

Washington County NEWS



Holmes County ADVERTISER

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WASHINGTONCOUNTY.NEWS AND HOLMESCOUNTRY.NEWS | Volume 001 - No. 25

Community Events

Otter Creek Church Gospel Sing

Otter Creek Church will be having a gospel sing on Saturday evening, June 17. The featured singers are The Smith Family from Pace, Florida. Singing will begin at 6 p.m. with food and fellowship after. Otter Creek Church is located about four miles north of Ponce de Leon off of Highway 81 on Jack Johnson Lane. Everyone is invited. Come and join us for some great gospel music.

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.

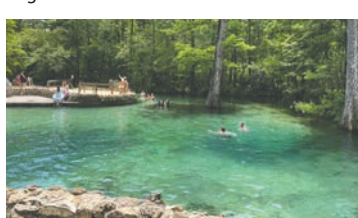
Memorable ways to celebrate dad this Father's Day



Universities eye AI



Beat the heat



Mathews sentenced in 2021 fatal crash



Michael Thomas James

DIANE M. MOORE

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A Bonifay man was sentenced earlier this week in the fatal car crash that took the life of 55-year-old Michael Thomas James in February 2021.

Hayden Christopher Mathews, 32, was sentenced in a Washington County Court-

house on June 5 by Fourteenth Judicial Circuit Chief Judge Christopher Patterson on the charges of vehicular manslaughter and hit and run-leaving the scene of an accident involving death. Patterson ordered Mathews

to serve 10 years in the Florida Department of Corrections with four of those years being minimum mandatory and 10 years of probation following his release.

The fatal accident happened on February 28, 2021, just three days shy of James' 56th birthday, as he was traveling northbound on Highway 77 around 4:40 a.m. Mathews was traveling southbound on Highway 77 when he drove across the solid yellow lines at a speed of 74 miles per hour, 29 miles over the 45 miles per hour speed limit. Both vehicles collided at the left front causing Mathews' truck to rotate counterclock-

wise, off the pavement and onto the grass shoulder. James' truck also rotated in a counterclockwise direction and onto the grass shoulder. Washington County EMS pronounced James dead at the scene.

Mathews wrote a letter to James' family it reads as follows:

Dear family of Michael James, I hope this letter helps you in your healing process. I have wanted to reach out to y'all since the day of the accident, but I was instructed not to. The main thing I want y'all to know is I did check on Mike.

My mouth was so busted up I can remember barely being able to call out to see if anyone else had

been hurt. When I realized he did not survive, I panicked.

I know me running was a terrible thing to do. I replay it every day in my head.

The reason I was even out so late is because I took a friend home that had too much to drink that night. That made for a long ride home and I wound up falling asleep behind the wheel. I should have known better because my father dies in a single vehicle wreck from falling asleep while driving.

I know not only did I hurt y'all's family, but I've hurt mine also. My wife and family will suffer at my cost. I have kept up with the

family as much as I can through Facebook. Y'all will always be a part of my life now.

I have never hurt anybody before and would have never dreamed that I would be in this position. I pray that y'all can find it in your hearts to forgive me.

Mathews will serve his sentence in the Florida Department of Corrections.



Hayden Christopher Mathews

Saturday school by the numbers

DIANE M. MOORE

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After much controversy concerning the Washington County School District's approval to hold the Pilot Intensive After School Academy - Saturday school, the numbers are in on how the program did.

The program began near the end of the 2022-2023 school year and saw an average of three students over two Saturdays at Chipley High School and an average of 10 students at Vernon High School over four Saturdays. To serve those students, an average of five teachers and two project supervisors as well as School Resource Officers.

Director of Federal Programs for WCSD Jiranda White says the program was a pilot program.

"The meaning of the word pilot is that of trial and error," White said. "It is a trial to see if something would work with the variables that we have based upon the student need. The funds were extended to the district for experimental projects."

All staff involved in the program were paid

out of the \$397,101 grant funding, to include taxes, retirement, and social security. The students who attended and were paid \$15 an hour was also taxed on their earnings.

"What a student earned was up to the teacher's discretion," said White. "The pay was according to how many hours each individual student spent peer tutoring. Of the three hours of instructional time, 90 minutes of that was instruction by the teacher and the rest was for peer tutoring. The students did not get paid unless they were peer tutoring."

"We wanted to provide a less intimidating atmosphere for the students to be able to ask questions," White said. "This provided a safe learning environment where the students were supported and could gain confidence in learning. I'm grateful to be able to provide this for our students."

In total, less than \$10,000 was spent on the pilot program.

"The remaining funding will be used for whatever is reasonable, necessary

See SCHOOL, Page 2A

Carter pleads not guilty to sexual assault charges

DIANE M. MOORE

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Former Washington County School District paraprofessional Crystal Nicole Carter pled not guilty to two counts of sexual assault by person over 24 sexual battery on a victim aged 16 or 17.

During court proceedings on June 5, Carter was appointed to be represented by Public Defender Casey Bigelow by Fourteenth Judicial Circuit Chief Justice Christopher Patterson.

Carter's charges were brought by the state of Florida following a report made to the Washington County Sheriff's Office in May.

According to a report from the WCSO, on May 4, a parent reported their child had been having sex with Carter since December 2021, when the child was 17. The parent told investigators they had heard rumors and confronted their child, who admitted to having a sexual relationship with Carter twice before turning 18 and continued the relationship after turning 18.

The parent advised they had looked through the child's phone and found texts and messages dating back to December 2021 with Carter, who had been working as a substitute teacher at Chipley High School. In those conversations, the child and Carter discussed the child having told other football players they were having sex.

A specific text chain dated December 9, 2021 shows Carter and the child discussing the child telling friends that he and Carter had been having sex.



Crystal Nicole Carter

See CARTER, Page 3A

HOLMES COUNTY



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WASHINGTON COUNTY



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SCHOOL

From Page 1A

and allowable that will support our students who need intensive academic support,” said White. The district plans to continue

holding Saturday school throughout the 2023-2024 school year based upon the need of the students for the program. “The district leadership team may revisit or revamp how we construct the Saturday school program,” said White. “We will

still have peer tutoring, but will it be paid, we don’t know. We were trying something for the pilot. We want to make sure that we are providing them with job training skills. We want to reach out to different funding sources to possibly give them that work experience.”

The exact amount paid to students as of press time is unknown as the district is in the process of closing out the fiscal year. *For more information on Saturday school, contact the Washington County School District at 850-638-6222.*

State gets win in immigration fight

JIM SAUNDERS
News Service of Florida

A federal appeals court Monday sided with Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody and kept in place rulings that blocked Biden administration immigration policies. A panel of the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rejected a request by the Biden administration for a stay of two rulings by Pensacola-based U.S. District Judge T. Kent Wetherell, who said the policies violated federal law. The policies, known as “Parole Plus Alternatives to Detention” and “Parole with Conditions,” allowed releasing migrants into the United States amid issues such as overcrowding at detention facilities. In a challenge filed by Moody’s office, Wetherell in March rejected Parole Plus Alternatives to Detention, also dubbed “Parole+ATD.” The U.S. Department of Homeland Security subsequently moved forward with the Parole with Conditions policy, but Wetherell in May issued a preliminary injunction to block it. U.S. Department of Justice attorneys appealed to the Atlanta-based

appeals court and asked for a stay of Wetherell’s decisions while the appeal moved forward. In part, the Justice Department argued that a stay was needed to prevent “irreparable harms” that could occur from conditions such as overcrowded detention facilities. “The (Wetherell) orders frustrate the most effective measures available to DHS (the Department of Homeland Security) to secure the border while protecting the health and welfare of USBP (U.S. Border Patrol) agents and noncitizens during periods of increased border encounters that require immediate action by USBP to avoid overwhelming DHS capacity,” the Justice Department attorneys wrote in a May 19 motion. “DHS faces an exigent situation at the southwest border.” But in rejecting the stay request Monday, the appeals court questioned the arguments about harms, saying the Department of Homeland Security’s “claims of irreparable injury ring somewhat hollow on this record, considering the department’s track record of overstating similar threats in the underlying (district court) proceedings.”

ings.” “The department’s ability to ascertain future harm is uncertain at best,” said the eight-page decision, written by Judge Barbara Lagoa and joined fully by Judge Robert Luck. “Given this record, we take DHS’s latest claims of impending disaster if it is not allowed to use either of the challenged policies with some skepticism.” Judge Jill Pryor dissented in part, saying she would have granted a stay on the Parole with Conditions policy. Lagoa and Luck are former Florida Supreme Court justices who were appointed to the appeals court by former President Donald Trump. Pryor was appointed by former President Barack Obama. Wetherell is a former state appellate judge who was appointed to the federal bench by Trump. Moody and Gov. Ron DeSantis have long criticized federal immigration policies, with the state filing a lawsuit in September 2021 alleging that the Biden administration violated immigration laws through “catch-and-release” policies that led to people being released from detention after crossing the U.S.

border. The state has contended, in part, that undocumented immigrants move to Florida, creating costs for such things as the education, health-care and prison systems. The 2021 lawsuit ultimately led to Wetherell’s March ruling that blocked the Parole+ATD policy. Moody’s office then challenged the subsequent Parole with Conditions policy. Monday’s ruling did not resolve the underlying legal issues in the appeal — it dealt only with the Biden administration’s request for a stay of Wetherell’s rulings. But in a May 24 court document, Moody’s office said the dispute is about an “attempt to transform parole from a narrow safety valve into a primary processing mechanism for mass-releasing aliens into this country.” “In both cases, the district court correctly recognized that DHS may not lawfully use parole as a principal method for processing and releasing aliens who unlawfully enter this country,” lawyers in Moody’s office wrote.

Appeals court urged to reverse education ruling

JIM SAUNDERS
News Service of Florida

Arguing that the measure has violated speech rights and led to discrimination, attorneys for students, parents and teachers are urging a federal appeals court to revive a challenge to a 2022 Florida law that restricts instruction about gender identity and sexual orientation in schools. The attorneys filed an 80-page brief last week at the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, contending that U.S. District Judge Allen Winsor erred when he dismissed the challenge to what Republican legislators called the “Parental Rights in Education” law — and opponents labeled the “don’t say gay” bill. Winsor ruled in February that the plaintiffs had not “alleged sufficient facts” to show they had legal standing to challenge the law (HB 1557). “Plaintiffs have shown a strident disagreement with the new law, and they have alleged facts to show its very existence causes them deep hurt and disappointment,” the Tallahassee-based Winsor wrote. “But to invoke a federal court’s

jurisdiction, they must allege more. Their failure to do so requires dismissal.” But the brief filed last week at the Atlanta-based appeals court sought to show that plaintiffs have suffered harm from the law. “Simply put, the LGBT individual plaintiffs have personally experienced unequal and lesser treatment at the hands of teachers and officials who now restrict what they can say, read, hear, and wear,” the brief said. “That constitutes injury.” The law, which has drawn national attention, prevented instruction on gender identity and sexual orientation in kindergarten through third grade and required that such instruction be “age-appropriate ... in accordance with state academic standards” in older grades. The Republican-controlled Legislature and Gov. Ron DeSantis went further this year by approving a bill to broaden the prohibition on instruction about gender identity and sexual orientation to pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. Winsor’s Feb. 15 ruling to dismiss the lawsuit came after he tossed out an earlier version in September. He allowed the plaintiffs to file a

revised case after the September ruling. Plaintiffs in the appeal are three LGBTQ students and 11 parents and teachers from areas such as Broward, Manatee, Miami-Dade, Orange, Pasco and St. Johns counties. Also, the LGBTQ-advocacy group Family Equality is a plaintiff. The lawsuit alleges violation of First Amendment and equal-protection rights and of a federal law known as Title IX, which bars discrimination based on sex in education programs. In trying to rebut Winsor’s ruling about a lack of standing, the brief pointed to issues such as teachers changing their curriculums because of the law. As an example, it said Broward County teacher Scott Berg, a plaintiff who is gay, “no longer asks students to draw their families, out of concern that he might violate the law if students talk about their LGBT families or ask Berg about his own; he no longer speaks out against discriminatory comments in class (for example, when a student derisively calls another’s artwork ‘gay’); he does not keep a picture of him and his husband on his desk, even though

other teachers keep photos of their opposite-sex spouses; and he feels unable to respond truthfully to students’ questions about who he travels with and says he went with a ‘friend.’” As another example of the effects of the law, the brief said a Manatee County high-school student and plaintiff, identified by the initials M.A., “abandoned a proposal he had submitted to his school prior to the enactment of HB 1557 that would have created a committee to help teachers respond to common problems for LGBT students.” “This group of students, parents, and teachers has suffered three principal forms of injury as a result of the passage of HB 1557: self-censorship, the denial of information and ideas, and subjection to discrimination in education,” the brief said. As the case plays out at the appeals court, a separate constitutional challenge to the law is pending in federal court in Orlando. U.S. District Judge Wendy Berger on Oct. 20 dismissed that case but, like Winsor, gave the plaintiffs an opportunity to file a revised version.

Insanity argued to try to prevent execution

NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA

A day after the Florida Supreme Court refused to issue a stay of the planned execution of Duane Owen, defense attorneys Tuesday filed a brief that said he should not be put to death because of insanity. The brief, filed at the Supreme Court, came after a North Florida circuit judge on Sunday found Owen sane to be executed. The brief was part of a flurry of efforts by Owen’s attorneys to prevent a June 15 execution for the 1984 murder of a Palm Beach County woman. The brief pointed to the Eighth Amendment, which bars cruel and unusual punishment,

and legal precedents that prevent executing people who are not mentally competent. “Owen’s severe mental illness, delusions, and dementia inhibit his ability to rationally understand why the ultimate punishment is to be imposed upon him,” the brief said. “Owen is precisely the case that the Eighth Amendment seeks to protect.” The Supreme Court on Monday refused to block the execution in a separate appeal dealing with Owen’s competence. The brief filed Tuesday stemmed from a legal rule about holding hearings on whether prisoners would be insane at the time of execution. Sunday’s

ruling was issued by a judge in the 8th Judicial Circuit, which includes Florida State Prison, where Owen’s execution would be carried out. Gov. Ron DeSantis on May 9 signed a death warrant for Owen, 62, in the murder of Georgianna Worden, who was bludgeoned with a hammer and sexually assaulted in her Boca Raton home in May 1984, according to the death warrant and court records. Owen also was sentenced to death in the March 1984 murder of 14-year-old Karen Slatery, who was babysitting at a Delray Beach home, according to state and federal court documents. Slatery was stabbed to death.

Universities eye AI



NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA

TALLAHASSEE—As artificial intelligence becomes an increasingly high-profile topic in higher education, Florida universities are holding discussions about how to harness the technology’s power — and stave off the potential for academic malfeasance. The University of

Florida Board of Trustees, for example, received an update Thursday from the school’s Provost Joe Glover on artificial intelligence, or AI, initiatives at UF. The state’s flagship university is home to a supercomputer known as HiPerGator, which was a \$50 million gift to the school from NVIDIA, a Silicon Valley-based tech firm, and company co-founder

Chris Malachowsky, a University of Florida graduate. Touted for its artificial-intelligence capabilities, the supercomputer is being used by researchers from UF and other state universities to tackle pressing agricultural and environmental problems. But Glover said “we need to pay attention to” another “very important” See AI, Page 5A

CARTER

From Page 1A

Carter said “A football player said you are telling people something happened. I hope you let people know it’s merely a joke that could cost my job.”

In the same text conversation Carter says, “Anyway, I trust you with discretion and to assure that you let your friends know nothing happened and make sure you can trust your friends know nothing happened, and make sure you can trust your friends as well. Gossip could get me under investigation by the school even if it is not true, they can pull calls and texts.”

Eleven pages of screenshots were taken into evidence of conversations with Carter, but all were dated after the child turned 18, with earlier conversations hav-

ing been deleted.

Investigators obtained a sworn taped statement from the child on May 8, where they admitted that Carter had begun texting them around the beginning of their senior year of high school, asking to “hook-up.”

According to a taped statement from the child, Carter and he arranged to meet at her home where they had sex. He further stated they had sex with Carter twice before he turned 18 and that they had continued seeing each other in a sexual manner since he had turned 18.

A pre-trial hearing for Carter has been scheduled for August 21 at 9 a.m.

Neves Publishing reporter Wendy Weitzel also contributed to this report.



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OPINION

Turkey chooses dictatorship, to the detriment of the free world



Austin Bay
Guest Columnist

The runoff election victory of Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan is bad news all around. The list of losers is long: Western and Eastern Europe, NATO, U.S. security interests in central Asia and North Africa. Financial markets aren't pleased with Erdogan's reelection. On June 2 the value of the Turkish lira hit a new low: 20.75 to the U.S. dollar. But the biggest loser by far? The people of Turkey. Erdogan won a close election but did so by employing a dictator's vicious tricks: state-directed media

censorship, judicial threat and physical intimidation of his political opposition. I've no evidence Erdogan's stooped to assassinating his political opponents--yet. Erdogan, however, is in the process of killing Turkey's democracy, and that's a very destructive historical crime with long term ramifications throughout the developing world, especially in culturally Muslim nations. The Turkish Ottoman Empire missed the Enlightenment. The sultans made sure it did. Free speech threatens absolute monarchs (dictators with a crown). The Ottomans' World War I defeat left a social, cultural and political vacuum. Out of the chaos, Turkish nationalists, under the leadership of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, established the Republic of Turkey as a secular state. Ataturk bequeathed Turkey what his biog-

rapher, Andrew Mango, called "the structure of a democracy, not of a dictatorship." His goal was to make Turkey a democracy capable of perpetual self-modernization. Erdogan is Turkey's most significant political figure since Ataturk. But he knows he fades in Ataturk's shadow. Not capable of displacing Ataturk the man, he seeks to replace Ataturk's state. Erdogan told us he would try. Early in his career Erdogan routinely employed Islamist poetry: "Democracy is merely a train that we ride until we reach our destination. Mosques are our military barracks. Minarets are our spears." In 2017 Erdogan promoted a constitutional referendum to change Turkey's parliamentary system to a "strong" presidential system. Since 2018 Erdogan's "Big Man" Turkey has substituted institution-

alized autocracy for Ataturk's structure and democratic orientation. Here's my biggest worry: An Erdogan solidifying dictatorship--reinforced with secret police -- may be an impossibly disruptive condition for NATO and put Turkish membership into question. It may also be an impossible condition for Turkey, for it seeds future disorder. Erdoganist Turkey lacks democratic balance. Turkey's 2017 agreement to purchase Russia's S-400 surface-to-air missiles is an example of an Erdogan self-centered power tantrum. For good reason the U.S. regards Turkish S-400s as a unique threat to NATO aircraft. Russia might obtain data on NATO air defenses. Turkey could be a nominal political ally but a technological adversary. So, the U.S. kicked Turkey out of the F-35 stealth fighter

consortium. At times Erdogan has boasted Turkey can produce its own weapons. Turkey manufactures excellent if simple conventional systems. But in early May, Turkey's deputy minister of defense said Turkey's poor economy prevents the government from supplying the military with new equipment and weapons. Blame Erdogan. He has utterly mismanaged Turkey's economy. But by holding all levers of power, he managed a narrow win. Here's a critical future scenario: Erdogan's government has suggested it would deny U.S. military forces use of the big Incirlik air base in south-central Turkey. Closing Incirlik would severely impede if not obstruct U.S. and NATO military operations in the eastern Mediterranean, Middle East and Central Asia. The threat has NATO-wide

resonance. Incirlik is a strategically located base, a logistics and training facility, a communication node, an intelligence gathering center, and an international transport hub. Closing Incirlik disrupts surveillance operations that contribute to international security. Erdogan knows Incirlik gives him leverage. Is refusing to allow the U.S. to use Incirlik an impossible condition for Turkish membership in NATO? The U.S. provides the decisive slice of NATO airpower; in operational terms, does denying America access to Incirlik equate to a Turkish withdrawal from NATO? The only winners in this confrontation are Moscow and Beijing. To find out more about Austin Bay and read features by other Creators writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate webpage at www.creators.com.

The economics of Adam Smith turns 300



Ron Hart
Guest Columnist

When I look back on college, there are few things I can remember learning. One was that you can throw up well after you think you're done. On one particularly hungover morning, I called the Memphis Alcoholics Anonymous hotline and asked how to make a Singapore Sling. I did not tell them my name, so I thought it

was ok. But what I remember and liked most about college was reading works that really made sense to me. That animated me. First, the works of Ayn Rand. Then, in a particularly fair-minded economics class (a program hidden in Georgetown University's summer curriculum), I discovered economist Adam Smith. Born in Scotland on June 5, 1723, the best economist in history, Adam Smith, would be three hundred years old this month. If he were alive, he would be happy to see that he was entirely right in his books, including Theory of Moral Sentiment and his seminal work, Wealth of Nations. Both should be required reading. Adam Smith was the first to study and write about economics as an academic subject worthy of study and exploration. Before Smith, wealth distribution was considered to be "God's Will," so as to keep the common man down and wealth in the hands of the inheritors. It served the purpose of the (then) liberal elites by making financial upward mobility harder and caused the average man to pay more for goods and services by restricting competi-

tion. Adam Smith was the "Father of Capitalism," and Capitalism has done more to improve the lives of people than any form of faux altruism or big government socialism on earth. He was the first to call out crony capitalism; he called it "mercantilism." It is a state of economics from which Democrats love to grift, a form of Mafia-like protection. Politicians give you governmental protections for your business and you funnel money back to them. It is why the cost of the products of the most heavily government-regulated businesses goes up more than the overall rate. Think about state-run colleges, healthcare, insurance, cable TV, etc. The more businesses are in bed with government, the more we pay -- and for lower quality. For example, 95% of the country only has one cable provider. In his Wealth of Nations, Adam Smith said, "A monopoly granted either to an individual or to a trading company has the same effect as a secret in trade or manufactures. The monopolists, by keeping the market constantly understocked by never fully supplying the effectual

demand, sell their commodities much above the natural price, and raise their emoluments, whether they consist in wages or profit, greatly above their natural rate. The price of monopoly is upon every occasion the highest which can be got. The natural price, or the price of free competition, on the contrary, is the lowest which can be taken, not upon every occasion indeed, but for any considerable time together." Wealth ensures that those who bring goods and services to others do so at the best price for the quality of the product delivered. This, instead of socialism or monopolistic economies, results in average people getting a better deal on goods they purchase, thus living a better life. Smith first wrote of economics as enlightened self-interest benefiting the masses. He called it "rational self-interest," that all of us, going about our business in a manner that benefits us, also benefit all others. He said, "It is not from the benevolence of the butcher, the brewer, or the baker that we expect our dinner, but from their regard to their own self-interest. We address ourselves

not to their humanity but to their self-love, and never talk to them of our own necessities, but of their advantages." That certainly gets rid of the need for the DEA, FDA and the Commerce Department. Fentanyl is put in drugs now because "The War on Drugs" via the DEA makes drugs illegal, thus sending production to underground gangs and thugs. There is no accountability by the manufacturer. I learned about drinking and economics in college. I guess it worked out. In addition, in my fraternity I learned many other life lessons, some things Biden should know after all his falls of late. It does not matter how many times you fall on your face; it matters how many times you get back up. That works in life, but, as it turns out, not so well during a Memphis Police Officer's roadside sobriety test. 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.

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NEWS

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Is the GOP tiptoeing toward normalcy?



Mona Charen
Guest Columnist

Every morning, before we open our eyes, every one of us must grapple with the excruciating possibility that Donald Trump could be reelected. It's the nightmare from which we cannot awake, at least for now. And yet, something is stirring in the Republican Party. After eight vertiginous years of rot and decay, made no less alarming by their often buffoonish character, the GOP seems to be taking some tentative steps toward normality.

Consider the state of Texas. The Lone Star State has contributed more than its share to the degradation of American politics through the good offices of Ted Cruz, a chief instigator of the Jan. 6

insurrection through his election denialism; Greg Abbott, a conspiracy booster, immigrant exploiter and gun extremist; and state GOP chairman Allen West, a secessionist. It was Texas attorney general Ken Paxton who filed the specious 2020 lawsuit the Supreme Court to disqualify the votes of states Biden won. If the Court had taken the case, Ted Cruz would have argued it.

And yet, Texas Republicans did something we've only fantasized about in recent years; they impeached Ken Paxton. Paxton's abuse of office came to light when four attorneys in his office, all reportedly Republicans and conservatives, reported him. When he fired them, they filed a whistleblower suit and won a \$3.3 million settlement.

That Paxton was so flagrantly corrupt doesn't really explain what the legislature did. The Trumpified GOP has been willing to support a credibly accused child mo-

lester (Roy Moore), a fascist adjacent congressman (Paul Gosar), a large assortment of the QAnon curious, a number of good old fashioned corrupt pols, the occasional Oath Keeper as chairman of a state GOP, and too many other clowns, creeps and criminals to mention. Not only did the Republicans draw an ethical line and apply it to one of their own, they did it in the face of vigorous lobbying by Donald Trump. He threatened to "fight" them if they impeached.

They defied him.

So did the House Republicans in Washington, D.C. On May 11, at the CNN town hall, Trump advised Republicans to drive off the cliff on debt ceiling negotiations. "I say to the Republicans out there -- congressmen, senators -- if they (the Democrats) don't give you massive cuts, you're going to have to do a default."

In light of the pyromaniac spirit in the Freedom Caucus and

the perceived precariousness of Kevin McCarthy's leadership, there was genuine fear that the party really would do it, if only to invite disaster during Biden's presidency. Instead, the House leadership behaved more like a normal party, accepting a deal in which neither side got everything but everyone got some bragging rights. They spurned the call for chaos. It was almost as if they felt they had a stake not just in their party, but in the country.

Something else happened in the past two weeks that felt different. Trump engaged in his usual lickspittle sycophancy toward a gross despot, congratulating Kim Jong-Un on his election to the executive board of the World Health Organization (international organizations are not known for their high ethical standards). And Republican politicians, rather than 1) claiming that they didn't see the comments, 2) suggesting that this is a media-

generated controversy, 3) saying they are focusing on real issues like inflation or the crisis at the border or 4) offering that Trump really has a point when you think about it, did something else. They condemned him in clear terms. Nikki Haley responded that "Kim Jong Un is a thug and a tyrant, and he has tested ballistic missiles against our allies. He's threatened us. There's nothing to congratulate him about. I mean, he's been terrible to his people. He's been terrible to America and we need to stop being nice to countries that hate America."

Mike Pence said, "Whether it's my former running mate or anyone else, nobody should be praising the dictator in North Korea."

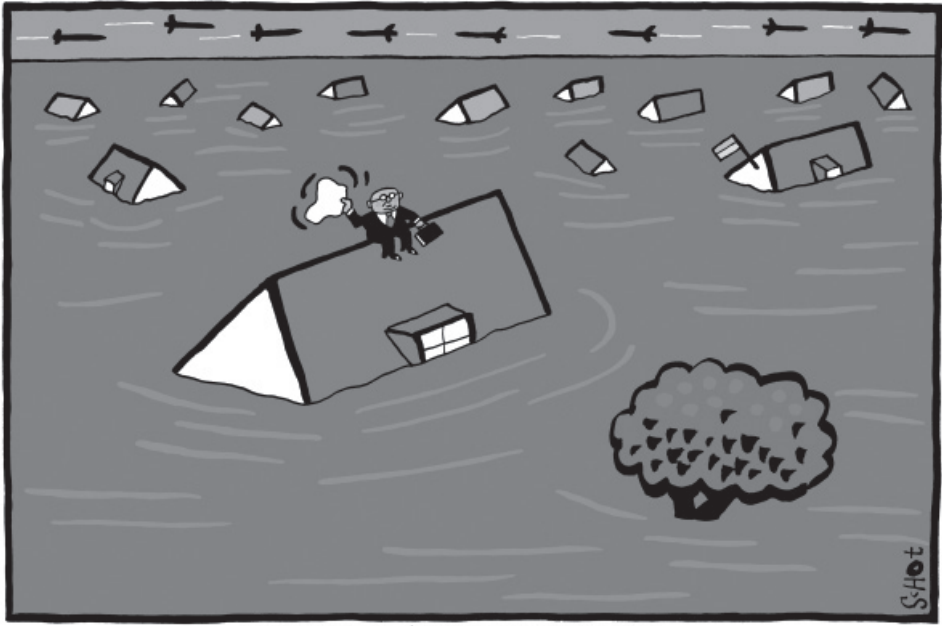
Ron DeSantis noted that Kim is a "murderous dictator." Even Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp, who is not running for president, tweeted that "Taking our country back from Joe Biden does not start with congratu-

lating North Korea's murderous dictator." There were others as well.

Not only do these comments reflect a reaffirmation of traditional American values, they framed their criticism of Trump in moral terms. They didn't dodge the fitness question by saying he was a likely loser. As John Bolton put it, "No American president past, present or future, should ever utter the words 'Congratulations to Kim Jong Un!' It's embarrassing for the United States and proves without question that Trump is unfit to lead. North Korea starves and tortures its people."

Will it last? Who knows? Recent history mocks the optimist. But if not an earthquake, these developments are at least tremors that suggest something may be changing in the Republican Party.

Mona Charen is Policy Editor of *The Bulwark* and host of the "Beg to Differ" podcast.



AI

From Page 2A

portant development" in AI — a technology that's known as generative AI. Generative AI has exploded into the tech world in recent months and drawn widespread attention for its ability to generate things such as text and images.

"This is an important new technology. It will totally disrupt higher education," Glover told the trustees.

The provost pointed to what he called an "emerging research agenda" in generative AI.

"As everyone knows, generative AI hallucinates. ChatGPT makes mistakes, it doesn't give the right answers. It is subject to flights of fancy and depression," Glover said, referencing a widely used generative-AI tool.

OpenAI, the artificial intelligence research company that developed ChatGPT, describes its text models as "advanced language processing tools that can generate, classify, and

summarize text with high levels of coherence and accuracy."

Human efforts are needed to safeguard against ChatGPT's raw capabilities, Glover said.

"And so, it needs a validation ecosystem, which people are working on now. It needs development and collaboration with subject-matter experts. It needs ethics, security and policy built around it," he added.

Meanwhile, UF continues to pump significant resources into its AI initiatives. During a March 16 trustees meeting, Glover described efforts by the school as "building an AI University and infusing AI into everything that UF is doing."

The school also has proposed a new degree, the Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence Systems, which would be established within the Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering.

Florida Gulf Coast University's Board of Trustees is also eyeing the issue. The board next week will hold a discussion on artificial intelligence and its "threats and opportunities to

teaching and learning."

Trustees are scheduled to hear a presentation on technology tools such as ChatGPT during a board meeting Tuesday. A discussion about students' use of generative AI, particularly in assignments that involve writing, is part of the meeting's agenda.

"Following Spring Semester, 2023, FGCU saw no increase in cases of student misconduct overall or cases of Academic Integrity specifically compared to the previous year. However, anecdotal evidence from instructions of English Composition suggests that students are using ChatGPT specifically in writing assignments," a description of the planned discussion said.

The university has a license to use the plagiarism-detection software TurnItIn.com, which the school said includes an application to detect "signatures of AI-generated prose." Professors currently are using it to screen students' work.

"Moving forward, the Dean of Student's office will begin tagging

academic misconduct cases for instances of Generative AI usage, and an explicit syllabus statement will be generated for faculty use to prevent cases of unauthorized assistance," Tuesday's agenda item said.

FGCU professors have been using generative AI "with excellent results," according to the meeting item.

"On the positive side, Generative AI, whether used for writing, art, graphics or other applications is likely to be a transformative innovation in higher education," the agenda said.

Glover also predicted that generative AI could reshape the internet as the technology's use becomes more widespread.

"There is going to be so much content generated on these generative AIs, that it will flood the web, and it will become unreliable and untrustworthy. You'll have some generated by people on the right, some generated by people on the left. Some promoting vaccines, some by anti-vaxxers. And so, people will lose confidence in it," he said.



SPECIAL TO THE NEWS AND ADVERTISER

Dads do a lot for their families, and Father’s Day is the perfect time to acknowledge those efforts. The days when dads would receive a colorful necktie for Father’s Day are largely (and, for fathers, thankfully) a relic of the past. Modern Father’s Day celebrations tend to involve more careful planning, and the following are some ways to make this year’s day for dads one to remember.

• **Take Dad on a tour through his own history.** The popularity of genealogy has skyrocketed over the last decade-plus, as various firms have made it easier than ever for individuals to trace their family histories. If Dad counts himself among the millions across the globe interested in their family histories, moms and kids can work together to create a virtual tour through that history. Present the history as a printed book or as a video, sharing interesting things you learned about Dad’s ancestors but

also highlighting key moments in his life. This presentation can be accompanied by a subscription to a genealogy service and a tour of some of Dad’s childhood haunts before the family enjoys brunch or dinner in the neighborhood where Dad grew up.

• **Take to the great outdoors.** Father’s Day is celebrated in mid-June, making the day a perfect time to enjoy the great outdoors (weather permitting). Plan a day around Dad’s favorite outdoor activity. If Dad is an avid fisherman, book a family outing on a charter boat so Dad can focus on catching fish and not navigating. If Dad loves being in natural settings, camp out the night before Father’s Day so he can wake up to the sound of birds chirping in the crisp morning air. If Dad has a favorite baseball team, take him out to the ballgame so he can soak up some Father’s Day sun.

• **Book a private chef.** If Dad has a fascination with food, perhaps nothing can make Father’s Day more memorable than a delicious meal

served by a private chef. Private chefs will do all the work, giving moms and kids more time to spend with Dad throughout the day, and then the whole family can enjoy a special meal made by someone whose specialty is crafting delicious dinners. Offerings vary, but many private chefs handle all the cooking and cleaning. Identify Dad’s favorite dish and then look for a chef who specializes in that type of cuisine.

• **Appeal to Dad’s inner adventurer.** Some Dads may just want to relax on Father’s Day, while others may prefer a more adventurous celebration. If Dad falls into the latter group, book a fun and adventurous activity the whole family can enjoy together. A kayaking trip, a skydiving session, a round of paintball, or even tickets to a rock concert on Father’s Day weekend can connect Dad with his inner adventurer.

There’s no shortage of ways for families to make this Father’s Day one Dad won’t soon forget.

100 years ago this month: Historical events from June 1923

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS AND ADVERTISER

The month of June has been home to many historical events over the years. Here’s a look at some that helped to shape the world in June 1923.

- The Polo Grounds in New York City hosts a boxing match between Frenchman Eugène Criqui and Johnny Kilbane on June 2. Among those in attendance to see Criqui knock out Kilbane in the sixth round was New York Yankees slugger Babe Ruth, who arrived after a game at Yankee Stadium earlier in the day.
- On June 4, 16 men begin what becomes a 2,000-mile voyage in a single lifeboat after they are forced to abandon the British cargo ship Trevesa as it begins to founder in the Indian Ocean.
- The Soviet Army defeats what is left of the White Army near Okhotsk on June 6, ending what proves to be the last major battle of the Russian Civil War.
- On June 8, a bill is passed in the British House of Commons granting women the right to divorce their husbands on the grounds of infidelity without having to prove cruelty or desertion.
- Bulgarian Prime Minister Aleksandar Stamboliyski is toppled in a bloodless coup orchestrated by a private organization of reserve officers on June 9. Though Stamboliyski survived the coup long enough to flee to his home village of Slavovitsa, he is ultimately killed on June 14 by members of the Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization, a group that had attempted to assassinate him four months earlier.
- Legendary actor Lon Chaney gets the girl in “The Shock,” an American silent film released on June 10. Though Chaney often played characters who did not get the girl, “The Shock” ends with Chaney’s character, gangster Wilse Dilling, beginning a new life with Gertrude, whose freedom is assured thanks to a timely earthquake.
- On June 12, magician Horace Goldin is granted a patent for the popular illusion of sawing a woman in half.

• Lou Gehrig makes his debut for the New York Yankees on June 15. Gehrig replaces first baseman Wally Pipp in the ninth inning, though this was not the most notable time Gehrig replaced Pipp. That would occur nearly two years later on June 2, 1925, when Gehrig started at first base and took over for the slumping Pipp. Though the moment Gehrig replaced Pipp in the starting lineup is often remembered as the start of Gehrig’s consecutive games streak that would ultimately last nearly 14 years, the streak actually began a day earlier when the man eventually nicknamed “The Iron Horse” pinch hit for Pee-Wee Wanninger in the eighth inning.

• Scores of people cross the border from Northern Ireland into the neighboring Irish Free State on June 17 as a ban on Sunday alcohol sales goes into effect in the former locale.

• The popular newspaper comic strip “Moon Mullins” debuts on June 19. The strip ran until June 2, 1991.

• United States President Warren G. Harding departs Washington, D.C., on June 20 to begin a cross-country speaking tour. President Harding would never return to the nation’s capital, dying unexpectedly on August 2.

• Turkey hosts the first general elections in the nation’s history on June 28.



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Washington County Arrest Reports

The following arrests were made in Washington County between June 2 and June 8 as reported by the Washington County Jail. All subjects are considered innocent until convicted.



Ronald Alvin Addison,
56, Crestview - Battery
- cause bodily harm
[WCSO]



Wallace Anthony Blakeman,
35, Panama City Beach -
Aggravated assault with
intent to commit a felony
[WCSO]



Seth Scott Chambers,
20, Chipley - Grand theft
auto, Grand theft
of a firearm, Larceny of
credit card - four counts,
Burglary - six counts,
Burglary of a conveyance
armed, Petit theft - first
degree - two counts,
Unlawful possession
of victims' credit cards
[WCSO]



Michael Jamar Cotton,
30, Chipley - Child
support [WCSO]



Rayji' A'jerrion Dawson-Davis,
19, Eufala, AL - Carrying
concealed unlicensed
firearm [WCSO]



Donald Frederick Groover,
42, Bonifay - Grand theft
auto [WCSO]



Erick Ivan Ibarra,
43, Naples, FL - DWLSR,
Battery [WCSO]



Daniel Lee Karcher,
41, Chipley - DWLSR
- third or subsequent
offense [WCSO]



Amanda Dawn Keeley,
41, Chipley - Possession of
drugs in violation of drug
act - subsequent offense
[WCSO]



Hayden Christopher Mathews,
32, Chipley - Vehicular
manslaughter, Hit and
run - leaving scene of
accident involving serious
bodily injury [WCSO]



Daniel Matthew Moses,
39, Crestview - DWLS
- third or subsequent
offense [WCSO]



Brittany Nicole Phillips,
30, Ponce de Leon -
Resisting arrest without
violence, Petit theft
- second degree-first
offense [WCSO]



January Nicole Posey-Huckabee,
43, Vernon - DUI [WCSO]



Ronald M. Romero,
62, Panama City - Battery
[WCSO]



Dustin Camren Ward,
21, Bonifay - VOP - traffic
offense [WCSO]



Kayla Leann Wasson,
36, Chipley - Aggravated
assault with deadly
weapon without intent to
kill [WCSO]



Joshua Jay Watford,
18, Chipley - Grand theft
auto, Burglary - four
counts, Larceny of credit
card - two counts, Petit
theft - first degree - two
counts, Grand theft of a
firearm [WCSO]



Hazel May Weathers,
20, Chipley - Grand theft
of a firearm, Accessory
after the fact - third
degree felony - four
counts, Accessory before
the fact - four counts,
Burglary - three counts,
Petit theft - first degree
- two counts, Unlawful
possession of victims'
credit cards, Larceny of
credit cards [WCSO]

Probation inspection finds 15 pounds of marijuana

STAFF REPORT

A Ponce de Leon man is behind bars after a probation inspection turns up 15 pounds of marijuana. Deputies and investigators with the Holmes County Sheriff's Office accompanied local probation officers to inspect the home of probationer Ferrell English on June 6. English consented to a search of

his home which produced a usable amount of methamphetamine, a hypodermic syringe, several cut straws, used baggies, and a glass pipe, according to HCSO. English also admitted to having marijuana and marijuana plants in a separate area of the property, which led investigators to more than 15 pounds of marijuana.

English is charged with possession of marijuana over 20 grams with intent to distribute, possession of methamphetamine, and possession of drug paraphernalia.



Ferrell English

Chipley man behind bars in Holmes County

STAFF REPORT

A Chipley man is behind bars in Holmes County after being identified as having an active warrant out of Holmes County. A Holmes County Sheriff's Office deputy recognized a passenger in a vehicle at M&M Grocery in Leonia, as Mark Hudson, who had an active warrant.

As the deputy spoke with Hudson on June 5, K-9 Buck conducted a free air sniff of the vehicle and alerted to

the presence of narcotics on the passenger side. Having probable cause, a search of the vehicle was conducted and found a glass pipe containing methamphetamine, and a small baggie of methamphetamine. Hudson claimed ownership of the items and was arrested. In addition to the outstanding warrant, he is charged with possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Holmes County Arrest Reports

The following arrests were made in Holmes County between June 2 and June 8 as reported by the Holmes County Jail. All subjects are considered innocent until convicted.



Robert Lee Bord,
34, Colquitt, GA - Battery
[HCSO]



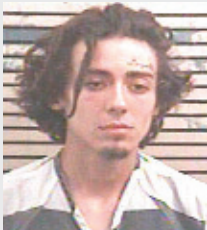
Donna Lee Brown,
51, Bonifay - Possession of
paraphernalia [HCSO]



James Coleman,
69, Caryville - VOP -
DWLSR [HCSO]



Gerrell Charles Dent,
28, Birmingham, AL - FTA
- Possession of weapon
by out of state felon - two
counts, FTA - dealing
in stolen property, FTA
- carrying a concealed
weapon [HCSO]



Toby Carter Forehand,
18, Vernon - Tampering
with evidence, Possession
of paraphernalia [HCSO]



William D. Golden,
27, Bonifay - Possession
of methamphetamine
with intent to
distribute, Possession of
paraphernalia [HCSO]



James Graham,
32, Memphis, TN - Out
of county warrant - x 2
[HCSO]



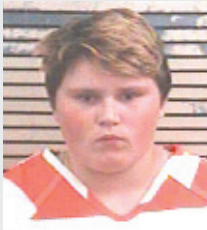
Mark A. Hudson,
46, Chipley - Out
of county warrant,
Possession of
paraphernalia, Possession
of methamphetamine,
VOP - possession of
methamphetamine
[HCSO]



Ronnie Earl Kirkland,
43, Address not
listed - DWLS - third
or subsequent offense
[HCSO]



Jerrett Justin Laroche,
35, Bonifay - Criminal
mischief - property
damage under 200,
Petit theft-first degree,
Burglary of unoccupied
dwelling, Possession
of methamphetamine
with intent to
distribute, Possession of
paraphernalia [HCSO]



Olivia Mathis,
19, Bonifay - Battery
[HCSO]



Daryion Tyrel Morris,
26, Bonifay - Possession of
paraphernalia [HCSO]



Tara Ann Retell,
41, Bonifay - Possession
of methamphetamine
with intent to distribute
[HCSO]



Billy R. Sanders,
46, Defuniak Springs
- Operating vehicle
without a license, Failure
to register motor vehicle
[HCSO]



Christy Michelle Tatum,
48, Pensacola - Possession
of marijuana less than 20
grams [HCSO]



Dustin Camren Ward,
21, Bonifay - VOP- license
expired six months or
more [HCSO]



Michael James Williams,
50, Bonifay - Possession of
paraphernalia [HCSO]

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<p>000157 NOTICE OF AP- PLICATION FOR TAX DEED</p> <p>Notice Is Hereby Given TOMMY JASON HOLLEY, 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 #: 18-00-01335</p> <p>Year of Issuance: 2018</p> <p>Parcel: 00000000-00-4961-0000</p> <p>Assessed To:</p> <p>EDWARD HERMAN SMITH, GARY SMITH ESTATE</p> <p>Description:</p> <p>8 4 15 13.5 ORB 754 P 173 S1/2 OF SW1/4 OF SE1/4, LESS HWY</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 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>000172 NOTICE OF AP- PLICATION FOR TAX DEED</p> <p>Notice Is Hereby Given BEAMIF A LLC, 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 #: 19-00-01884</p> <p>Year of Issuance: 2019</p> <p>Parcel: 00000000-01-0113-0003</p> <p>Assessed To:</p> <p>MARGIT JIRSCHIK, REINER JIR</p> <p>SCHIK</p> <p>Description:</p> <p>SUNNY HILLS UNIT #1 LOT 3 ORB 434 P 399 BLK 0113</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 AUGUST 01, 2023 at 10:00 AM CT.</p> <p>Lora C. Bell Clerk of Court, Washington County Florida By: Kelsey Odom, Deputy Clerk May 31, 2023 June 7, 14, 21, 2023</p> <p>000174 NOTICE OF AP- PLICATION FOR TAX DEED</p> <p>Notice Is Hereby Given BEAMIF A LLC, 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 #: 18-00-02050</p>	<p>Year of Issuance: 2018</p> <p>Parcel: 00000000-02-0269-0003</p> <p>Assessed To:</p> <p>IRMA MASULLO, MARIA G BARDITCH</p> <p>Description:</p> <p>SUNNY HILLS UNIT #2 LOT 3 ORB 638 P 32 BLK 0269</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 AUGUST 01, 2023 at 10:00 AM CT.</p> <p>Lora C. Bell Clerk of Court, Washington County Florida By: Kelsey Odom, Deputy Clerk May 31, 2023 June 7, 14, 21, 2023</p> <p>000175 NOTICE OF AP- PLICATION FOR TAX DEED</p> <p>Notice Is Hereby Given BEAMIF A LLC, 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 #: 20-00-02359</p> <p>Year of Issuance: 2020</p> <p>Parcel: 00000000-05-0304-0012</p> <p>Assessed To:</p> <p>ANN MARIE FONTANA AKA ANN MARIE MARLOW, BARBARA ELLEN MARLOW, CATHERINE MARLOW, DOUGLAS JOSEPH MARLOW, PATRICIA MARLOW</p> <p>Description:</p> <p>SUNNY HILLS UNIT #5 LOT 12 ORB 170 P 785 BLK 0304</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 AUGUST 01, 2023 at 10:00 AM CT.</p> <p>Lora C. Bell Clerk of Court, Washington County Florida By: Kelsey Odom, Deputy Clerk May 31, 2023 June 7, 14, 21, 2023</p> <p>000178 NOTICE OF AP- PLICATION FOR TAX DEED</p> <p>Notice Is Hereby Given BEAMIF A LLC, 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 #: 16-00-03266</p> <p>Year of Issuance: 2016</p> <p>Parcel: 00000000-05-0307-0016</p> <p>Assessed To:</p> <p>PARAMDAYE MOHAMED, SHAH MOHAMED</p> <p>Description:</p> <p>SUNNY HILLS UNIT #5 LOT 16 ORB 651 P 75 BLK 0307</p> <p>All of said prop-</p>	<p>erty 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 AUGUST 01, 2023 at 10:00 AM CT.</p> <p>Lora C. Bell Clerk of Court, Washington County Florida By: Kelsey Odom, Deputy Clerk May 31, 2023 June 7, 14, 21, 2023</p> <p>000179 NOTICE OF AP- PLICATION FOR TAX DEED</p> <p>Notice Is Hereby Given BEAMIF A LLC, 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 #: 16-00-03290</p> <p>Year of Issuance: 2016</p> <p>Parcel: 00000000-05-0318-0013</p> <p>Assessed To:</p> <p>ANNE SANTOS % ECUADECO</p> <p>Description:</p> <p>SUNNY HILLS UNIT #5 LOT 13 ORB 218 P 782 BLK 0318</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 AUGUST 01, 2023 at 10:00 AM CT.</p> <p>Lora C. Bell Clerk of Court, Washington County Florida By: Kelsey Odom, Deputy Clerk May 31, 2023 June 7, 14, 21, 2023</p> <p>000182 NOTICE OF AP- PLICATION FOR TAX DEED</p> <p>Notice Is Hereby Given JEREMY STARK, 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 #: 17-00-02522</p> <p>Year of Issuance: 2017</p> <p>Parcel: 00000000-06-0397-0002</p> <p>Assessed To:</p> <p>EILEEN T BRENNAN</p> <p>Description:</p> <p>SUNNY HILLS UNIT #6 LOT 2 ORB 243 P 1430 BLK 0397</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 AUGUST 01, 2023 at 10:00 AM CT.</p> <p>Lora C. Bell Clerk of Court, Washington County Florida By: Kelsey Odom, Deputy Clerk May 31, 2023 June 7, 14, 21, 2023</p> <p>000218 NOTICE OF AP- PLICATION FOR TAX DEED</p> <p>Notice Is Hereby Given BEAMIF A LLC, 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 #: 16-00-03266</p> <p>Year of Issuance: 2016</p> <p>Parcel: 00000000-05-0307-0016</p> <p>Assessed To:</p> <p>PARAMDAYE MOHAMED, SHAH MOHAMED</p> <p>Description:</p> <p>SUNNY HILLS UNIT #5 LOT 16 ORB 651 P 75 BLK 0307</p> <p>All of said prop-</p>	<p>000183 SUNNY HILLS UNITS 12-15 DEPENDENT DISTRICT</p> <p>NOTICE OF AUDITOR SELECTION COMMITTEE MEETING AND REGULAR BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MEETING</p> <p>The Board of Supervisors of the Sunny Hills Units 12-15 Dependent District will hold an Auditor Selection Committee meeting and regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors on June 27, 2023, at 12:30 p.m. CST / 1:30 p.m. EST at the Sunny Hills Community Center, 4083 Challenger Blvd., Sunny Hills, FL 32428. The regular meeting will take place immediately following the adjournment of the Auditor Selection Committee meeting where the Board may consider any other business that may properly come before it. The Auditor Selection Committee will review, discuss and recommend an auditor to provide audit services to the District for Fiscal Year 2023. The agendas for the Board meeting include the approval of an annual budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2023, which, upon adoption, will be submitted to Washington County in accordance with Chapter 189, Florida Statutes. Both meetings are open to the public and will be conducted in accordance with the pertinent provisions of Florida Law related to Special Districts. The meetings may be continued to a date, time, and place to be specified on the record at the meetings. There may be occasions when staff or other individuals will participate by telephone. Copies of the agendas and budget may be obtained from the offices of the District Manager, PFM Group Consulting, LLC, located at 3501 Quadrangle Boulevard, Suite 270, Orlando, FL 32817, (407) 723-5900, during normal business hours or from the District's website at https://sunnyhillsunits12to15dd.com/.</p> <p>Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in these meetings is asked to advise the District Office at (407) 723-5900 at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meetings. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service by dialing 7-1-1, or 1-800-955-8771 (TTY) / 1-800-955-8770 (Voice), for aid in contacting the District Office.</p> <p>Any person who decides to appeal any decision made by the Board or the Committee with respect to any matter considered at the meetings is advised that this same person will need a record of the proceedings and that accordingly, the person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, including the testimony and evidence upon which such appeal is to be based.</p> <p>Jennifer Walden District Manager June 7, 14, 2023</p> <p>000218 INVITATION TO BID</p> <p>Washington County Schools is extending an invitation to all qualified companies to submit a bid to perform all work associated with the Chipley High School Administration Building HVAC Renovation for Washington District Schools, Chipley, Florida.</p> <p>Sealed bids will</p>	<p>be received on July 5, 2023, until 10:00 AM, Central Time, in the Board Meeting Room at the Washington County School Board Office, 652 Third Street, Chipley, Florida 32428. The bids shall be opened and read aloud at that time. The work shall consist of removal of two water source heat pumps and related terminal units, replacement with a single water source heat pump and related terminal units, and all associated work in accordance with the Plans and Specifications prepared by WATFORD ENGINEERING, 4452 Clinton Street, Marianna, Florida 32466.</p> <p>Bids shall be a lump sum price; segregated bids will not be accepted.</p> <p>Drawings and specifications may be examined at the office of the Engineer.</p> <p>Contractors may obtain documents at the office of the Engineer, 4452 Clinton Street, Marianna, FL 32466. A deposit of \$100 per set will be required, made payable to Watford Engineering. Plan and specification deposits by General Contractors will be refunded if the Contractor submits a bonafide bid and documents are returned to the Engineer within five calendar days after the bid opening in usable condition. The Engineer's decision on usable condition shall be final.</p> <p>A Pre-Bid Meeting shall be held for all concerned parties on June 22, 2023 at Chipley High School, 1545 Brickyard Rd, Chipley FL at 1:00 PM Central Time in the Main Office. Notification of any changes in meeting time/date will be made only to listed plan holders.</p> <p>The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, accept Bids in any order or combination, accept or reject portions of Bids, make modifications to the work after bidding, and waive any informalities in the Bids if deemed in its best interest to do so. No bid may be withdrawn for sixty (60) days after the actual closing time for receipt of bids.</p> <p>June 7, 14, 21, 2023</p> <p>000220 LEGAL ADVERTISE- MENT</p> <p>The Washington County School Board is accepting bids for Physical Therapy Services. Bids are to be sealed and marked "Bid for Physical Therapy Service, Bid #23-10 and delivered or mailed to the Superintendent's Office, Attention: Julie Jeffries, Director of ESE. Bids must be received on or before June 29, 2023 at 9:00AM, CST for review. Presentation to the Washington County School Board will be July 10, 2023 at the regularly scheduled board meeting beginning at 5:00PM, CST.</p> <p>Bid forms and specifications may be picked up at the Superintendent's Office, 652 Third St, Chipley, FL 32428, June 7 - 29, 2023, 8:00AM - 4:00PM, CST. The Washington County School Board reserves the right to accept or reject any/or all bids.</p> <p>June 7, 14, 2023</p> <p>000225</p> <p>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: 2004 Ford 1FMEU17WX4LB19975 July 5, 2023</p>	<p>June 14, 2023</p> <p>000228 Early Notice for Public Review of a Proposal to Support Activity in the 100-Year Floodplain</p> <p>Date of Publication: June 14, 2023</p> <p>Name of Responsible Entity: Town of Caryville, Town Council</p> <p>Address: 4436 Old Spanish Trail, Caryville, FL 32427</p> <p>Phone: (850) 548-5571</p> <p>To: All Interested Agencies, Groups, and Individuals</p> <p>This is to give notice that the Town of Caryville has determined that the following proposed action under the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program (Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2021-2022) is in the 100-year floodplain. The Town of Caryville will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action in the floodplain and the potential impacts on the floodplain from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988 and/or 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands.</p> <p>The Town of Caryville plans to construct CDBG funded park and playground improvements at two locations. The first location is the Caryville baseball field which is located at the corner of Wilson Street and Church Avenue. The CDBG grant application indicates that grant funds will be used to renovate the baseball field bleachers (or if renovation is not feasible, the bleachers will be replaced). Also, after the bleacher improvements are addressed, and if funds are available, the Town will use CDBG funds for the renovation of the ballfield restrooms/concession stand and the rehabilitation or replacement of the ballfield lighting. The ballfield's existing eight light poles will be replaced in the same location with LED light bulbs that replace the existing mercury-vapor bulbs.</p> <p>The second location proposed for CDBG funded assistance is at the Park that is adjacent to the Caryville Town Hall. The street address for the Park is 4440 Old Spanish Trail, Caryville, Florida. The CDBG grant application proposes the construction of a pavilion next to the existing outdoor stage and the construction of a restroom with showers/changing area, which will also include the construction of a septic tank. In addition, the CDBG grant application also calls for the Town to use \$25,000 from the American Rescue Plan as local match. The funds will be used for the installation of an electric sign to be placed at the Park next to Town Hall.</p> <p>The Town Council is currently considering a proposed change to the project scope and will update/amend the CDBG grant agreement and Environmental Review Record, as needed, when a final decision on the proposed change has been made.</p> <p>This notice is required by Section 2(a) (4) of Executive Order 11988 for Floodplain Management, and by Section 2(b) of Executive Order 11990 for the Protection of Wetlands and is implemented by HUD Regulations found at 24 CFR 55.20(b) for the HUD action that</p>	<p>is within and/or affects a floodplain or wetland.</p> <p>There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environments should begin an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplain, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplain can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplain, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.</p> <p>Written comments must be received by Larry Palmer, Caryville Town Council Chairman, at 4436 Old Spanish Trail (phone number: 850-548-5571) by July 3, 2023. A full description of the project may also be reviewed at Town Hall at the address above between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday, or by appointment. Additional information may be obtained by contacting Kent Taylor, Town Clerk at 850-548-5571. Comments may also be submitted by email to: admin@caryvillefl.com.</p> <p>Larry Palmer, Chairman, and Environmental Certifying Official June 14, 2023</p> <p>000230</p> <p>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: 2008 Honda 5J6RE38748L004830 July 10 June 14, 2023</p> <p>000232</p> <p>IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY, FLORIDA</p> <p>GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION</p> <p>CASE NO. 22000127CAAXMX ENVOY MORTGAGE LTD,</p> <p>Plaintiff, vs. LUCINDA HILTY KERRA/K/LUCINDA KERR, et al.</p> <p>Defendant(s).</p> <p>NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE</p> <p>NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated May 24, 2023, and entered in 22000127CAAXMX of the Circuit Court of the FOURTEENTH Judicial Circuit in and for Washington County, Florida, wherein ENVOY MORTGAGELTD is the Plaintiff and LUCINDA HILTY KERRA/K/LUCINDA KERR are the Defendant(s). Lora C. Bell as the Clerk of the Circuit Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the Lobby of Washington County Courthouse, 1293 Jackson Ave., Chipley, FL 32428, at 10:00 AM, on July 12, 2023, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:</p>	<p>BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF NORTH BOULEVARD, A DISTANCE OF 382.80 FEET WEST OF THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 4, TOWNSHIP 4 NORTH, RANGE 13 WEST, WASHINGTON COUNTY, FLORIDA; THENCE RUN NORTH 89 DEGREES 00 MINUTES WEST ALONG THE SOUTH SIDE OF NORTH BOULEVARD, A DISTANCE OF 54.00 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 00 DEGREES 12 MINUTES WEST, A DISTANCE OF 150.00 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 89 DEGREES 00 MINUTES EAST, A DISTANCE OF 54.00 FEET; THENCE RUN NORTH 00 DEGREES 12 MINUTES EAST, A DISTANCE OF 150.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. SAID PARCEL OF LAND BEING IN THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF THE NORTH-EAST 1/4 OF SECTION 4, TOWNSHIP 4 NORTH, RANGE 13 WEST, WASHINGTON COUNTY, FLORIDA.</p> <p>Property Address: 1203 OLDBONIFAY RD, CHIPLEY, FL 32428</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 in accordance with Florida Statutes, Section 45.031.</p> <p>Dated this 6th day of June, 2023,</p> <p>Lora C. Bell As Clerk of the Court By: Jo Ann Hayes As Deputy Clerk IMPORTANT AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. 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>Submitted by: Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC Attorneys for Plaintiff 6409 Congress Avenue, Suite 100, Boca Raton, FL 33487 Telephone: 561-241-6901 Fax: 561-997-6909 July 10, 21, 2023</p> <p>LAND/ACREAGE</p> <p>1-Acre plot and 2-Acre plot in Jacob City Florida (850)849-9338</p> <p>AUCTION</p> <p>Online Auction Only Truck, Trailers and Heavy Equipment</p> <p>Premier Home Investments, LLC Assignment for the Benefit of Creditors Case No.: 23-CA-017734</p> <p>Auction ends: Tues, June 20, 2023 at 10:00 A.M.</p> <p>Assets located in: Ocala, FL 34473</p> <p>Featuring: 2019 Ford F-450 Super Duty STX Crew Cab 4WD Pickup Truck, 2019 Kubota KX080-4SR3A Mini Excavator, 2020 Big Tex 22GN HD 25' Tandem Axle Dual Wheel Gooseneck Trailer, 2018 Big Tex 16TL 22' Super Duty Tilt Bed Tandem Axle Equipment Trailer, 2020 Big Tex 70CH 20' Tandem Axle Car Hauler, 2018 Load Trail 14'</p>	<p>Tandem Axle Dump Trailer, 2019 Load Trail 14' Tandem Axle Dump Trailer, 2018 Barrentine 8' Single Axle Utility Trailer and more. Registration, catalog, photos and terms available at www.moeckerauctions.com</p> <p>Preview: 06/19 by appointment. Call for details (954) 252-2887 (800) 840-BIDS</p> <p>https://moeckerauctions.com/2023/06/05/truck-trailers-and-heavy-equipment/ (No onsite attendance)</p> <p>AB-1098 AU-3219, Eric Rubin</p> <p>MEDICAL</p> <p>Attention: VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS! A cheaper alternative to high drug store prices! 50 Pill Special-Only \$99! 100% guaranteed.</p> <p>CALL NOW: 866-259-6816</p> <p>HOME IMPROVEMENT/ SERVICE</p> <p>UPDATE YOUR HOME with Beautiful New Blinds & Shades. FREE in-home estimates make it convenient to shop from home. Professional installation. Top quality - Made in the USA.</p> <p>Call for free consultation: 866-636-1910. Ask about our specials!</p> <p>HOME IMPROVEMENT/ SERVICE</p> <p>NEED NEW FLOORING? Call Empire Today® to schedule a FREE in-home estimate on Carpeting & Flooring. Call Today! 855-919-2509</p> <p>OTHER</p> <p>DONATE YOUR VEHICLE to fund the SEARCH FOR MISSING CHILDREN. FAST FREE PICKUP. 24 hour response. Running or not. Maximum Tax Deduction and No Emission Test Required! Call 24/7: 866-471-2576</p> <p>HOME IMPROVEMENT/ SERVICE</p> <p>Don't Pay For Covered Home Repairs Again! American Residential Warranty covers ALL MAJOR SYSTEMS AND APPLIANCES. 30 DAY RISK FREE/ \$100 OFF POPULAR PLANS. 877-351-2364</p> <p>MEDICAL</p> <p>ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Inogen One G4 is capable of full 24/7 oxygen delivery. Only 2.8 pounds. FREE information kit.</p> <p>Call 844-958-2473.</p> <p>HOME IMPROVEMENT/ SERVICE</p> <p>PROTECT YOUR HOME from pests safely and affordably. Pest, rodent, termite and mosquito control. Call for a quote or inspection today 888-498-0446</p> <p>TRAVEL/ MISCELLANEOUS</p> <p>DISCOUNT AIR TRAVEL. Call Flight Services for best pricing on domestic & international flights inside and from the US. Serving United, Delta, American & Southwest and many more airlines. Call for free quote now! Have travel dates ready! 866-245-7709</p> <p>HOME IMPROVEMENT/ SERVICE</p> <p>BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 888-460-2264</p>

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CELEBRATE COMMUNITY



Swinging into the cold water is a big hit at The Original Vortex Spring. [CONTRIBUTED]

DIANE M. MOORE
Dmoore@nevespublishing.com

Summer is here and the temperature is rising leaving people to find ways to beat the heat. Holmes and Washington Counties are home to many places where folks can go and cool off. Between splash pads, creeks, springs, lakes and ponds there is always some water to dive into.

Little ones love the splash pads in Chipley, Bonifay, Wausau and

Westville, while older kids might prefer the springs and creeks. Families can go to Falling Waters State Park, Ponce de Leon Springs State Park and The Original Vortex Spring and find something for each member to enjoy. If swimming isn't your thing, grab your kayak, canoe or paddle board and head down to the creek and enjoy communing with nature. Both counties have an abundance of beautiful places to enjoy and cool off on these hot Summer days.



Gather a group of friends and rent canoes for the day and traverse Holmes Creek in Vernon. [DIANE M. MOORE | THE NEWS AND ADVERTISER]



Doesn't the Chipley splash pad look like fun! [DIANE M. MOORE | THE NEWS AND ADVERTISER]



The Original Vortex Spring is family friendly fun. [DIANE M. MOORE | THE NEWS AND ADVERTISER]



Even the big kids enjoy the splash pad too. [DIANE M. MOORE | THE NEWS AND ADVERTISER]



Falling Waters State Park's Turtle Lake had a cute visitor. [DIANE M. MOORE | THE NEWS AND ADVERTISER]



Ponce de Leon Springs State Park is a great place to snorkel and see the native fish. [CONTRIBUTED]



Chipley's splash pad is brand new and the kiddies are loving it. [DIANE M. MOORE | THE NEWS AND ADVERTISER]



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NFCH
Northwest Florida
Community Hospital



Roots & Wings Wellness Boutique held a ribbon cutting for their grand opening on June 2, in Vernon.

Vernon native and owner Robin Perrone says she wants to offer an upscale feel with small town prices. The spa lounge features two state of the art machines that help promote weight loss, promotes collagen

and much more. The business is located adjacent to the public library at the City Square. Perrone and her four daughters are excited to bring a unique shopping experience where moms can enjoy a spa day too.



Citrus growers await aid as season closes

NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA
Jim Turner

TALLAHASSEE — Florida citrus officials are promoting the “grit of this industry” as the growing season is set to close with the lowest production in nearly a century.

But they say growers are getting more anxious while continuing to wait for federal assistance approved after Hurricane Ian and Hurricane Nicole uprooted trees and flooded fields last fall.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture on Friday released a report that estimated Florida will produce 15.75 million boxes of oranges this season. That would be down from 41.2 million boxes during the 2021-2022 season — a total that itself was the lowest production in decades. The department will release a final report for the 2022-2023 season in July.

Hurricane Ian caused heavy damage to the industry after it made landfall in September in Southwest Florida and crossed the state, including barreling through major citrus-growing areas. But even before the hurricanes, the 2022-2023 harvest was expected to be smaller than in previous years, as an initial “fruit per tree” count was down.

“It was a short crop to

begin with, even before the hurricanes hit,” U.S. Department of Agriculture State Statistician Mark Hudson said. “The hurricanes made it even shorter.”

The estimates released Friday showed Florida producing 1.82 million boxes of grapefruit this season, down from 3.33 million in 2021-2022. They also showed the state producing 490,00 boxes of specialty crops, mostly tangerines and tangelos, down from 750,000 in 2021-2022. The industry uses a standard of 90-pound boxes.

The overall total of slightly more than 18 million boxes would represent the lowest production for Florida growers since 17 million boxes were filled in the 1927-1928 season.

Matt Joyner, CEO of Florida Citrus Mutual, said that while growers are resilient, “we must have the hurricane relief promised by our federal government in order to overcome the damages and losses inflicted by Hurricanes Ian and Nicole.”

Congress passed a \$1.7 trillion omnibus spending bill in December that included \$3.742 billion for crop and livestock losses across the nation in 2022.

Several Florida lawmakers have championed a block-grant process to help distribute money, but it

awaits congressional approval. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has estimated Hurricane Ian inflicted up to \$675 million in damage to the state’s citrus growers.

Meanwhile, the industry faces development pressures and has grappled for two decades with deadly citrus greening disease, more formally known as huanglongbing.

“We remain optimistic about the future, with new treatment methods making a real difference in our fight against greening,” Joyner said. “With hurricane relief, the dedication of our growers and the grit of this industry, I’m confident Florida citrus will come back.”

State lawmakers last month passed a budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year that would increase funding for various aspects of the citrus industry from the current \$37 million to \$65 million. Gov. Ron DeSantis has not signed the budget or issued vetoes. The fiscal year will start July 1.

The proposed state spending includes \$49.5 million for citrus protection and research, including large-scale field trials on trees that are resistant to huanglongbing.

Friday’s estimate for orange production

would be the lowest since the 1932-1933 growing season. At that time, the state was still reeling from hurricanes that crossed Florida after hitting Miami in 1926 and West Palm Beach in 1928. Also, a Mediterranean fruit-fly invasion in 1929 affected the industry.

Meanwhile, this year’s grapefruit crop is set to be the lowest since 1911-1912. The estimate for specialty crops is slightly above the levels in 1920-1921.

Friday’s estimates

represented a relatively small improvement for oranges and grapefruit compared to a May forecast. The estimate for oranges increased by 100,000 boxes, while the

estimate for grapefruit increased by 20,000 boxes. The estimate for specialty crops, however, decreased by 10,000 boxes.

Public Hearing Notice

This notice is hereby given that the Board of County Commissioners in and for Washington County, FL, will hold a public hearing to amend definitions for Section 50-164 of Litter and Refuse Control Regulations. Public Hearing will be at the next regular meeting at 9:00 AM, CST, on Thursday, June 15, 2023, at the County Commission Boardroom, 1331 South Blvd, Chipley, FL. The commission meeting will immediately follow this public hearing.

PUBLIC NOTICE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Group Medical Insurance – RFP NO: INS-2023

Friday, July 27, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. CST

Holmes County School Board is seeking proposals from qualified firms to provide a fully insured Health Insurance Plan for Employees and Dependents. Self-Funded proposals will also be considered. Proposals must be submitted in a sealed container, clearly identified as Request for Proposal for Group Medical Insurance, RFP INS-2023. Sealed proposals will be received from eligible bidders at the Holmes District School Board (hereinafter the District), 701 E. Pennsylvania Ave., Bonifay, FL 32425, until Thursday, July 27, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. local time. A copy of the full RFP and forms is available on the Holmes County School District’s website at: www.hdsb.org/procurement. This RFP is issued through our consultant, Dennis Barnes. Dennis Barnes is the sole point of contact with regard to this RFP and all contractual matters related to the services described herein. **Questions:** All questions and communications must be addressed, in writing, to Dennis Barnes, Barnes Insurance & Financial Services

1582 Airport Boulevard, Pensacola, FL 32504
(850) 473-1500,

dbarnes@biafs.com or cpowers@biafs.com

Responses to inquiries regarding the status of a proposal will not be made prior to the posting of award recommendation. 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: Kelly Leavins

Publicly posted in the lobby of the Holmes District School Board Office on July 14, 2023.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS WASHINGTON COUNTY

(Owner) is requesting Bids for the construction of the following Project(s):

- ITB 2023-10: Jewel Road, Kent Mill Pond Road and Porter Road. Contract Time of 210 days Sealed Bids for the construction of the Project(s) will be received by the **Washington County Board of County Commissioners at 1331 South Blvd, Chipley, Florida 32428 until 3:00 PM local time on Tuesday, July 11, 2023**, at which time the Bids received will be “**publicly**” opened and read. The sealed bid submittal shall include 1 original, 2 copies, and one electronic copy on a USB flash drive. You may obtain electronic Bidding Documents by emailing Kimberly Birge-Gorman at kbirge@washingtonfl.com. Questions shall be emailed to Kimberly Birge-Gorman at the email address above. The deadline for questions is **Friday, June 30, 2023, by 3:00 pm local time**. The Prime contractor at a minimum shall be FDOT qualified in Flexible Paving and Hot Plant-Mixed Bituminous courses. Additionally, the Prime Contractor or Subcontractor shall be qualified in Grading; Grassing, Seeding and Sodding; Pavement Marking; and Roadway Signing. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from other sources.

This Advertisement is issued by:

Owner: **Washington County Board of County Commissioners**

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS WASHINGTON COUNTY

(Owner) is requesting Bids for the construction of the following Project(s):

- ITB 2023-11: Countywide Pavement Maintenance and Rehabilitation Continuing Services

Sealed Bids for the continuing services contract will be received by the **Washington County Board of County Commissioners at 1331 South Blvd, Chipley, Florida 32428 until 3:00 PM local time on Tuesday, July 11, 2023**, at which time the Bids received will be “**publicly**” opened and read. The sealed bid submittal shall include 1 original, 2 copies, and one electronic copy on a USB flash drive. You may obtain electronic Bidding Documents by emailing Kimberly Birge-Gorman at kbirge@washingtonfl.com. Questions shall be emailed to Kimberly Birge-Gorman at the email address above. The deadline for questions is **Friday, June 30, 2023, by 3:00 pm local time**. The Prime contractor at a minimum shall be FDOT qualified in Flexible Paving and Hot Plant-Mixed Bituminous courses. Additionally, the Prime Contractor or Subcontractor shall be qualified in Grading; Grassing, Seeding and Sodding; Pavement Marking; and Roadway Signing. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from other sources.

This Advertisement is issued by :

Owner: **Washington County Board of County Commissioners**

Happy Birthday

Harriet Austin recently celebrated her 99th birthday surrounded by family and friends. Austin served both the Holmes and Washington county communities over the course of 50 years as a teacher's aide, substitute teacher, hostess at Simbo's and Beefmasters, a full-time wife and mother and a

sheriff's deputy. Austin says her good health comes from walking, exercising and playing the piano and harmonica, which she did at the Chipley Nursing Home. Happy Birthday, Harriet. Austin is pictured with her daughters, from left: Sandy Stritz, Jane Lively, Austin, and Sharon Thro.



Thelma and the wildflowers

Members of the wildflower maintenance team from the Chipley Garden Club along with their helper Thelma did their monthly maintenance on the wildflower plot at Falling Waters State Park. The garden is blooming well and attracting butterflies and bees. The plot contains only native plants to the area, and provides a colorful entrance to the hiking trail to the waterfall.

[CHERYL GAINER MCCALL | CONTRIBUTED]

Gas Prices Increase Amid Higher Demand

NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA

Prices at the pump in Florida increased more than a dime a gallon during the past week as gasoline demand jumped. The average price of a gallon of regular unleaded in Florida on Monday was \$3.47, up from \$3.36 a week earlier, according to the AAA auto club. The national average price was \$3.59 a gallon. "Summer hasn't officially begun, but the driving season is off to a roaring start," AAA spokesman Mark Jenkins said in a prepared statement. "Gasoline demand figures from the past few weeks have been stronger than what we saw during this same time last year. That has contributed to volatility at the gas pump, which is perfectly normal this time of year. The good news for drivers is that oil

prices remain low." Jenkins said the current market price for oil should keep Florida average prices from topping this year's high of \$3.72 a gallon. The average price Monday was 3 cents below a month ago and \$1.42 a gallon below a year ago. The West Palm Beach, Naples and Port St. Lucie areas have the state's highest prices, while the lowest prices are in the Panhandle. Concerns were raised last week after OPEC announced an additional production cut to try to push oil prices higher. On Friday, the U.S. price of oil settled at \$70.17 per barrel, 2 percent less than a week earlier. Meanwhile, the demand for gas over the past four weeks was 2 percent higher than last year, hitting 9.2 million barrels a day, according to figures from the Energy Information Administration.

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2
3
4
5

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FOOD

A cool BLT salad, with a nod to Dr. Gorrie



Stephanie Hill-Frazier
Guest Columnist

"Man cannot live by bread alone. Everyone in a while he needs a salad." - Woody Allen

Dr. John Gorrie is a local hero in Northwest Florida, particularly Apalachicola, and rightfully so. When sitting in a home or office on a steamy August afternoon and a cold breeze comes through the vents into the room, we have Dr. Gorrie to thank for that. While he didn't invent the air conditioner as it is today, he certainly kicked things off by inventing a machine that produced ice, and which had a compressor which could be powered by steam,

wind-driven sails, water, or horsepower. This all began with his desire to cool and cure his yellow fever patients during an outbreak in Apalachicola in the early 1840s. A hero, indeed!

I know the exact moment I became appreciative of Dr. Gorrie's genius. It was in 1978, and we had just moved into our new home on St. Joe Beach. It did not have an air conditioner. It was late May, the end of the school year was near, and it was already getting pretty toasty indoors without cooled air. Dad put ceiling fans in all the rooms, of course, but that humid Florida air was a challenge for them.

One afternoon our sixth grade class, led by science teacher extraordinaire Herman Jones, had an end-of-year party at our classmate Phil Watson's house on the beach at Beacon Hill. I remember lots of fun, with games and swimming and coolers full of cold

drinks for us to enjoy. It went by quickly, and then mom came to pick me up at his house along Highway 98. I climbed into the car, sandy, sweaty and hot, and we headed home.

When I walked into the warm house, I saw immediately that there was a stranger in the kitchen, kneeling over a vent in the floor doing some sort of adjustment. Moments later, I heard something mechanical turn on, and felt a blast of cool air come through another vent nearby. What a joy it was to suddenly have a home being filled with that gloriously cooled air! I stood in front of a vent and allowed the cool air to blow on my face. I felt richer than if someone had handed me a \$50 bill! (I was only 12, remember.)

I remain thankful for cooled air, whether I'm in Florida or Texas, the two places my life takes me to regularly. And even with cooled air, In the summer, most of us prefer to keep our kitchens cool, usually to save money on our electric bills, but also to keep ourselves from getting cranky and hot. Because of that, I find myself gravitating toward easily prepared but unique salads during the hot months for light, yet filling and tasty meals.

What's better than a nice piece of chicken or fish right off the grill paired with a lush, flavorful salad?

I created a salad idea to share with you here which echoes the flavors of a favorite American sandwich, the BLT. Crusty French bread croutons take the place of sandwich bread, flavorful cheese is added, and the dressing is made with a Ranch dressing packet and mayo. Finish it off with some cracked black pepper, and you will have a salad that you'll both enjoy in summer and dream of in winter, when fresh local tomatoes are nowhere to be found.

Enjoy!

Stephanie Hill-Frazier is a writer, food blogger and regional television chef, whose on-air

nickname is "Mama Shas three sons who are significantly taller than she is. You can find more

of her recipes at WhatSouthernFolksEat.com.



BLT salad with toasted French bread croutons [STEPHANIE HILL-FRAZIER]

BLT Salad With Toasted French Bread Croutons

Ingredients:

For the croutons

- 1/2 loaf day old, crusty French bread, sliced in half through the center
- olive oil
- garlic powder

For the salad

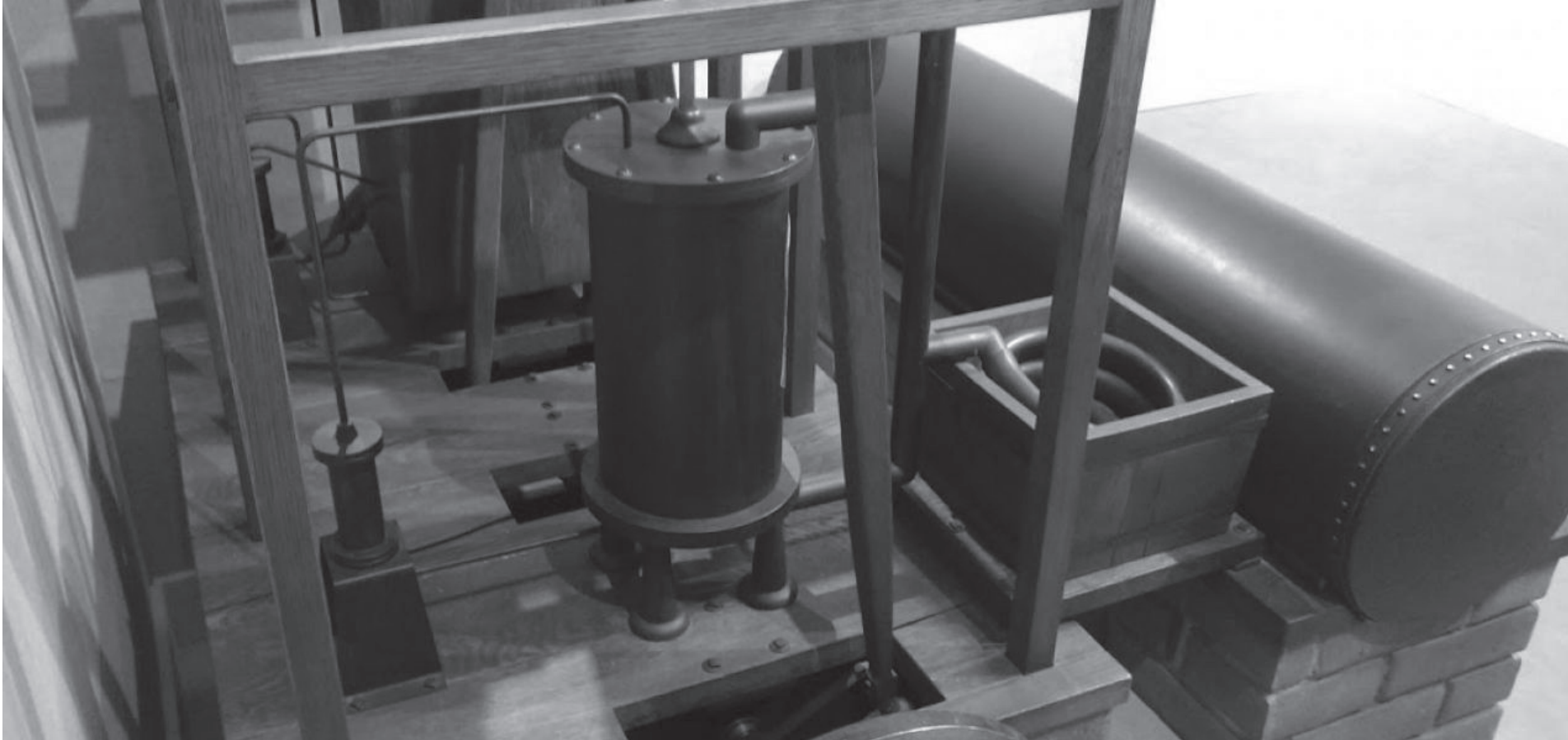
- bag of pre-washed mixed greens (lettuce, spinach, baby kale etc... if fresh from the garden, even better)
- tomatoes (chopped if large, or sliced in half if grape or cherry tomatoes)
- 5 slices bacon, pan fried, drained on paper towels, and crumbled
- 4 ounces white cheese, cubed or shredded, such as fresh mozzarella, provolone, Swiss, smoked Gouda, or chevre
- Ranch dressing (preferably made with Ranch seasoning packet, Dukes mayonnaise, and milk)

Method:

- Spread each half of French bread loaf on the cut side with olive oil. Sprinkle with garlic powder. Toast in small toaster oven until crisp, but don't allow to get dark. Alternatively, grill the oiled and seasoned bread on a grill pan on stovetop, or over embers on grill. When cool, cut into 1-inch cubes with a serrated knife.
- Combine greens and tomatoes; toss. drizzle with the dressing and toss well again.
- Sprinkle salad with bacon pieces, cheese, and toasted croutons, as well as salt and pepper, if desired.



A 1914 statue by C. Adrian Pillars represents Florida in the Capitol. [NATIONAL STATUARY HALL]



A look at Dr. John Gorrie's original ice machine. [FLORIDASTATEPARKS.ORG]

CFO Jimmy Patronis: Florida fights back against big tech, applauds signing of data privacy measures

MYFLORIDACFO.COM

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Today, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Jimmy Patronis issued a statement applauding Governor Ron DeSantis for signing Senate Bill 262, Technology Transparency, by Senator Jennifer Bradley and Representative Fiona McFarland. The legislation installs data privacy protections in Florida by designating

the “Florida Digital Bill of Rights” and requires tech companies to limit the collection of personal data. CFO Jimmy Patronis said, “Florida made history today. After years of battling BigTech, the Governor secured data privacy protections for Florida consumers with the signing of Senate Bill 262. In 2020, our world turned upside down and more consumers were pushed toward

using online applications more than ever. Now there’s a law curtailing the ability of billion dollar corporations’ collection of certain information without consent. Great job by Senator Bradley and Representative McFarland for working diligently the past three years to secure these vital data privacy measures to protect Floridians.”

DeSantis signs condo safety changes

NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA

Gov. Ron DeSantis on Friday signed a bill that will revise condominium-safety requirements passed after the deadly June 2021 collapse of the Champlain Towers South building in Surfside. Lawmakers passed the initial requirements in 2022 to deal with issues such as condominium-building inspections and condominium-association financial reserves. But lawmakers redressed the issue during this year’s legislative session and unanimously passed the bill (SB 154) in May. The

bill stemmed, at least in part, from concerns by condominium residents about potential financial ramifications of the 2022 law. The bill, for example, will revise requirements related to what are known as “milestone” inspections for condominium buildings three stories or higher. Under the 2022 law, inspections are required for buildings that have been occupied for 30 years—or 25 years if the buildings are within three miles of a coastline. After initial inspections, the buildings have to go through the process every 10 years.

The bill will ease that somewhat, allowing buildings within three miles of the coastline to be inspected after they have been occupied for 30 years. It will allow local officials to require the inspections after 25 years of occupancy depending on “local circumstances, including environmental conditions such as proximity to salt water.” Also, the bill will allow local officials to extend inspection deadlines if building owners have entered into contracts with architects or engineers but the inspections cannot be finished in time.

City of Bonifay 2022 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. With 4 water wells located throughout the city, the City of Bonifay draws an average of 1 million gallons per day from the Upper Floridan Aquifer. Due to the excellent quality of this groundwater source, disinfection through chlorination is the only treatment process required to produce an aesthetically pleasing product to the community.

We at the City of Bonifay would like you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. If you have any questions or concerns about the information provided in this report, please feel free to call Matthew Perry at our Public Works Office at (850) 547-2701 between the hours of 7:00 AM to 3:00PM Monday Through Friday. We encourage our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 6:00 pm at City Hall, located at 301 N. Etheridge St..

The City of Bonifay routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws, rules, and regulations. Except where indicated otherwise, this report is based on the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2022. Data obtained before January 1, 2022, and presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Bonifay is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

In 2022 the Department of Environmental Protection performed a Source Water Assessment on our system. The assessment was conducted to provide information about any potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of our wells. There are 5 potential sources of contamination identified for this system with low to moderate susceptibility levels. The assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program Website at www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp or they can be obtained from the City of Bonifay Public Works Department at (850) 547-2701.

In the table below, you may find unfamiliar terms and abbreviations. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

- Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL:** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG:** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- “ND”** means not detected and indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.
- Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)** – one part by weight of analyte to 1 million parts by weight of the water sample.
- Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (µg/l)** – one part by weight of analyte to 1 billion parts by weight of the water sample.
- Picocurie per liter (pCi/L)** - measure of the radioactivity in water.
- Maximum residual disinfectant level or MRDL** - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- Maximum residual disinfection level goal or MRDLG** - The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

2022 Contaminants Table							
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants							
Arsenic (ppb)	4/2020	N	3.1	ND – 3.1	0	10,000	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium (ppm)	4/2020	N	0.0059	ND – 0.0059	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	4/2022	N	0.44	ND – 0.44	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	4/2020	N	2.3	1.7– 2.3	N/A	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil.
Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products							
Disinfectant or Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	AL Exceeded Y/N	90th Percentile Result	No. of sampling sites exceeding the AL	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine (ppm)/Stage 1	1-12/21	N	0.94	0.9 – 1.0	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids [HAA5] (ppb)	8/2022	N	2.3	NA	NA	MCL = 60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Lead and Copper (Tap Water)							
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	AL Exceeded Y/N	90th Percentile Result	No. of sampling sites exceeding the AL	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	7/2020	N	0.52	0	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	7/2020	N	1.7	0	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

- Contaminants that may be present in source water include:
- (A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- (B) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- (C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- (D) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can, also, come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- (E) Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

FAITH

A bug in my Bible



CALEB DUNCAN
Guest Columnist

While we were in Liberia, I was preaching one night in a church building with a generator that powered two light bulbs. Windows open, humid heat and a crowded room. Africans in Liberia have authentic worship. They didn't care about commodities, comfort or appeal. Their worship was a set of bent and broken drums, their clapping hands and their bold, strong voices. They had a hunger and craving for God's word that was personally convicting. The Holy Spirit led me to share about the realities of suffering in this world. These Africans were well acquainted with hardships that most Americans are unfamiliar with. This includes extreme poverty, government corruption, theft, hunger and a very high mortality rate due to malaria and other diseases. While we were there,

we witnessed suffering in an eye-opening way. So what could I share with them that would teach them what the Bible says about suffering? My main text was 1 Peter 4:19, "Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good." While preaching, I was fighting bugs the entire time. Of course, one of the lightbulbs was directly above the pulpit. Every variety of swarming insect was on my ears, neck and face while I was trying to stay concentrated on God's word. As I was ending, I came to Revelation where I encouraged them that even though we suffer in this life, we will one day be in the presence of God where we will never suffer again. As I began to pray, I placed my hand on the Bible and began to close it not knowing I squished a bug in the process. Later that night, I opened that same scripture before bed and began to laugh as I saw the bug in my Bible. I was overcome with emotion as I recognized how grateful I was to be there and how humbled to spend just a little bit of time with them. But God was not finished teaching me a lesson. The following day, I saw some members of our team joking with the kids. They were cooking something over the fire in a pot that happened to be some of the kid's favorite snacks: salted

termites. You read that right. Salted termites. I tried the salted termites. They tasted like a sunflower seed with a small squirt of something. This was the same type bug I had squished in my Bible the previous night. And that's when God taught me a precious, humbling lesson: what I saw as a nuisance was someone else's snack. Suffering is temporary, so be grateful for what you have. This life is short, and as Christians, we have something incredible to look forward to. And the next time you get aggravated by the small things, remember how much we have to be grateful for. I'll never remove the bug in my Bible. *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.*

Seek God with your family



SHERYL BOLDT
Guest Columnist

we've caused. We believe that humbling ourselves, not only in God's presence but in each other's, will allow the God we both serve to bond us even closer. And during these times of joint prayer regarding those areas in which we fall short, we know healing will take place. Consider also going beyond God's throne to intercede for others you care about. Spend time praising and thanking your heavenly Father for Who He is and all He has done. Praying together can ensure that every member of your household knows each other's wants, needs and challenges. Petitioning God together can create a special closeness that many families today lack. To those who already do this, praise God for the years you've grown in Him and with each other. For those who haven't yet established the habit of praying together, try it. See how this practice will transform your household. Every day we have a choice. We can experience God's guidance and peace as we commit - as a family - to seek the Lord and his strength. Or we can continue to experience angst every time the enemy trips up our marriage and household. Which will you choose? *Sheryl H. Boldt is the author of the blog, www.TodayCanBeDifferent.net. Connect with her at SherylHBoldt@gmail.com.*

What keeps tripping up your marriage or your household? How does the enemy keep baiting you or your spouse? What behavior is your teen caught up in that causes your stomach to knot up? What conflicts do you deal with as a blended family? Like you, Bert and I want to have a better marriage. Therefore, we've committed to pray together every day. Is this something you'd like to do with your spouse - perhaps also with your children? Each day, when we gather as a couple or family in Jesus' name, we experience the presence of God as we practice 1 Chronicles 16:11 (ESV): "Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually!" While in the Lord's presence, ask God to help you become closer to each other as you listen for His direction regarding your marriage and your household. Pray to grow together in your relationship with your heavenly Father. When Bert and I pray as husband and wife, we often ask God to help us forgive one another for the hurts

OBITUARIES

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

JAMES PATTON HEDRICK, JR.

In Loving Memory of James Patton Hedrick, Jr. (November 12, 1950 - May 17, 2023)

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of James Patton Hedrick, Jr., age 72, who peacefully left us on



May 17, 2023, in the comfort of his home in Eufaula, Alabama. Born on November 12, 1950, in Hartford, Alabama, James, affectionately known as Pat, touched the lives of many with his vibrant spirit and warm presence. Pat was preceded in death by his beloved father, James Patton Hedrick, Sr., his cherished daughter, Elonia Henson, his baby sister, Lisa Renita Hedrick, and his sister-in-law, Vanessa Hedrick. Their memories will forever remain in our hearts as we remember the impact they had on Pat's life. Pat's professional journey led him to work as a dedicated salesman in communications for Southwestern Bell Yellow Pages in Texas. However, it was his passion for people and his entrepreneurial spirit that ultimately led him to acquire JJ's Pawn shop in Beaumont, TX. Pat found joy in interacting with others, and his pawn shop became a place where friendships were formed and stories were shared. He will be remembered fondly by all those whose lives he touched during his time at the pawn shop. Beyond his professional endeavors, Pat possessed an outgoing nature that drew

people to him. He had a deep love for fishing, finding solace in the quiet serenity of the waters. Above all, his greatest joy came from spending cherished moments with his family, creating lasting memories that will forever be treasured. Pat's warm and loving personality brought light into the lives of those around him, and his absence will be profoundly felt by his beloved family and friends. Left to honor Pat's memory is his devoted wife, Jeri Hedrick of Eufaula, AL, his beloved mother, Mittie Hedrick of Bonifay, FL, his children, James Patton Hedrick, III of Beaumont, TX, and Shayne Machotka and wife Brandi of Clarksville, TN. He also leaves behind his loving sister, Kita Meyer, and husband Bill of Jacksonville, FL, as well as his devoted brother, Larry Hedrick of Bonifay, FL. Pat's legacy lives on through his four adored grandchildren: Samuel Hedrick, Samantha Henson, Ben Machotka, and Shyanne Machotka. During this time of mourning, let us remember and celebrate the life of James Patton Hedrick, Jr., a remarkable man who touched the lives of many through his kindness, passion, and loving nature. Though he may no longer be with us, his spirit will forever live on in our hearts. A celebration of life service will be held at a later date.

Glenn Sirmon

Mrs. Glennis Sirmon Jones passed away peacefully May 3, 2023, at Suwannee Valley Care Center in Lake City at the tender age of 93. Mrs. Jones was born April 3, 1930, to the late Glenn and Mary Alice Parker Sirmon in McKenzie, Alabama. Her childhood was spent in Bonifay, FL. In 1951, she married William "W.K." Jones and they spent 52 wonderful years together until his passing. They traveled with the military but settled back in Raiford for the past 20 years. As the greatest example of a grandmother, she never met a child she didn't love. She was everyone's Meemaw. Mrs. Jones is preceded in death by her parents and her husband, William "W.K." Jones. Mrs. Jones is survived by her children, Mary Roche of Chipley, FL, Randy (Judy) Jones of Lawrenceville, GA, Steven (Teresa) Jones of Calhoun, GA, Mark (Donna) Jones of Free-

port, FL, and Donald (Nita) Jones of Raiford, FL; 19 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; 1 great-great-grandchild; and her sisters, Annette Williams of Navarre, FL and Joyce Leavins of Bonifay, FL. A graveside service for Mrs. Jones will be held at Sapp Cemetery, Saturday, May 6th at 11:00am. The family will receive friends for a visitation beginning at 10:00am. Service will be officiated by Bro. Albert Starling. Arrangements are under the care and direction of Archer-Milton Funeral Home, Lake Butler. 386-496-2008 <http://www.archerfuneralhome.com> In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Haven Hospice Donate Now - The Haven Foundation - Haven (beyourhaven.org)



Philippians 4:6-7
Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.



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