pilot digital media campaign to recruit foster parents and guardian ad litem volunteers.
- \$1 million for an in-state tourism marketing campaign by the Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association.
- \$1 million to support aerospace and life-science projects tied to a memorandum of understanding between Space Florida and Israel.
- \$500,000 to assess the progress of tire removal at Osborne Reef, an area off Broward County where millions of used tires were sunk

starting in the 1970s as part of an artificial-reef project. The budget also requires development of a plan for when the “debris is removed from the reef.”

- \$250,000 to improve signs along equestrian trails and another \$100,000 on a website to promote those trails in places such as state parks, state forests, wildlife management areas, national forests, wildlife refuges and greenways.
- \$300,000 for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to study the impacts of spraying herbicides on wildlife habitat in Lake Okeechobee. “The study should compare spraying versus mechanical harvesting as to the effectiveness of habitat management and the effects on wildlife, including fish and

bird populations,” the budget says.

- \$250,000 to provide \$50 bonuses to International Baccalaureate teachers for each student they teach who received scores of “C” or higher on an International Baccalaureate Theory of Knowledge subject examination.
- \$150,000 for Florida State University to create the Center for Rare Earths, Critical Minerals, and Industrial Byproducts within the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory. It would evaluate Florida’s potential to produce “rare earths, critical minerals, and industrial byproducts for national security, supply-chain independence, meeting state infrastructure needs, supporting emerging industries, and other beneficial uses.”

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO IMPOSE AND PROVIDE FOR COLLECTION OF SERVICE ASSESSMENTS IN THE SUNNY HILLS/OAK HILL MUNICIPAL SERVICE BENEFIT UNIT

Notice is hereby given that the Board of County Commissioners of Washington County, Florida will conduct a public hearing to consider the continued imposition of Service Assessments in Sunny Hills/Oak Hill Municipal Service Benefit Unit, as shown above, for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2023, to fund the provision of Community Services and Road Maintenance Services provided by the County.

The hearing will be held at 9:00 AM CST, or as soon thereafter as the item can be heard, on June 15, 2023, in the Commission Board Room of the Washington County Annex, 1331 South Boulevard, Chipley, Florida, for the purpose of receiving public comment on the imposition and collection of the assessments on the ad valorem tax bill. All affected property owners have a right to appear at the hearing and to file written objections with the County within 20 days of this notice. If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the hearing, such person will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be made. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation or an interpreter to participate in this proceeding should contact the County Administrative Office at (850) 638-6200 to make a request. Requests must be received at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting in order for Washington County to provide the requested service.

The Service Assessments will fund the County’s cost to provide Community Services and Road Maintenance Services within the Benefit Unit. The Service Assessments are based upon number of developed residential lots, commercial or institutional square footage of improvements, and acreage for vacant lands. The annual Service Assessment rates for the upcoming Fiscal Year and future fiscal years will be:

- \$36.94 per Developed Residential Lot;
- \$9.24 per acre for residential acreage;
- \$9.24 per 1,000 square feet for Commercial or Institutional buildings; and
- \$9.24 per acre for vacant commercial acre age or institutional acreage in use.

The maximum annual Service Assessment for any given parcel shall not exceed \$400.00 per year.

The maximum annual Service Assessment that can be imposed without further notice for future fiscal years is \$52.00 per Developed Residential Lot; \$13.00 per acre for residential acreage; \$13.00 per 1,000 square feet for Commercial or Institutional buildings; and \$13.00 per acre for vacant commercial acreage or institutional acreage in use.

A more specific description of the Service Assessments is set forth in Article IV, Chapter 54 of the Washington County Code of Ordinances and the Preliminary Rate Resolution (Resolution No. 2023-13). Copies of these documents and the updated assessment roll are available for inspection at the Office of the County Administrator, 1331 South Boulevard, Chipley, Florida, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The Service Assessments will be collected by the Tax Collector of Washington County, pursuant to Chapter 197, Florida Statutes, on the tax bill to be mailed in November 2023 and future fiscal years. Failure to pay the Service Assessment will cause a tax certificate to be issued against the assessed property, which may result in a loss of title to your property.

If you have any questions, please contact the office of the County Administrator at (850) 638-6200, Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, FLORIDA

Sunny Hills Map of MSBU

