

# Holmes County

# ADVERTISER

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2023 | HOLMESCOUNTRY.NEWS | VOLUME 001 No. 46

## PDL Fire Chief raises concerns over funding shortfall

**COLLIN BREAUX**  
Cbreaux@kentsmith.biz

There are fire departments in Holmes County “running double the calls” of other departments with comparatively less funding, Ponce de Leon Fire Chief Doug Rummel said during a Holmes County Board of County Commissioners

meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 7. Rummel asked commissioners to figure out how to dole out more funding. “Last year, we were over 318 calls,” Rummel said. “We had \$11,500. Almost half our fuel budget almost takes that whole thing out. That means we can’t purchase any new equipment. If we have a major breakdown

with anything, that takes out every bit of that funding.” A budget of \$25,000 would “get us closer to where we need to be,” Rummel said. County Commissioner Clint Erickson said he “understood where [Rummel] was coming from” and “respect everything you guys do” but “on the flip side”

there “is a little bit more to the story than what [Rummel was] telling.” “We do help you guys out and what you’re saying is absolutely correct but we should really have these discussions before budget time, which is Oct. 1,” Erickson said. Rummel said he brought up concerns last year and

was “under the assumption” call numbers would be taken into account during the recent budget cycle but “was told it was the same exact thing last year.” Erickson said he wants to see departments state what grants they can apply for and what their one and

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## Military veterans recognized during HCHS Veterans Day ceremony



Holmes County High School hosted a Veterans Day ceremony on Friday, Nov. 10. [COLLIN BREAUX | Washington County News and Holmes County Advertiser]

**COLLIN BREAUX**  
Cbreaux@kentsmith.biz

Dr. Huy Nguyen is glad he is an American. Nguyen is the CEO of Doctors Memorial Hospital in Bonifay and served in Iraq as a Navy physician. He spoke to students during a Veterans Day ceremony at Holmes County High School on Friday, Nov. 10.

Nguyen was born in South Vietnam during the middle of the Vietnam War and served eight years in the Navy, including at Naval Hospital Pensacola. He moved to the United States with his parents at a young age. Nguyen recalled being in a tent in Iraq, a far cry from the air conditioning he was used to.

“Learn to enjoy the value of work,” Nguyen said. “I cannot tell you how many sand bags I had to fill in Iraq. Everybody filled sand bags. That was not a part of our regular job but, I got to tell you, after a while filling the bags was like building a giant sand castle.” Nguyen further emphasized the importance of education to the kids as-

sembled. “Education not only guaranteed a good livelihood but gave me the knowledge to be a wiser person,” Nguyen said. “Get your education. It is the most direct path to a better life.” The event also included a ceremonial presentation of arms and the Ameri-

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## Abandoned dogs rescued from makeshift crate

**NAN THOMPSON**  
Nthompson@kentsmith.biz

An alarming sight along a highway in Westville got the attention of many on Oct. 30. A large dog crate was left stuffed full of puppies with a handmade sign reading, “Free puppies or killed tomorrow.” Some drivers thought it was a Halloween gag. Others became concerned when they saw puppies inside. One driver passing the sign contacted BARRK Rescue in Bonifay, begging the owner to come and get the animals. Kim Bell, founder of BARRK Rescue, agreed to try to get them. When she drove to the location she found the crate held together with bungee cords and four large puppies inside. There were several other puppies running in the yard, plus the mother dog. Bell left with only the four puppies in the crate, not knowing if the owner wanted the rest gone since the owner was nowhere to be found. “I wish people like this would fall off the face of the earth,” Bell said. Later that afternoon, two more puppies were retrieved from the house and brought to Bell with the promise that the mother dog and one more puppy would be coming as soon as they could be located. On Oct. 31, the last puppy and the mother dog were brought to BARRK. “Thankfully we have all

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## Sheriff’s office offers free firearms safety courses

### STAFF REPORT

Holmes County residents who own guns and want to learn how to safely handle them can do so through free courses offered by the Holmes County Sheriff’s Office. The HCSO is holding training classes on Nov. 18 and Dec. 2. Participants can register by calling 850-547-4421. “With the new law about

constitutional carry, we want citizens to be offered a course to better familiarize themselves with a firearm,” Sheriff John Tate said. Additional classes will be scheduled, with dates to be announced on the HCSO Facebook page when available. At least one class a month or “sometimes two” is planned, Tate said. Interested residents are encouraged to register quickly

since courses are limited to 20 people and, according to the HCSO, “will fill up fast.” “Participants will be expected to provide their own firearm and at least 20 rounds of ammunition,” the HCSO said in an announcement. The courses are made possible through a \$33,760 grant awarded by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.



Gun owners in Holmes County can learn firearm safety through training courses the Holmes County Sheriff’s Office is holding this winter. [KAROLINA GRABOWSKA/PEXELS]



# STATE & LOCAL

## County Commission hears proposal for recouping EMS transport costs



The Holmes County Board of County Commissioners heard a proposal for the county to recoup costs for emergency medical transports on Nov. 7, which they will further consider during an upcoming special meeting. [COLLIN BREAUX | Washington County News and Holmes County Advertiser]

**COLLIN BREAUX**  
Cbreaux@kentsmith.biz

Holmes County is considering a program allowing the county’s Emergency Medical Services department to recoup Medicaid funds based on service runs. Alissa Narode with consulting firm Public Consulting Group explained the terms of the potential program to the Holmes County Board of County Commissioners during a meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 7. “It’s a supplemental payment program,” Narode said. “We’ve worked to set up the program here in Florida. ... When you provide an

emergency transport, someone bills for Medicaid, you get about \$190 a transport.” Providing an emergency transport currently costs Holmes County around \$850, “maybe even higher,” based on estimates, Narode said. “What this allows you to do—we fill out a cost report every year, look at your expenditure data, a bunch of different data, and you get a supplemental payment every year,” Narode said. “The high-level estimate that we did, without looking at the data, we think it’s about \$12,000 annually.” Total payments,

should Holmes County enter into the program, will be upwards of \$95,000 a year. Commissioners did not make a final decision at the Nov. 7 meeting and are considering regulatory aspects of the proposal. Florida counties currently in the program include Gadsden, Baker, and Okaloosa. Public Consulting Group gets 6% on the fee service and 3% on the manage care side. “If that was upwards of \$70,000 to you all, it would be a little over \$15,000,” Narode said. The matter is expected to be further discussed at a special meeting in the future.

## McGowan signs with Northwest Florida

**WMBB**  
Holmes County High School senior shortstop, Karson McGowan, recently signed with Northwest Florida State to play softball. McGowan has helped lead the Blue Devils to three district championships, and as a junior held a .386 AVG, with a team-leading 32 hits, 18 RBI, and 2 HR. The future Raider joins the NJCAA’s national runners-up from the 2023 season. McGowan follows behind her older cousin, Colby Jones, who is currently a sophomore on the NWF baseball team and a University of Alabama commit.



Karson McGowan of Holmes County High School will play softball for Northwest Florida State and signed with the school on Nov. 8. [CONTRIBUTED]

## VETERANS

From page 1A

can flag, along with recognition of veterans in attendance by military branch and period. A table with a flower and glass and no one sitting there was also displayed to honor veterans who are missing in action and prisoners of war. “Real leadership is getting people to buy

into the greater mission and once you understand the humility of leadership, you will have the privilege of people following you,” Nguyen said. “Ultimately, leadership is a privilege you have to earn every day.” Nguyen encouraged students to formulate their core values now. Holmes County High Principal Laurence Pender said his great-grandfather fought in World War

I and other relatives and fellow church members growing up also served. “We have the freedoms we have because of people such as these sitting out here on this floor today,” Pender said. “You don’t have to worry about somebody coming to your door late at night and just taking your daddy and mommy. You have any free thing you have because of veterans.”



Navy medical veteran and Memorial Hospital CEO Dr. Huy Nguyen addressed students during a Veterans Day ceremony at Holmes County High School on Friday, Nov. 10. [COLLIN BREAUX | Washington County News and Holmes County Advertiser]



Holmes County High School JROTC students prepare to present the flags during a Veterans Day ceremony on Friday, Nov. 10. [COLLIN BREAUX | Washington County News and Holmes County Advertiser]

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## PDF FIRE

From page 1A

two-year plan is. “We’re doing close to \$20,000 to \$30,000 in fundraisers a year, so it’s not that we’re not busting our butts trying to get this funding up,” Rimmel said. “We’re still struggling. Right now, we’ve probably got less than \$500—if that—in our account right now from this past year when we got \$11,500.” The years are “getting busier and busier” for Ponce de Leon Volunteer Fire and Rescue, “same as the

other departments,” Rimmel said. “I am asking you to, at least, look at some of the budgets a little more, increase some of it,” Rimmel said. “We need more funding to be able to give me that peace of mind so I’m not having to come back later in the year on this same exact topic, when we’re struggling.” Bunker gear can run \$4,000 to \$5,000 and an Air-Pak \$6,000, he said. “That’s not incorporating any of the other apparatus, things like that,” Rimmel said. “For one firefighter, almost \$10,000 in just personal protective



Ponce de Leon Fire Chief Doug Rimmel requests more funding for the town’s Volunteer and Fire Rescue department from the Holmes County Board of County Commissioners on Tuesday, Nov. 7. [COLLIN BREAUX | Washington County News and Holmes County Advertiser]

equipment. I can’t replace anything when it gets outdated.”



RESCUED

From page 1A

but one puppy. There were eight and we have seven,” Bell said. “It was a joint effort of many to get them all to me.”

There are seven hound puppies in total—four boys and three girls, plus the mother dog. All are currently safe and are being treated for malnutrition.

There were signs that the animals ate pine needles, acorns, and leaves to survive. The mother dog has been named Lady and will be spayed on Nov. 8, then placed in a foster home away from her puppies as she recovers.

All puppies will undergo observation at BARRK and be given puppy vaccines, spayed and neutered as soon as possible, and placed for adoption mid-December.

If interested in adopting or donating to the care of these animals contact Kim Bell at 850-768-0157 or www.facebook.com/Barrkrescueinc.



Abandoned puppies found in a crate in Westville were rescued by BARRK Rescue founder Kim Bell. [CONTRIBUTED]

County Board approves cost increase for indigent burials, cremations

COLLIN BREAUX  
Cbreaux@kentsmith.biz

Due to an increase in cremation costs for funeral homes in Holmes County, the cost for the county to bury and cremate indigent people—meaning they could not afford basic life necessities—went up by \$350.

The Holmes County Board of County Commissioners unanimously approved the increase after County Project Director David Corbin brought the matter up during a meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 7.

The increase is effective immediately. The county will now pay \$750, having previously paid \$400.

Holmes County generally has four indigent people at most

who die in a given year, though Corbin said there have been three people in the past two weeks.

“What’s happening, apparently, is we’re getting people in this county that nobody wants them after they die,” County Commissioner Clint Erickson said. “Usually what happens is some kind of bad thing they’re involved in or something and the body ends up at the medical examiner’s. For \$400, they can’t go down there, process it, and cremate it. Their cost is right at \$750.”

Holmes County is given the ashes after cremation, which Erickson said they “have to figure out what to do with that.” Working with the City of Bonifay for an in-

digent care portion of the city cemetery is an option, Erickson said.

“We don’t have a place to keep them,” Corbin said.

Last year’s indigent burial budget was \$2,800.

“You don’t ever know the amount of numbers you’re going to have,” Corbin said. “Prime example: somebody gets killed on the interstate and nobody claims the body. Guess who belongs to? He belongs to Holmes County. He belongs to you commissioners.”

Corbin said three people in two weeks is the highest number of indigent people who died in Holmes since the four-and-a-half years he’s been around.

Iran sanctions, school security bills pass

JJIM SAUNDERS  
NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA

Wrapping up a special legislative session shadowed by the war between Israel and Hamas, the Florida Senate on Nov. 8 passed measures to expand sanctions against Iran and provide money to bolster security at Jewish day schools and preschools.

The Senate unanimously approved the bills, which passed the House the day before. They are ready to go to Gov. Ron DeSantis.

Legislative leaders called the special session after the Palestinian militant group Hamas attacked Israel

on Oct. 7, touching off a war that has killed thousands of people in Israel and Gaza.

While the special session also addressed issues such as providing aid to areas hit by Hurricane Idalia, lawmakers focused heavily on showing support for Israel and Jewish residents of Florida. That included passing bills to target Iran, a key backer of Hamas, and to counter a rise in anti-Semitism.

One of the bills (HB 5C) would expand restrictions on state investments in businesses with ties to Iran. The measure would expand a 2007 law that requires the State Board of Ad-

ministration to divest from what are known as “scrutinized” companies with links to Iran’s petroleum industry. Certain financial criteria are used in determining whether companies land on the scrutinized list.

The State Board of Administration manages Florida’s massive pension fund and other investments. Under the bill, the investment restrictions would expand to other types of industries, such as the financial, construction, manufacturing, textile and manufacturing sectors.

House and Senate bill sponsors acknowledged

See SECURITY, PAGE 6A

Lawmakers lift voucher program cap

RYAN DAILEY  
NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA

Amid high demand for school vouchers for students with disabilities, the Florida Senate on Nov. 8 gave final approval to a bill that would temporarily lift a cap on participation in a voucher program.

The Senate and House unanimously passed the measure (HB 3C) as part of a special legislative session that dealt with a range of issues. It is ready to go to Gov. Ron DeSantis, who this spring approved a bill that massively expanded state voucher programs to try to provide what supporters described as “universal school choice.”

The newly passed measure focuses on the Family Empowerment Scholarship for Students with Unique Abilities program, which has been limited to nearly 41,000 children this school year. The bill would eliminate the cap this year and allow the Florida Department of Education and organizations that administer vouchers for the state to determine the maximum number of vouchers that will be available.

After this school year, the program would go back to using a formula to determine maximum capacity. A House staff analysis said that, beginning next school year, the cap “shall annually increase by three percent of the state’s total ESE (exceptional stu-

dent education) student membership, not including gifted students.”

Senate bill sponsor Jay Collins, R-Tampa, pointed to a waiting list of roughly 8,900 students seeking vouchers in the program.

“As a parent of a unique-abilities child, there are a cavalcade of different things that you deal with. And making sure that we provide those opportunities to those parents, to those families, is unequivocally and unquestionably the right thing to do,” Collins said.

Senate President Kathleen Passidomo, R-Naples, and Republican sponsors of the bills have said families would have until Dec. 15 to apply for the vouchers.

House Speaker Paul Renner, R-Palm Coast, told reporters after the House passed the bill Nov. 7, that the cap on the number of vouchers in the program was a “fiscal constraint,” and he cited a “sliding scale of severity” of needs of students.

The broad population of Florida students can receive vouchers worth about \$8,000. But in the

Family Empowerment Scholarship for Students with Unique Abilities program, Renner said the amount may be more than \$20,000. “It’s harder for us to estimate that,” he said.

Step Up for Students, a nonprofit organization that administers the Unique Abilities vouchers, said on its website that the average amount of the scholarships this school year is \$9,900.

Renner, a major backer of vouchers, indicated that lawmakers could look during the 2024 legislative session at the way participation in the program and scholarship costs are estimated. The 2024 session will start in January.

“I think we need to look at, is there a better way to estimate this? I don’t really like the cap. I don’t believe we should have a cap, necessarily. But it was a fiscal constraint because it’s harder to estimate those kids,” Renner said. “We just don’t know who’s coming and how severe their situation is and how much money would be attributed to the total amount of people in that program.”

NOTICE

COUNCIL ELECTION 2023

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2023 CANCELLED

Qualifying has closed for the 2023 Esto Town Council Election for Seats 2 and 4. The following candidates qualified:  
• Seat 2 – Greg Wells (Incumbent)  
• Seat 4 – Maxie Yates

Since there was only one qualifying candidate for each seat, the above unopposed candidates are hereby declared elected.

The election scheduled for Monday, December 4, 2023, has been cancelled. The election results will be certified at the regular monthly town council meeting on Tuesday, December 19, 2023, at 7:00 PM. The winning candidates will be sworn in and take office at the regular monthly town council meeting on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at 7:00 PM.

CITY OF BONIFAY

RFP NO: 2023 – 005

GRANTS ADMINISTRATION SERVICES FOR FY 2022 COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING GRANT AGREEMENT NO. B-22-CP-FL-0229

The City of Bonifay is soliciting Proposals from qualified individuals/firms to perform consulting services related to Grants Administration Services for the Grant titled “FY 2022 COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING GRANT AGREEMENT NO. B-22-CP-FL-0229”. Awarded individuals/firms shall be responsible for the performance of all required contracted consulting services under this Grant, as well as any and all associated services as required. Proposals will be received until 3:00PM CDT, December 12, 2023, at 401 McLaughlin, Bonifay, FL 32425, and opened at 3:45 PM on the same day at 401 McLaughlin, Bonifay, FL 32425. Proposals submitted after this time will not be considered. Scope of Services will be determined by the grant. Awarded firms shall be responsible for the performance of all required contracted consulting services as well as any and all associated services as required by the City of Bonifay. All submitted Proposals shall be for principal firms and may include sub-contractors. Questions concerning this RFP, or to obtain a copy of the Grant Agreement please contact: Rickey Callahan, City Clerk, City of Bonifay, 401 McLaughlin Avenue, Bonifay, Florida 32425 Phone (850) 547-4238. It is recommended that questions be submitted by emailing: rickey.callahan@cityofbonifay.com or sierra.smith@cityofbonifay.com All request and questions must be received at least five (5) calendar days prior to the scheduled opening of the bids/proposals.

November 15, 22, 29, December 6, 2023

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Holmes County Agricultural Center  
Holmes County, Florida

Separate sealed BIDS for: Holmes County Agricultural Center - GEC will be received by HOLMES COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS at 107 E VIRGINIA AVE, BONIFAY, FL 32425 until December 3, 2023 December 8, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. (CST) .

The project consists of constructing a 14,000 square foot prefabricated metal building with interior buildout for offices and conference rooms and open-air arena for future buildout. The project also includes all the associated utilities and sitework required including grinder pump station, sidewalks, and the construction of a stormwater treatment pond. The bids will be publicly opened, read aloud and evaluated. The bids will be awarded at a future scheduled Holmes County Board of County Commissioners Meeting. All Bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked: “Sealed Bid: Holmes County Agricultural Center - GEC” and will be submitted to the attention of David Corbin, County Coordinator.

There will be PRE BID meetings on November 8, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. (CST) and November 15, 2023 at 2:00 pm (CST) at the Holmes County Administrative Office. All questions discussed at pre-bid meetings will be recorded and published as an addendum on this website no later than November 20, 2023.

Any questions should be emailed to David Corbin, County Coordinator hcc@holmes-countyfl.org no later than November 15, 2023 . No questions will be accepted verbally or in-person except at the November 8, 2023 and November 15, 2023 PRE BID meetings. Any contact with County staff or Board members outside the outlined process for communication will result in immediate disqualification.

www.holmescountyfla.com  
The Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids on the whole or in part and to accept the bid that in their judgment will be in the best interest of Holmes County.

Advertisement Date(s):  
October 25, 2023  
November 1, 2023  
November 3, 2023 - Holmes County Website (corrected advertisement)  
November 8, 2023 - Holmes County Advertiser (corrected advertisement)  
November 15, 2023



# OPINION

## Joe Biden continues to wreck our world



MICHAEL REAGAN  
Guest Columnist

The world is nothing but murders, massacres, and the threat of war.

It's gotten so bad, you wake up and ask, "Who died overnight?" Or "Whose rockets and bombs hit who this time?"

I'll go out on a limb here and blame most of the world's turmoil and tragedy on President Biden and his handlers.

Three years into his presidency, Biden has already got us mixed up in two bloody wars, blown our Southern border wide open, brought us 8% inflation, and too much other trouble and pain to list.

President Obama's warning quip that Joe has a way of screwing up everything he touches came true a long time ago – at home and abroad.

President Biden did nothing when he had the chance to stop the bloody and dangerous war between Russia and Ukraine – before it started.

Now half of the Middle East is about to go to war following the attack on Israel by Hamas terrorists who invaded Israel and slaughtered 1,400 men, women and children on Oct. 7.

And while Israel's missiles and ground forces are in Gaza paying back Hamas for their crimes against humanity, what is Joe

doing?

Playing both sides at the same time.

After the attack, Biden quickly pledged to fully support Israel and said it had the right to defend itself by crossing into Gaza and wiping out Hamas.

But this week, as our college campuses and city streets went wild with demonstrators protesting Israel's bombing of Gaza, the White House announced it was speeding up the development of its national strategy to battle ... "Islamophobia."

For decades the leading victims of religious hate crimes have been Jews, who make up 2.4 percent of our population but suffer 60 percent of hate crimes.

Acts of antisemitism are up 300 percent since last year and have spiked since Oct. 7.

But what Biden was most worried about this week was protecting American Muslims from hatred and violence.

His anti-Islamophobia announcement was designed to please pro-Palestinian protesters and the Democrat Party's left wing in Congress – the 10-member Squad of "progressives" led by Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

The Squad is anti-Israel, pro-Palestine and, as far as I'm concerned, pro-Hamas and anti-American.

But what worries me most about them is the Americans who voted them into office.

Each member of Congress represents 600,000 people. Let's say about half of them turn out to vote.

That means to win a House seat, in a two-way race you have to

See REAGAN, PAGE 5A

## Beekeeping in the Florida Panhandle: become a beekeeper now



DANNY BOST  
Central Panhandle Beekeepers Association

Everyone's beekeeping journey begins a little differently. Some are born into it, some do it to relive childhood memories, and others want to help the bees keep a single hive tucked away safely on their property.

Beekeeping is an exciting hobby with resources readily available. Are you ready?

As the weather cools and nature prepares for winter, honey bees, *Apis mellifera*, are preparing, too. They are storing the last of their nectar and pollen, driving

your first honey bees in the spring.

They can suggest what books to read and which websites to visit, as not all beekeeping information applies to our area. The Central Panhandle Beekeepers Association serves Washington and Holmes counties. We meet at 6 p.m. on the first Monday of each month at the Washington County UF/IFAS Extension office at 1424 US-90 in Chipley, by the library.

Another key element of this Association is the assignment of a local mentor. This person will become your best friend along your journey. You will spend hours together in your bee yard conducting inspections.

The information learned will help reinforce beekeeping techniques crucial to your success. Honey bees will be flying and the

sweet scent of beeswax and honey will float in the air, drawing you further into the bee world with each visit.

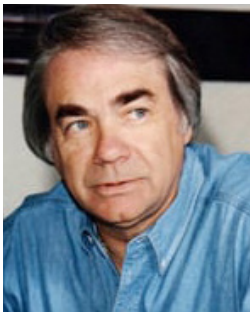
Beekeeping is a fulfilling hobby you will quickly fall in love with. It will take over your thoughts and a large part of your heart. I love my honey bees and enjoy the journey they are still taking me on.

Soon you, too, will be sharing your beekeeping knowledge with others, growing our future beekeepers. Visit us and see what all the buzz is about.

*Danny Bost is the District 1 Representative for the Florida State Beekeepers Association and previous President of the Central Panhandle Beekeepers Association. He has been a beekeeper since 2019 and works in honey bee preservation and promoting beekeeping in this area.*



## More Republican candidates need to follow Pence's lead



CARL GOLDEN  
Guest Columnist

Former vice president Mike Pence was the first domino to fall, drawing increased focus and pressure on the remaining single-digit candidates for the Republican presidential nomination to confront the harsh reality that victory will not be theirs.

In the Real Clear Politics polling average, Pence, at 3.4%, held fifth place but showed no movement. His campaign financ-

es had tightened and his frustrating lack of progress prompted the difficult decision to abandon his candidacy.

While he did not endorse any of his competitors, his departure from the race shifted the focus to those directly behind in the polling averages – former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie at 2.3%, South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott at 1.7% and entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy at 4.6% – none of whom has gained ground and remain well out of the running.

While rumors of a withdrawal have swirled around Scott, Christie appears intent on carrying through to the New Hampshire primary in January, hoping to finish strong in a state

where he has gambled a great deal of time and money.

As former president Donald Trump, despite indictments and criminal trials, maintains a stout 30 to 40-point lead, the Republican establishment faces a more intense debate over the options available to it.

For those seeking a Trump alternative, the path forward involves choosing from among at least three options: Convince Scott, Christie and Ramaswamy to end their quests and coalesce behind either Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis or former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley.

Hope that Trump will be sucked down by the quicksand of legal issues he faces, including the possibility of guilty verdicts.

Swallow hard and concede Trump's nomination is inevitable.

Time, however, is not on their side.

The Iowa caucuses and the New Hampshire primary are little more than two months off. Trump holds a 30-point lead over second place DeSantis in Iowa and a 32-point lead over second place Haley in New Hampshire.

Even if those margins shrink in the coming weeks, decisive victories by Trump in those states and the continued inability of his competition to gain ground will seal the deal for him.

Christie, the most strident critic of Trump in the field, has been unrelenting in his attacks on the for-

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### Holmes County ADVERTISER



OWNER & PUBLISHER  
Carol Kent



EDITOR  
Collin Breaux

#### CONTACT US

##### Advertising:

advertising@kentsmith.biz

##### News, sports, opinion:

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##### Legal Web Portal:

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#### Have something to say?

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

Letters may be sent to 1367 B. Railroad Ave., Chipley, FL 32428 or emailed to cbreaux@kentsmith.biz.

Questions? Call 850-638-0212



# COURTS AND CRIME

## The history of Red Hill UMC

COURTESY OF RED HILL UMC

In the 1800’s, earlier generations gathered each Sunday for worship services in a rustic, log cabin structure located near Ten Mile Creek, east of where the church cemetery is located today.

The church was known in the community as the Primitive Hard Shell Baptist Profession Church of Holmes County, Florida. Regretfully, no record of the history of this church exists due to a fire that destroyed the Holmes County Courthouse during the 1800’s.

It is known however that an existing cemetery was located near the Primitive Hard Shell Baptist Church. A deed was recorded in 1881 for a one-acre plot of land.

The deed was made between John J. Perkins and his wife Elizabeth Catherine Whitaker Perkins. This land was used for an addition to the existing “Whitaker Graveyard.”

Years later, on Jan-

uary 18, 1907, a deed was made for another one-acre plot of land from Mr. J. J. Hall and his wife Mrs. M. L. Hall and Primitive Baptist Church to Whitaker Graveyard.

In the early 1920’s, two brothers, J. D. (Jim) and J. J. (Jonas) Whitaker, had the desire to build a church across the road from where the old log structure was standing. Land was purchased from the Alabama Lumber Company and the construction of a small, one-room bungalow structure was underway atop a red clay hill across the road from where Red Hill UMC church is currently located today.

Mr. Albert Johnson believed in the project enough that he donated the timber used to build the sanctuary. Jim and Jonas Whitaker took the logs to the nearby sawmill to have them cut into planks and other materials and items for the church.

The brothers’ commitment became reality when the first services were held

See UMC, PAGE 7A

## REAGAN

From page 4A

get at least 150,001 of those 300,000 votes.

If you add up the votes for the eight original Squad members, that means at least 1.2 million Americans are OK with the radical politics of AOC and her crew.

Who are those voters and what are they thinking? We know many of them are anti-American and anti-Israel.

Are they ever going to do more than just march around waving Palestine flags or tearing down posters of Israeli hostage pictures?

Are they potential terrorists? Most likely, no. But I’m still fearful of them.

I also fear for my country because Squad voters and so many politically naïve and indoctrinated college students are so radicalized – thanks to the leftwing professors we conservatives have been trying to warn the country about for

half a century.

Meanwhile, I have an idea to get the hostages in Gaza freed and maybe bring a ceasefire to the Middle East before any more people die.

I’d like to trade Joe Biden to Hamas for all the hostages.

I don’t think the thugs who run Hamas would give me anything just for Joe.

So to sweeten the deal I’d throw in \$10 billion in cash – but Hamas would also have to take Kamala.

I’ve never worked

for the State Department, but I think my plan might work.

Dr. Jill might be upset by the swap, but Joe wouldn’t mind. He wouldn’t even know he was in Gaza. He’d just think he was in one of his summer homes.

Michael Reagan, the son of President Ronald Reagan, is an author, speaker and president of the Reagan Legacy Foundation. Send comments to reagan@caglecartoons.com and follow @reaganworld on Twitter.

## GOLDEN

From page 4A

mer president’s intellect, honesty and policies, even predicting he’ll occupy a jail cell before the election.

If belligerence translated into support, Christie would be hard on Trump’s heels. It didn’t and he isn’t.

Christie, at 8.5%, occupies fourth place in New Hampshire, slightly behind DeSantis but well behind Haley. A failure to crack double digits there, though, will intensify the pressure on Christie to follow Pence’s example.

DeSantis, once welcomed with optimism as a viable alternative to Trump and capable

of overtaking him, has been spectacularly unimpressive, losing ground to Haley while continuing to lag far behind the former president.

Haley has acquitted herself well, moving into second or third place behind Trump while drawing increasing interest as the candidate the others in the field could and should unite behind.

She is capable of appealing to suburban women – a crucial voting bloc to whom Trump is unacceptable – while maintaining broad support among moderates and even right of center voters.

Her criticisms of Trump have been more muted than Christie, for instance,

and she has threaded the needle to avoid alienating the former president’s dedicated and fervent base.

She has polled well in hypothetical matchups with President Biden – as has Trump and others – but she is free of the immense personal and political baggage weighing on the former president.

As Biden continues to flounder under dismal levels of job performance support, he is increasingly weakened and vulnerable.

Concerns about his physical well-being and cognitive strength have grown steadily, even to the point at which a majority of Democrats feel he should not seek a second term.

A lane to success –

the presidency and control of Congress – exists for Republicans, but only a united party will be able to take advantage of it.

Achieving that unity, though, depends on Christie, Scott and Ramaswamy recognizing their hopeless situations and putting aside their egos, aspirations and animosities.

Time, however, is of the essence. The sand is rapidly filling the bottom half of the hourglass.

Carl Golden is a senior contributing analyst with the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Stockton University in New Jersey. You can reach him at cgolden1937@gmail.

## COURT DOCKETS

The following cases were set to be heard in Holmes County felony court proceedings Monday Nov. 8, 2023 before Judge Russell Roberts.

**Terence D. Blackmon**- Sale of methamphetamine, possession of a controlled substance, possession of marijuana less than 20 grams

**Troy Bohannon**- DWLSR felony

**Raymond Richard Boles**- Aggravated assault with a deadly weapon x3, aggravated battery with a deadly weapon

**Myra Annette Burnett**- Possession of a controlled substance

**Trent Arthur Byrd**- Sale/manufacture/de-

liver cannabis

**Aurora Deotono Cutchins**- Trafficking amphetamines, possession of drug paraphernalia

**Russell L Gainey**- Sexual battery on a child under 12 x2, sexual battery victim age 12-17 x2, lewd/lascivious molestation victim 12-16

**Dominick G Garner**- Sex offense against child

**Neil Gray**- Traffic

grams or more

**Angela Amanda Hudson**- Burglary of dwelling x7, grand theft x6, petit theft second offense

**Erick Jones**- Battery on person 65 YOA or older, sale or delivery of a controlled substance

**Antonio Lee**- Sex offender fail to properly register vacating permanent residence

**Lee Martin Leverett**- Possession of a controlled substance

**Bobby Wayne McMillian**- Possession of a controlled substance

**Laddavanh Mouthouta**- Accessory after fact of capital felony, armed robbery with firearm or deadly weapon

**Terry L Peacock**- Possession of a controlled substance, DWLSR habitual offender

**Franklin P Smith**- Flee/ attempt to elude LEO, possession of a controlled substance

**Robert L Thames**- Battery on person 65 YOA or older

**Jon E Tucker**- Possession of weapon or ammo by convicted felon, possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, possession of a controlled substance

**Lonnie Clayton Ward**- Sale of methamphetamine

**Catherine J Willford**- Sale or delivery of a controlled substance

## Holmes County Arrest Reports

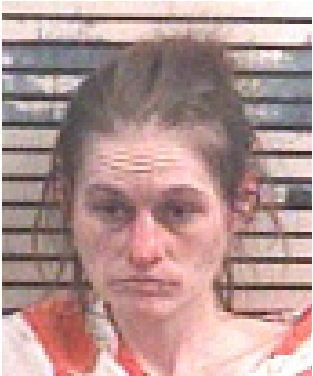
The following arrests were made in Holmes County between November 3 and November 9 as reported by the Holmes County Jail. All subjects are considered innocent until convicted.



Colin Ogleshby



Terris James Carswell



Brittany Nicole Brase



Kevin Ray Edwards



Frederick William Krug



Nathan Daniel Wood



Joshua Eric Best



Arlina Dixie-Lee Carpenter



Rashawn J. Catoe



Eric Wayne Turner

Colin Ogleshby, 26, Bonifay- Neglect child without great bodily harm x2 [BPD]  
Terris James Carswell, 28, Jacksonville- Possession of methamphetamine schedule I, possession or use of drug paraphernalia [HCSO]  
Brittany Nicole Brase, 22, Argyle- Possession of methamphetamine schedule I [HCSO]  
Kevin Ray Edwards, 43, AL- Possession of methamphetamine schedule I [HCSO]  
Frederick William Krug, 54, Ponce De Leon- DUI drugs or alcohol [FHP]  
Nathan Daniel Wood, 20, Ponce De Leon- Contempt/ commitment child support [HCSO]  
Joshua Eric Best, 32, Defuniak Springs- VOP: criminal mischief with property damage [HCSO]  
Arlina Dixie-Lee Carpenter, 24, Defuniak Springs- VOP: possession of a controlled substance x2 [HCSO]  
Rashawn J. Catoe, 22, Jacksonville- Fraud- illegal use of credit card use more than twice [HCSO]  
Eric Wayne Turner, 41, South Est- Out of county warrant [HCSO]

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SECURITY

From page 3A

they do not know how many companies could be affected by the expansion. But supporters said it is important for Florida to show that it does not want state money supporting Iran. “They don’t want America to survive,” Sen. Jay Collins, R-Tampa, said before the Senate passed the bill. “They stand in opposition to everything we stand for.” But some Democratic lawmakers questioned whether the bill

would have much effect. Among other things, the federal government has imposed a wide range of economic sanctions against Iran in the decades since hostages were taken at the U.S. embassy in Tehran in 1979. “I just want to make sure we’re doing real things here, as opposed to puffery,” Sen. Jason Pizzo, D-Sunny Isles Beach, said. DeSantis appears certain to sign the bill, as he began calling for increased sanctions against Iran shortly after the Hamas attack on Israel. Lawmakers during the special session also

approved providing money to help increase security at Jewish day schools and preschools amid increasing incidents of anti-Semitism. The bill (HB 7C) would provide \$15 million for grants that could be used for such things as installing lighting, security cameras, fencing and shatter-resistant windows at Jewish day schools and preschools. Another \$10 million would go to the schools for “nonhardening security measures,” such as hiring security workers and training them on threat awareness, emergency procedures and first aid. The bill also includes

\$20 million for what is known as the state’s Nonprofit Security Grant Program, which can be used for security improvements at other types of organizations. Senate bill sponsor Alexis Calatayud, R-Miami, called anti-Semitism a “global scourge.” Pizzo questioned whether the bill included enough money to help protect Jewish schools, but Calatayud said lawmakers also can look at funding issues during the 2024 regular legislative session, which will start in January. “We believe this is going to be the right investment at this time,”

See SECURITY, PAGE 10A

Legal Notices & Classifieds

LEGAL ADVERTISING

**000117**  
NOTICE OF TAX DEED APPLICATION NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That MIKON FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.& OCEAN BANK, the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the name in which it was assessed are as follows: Certificate No. 338 Year of Issuance 5/29/2021 Description of Property: 0909.02-000-000-025.000 SEC: 09 TWN: 05 RGN: 15 A PARCEL LYING IN N1/2 OF NW1/4 OF SEC 9 AS DES IN OR-106/666 DES OR-192/430 OR-210/493 OR-240/23 WD-OR369/910 WD-OR 428/520 WD-OR449/384 QC-OR486/428 COT OR531/672 QC-OR536/834 CT-OR583/119 (DIE) SWD-OR607/705 Name in which assessed: DAVID BAROUSSE, BRAD SASSER, Said property being in the County of Holmes, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the courthouse door on 12/5/2023, at 11:00 A.M. DATED this 9/8/2023. Dates of publication: 10/25/2023, 11/1/2023, 11/8/2023, 11/15/2023. Sam Bailey, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Holmes County, Florida By: AJ, Deputy Clerk October 25, November 1, 8, 15, 2023

**000120**  
NOTICE OF TAX DEED APPLICATION NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That MIKON FINANCIAL SERVICES INC.& OCEAN BANK, the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the name in which it was assessed are as follows: Certificate No. 164 Year of Issuance 5/29/2021 Description of Property: 0531.03-003-027-004.100 SEC: 31 TWN: 05 RGN: 14 E 25 FT OF LOT 7 BLK 27 OR73/429 LIFE EST OR 128/358 OR 302/888 QC-322/90 WD-OR 338/749 QC-OR354/481 PR-OR441/687 Name in which assessed: COURTNEY MCCLAIN, Said property being in the County of Holmes, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the courthouse door on 11/28/2023, at 11:00 A.M. DATED this 9/8/2023. Dates of publication: 10/25/2023, 11/1/2023, 11/8/2023, 11/15/2023. Sam Bailey, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Holmes County, Florida By: AJ, Deputy Clerk October 25, November 1, 8, 15, 2023

LEGAL ADVERTISING

**000125**  
NOTICE OF TAX DEED APPLICATION NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That FIG 20 LLC FBO SEC PTY, the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the name in which it was assessed are as follows: Certificate No. 752 Year of Issuance 5/29/2021 Description of Property: 2214.00-000-000-015.000 SEC: 14 TWN: 03 RGN: 18 A PARCEL LYING IN NE1/4 OF SW1/4 AS DES IN OR 110/242 DES IN OR 160/722-723 Name in which assessed: RICHARD E. ANDERSEN & JACQUELINE A. ANDERSEN C/O DELLA J. SANDOW C/O DORIA ANDERSEN, Said property being in the County of Holmes, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the courthouse door on 12/5/2023, at 11:00 A.M. DATED this 9/19/2023. Dates of publication: 11/1/2023, 11/8/2023, 11/15/2023, 11/22/2023. Sam Bailey, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Holmes County, Florida By: AJ, Deputy Clerk November 1, 8, 15, 22, 2023

**000126**  
NOTICE OF TAX DEED APPLICATION NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That FIG 20 LLC FBO SEC PTY, the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the name in which it was assessed are as follows: Certificate No. 230 Year of Issuance 05/29/2021 Description of Property: 0731.00-000-000-011.000 SEC: 31 TWN: 07 RGN: 15 ALL THAT PART OF THE NW1/4 OF NW1/4 LYING S OF CO GD RD ALSO ALL THAT PART OF NE1/4 OF NW1/4 LYING S OF HWY & W OF CO GD RD DES OR 194/555 OR 314/306 Name in which assessed: JENNIFER RENA JUSTICE, Said property being in the County of Holmes, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the courthouse door on 12/5/2023, at 11:00 A.M. DATED this 9/20/2023. Dates of publication: 11/1/2023, 11/8/2023, 11/15/2023, 11/22/2023. Sam Bailey, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Holmes County, Florida By: AJ, Deputy Clerk November 1, 8, 15, 22, 2023

**000129**  
NOTICE OF TAX DEED APPLICATION NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That FIG 20 LLC FBO SEC

PTY, the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the name in which it was assessed are as follows: Certificate No. 308 Year of Issuance 5/29/2021 Description of Property: 0830.00-000-000-027.000 SEC: 30 TWN: 06 RGN: 15 A PART OF SE 1/4 OF THE NE 1/4" OF THE S.W. 1/4 OF SECTION 30, TOWNSHIP 6 NORTH, RANGE 15 WEST HOLMES COUNTY, FLORIDA. BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE S.E. CORNER OF SAID S.E. 1/4 OF THE NE 1/4 OF THE S.W. 1/4 OF SECTION 30. THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 00 (FOR MORE LEGAL REFER TO TAX ROLL Name in which assessed: CURTIS M. SWANSON, KIMBERLY R.A. SWANSON, Said property being in the County of Holmes, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the courthouse door on 12/5/2023, at 11:00 A.M. DATED this 9/21/2023. Dates of publication: 11/1/2023, 11/8/2023, 11/15/2023, 11/22/2023 Sam Bailey, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Holmes County, Florida By: AJ, Deputy Clerk November 1, 8, 15, 22, 2023

**000144**  
FLORIDA PACE FUNDING AGENCY NOTICE OF INTENT TO USE UNIFORM METHOD OF COLLECTING NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENTS The Board of Directors (the "Board") of the Florida PACE Funding Agency, a public body corporate and politic, (the "Agency"), hereby provides notice, pursuant to Sections 163.08(2), (3) and (4) and 197.3632(3)(a), Florida Statutes, each as amended from time to time, of its intent to use the uniform method of collecting non-ad valorem assessments for more than one year to be levied within the area encompassed by the boundaries of every county in Florida, or any of the municipalities therein, served by the Agency's statewide provision of funding and financing to assist property owners who wish to construct, install or otherwise obtain qualifying improvements identified by the Legislature including, but not limited to, energy conservation and efficiency improvements, renewable energy improvements, and wind resistance improvements, in accordance with Section 163.08, Florida Statutes, as amended (collectively,

the "Qualifying Improvements"). By law and resolution of the Agency, a property owner may apply to the Agency for funding and financing of Qualifying Improvements. The non-ad valorem assessments contemplated by this notice are voluntary and are only imposed by the Agency with the prior written consent authorized by or on behalf of affected property owners who determine to obtain financing for Qualifying Improvements from the Agency. The Agency is authorized by state law to fund and finance Qualifying Improvements and is required to annually collect repayment by non-ad valorem assessments. The Board will consider the adoption of a resolution electing to use the uniform method of collecting such assessments as authorized by Section 197.3632, Florida Statutes, after a public hearing to be held at Kissimmee Gateway Airport-Administrative Offices located at 401 Dyer Blvd Kissimmee FL 34741 on Tuesday November 21, 2023 at 1pm. Date/ Time/Location to be filled in with selection of the board J. I n the event of a local or national emergency, a hurricane, or any other interfering circumstance, if necessary, the meeting may be continued to a time, date, and place certain, and notice thereof, along with appropriate means for public attendance and participation, if other than in-person, will be posted on the Agency's website. Such resolution electing to use such uniform method will state the need for the levy and will contain a legal description of the boundaries of the real property that may be subject to the levy - which is the entirety of the State of Florida. A copy of the proposed form of resolution and other information may be viewed at the Agency's website: www. FloridaPACE.Gov . Advance written communication will be given equal weight to comments or objections made in person, and may be submitted to the Board in advance at Info@ FloridaPACE.Gov ; and, should be received by the Agency on or before November 3, 2021 Thursday November 16, 2023 so that copies can be distributed to Board members for advance review and hearing preparation purposes. Any person desiring to speak in person may appear at the public hearing. If any person decides to appeal any decision made with respect to any matter considered at this public hearing

such person will need a record of proceedings and for such purpose such person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made at their own expense and which record includes the testimony and evidence on which the appeal is based. Any person requiring a special accommodation at this meeting due to disability or physical impairment or needing an interpreter to participate in this proceeding should contact the Agency at 850-400-PACE at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. If hearing impaired, Florida Relay Service numbers for assistance are (800) 955-8771 (tdd) or (800) 955-8770 (voice).

By Order of the Board of Directors of the Florida PACE Funding Agency . October 25, November 1, 8, 15, 2023

**000146**  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR HOLMES COUNTY FLORIDA DONALD ALLAN COVELL, Plaintiff, CASE NO.: 23-264 CA

DIVISION: Circuit Civil v.

JEANETTE J. MARRELL; THE ESTATE OF JEANETTE J. MARRELL; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF JEANETTE J. MARRELL; UNKNOWN HEIRS OF JEANETTE J. MARRELL; WILLIE CARL WILLIAMS; BOBBIE DORIS WILLIAMS; SARAH JO CLEMENTS; JOHNNIE CLEMENTS, SR.; and LORITA L. TATE;

Defendants,

NOTICE OF ACTION TO:

JEANETTE J. MARRELL 1043 McDonald Road Bonifay, Florida 32425

THE ESTATE OF JEANETTE J. MARRELL 1043 McDonald Road Bonifay, Florida 32425

UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF JEANETTE J. MARRELL 1043 McDonald Road Bonifay, Florida 32425

UNKNOWN HEIRS OF JEANETTE J. MARRELL 1043 McDonald Road Bonifay, Florida 32425

WILLIE CARL WILLIAMS 1043 McDonald Road Bonifay, Florida 32425

BOBBIE DORIS WILLIAMS 1043 McDonald Road Bonifay, Florida 32425

SARAH JO CLEMENTS 1043 McDonald Road Bonifay, Florida 32425

JOHNNIE CLEMENTS, SR. 630 Florida Street Geneva, AL 36340 YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to quiet title on the following property in Duval County,

Florida: THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED LAND, SITUATE, LYING, AND BEING IN HOLMES COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO WIT:

Begin at the NW corner of the SW 1/4 of NE 1/4 of Section 29, township 7 North, Range 15 West thence run South 1188 feet for a Point of Beginning, thence South 150 feet to the North Boundary Right-of-Way line of an unplatted dirt road, thence due East along North Right-of-Way line of an unplatted dirt road 580.85 feet, thence North 150 feet, thence West 580.85 feet to the Point of Beginning. Containing 2 acres more or less lying and being in Section 29, Township 7 North, Range 15 West, Holmes County, FL. has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on The Law Office of C.W. Wickersham, Jr., P.A., Plaintiff's attorney, at 2720 Park Street, Suite 205, Jacksonville, Florida, 32205, Phone Number: (904) 389-6202, not less than 28 days of the first date of publication of this Notice, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court, at Holmes County Clerk of Court & Comptroller, P.O. Box 397, Bonifay, FL 32425, before service on Plaintiff or immediately thereafter. If you fail to do so, a Default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

DATED this \_\_\_\_ day of 2023. Clerk of the Circuit Court

[SEAL] By:

As Deputy Clerk

November 1, 8, 15, 22, 2023

**000157**  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR HOLMES COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: ESTATE OF ROBBIE S PARKER File No.: 2023 CP 118

Division: Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of Robbie S Parker, deceased, whose date of death was April 6, 2023, is pending in the Circuit Court for Holmes County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 201 N. Oklahoma Street, Bonifay, FL 32425. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

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

this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

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

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

The date of first publication of this notice is NOVEMBER 8, 2023.

Personal Representative: David Austin Parker Attorney for Personal Representative: Jason R. Mosley Florida Bar No.: 386650 4655 Woodbine Road Pace, FL 32571 Telephone: (850) 696-1196 jmosley@mosleyes-tatelaw.com November 8, 15, 2023

**000160**  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

IN AND FOR HOLMES COUNTY, FLORIDA NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING,

Plaintiff,

VS.

CASSANDRA POLLARD-SMITH; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF CASSANDRA POLLARD-SMITH; UNKNOWN TENANT #1; UNKNOWN TENANT #2; ONEMAIN FINANCIAL; ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER AND AGAINST THE HEREIN NAMED INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS

Defendant(s).

23000109CAAXMXX NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sale will be made pursuant to an Order or Final Judgment. Final Judgment was awarded on October 2, 2023 in Civil Case No. 23000109CAAXMX, of the Circuit Court of the FOURTEENTH Judicial Circuit in and for Holmes County, Florida, wherein, NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING is

the Plaintiff, and CASSANDRA POLLARD-SMITH; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF CASSANDRA POLLARD-SMITH; UNKNOWN TENANT #1; UNKNOWN TENANT #2; ONEMAIN FINANCIAL; ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER AND AGAINST THE HEREIN NAMED INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS are Defendants.

The Clerk of the Court, Sam Bailey will sell to the highest bidder for cash at 201 N Oklahoma St, Bonifay, FL 32425 on December 7, 2023 at 11:00:00 AM EST the following described real property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

COMMENCE AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 36, TOWNSHIP 5 NORTH, RANGE 15 WEST, HOLMES COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND RUN S 89°15'41"E ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF BANFILL AVENUE, 491.08 FEET; THENCE S 00°49'01"W, 33.00 FEET TO THE SOUTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF SAID BANFILL AVENUE, SAID POINT BEING THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE S 00°49'01"W, 150.16 FEET; THENCE S 89°14'31"E, 82.01 FEET; THENCE N 00°55'09"E, 150.19 FEET TO SAID RIGHT OF WAY LINE; THENCE N 89°15'41"W ALONG SAID RIGHT OF WAY LINE 82.27 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim before the clerk reports the surplus as unclaimed.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of the court on , 20\_\_\_\_.

CLERK OF THE COURT Sam Bailey Deputy Clerk

ALDRIDGE PITE, LLP Attorney for Plaintiff 5300 West Atlantic Avenue Suite 303 Delray Beach, FL 33484 Telephone: 561-392-6391 Facsimile: 561-392-6965 Primary E-Mail: ServiceMail@aldridgepite.com

TO BE PUBLISHED IN: Holmes County Times-Advertiser

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 ADARequest@jud14.flcourts.org. November 15, 22, 2023

**000161**  
IN THE COUNTY COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR HOLMES COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION EASY BARNS, LLC, Plaintiff, vs. TONY SKETO, Defendant. CASE NO.: 2023-CC-000169

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: TONY SKETO 2849 HIGHWAY 2, BONIFAY, FL 32425 YOU ARE

NOTIFIED that an action for damages for breach of contract relating to a 12' x 20' premanufactured garden shed, has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Matthew G. Davis, Esq., counsel for Plaintiff, Easy Barns, LLC, whose address is 100 North Tampa Street, Suite 3700, Tampa, FL 33602, on or before 12/6/2023, OR within thirty (30) days after the first publication of this Notice, whichever is later, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff's counsel or immediately thereafter; otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.

Dated on this 3 day of November, 2023.

SAM BAILEY Clerk & Comptroller By: Tamara Rowe Deputy Clerk (SEAL)

November 15, 22, 29, December 6, 2023

YARD SALE

MOVING SALE: Beautiful quality furniture, televisions, antiques, depression glass, fishing equipment, riding mowers and so much more! You don't want to miss this sale! 1324 Esker Martin Rd (Off Rt 2) Bonifay Open Everyday until Nov. 15th 7AM to 7PM except Sunday

FOR SALE 2016 Rockwood Mini Lite pull behind RV; Excellent condition Gas for heat but has new electric water heater TV with DVD player, microwave, fridge/freezer, Murphy bed MUST SEE! For more information, call 850-638-7269 or 850-890-0004



# FAITH

## The vision thing



MICHAEL J. BROOKS  
Guest Columnist

I've never forgotten where the Apostle Paul had his famous Macedonian vision after Dr. Bryan asked this on a test in New Testament class and I hadn't a clue...but Dr. Luke states clearly that he was in Troy—the city made famous by the beautiful Helen whose “face launched a thousand ships,” according to Christopher Marlowe.

This vision was significant since it meant Paul left Asia and traveled to Europe. Macedonia was the northern province in Greece. He visited Philippi, Thessalonica and Berea and planted a gospel flag in each city.

President George H.W. Bush called it “the vision thing.” Every person needs a life-changing vision to force us to excellence.

I talked with a career planner once and he bluntly told me I was a great manager and a poor visionary. I am a good manager and have learned to do good administration because I've done such poor administration!

Many times I assumed things would go as planned, but many times they didn't. So one learns management by walking around in the ruins of bad planning!

Management is necessary because the machinery does need grease but if all we do is manage, then we limit our achievement. Sometimes we think that good is good enough and we're content with the status

quo but, in that sense, the good can be enemy of the best.

Soon we'll stand on the precipice of a new year. This is naturally a time we think of improvements, and every Christian should envision 2024 to end being better Christians than we were at the end of 2023.

One way to improve is to institute a daily devotional time. Most churches supply devotional guides to their members, and there are countless apps now that offer daily readings and prayers, or that will read scripture to us as we commute or do household chores.

Scripture further teaches that every Christian is gifted by God's Spirit in at least one venue. Thus, not only are we commanded to serve the Lord, but we're gifted to serve the Lord.

This is a great time to complete a simple spiritual gifts inventory and begin one's gift discovery if not done already. Many church websites such as ours include an inventory like this.

But every church needs a vision, too. We can't just “hold services” and think we've fulfilled our responsibilities. We're called to be fruitful and to be a blessing to our communities.

The new year is a great time for a church “dream team” to pray for guidance and determine what new ministries can be accomplished to God's glory.

Every Christian and every church needs a vision of what we can be and do with God's help.

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

## Do we crave God's presence?



SHERYL BOLDT  
Guest Columnist

Are we, individually and as a church, truly experiencing God's presence?

Jesus said, “Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him” (John 14:21 ESV).

The Amplified Bible says, “I will make Myself real to him.”

Isn't this what we want – for Jesus to make Himself real to us?

Read the first part of the verse again. Do we truly love

God? Do we desire to experience His presence in such a way that we're willing to obey His Word? What about the verses that speak about loving others?

Do we love God enough to forgive “seventy times seven” (Matthew 18:22 AMP) when someone expresses a different political opinion time after time? Are we committed to loving others as Christ loves us, even when they infuriate or just plain bother us?

Or would we prefer to hold on to our grudges and forfeit a manifestation of God's presence?

Unrelenting animosity is rampant – sadly even in the Church. Doesn't it seem as if the enemy especially enjoys stirring up trouble among God's beloved?

Bear in mind that the world can see how well (or badly) we're following Jesus by the way we treat our brothers and sisters in Christ. Can others clearly see whether you or I are Christ-followers? Or do we leave them wondering?

Jesus says, “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35 ESV).

What would happen if we, the body of Christ, loved one another in our communities, on social media, and within our churches so magnificently that those observing took notice?

What if we actually behaved in a Christ-like way toward one another instead of just talking about it?

We could start by asking God to search our hearts to show us where we've failed in our relationships and humbly ask those we've offended to forgive us. As the Holy Spirit con-

tinues to reveal our imperfections, we'll also likely be compelled to offer grace to those who are also imperfect.

A great way to obey God and express our love for others is to pray for those we've been holding grudges against (and for those holding grudges against us) and ask God how He wants to use us to meet their needs.

Let's obey God's Word. Let's stop letting our divisiveness and petty disagreements eat away at our relationships.

Most of all, let's truly experience God's presence – and allow Him to make Himself real to us as never before.

*Sheryl H. Boldt is the author of the blog, [www.Today-CanBeDifferent.net](http://www.Today-CanBeDifferent.net). Connect with her at [SherylHBoldt@gmail.com](mailto:SherylHBoldt@gmail.com).*



[Photo Credit: PEXELS]

## UMC

From page 4A

in the new building in the winter of 1923 with a pot-bellied stove warming those attending. In July 1923, the church joined the Methodist Episcopal Church and was placed on the Noma charge of the Marianna District, Alabama Conference Methodist Episcopal Church.

Rev. J. A. Kelly, a Methodist Circuit Rider, was the first pastor to serve the small church sitting atop the red clay hill. In joining the Methodist Episcopal Church, Red Hill was one of seven churches on the charge.

Being a pastor in charge of seven churches meant that Pastor Kelly would preach at seven different churches each

Sunday. The time slot for services at Red Hill was 2 p.m.

Red Hill remained on the Alabama-West-Florida Charge for more than 50 years with a number of other churches including Cedar Grove, Bethlehem, Pond Town and Black UMC.

In the early 70's plans were being made for a new church building. The members wanted to build the church beside the cemetery on the west side of Highway 2, which was then known as the “Hog & Hominy Road.” Land was traded for an equal parcel from Mrs. Elvia Meadows.

The Rev. Cecil Coleman, pastor of Red Hill UMC, along with several members were present for the groundbreaking ceremony, November 30, 1972. The first services were held in the new build-

ing November 3, 1974. Dedication services for the new church were held January 16, 1977.

The old one-room bungalow church had become a place that held many memories of sacred harp singing and dinner on the ground. It was eventually sold for \$500 to Mrs. Barbara Goff and moved off the land to a location on Highway 79, south of Esto, Florida where it became a daycare for several years.

The building still stands today as a personal dwelling.

In 1985 plans were being made to build a foyer and move the restrooms to the front of the church. A Sunday school room, restrooms and a storage area were added.

In 1989 plans were being made for a dining hall to be added to the church. The

rafters for the dining hall were raised in February 1990.

On November 18, 1990, homecoming was celebrated and lunch was served in the new fellowship hall.

Until 1984, Red Hill continued to remain on a charge with six other churches, which means services were only held once a month. In October 1984, Red Hill was changed to a two-point charge with Bethlehem UMC.

For the first time in the church's history Red Hill would share a pastor with Bethlehem UMC. This charge allowed Red Hill and Bethlehem to rotate a Pastor every other Sunday.

Preaching services for Red Hill were held on the first and third Sunday of each month, rotating the fifth Sunday between the two churches.

However, the doors

of the church were open every Sunday and members would gather for Sunday School and fellowship.

It was not until the mid-1990s that Red Hill was supplied with a young, part-time supply pastor, Anthony Cuchens, who encouraged the congregation to step out in faith and help support a pastor to fill the pulpit each Sunday.

It was not until a few years after Anthony had been appointed to other churches, that the realization of having a full-time pastor happened for Red Hill. June 2000 brought the appointment of Bro. Charles Wimberly to Red Hill UMC.

No longer placed on a charge with another church, Bro. Wimberly would fill the pulpit each Sunday.

In June 2004, Pastor Buddy Pennington was appointed to Red

Hill UMC as supply pastor. Over the years, Red Hill UMC members and visitors have been blessed by a number of men of God who have served as pastors.

In October 2008, Red Hill began making plans for an addition to the dining hall and adding Sunday School rooms. Through untiring volunteer efforts from local people in the community, as well as church members, the building project was completed in October 2009.

A dedication service was held on October 11, 2009 and the fellowship hall was named The Roy K. Smith Fellowship Hall in memory of the late Roy K. Smith. Bro. Smith was the son-in-law of Mary Whitaker Vickers, who in turn is the daughter of Jim Whitaker and the niece of J.J. Whitaker.



# One failure after another



CALEB DUNCAN  
Guest Columnist

Remember that New Year’s Resolution you made about 11 months ago? How’s that going? How is the diet you started or the commitment you made? As we wind down toward the end of the year, reflect on the past several months. Did you accomplish everything you wanted in your business, home, or church?

Now, I want to be honest with you, reader. This year has gone differently than I hoped. There have been many things that crashed and burned. While many positive things have happened this year for the better, I can’t help but think that there’s been one failure after another.

I wonder what the Bible says about failure? Quite a bit, actually. In the short space I have, let me tell you about one instance in Mark 9:14-29. It’s an incredible story about a woman whose son was possessed by a demon. As an act of faith, she brought her son to the disciples to see if they could cast it out. But things didn’t go as expected.

“Teacher, I brought

my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute... So I asked your disciples to cast it out, but they were not able.” (Mark 9:17-18)

In the Gospel stories, even before Jesus was taken to the cross, Jesus gave his disciples the authority to minister in his name without hindrance. One day, Jesus called together his twelve disciples and gave them power and authority to cast out all demons and to heal all diseases. Then he sent them out to tell everyone about the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick (Luke 9:1-2).

This begs the question: if they were able to do this in the past, why not with a demon-possessed little boy? Why were they...unable? Have you ever felt this way? Unable? Incapable? Powerless to do anything? Do you ever just feel like an absolute failure?

We see a small glimpse of how the disciples felt. Verse 28 says, “When he had entered the house, his disciples came to him privately and asked, “Why could we not cast it out?”

The question the disciples posed to Jesus is a familiar question that we have all asked at one point or another, especially when we experience a failure of some sort. “Why could we not?” Why didn’t things go the way that we had hoped? Why do we

seem to fail?

If we were to leave this devotional thought like this, that would be one depressing devotional. “Sometimes we just fail” seems to be an inadequate answer. We want to know, “Why do we fail?”

Thankfully, Jesus answered his disciples. “This kind,” he replied, “Can only be cast out by prayer.” Was Jesus just giving his disciples a lesson in demonology, or was he trying to tell them a more profound spiritual truth?

The disciples could not cast out that demon because they did not depend and trust in God. I would venture to say, with cautious boldness, that many of the failures we experience come from the fact that we did not depend on God.

Our goals, however big, will sometimes fail if we do not put God first and rely on Him for everything. There is much more to say on this topic, but I’ll close by saying: my “New Year’s Resolution” next year is to depend more on God and not myself.

*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.*

# Community Events

## Panhandle Public Library Cooperative System Meeting

The next meeting for the Panhandle Public Library Cooperative System will take place on Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at 10 a.m. in the PPLCS office located at 2862 Madison Street, Marianna, FL.

## Tobacco Free Partnership Meeting

The Holmes County Tobacco-Free Partnership is hosting their quarterly meeting on November 15, from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The goals for this meeting are to create a tobacco-free atmosphere for Holmes County, improve the health of residents by reducing tobacco use, discourage the first time use of tobacco, educate on tobacco related health issues, and advocate for positive reform. The meeting will be held in the Holmes County Development Commission conference room, at 401 McLaughlin Ave. Bonifay, FL 32425. For more information call or email (850)614-6070, or Arely.Sapp@flhealth.gov.

## Chipley Woman’s Club sponsors Antique Appraisal Fair

The Chipley Woman’s Club is sponsoring an Antique Appraisal Fair at the T & B Hidden Treasures on 1215 Highway 90 in Chipley on November 17 and 18. Professional appraisers will be there each day and the public is invited to bring in any items, such as classic collectibles, jewelry, books, vinyl records,

antique furniture, guns, knives, comics, toys, video games, CDs, DVDs, etc. Come by between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. to find out the real value of an item to be insured, or to sell. There is a fee of \$5.00 for 1 item/ \$10 for up to 3 items.

## Berry Fair

Berry Hill Gardens and Magnolia Lace are hosting the Berry Fair on November 18, from 2-6 p.m. Over 15 local businesses will be featured, along with shops, a corn hole tournament, pictures with Santa, a full bar will be available by Bistro Palms, and much more! A silent auction will also be held, with proceeds going to our local Anchorage Children’s Home. Part of all over-all proceeds will also be donated to the Anchorage Children’s Home.

## Third Annual Wausau Christmas Tree Lighting

The Wausau Community Development Club will be hosting their Third Annual Christmas Tree Lighting featuring hot chocolate, cookies and s’mores, live music, vendors, and a kids crafting activity area. The event takes place from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. on December 2 in the Wausau Town Square with the Tree Lighting taking place at dark. If you attend, make sure to bring a chair and enjoy the fun.

## Winter on Waukesha

Waukesha Way is partnering with Bonifay Fire & Rescue to host Winter on Waukesha.

This event takes place on December 2, in Eureka Square, featuring photos with Santa, tree lighting, music, hot chocolate, snow, and lots more family fun. Memorial ornaments for loved ones can be purchased and placed on the town tree, with 4” ornaments costing \$15 and 6” ornaments costing \$30. Pre-order for ornaments ends November 27. Local vendors will arrive at 3 p.m., Santa will arrive at 5 p.m., and the tree lighting will follow at 7 p.m.

## Waukesha Way Christmas Lights Tour

Waukesha Way is organizing a self-guided Christmas Lights Tour, with maps available for pickup at Winter on Waukesha or local businesses throughout the season! Email information and address to @waukeshaway.org. Sponsor ads are also available for \$50 to add your logo to the map.

## Jingle & Mingle Christmas Dance

The Panhandle Shrine Club presents the Jingle & Mingle Christmas Dance on December 9th from 7 p.m. to midnight. Enjoy a night of live music with the Orange Hill Band, tickets are \$15 per person or \$25 per couple. The address is 1445 Brickyard Road in Chipley, FL 32428, all benefits go to the Panhandle Shrine Club.

Submit community events to: news@washingtontowncounty.news or news@holmescounty.news

## Stay Secure: FPL’s Advice on Avoiding Scams and Impostors

In today’s digital age, scams and frauds are becoming increasingly prevalent, targeting utility company customers across the nation.

Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) is urging its customers to take preventive measures to safeguard themselves from potential scams by remembering a few critical do’s and don’ts!

### 1. Don’t Share Personal Information

One of the fundamental rules is to never share personal information if you receive a suspicious call. In such situations, it is crucial to hang up immediately. Caller ID information can be easily manipulated, falsely displaying FPL’s phone number and name. Scammers often use this tactic to gain the trust of their targets.

### 2. Avoid Responding to Questionable Payment Requests

Be cautious when it comes to payment requests. FPL will never demand immediate payment through channels like Zelle, pre-paid cards, or wire transfers to avoid service disconnection. This is a crucial point to remember since scammers often pressure individuals into making hasty payments under the threat of having their power disconnected. Customers are advised to take their time, verify the authenticity of the request, and consult FPL’s official channels to confirm the payment status before making any payments.

### 3. Check for Employee or Contractor Identification

For scheduled appointments, request and verify their photo identification badges and work request numbers before letting them into your premises. This should be done consistently for every scheduled visit. Scammers may attempt to pose as utility workers to gain unauthorized access to your property, making it crucial to be vigilant in confirming their identity.

### 4. Report Suspected Scams to Law Enforcement

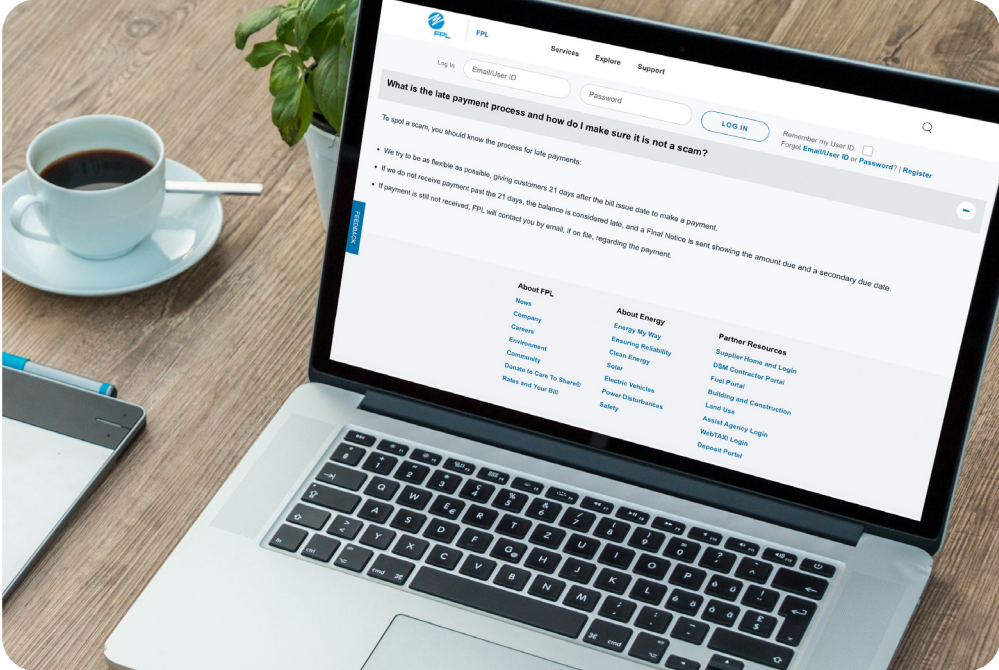
If you suspect that you or someone you know may have fallen victim to a scam, it is imperative to report the incident to law enforcement. By working together with law enforcement, you can help protect not only yourself but also others who may be potential targets of scams. FPL also has a scam reporting function on FPL.com/protect.

### Additional Resources

Remember, education and awareness are key components of staying safe in an increasingly interconnected world. By staying vigilant, customers can protect their financial and personal well-being, ensuring a safer and more secure future.

Visit FPL.com/protect to access additional information, resources and updates regarding scams and fraud prevention. If you suspect that your business has fallen victim to a scam, report it via email at reportbusinessfraud@nee.com.

After a scam incident, customers should also contact their local police department, the Florida Attorney General Office at www.MyFloridaLegal.com or the Federal Trade Commission at www.consumer.ftc.gov.





# SCHOOLS & EDUCATION

## What students can do to block out distractions in the classroom

METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

An ability to focus in the classroom can go a long way toward helping students achieve their academic goals. But distractions lurk in every corner, making it easier than ever to succumb to a lack of focus.

Maintaining focus in the classroom can be difficult in the digital age, but students can try various strategies to block out distractions once class begins.

- Disconnect your devices. A 2020 report from the nonprofit association Educause found that the majority of students report connecting two or more devices to campus Wi-Fi each day. Devices often serve as useful tools that augment classroom lessons, but they also can distract students. Students can turn off notifications on their phones and

tablets before class begins so that familiar ping does not sound during lectures and lessons. In addition, unless devices are necessary during a class, students can store them in places where they won't be tempted to check for messages or other alerts when they should be learning. Storing devices in a separate pocket in a backpack or even in a locker outside the classroom can remove the temptation to log on during class.

- Prepare for class in advance. Organizing before class can help students stay focused when a teacher is lecturing, explaining classroom material or engaging students in a discussion. Students who can't readily access their notes, books or assignments may be forced to spend valuable class time looking for such materials, thus

distracting them from the lesson.

- Bring questions to class. Students who jot down questions about a subject prior to class are more likely to be engaged once class begins. Students can ask their questions during the lesson and listen intently to hear if their teacher or professor is answering their questions during their lecture. Either way, bringing questions to class and going over them before class begins can help students narrow their focus to the subject at hand, reducing the likelihood that they'll succumb to distractions.
- Sit in the front of class. Students who are having trouble focusing can try sitting in the front of class. Sitting in the front ensures students can hear their teachers or professors, and sitting so close might subconscious-



CONTRIBUTED]

ly compel students to perk up so they're not caught wandering. Devices and other

distractions can easily compromise students' focus in the classroom. But various strategies

can help students focus so they can perform better academically.



CONTRIBUTED]

## How students can avoid ‘senioritis’

METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Senior year of high school can be a whirlwind of activity. The early months are spent wrapping up standardized testing and applying to college. Since many colleges and universities ask for mid-year transcripts for students to aid with class placement and/or make final admissions decisions, students also need to maintain their studies and grades throughout the fall and winter.

Come the spring, when graduating seniors have already picked a college, students with their eyes on the finish line may feel like pulling back a bit. According to Southern New Hampshire University, the term “senioritis” refers to a common condition reflecting a lack of

motivation by students who are reaching the end of their coursework. While it occurs in high school seniors and college seniors, those in trade schools or other programs also can experience senioritis. Students hope that they can simply coast until the end of school. It's important not to let senioritis set in to the point that students' academic futures are suddenly compromised.

- Consider the repercussions. According to the University of the People, many colleges have a policy that incoming freshmen must maintain a certain GPA to become students at their institutions. Letting grades slip can ruin chances of attending the school you worked hard to get into, even if you've already been accepted. Dartmouth

College, for example, notes that they reserve the right to rescind an offer if “the student's final academic record has lowered significantly.” A similar policy is enforced by Stanford University.

- Schedule breaks. Take advantage of time off from school and on the weekends to engage in fun activities. Respite from school work can help you return to studies fresh and ready to engage anew.
- Plan your senior courses wisely. Work with your guidance counselor to schedule courses throughout your time at school so your senior year schedule features few rigorous classes and includes more enjoyable electives.
- Hold each other accountable. Get together with a close group of classmates

to inspire one another to continue to study and maintain good grades. Accountability to another person can serve as motivation.

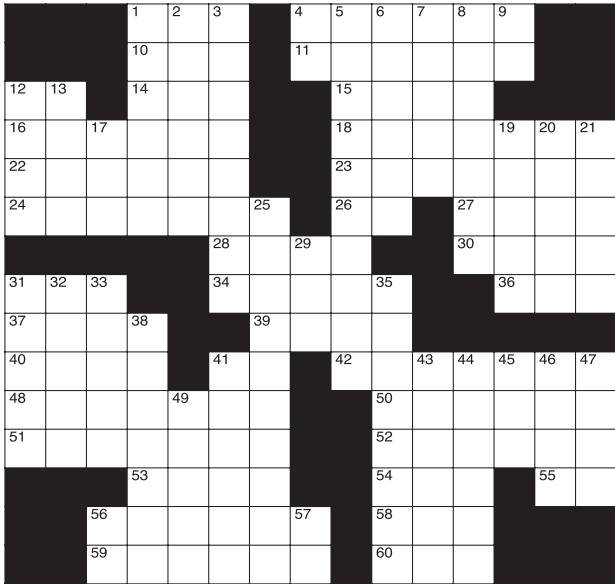
- Ask for help and support. It's common for seniors to want to slack off if they're feeling overwhelmed and stressed. If various factors in your life are causing you anxiety, reach out to your parents and friends for help.
- Establish strong habits. Learning to stay focused even throughout the spring of senior year can help set the course for good habits that spill over into college, like time management and focus.

Avoiding a case of senioritis can be challenging, but it is in students' best interests to stay focused on their work until they don their caps and gowns.

## SUDOKU

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

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CLUES ACROSS

1. Beats per minute

4. Hindu deity

10. Polynesian garland of flowers

11. Not chained to

12. Metric ton

14. Tall, rounded vase

15. Musical composition

16. St. Francis of \_\_\_\_

18. Discover the location of

22. Compact group of mountains

23. Mend

24. Not current

26. Atomic #64

27. Young hawk

28. Or \_\_\_\_

30. Pouches

31. Southern Thailand isthmus

34. Mends with yarn

36. Downwinds
37. One of two equal parts of a divisible whole

39. Italian archaeological site

40. Cold appetizer

41. Yes

42. Peninsula

48. Of that

50. A way to divide

51. Relating to the physical senses

52. One who makes money

53. \_\_\_\_ Spumante (Italian wine)

54. Inconvenience (abbr.)

55. South Dakota

56. Snow sport

58. The products of human creativity

59. Change mind

60. Born of

CLUES DOWN

1. Similar to the color of a clear unclouded sky

2. Former name of Iran

3. Made smaller

4. Type of meter

5. Revolt

6. Killed with rocks

7. Gregory \_\_\_, US dancer

8. Nullifies

9. Home to the Flyers

12. Female parent

13. Pre-1917 Russian emperor

17. Outsourcing (abbr.)

19. Regal

20. Line

21. Hermann \_\_\_, author of “Siddhartha”
25. Clearing up

29. No seats available

31. Leaves of an Arabian shrub

32. Groove in organ or tissue

33. Not of this world

35. Cooking device

38. Forget

41. Operational flight

43. Actress Danes

44. Poke holes in

45. A way to discolor

46. Shouts of welcome or farewell

47. Pharrell's group

49. Red fluorescent dye

56. Jr.'s dad

57. Electronics firm



BUSINESS

Florida Power & Light Company’s cake auction delivers sweet success: \$20K for Bay County nonprofits



Arc of the Bay culinary students bake and donate cakes to benefit local nonprofits. [CONTRIBUTED]

**SPECIAL TO WASHINGTON COUNTY NEWS**

**The big picture:** Florida Power & Light Plant Smith’s famous cake auction whipped

up a whole lot of dough to the tune of \$20,000, surpassing last year’s record total of \$18,000. **How they did it:** The Panama City-based power generation team

had the winning recipe to whip up stiff competition for the cake auction. About 31 FPL employees across Northwest Florida bid in-person or virtually on 60 cakes and pies. Some bids soared into the hundreds of dollars from bidders passionate about supporting local nonprofits.

**The annual fund drive** – now in its 18th year – is part of FPL’s iPledge campaign to raise money for United Way of Northwest Florida and other charities it supports, including Arc of the Bay in Lynn Haven.

**Cycle of giving:** In an act of reciprocity for FPL’s support over the years, Arc of the Bay donates cakes each year to the auction that its Culinary Institute’s chef and students make.

“We were excited to be a part of this annual event,” said Ron Sharpe, president and CEO of Arc of the Bay. “We’ve been active participants for quite some time. Our students are having a

chance to be involved ... to make the batter and decorate the cakes. It’s a fun event, and all the funds go back into the community.”

**Added benefits:** The Culinary Institute provides real-life job training to equip students with “restaurant-ready” culinary skills to help them land jobs in the thriving hospitality industry in the Panama City area.

The cake auction provided them valuable, real-world training, said Arc’s new chef director, Houston Jordan. He and his students created two cakes that were carefully hand-crafted from scratch—a decadent chocolate ganache and a three-layered creamy lemon cake. For this group of students, it was their first time making and decorating cakes, allowing Chef Jordan the oppor-

tunity to build on their culinary science skills needed to perfect the cake batter and icing.

“Being able to put this kind of good into the community feels fantastic,” said Chef Jordan. “These cakes may not be the most beautiful cakes, but they are 100% made with love.”

**A word from FPL Northwest Florida Vice President and General Manager J.T. Young:** “Plant Smith’s cake auction is always the highlight of our iPledge fundraising week, and I am humbled by the willingness of the team to give back to our community partners. They truly represent FPL’s commitment to support organizations that make a difference in the well-being of communities and customers we serve.”



Members of the Holmes County Chamber of Commerce, Board of County Commissioners, Development Commission, and Ponce de Leon Town Council were on hand for the Nov. 4 Grand Opening of the new Family Dollar/Dollar Tree on Highway 81 in Ponce de Leon. [SPECIAL TO HOLMES COUNTY ADVERTISER]

PDL Family Dollar Hosts Ribbing Cutting, Creates New Jobs

STAFF REPORT

PONCE DE LEON – Holmes County’s new combo Family Dollar and Dollar Tree store celebrated official ribbon cutting ceremonies Saturday, Nov. 4.

The grand opening was hosted by store manager Gwen Peterson and store team member Angela Wright, along with several members of the Holmes County Chamber of Commerce, Holmes County Commissioner Jeff Good and wife Melinda. Free donuts, gift bags, and discount cards were handed out to shoppers throughout the day.

The store has created 10 new jobs and provides another option for residents to access food and home essentials – and a step in the right direction for economic growth on what the property’s former owner, Angela Dockery, calls the “Wild, Wild West side of Holmes County.”

“It is important to see growth throughout the entire county, as well as ensure Ponce de Leon residents have access to goods and services locally, without having to drive out of town for basic needs,” said Dockery. “This new store not only improves access to food

and sundry items; it also created new jobs and helps support local families.”

Dockery owns Vortex Spring Adventures along with her husband, Daryl. They sold a portion of their Interstate 10 property to developers for the project in July 2022. The couple has long been known for their passion to see the west side of Holmes County grow and for working to see expansion of projects outside of the spring itself.

You can visit the new Family Dollar/Dollar Tree store at 2020 Highway 81 in Ponce de Leon.

SUDOKU ANSWERS

From page 9A

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

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

From page 9A

			B	P	M				V	I	S	H	N	U				
			L	E	I				U	N	T	I	E	D				
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SECURITY

From page 6A

Calatayud said.

Some Democratic lawmakers also called for funding for security at historically Black colleges and universities.

They cited incidents

such as a racially motivated attack in August when a man killed three Black people at a Dollar General store in Jacksonville. Authorities said the shooter a short time earlier had gone to the nearby, historically Black Edward Waters University but left after a campus safety officer responded.

HOLMES COUNTY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

401 McLaughlin Avenue  
Bonifay, Florida 32425

**Holmes**

850-547-2225  
info@holmesedc.com



# COMMUNITY

## Holmes County High students learn about alligators

SPECIAL TO  
HOLMES COUNTY  
ADVERTISER

Recently, students from Holmes County High had the opportunity to participate in 4-H school programming that centered around the Alligator Management Program with MyFWC Florida Fish and Wildlife.

Holmes County 4-H Agent Chris Lauen partnered with teachers Dylan Skinner and John Walton to provide a hands-on learning activity for students that wanted to learn more about the alligator permitting process, tools for harvest, and other aspects revolving around gators.

The gators had been harvested and tagged the night before as part of the annual Statewide Alligator Harvest Program.

Students learned about typical growth rates, predation, average clutch size, and how the ambient temperature can ultimately affect the gender of the alligator hatchling.

Students even helped gather data (gender, length, tail girth) that was provided to state biologists that oversee the Alligator Management Program.

“This programming supports ongoing efforts within county schools to promote hunter’s safety certification, conservation, and environmental education,” a statement from the 4-H program said.



Holmes County High School students learned about typical alligator growth rates, predation, average clutch size, and how the ambient temperature can ultimately affect the gender of the alligator hatchling as part of a 4-H program. [CONTRIBUTED]



Students at Holmes County High School got an up-close look at alligators as part of 4-H programming. [CONTRIBUTED]



Kids at Holmes County High School got to learn about harvesting alligators, courtesy of the 4-H program. [CONTRIBUTED]

## PDL fire department hosts Candy Cane Christmas event

STAFF REPORT

Ponce de Leon Volunteer Fire and Rescue hosted its fifth annual Candy Cane Christmas event Saturday, Nov. 11, featuring numerous free children’s activities, shopping with local vendors, and a special appearance by Santa Claus.

Gynell Pettis-Hunter, who serves as the department’s public information officer, said all vendor fees and proceeds from food sales at the event go to benefit the department’s Christmas Blessings program.

“This program gives the Christmas spirit back to local families in need,” she said. “The funds stay right here locally. We served a little over 40 children last year.”

Anyone wanting to donate to the Christmas Blessing program can do so by messaging the fire department’s Facebook page, which is under Ponce de Leon Volunteer Fire and Rescue.



Jace Barney rides a pony during the fifth annual Candy Cane Christmas event Saturday, Nov. 11, hosted by Ponce de Leon Volunteer Fire and Rescue. [CAROL KENT | Washington County News and Holmes County Advertiser]



Santa Claus made a special appearance during the fifth annual Candy Cane Christmas event Saturday, Nov. 11, hosted by Ponce de Leon Volunteer Fire and Rescue. [CAROL KENT | Washington County News and Holmes County Advertiser]



Rory Tooth gets his arm painted during the fifth annual Candy Cane Christmas event Saturday, Nov. 11, hosted by Ponce de Leon Volunteer Fire and Rescue. [CAROL KENT | Washington County News and Holmes County Advertiser]



Alex Harrington enjoys some cotton candy during the fifth annual Candy Cane Christmas event Saturday, Nov. 11, hosted by Ponce de Leon Volunteer Fire and Rescue. [CAROL KENT | Washington County News and Holmes County Advertiser]



# OUTDOORS

## Xtreme Bounty Racing Motorsports at Vortex Spring

STAFF REPORT

Xtreme Bounty Racing Motorsports (XBR) took over The Original Vortex Spring in

Ponce de Leon for the weekend during Nov. 10 and 11. The event featured dirt bike racing on dirt trails. Spectators came out to the outdoor recreational spot to enjoy the competitions and record the moment on their phones. Bikes whizzed by as country and rock music was played by a DJ.



Dirt bike racers took off on an outdoor trail on Nov. 10 during Xtreme Bounty Racing (XBR), a racing event at Vortex Spring. [COLLIN BREAUX | Washington County News and Holmes County Advertiser]



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Dirt bike racers took off on an outdoor trail on Nov. 10 during Xtreme Bounty Racing (XBR), a racing event at Vortex Spring. [COLLIN BREAUX | Washington County News and Holmes County Advertiser]



Riders weren't afraid to get muddy during Xtreme Bounty Racing at Vortex Sprint on Nov. 10-11. [COURTESY OF RICKMERC]



Riders weren't afraid to get muddy during Xtreme Bounty Racing at Vortex Sprint on Nov. 10-11. [COURTESY OF RICKMERC]

# Lonely Paws Club



**Pet of the week: Smile**  
NANTHOMPSON

“Smile for the camera, Frankie. No, look here. Frankie, sit right.”  
What? Do I look like a supermodel?  
I don’t think so. I am tired and ready for a nap.  
Digging is in my nature, so I might make a few holes in the yard. The name Dachshund is actually German for “Badger Dog.”  
Guess this all leads to the fact I’m going to need a fenced yard and supervision until I learn where I belong. I love to play and have fun but also like nice long cuddling sessions where you scratch my ears and my tummy. Are you up for the task?  
My name is Frankie and I am an approximately two-year-old male long haired Dachshund. I’m up to date on my shots, neutered, and ready for my new home.  
I currently live in Bonifay at BARRK Rescue and I love everyone. I am crate trained and housebroken.  
For more information about me or any of my friends here at BARRK Rescue, call 850-768-0157 or visit their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/barrkrescueinc](http://www.facebook.com/barrkrescueinc).  
*Lonely Paws Club is a weekly feature to help shelter animals find a loving home, brought to you by Paw Barn Pet Resort and Kent Smith Group.*

EST



2021

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# Home of the Diver Down flag and the year-round 68-degree chill.

## SWIMMING • DIVING • JEEP TRAILS • CAMPING • LIVE MUSIC

Find us on Facebook for all the latest events: The Original Vortex Spring