

Washington County
NEWS

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WASHINGTONCOUNTY.NEWS AND HOLMESCOUNTY.NEWS | Volume 001 - No. 30

HCSO, Chipley PD disrupt illegal gambling operations

CAROL KENT
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Investigators with both Holmes County Sheriff's office and the Chipley Police Department put a stop to what officials say were illegal gambling operations. A Chipley convenience store was the subject of the investigation in Washington County. The Florida Gaming Control Commission (FGCC), Division of Law Enforcement and the Chipley Police Department collaborated in an operation to dismantle an illegal gambling operation at the 77 Gas Mart, located at 604 Main Street. Investigators executed a search warrant at that loca-

tion on Wednesday, July 26, and seized \$11,462 in cash, two slot-style gaming machines, and one coin pusher machine from the store. The agencies wrote in a joint press release that the bust "serves as a clear message to those involved in illegal gambling operations that such activities will not be tolerated in Florida communities." "We extend our sincere appreciation to the FGCC for their invaluable assistance in this operation," said Chipley Police Chief Scott Thompson. "Their expertise, resources, and commitment to enforcing gaming laws were instrumental in the successful execution of this joint

endeavor." Chief Thompson added that at least one arrest is pending in the case; however, he would not say whether the store's owner was the subject of that pending arrest. In Holmes County, Sheriff John Tate says an alert citizen helped reveal the illegal operation, resulting in search warrants being served at two Holmes County businesses. The first, AK-47 Smoke Shop in Esto, was found to be in possession of and illegally operating three slot machines. The second, Smoke Gallery in Bonifay, was responsible for two additional slot machines and a "coin dozer" machine. From both stores combined, investigators also seized a total of nearly \$16,000. Sheriff Tate says HCSO received information regarding illegal activity at the AK-47 Smoke Shop in Esto in late June and conducted an undercover operation to determine exactly how the machines were functioning within the stores, as well as how many wins were paid out to customers. During the investigation, information was obtained by Holmes County investigators regarding similar operations in other cities and counties nearby, such as Chipley and Washington County.

See GAMBLING , Page 3A

Beef O'Brady's to break ground soon in Chipley

STAFF REPORT

CHIPLEY – Like the first one that opened in Brandon, Florida back in 1985, the new Chipley Beef O'Brady's will be a small-town pub that prioritizes delicious food and family-friendliness. "The Beef's brand fits well in the rural market of America," said Scott O'Brien, Beef's franchisee and owner-operator. "It's a family pub that delivers great food and good times over sports." The family-owned and operated franchise restaurant will break ground at 1403 Main Street likely within the next month and open at the start of next year. The project has been a long-time coming for O'Brien who also owns the Beef's in Marianna. "We opened the Beef's in Marianna 14 years ago with all the intentions of building one in Chipley – that was our original plan," he said. But after a business partner backed out, "we had to put it on the shelf." Like for many business owners, Hurricane Michael's destruction also cleared the path for growth. Then, following the COVID-19 pandemic, O'Brien identified land in Chipley that would be opportune to build a new Beef's location. "It was the right time," he said. The new location will herald in the latest designs of the Beef O'Brady's brand and remain consistent with the same iconic menu items that neighborhood people enjoy, such as the award-winning wings available in 12 signature sauces. "Our wings are fresh, not frozen," O'Brien said, emphasizing the quality of

See BEEF'S, Page A6



Wausau's iconic Possum Festival and Fun Day will return this Friday and Saturday, August 4 and 5. Look online at www.washingtoncounty.news for a full schedule of this year's events. ABOVE: The Shaddai Temple Shriners are a popular addition to the annual Possum Festival and Fun Day Parade. INSET: A possum peeks out at the festivities during the 2021 Possum Festival and Fun Day event. [FILE PHOTOS BY CAROL KENT | The News and Advertiser]

Bonifay mother found guilty of lesser charge in death of disabled teen

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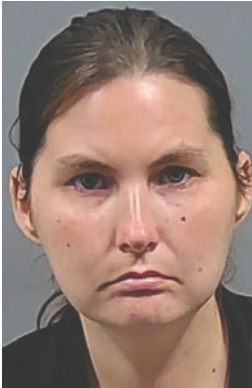
A Bonifay mother was found guilty July 28 of battery and child abuse in an Escambia County courtroom. 36-year-old Jessica Bortle was facing charges of negligent manslaughter and aggravated child abuse stemming from a fatal incident involving her 14-year-old disabled daughter, Jasmine Sin-

gletary, in July 2021, but was instead found guilty of the two lesser charges. Singletary, who had a neuromuscular disorder, was hospitalized July 8, 2021 at Ascension Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola with a closed head injury of "suspicious origins," according to court records. A CAT scan later showed two closed head injuries from which she was recovering; there were

no other injuries at that time. Singletary lost consciousness and died, despite life-saving measures taken by hospital staff. An autopsy revealed Singletary suffered massive injuries to her torso, including broken ribs, and her liver was "ripped open from blunt force trauma," injuries the medical examiner stated took place while she was confined to her bed.

Video footage from the hospital showed Bortle exiting the room, shaking and flexing her hand just before her daughter was found unconscious. Investigators say Bortle initially lied and stated she didn't know what caused her daughter's injuries but later confessed to causing the injuries that led to Singletary's death. Bortle stated Singletary began cursing and

screaming about her crayons, causing Bortle to become angry. Investigatorssaythat Bortle then slammed the hospital table into Singletary, putting her full weight on the table and causing the injuries that killed her daughter. Bortle then went on to call the incident "an accident" in a recorded statement. The medical examiner testified Singletary's cause of death was blunt force trau-



Jessica Bortle

ma to the torso. Bortle is set to be sentenced on October 4.

Chipley 17u Boys baseball participates in Pre- Majors World Series
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Back to School events scheduled in Holmes and Washington
Page 1B

Holmes Co. golfer competing in Junior PGA Championship
Page 2B



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2023



Bonifay’s business hub gets new name, branding

STAFF REPORT

BONIFAY – The small business hub at the old Bonifay Middle School now has a name. “Up until now, everyone referred to it as ‘the old middle school,’” said Lesley Hatfield, a marketing consultant for the Holmes County Development Commission (HCDC). “Our plan is to rename it ‘Midtown Plaza’” -- a name that “reflects what we’re seeing.” The hub, located at 401

McLaughlin Ave., opened in the early part of last year, offering 13 spaces for lease to small business owners with concepts that run the gamut – from legal services and tech firms to fitness centers and boutiques. It is also home to Pennsylvania-based manufacturing company Probes Unlimited. Although periodically revolving, Midtown Plaza leasing spaces are currently all filled. “The development com-

mission has been thrilled at how quickly the spaces have filled up with new businesses,” Hatfield said. “What the tenants love most about it is where it is, how accessible it is, and the price point is very reasonable for entry-level businesses.” To compliment the site’s success, the HCDC will launch a full-scale branding campaign in September which will include a new logo and messaging, social media presence and website, onsite and

directional signage along the state highway, among other marketing and promotional materials. The effort to rebrand comes after years of multipurpose use of the facility. When Bonifay K-8 opened, the property was used for whatever the community needed, such as a haunted house to raise public school dollars and training grounds for law enforcement. With the help of the Holmes County Sheriff’s Office and other local busi-

ness owners, the HCDC cleaned up the property and repurposed it “to stimulate the local economy,” Hatfield said. “The development commission really views this as a win-win-win,” she said. “It takes a space that was vacant, and through partnership, we’ve been able to bring this property to a functional condition.” “This has been a great success and is in complete alignment with the development commission’s mission,” she added.

State reaches settlement in Medicaid class action

JIM SAUNDERS
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — The state Agency for Health Care Administration has reached a settlement in a class-action lawsuit that is expected to lead to the Medicaid program providing incontinence supplies to adults with disabilities, according to court documents. Lawyers for the state, two women with disabilities and the advocacy group Disability Rights Florida last week asked a federal judge to approve the settlement and put the lawsuit on hold while the Agency for Health Care Administration moves forward with a rule-making process. The lawsuit would be dismissed if the rule-making process results in incontinence supplies being provided. “The central thrust of the agreement is that AHCA (the Agency for Health Care Administration) agrees to engage in rule-making with the intention of amending its policies and any other administrative rules necessary such that coverage will be extended to medically-necessary incontinence supplies for Medicaid State Plan recipients age 21 years and older,” said the motion filed Thursday in Jacksonville. The lawsuit, filed in July 2022, alleged the Medicaid program violated federal laws by denying coverage of incontinence supplies to adults with disabilities. The lawsuit was filed on behalf of Duval County resident Blanca Meza and St. Johns County resident Destiny Belanger, who are incontinent and unable to care for themselves. Disability Rights Florida also is a plaintiff. U.S. District Judge Marcia Morales Howard on March 27 certified the case as a class action. Morales Howard’s decision cited one estimate that at least 480 Medicaid beneficiaries a year turn 21 and lose coverage for incontinence supplies that they received as children. The state provides the supplies, such as briefs, diapers and underpads, for Medicaid beneficiaries under age 21 and for certain adults, including people in nursing homes. During an appearance before a Senate committee in April, AHCA Secretary Jason Weida said the agency

did not believe providing incontinence supplies was required by the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, which oversees Medicaid regulations. But he also indicated AHCA had discussed the possibility of changing the policy. “I can tell you that from lawsuits in the past when we have been sued and we’re in the middle of litigation, sometimes we decide to change a policy which would essentially give the plaintiffs some or all of what they wanted, and sometimes those lawsuits tend to become moot or just go away,” Weida, an attorney, told the Senate committee. “I can’t tell you exactly how we’re going to shake out on that right now. But what I can tell you is that we’re looking at it not just from a litigation strategy of how we’re going to defend ourselves, but also from a perspective of, is it the right thing to do? And if we ultimately decide that it is the right thing to do, we’ll do it.” The motion filed Thursday said the agreement came after informal talks and settlement discussions through a mediator. The lawsuit alleged that the state’s policy on incontinence supplies violated federal Medicaid law and laws including the Americans with Disabilities Act. It said the state stopped providing the supplies to Meza and Belanger after they turned 21, though they are incontinent and unable to care for themselves. As an example of their disabilities, the lawsuit said Meza “is diagnosed with spastic quadriplegic cerebral palsy, muscle spasticity, neuromuscular scoliosis and partial epilepsy.” “Plaintiffs are medically fragile adults each with bladder and bowel incontinence,” the lawsuit said. “As low-income Florida residents with significant disabilities, they receive their health services through Florida’s Medicaid program. Plaintiffs’ physicians have prescribed certain incontinence supplies, including briefs and underpads, as medically necessary to treat plaintiffs’ incontinence, keep their skin dry and clean, prevent skin breakdowns and infections and maintain their ability to live in the community.”

Governor to appoint new Holmes County SOE

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Governor Ron DeSantis is expected to soon appoint someone to serve as Holmes County Supervisor of Elections following the June 30 retirement from the

position by Therisa Meadows. Meadows herself was appointed to the position by Governor Ron DeSantis in 2019 when Debbie Wilcox Morris resigned. Meadows’ 32-year career with the county began in 1996 when

she was hired as a deputy clerk in the Holmes County Clerk of Circuit Court, a position she served until 1999. In 2000, she began a new position as Holmes County Deputy Supervisor of Elections. Meadows

served that role until 2007 when she was promoted to Assistant Holmes County Supervisor of Elections. A date is not known for the Governor’s appointment; however, it the announcement is expected within the next few weeks.

Highway 79 project entering final phase

STAFF REPORT

BONIFAY – A unique partnership between three governments to drive business to rural Washington and Holmes counties is likely entering a final phase. After successfully fulfilling its intended purpose, the Highway 79 Corridor Authority that governs the Highway 79 Corridor, located south of Interstate 10, is looking into the option of dissolving. The action depends on the approval of a recent motion to transfer utility facilities to the City of Bonifay. “It was a unanimous vote, and we were all in agreement” that the facilities should be managed by the City of Bonifay, said Bonifay Mayor Emily McCann, who made the motion during a recent meeting. “Collaboration is typically always a good thing.” The Authority is comprised of City of Bonifay, Washington County Board of County Commissioners (WCBOCC) and Holmes County Board of County Commissioners (HCBOCC). The primary project of the Authority involved constructing power, water, and sewer infrastructure along 2.7 miles of the interstate. The project was projected to attract seven businesses and create 219 new jobs. As officials have confirmed that a Busy Bee store that will create 130 jobs will soon break ground in the Cor-

ridor, they also remain as confident the completed infrastructure will be the draw for other types of businesses commonly found along the interstates as well. “Bringing water and sewer is a milestone of its own,” said Tray Hawkins, an Authority member and commissioner at the WCBOCC. “What we were there to do is make sure we provided the in-frastructure and streamlined the planning side of it.” Hawkins said the decision to transfer the utilities is ultimately “up to the City of Bonifay.” He said WCBOCC will “take a hard look” at whether the move would create any liability to the county, particularly regarding job creation requirements set by governmental grants for the project. HCBOCC Commissioner and Authority member Jeff Good held the same position. Forming the Authority was “a great idea and it worked out – we got the power, water, and sewer – and we’ve got businesses wanting to come,” Good said. “If the City of Bonifay wants to take control, and it can be done (without penalty to the county), I, personally, am all for it.” Good explained that each county could save about \$60,000 a year in “redundancy of services,” such as paying for a lawyer, marketing firm, and an engineer for the Authority. “We’re duplicating what

each county already has and I can’t see us funding \$60,000 every year each just to keep the board going,” he said. “I am just trying to save our taxpayers money.” Good noted that another option could come into play that would keep the Authority in place by utilizing county services for the Authority’s purposes – which would still create costs for each county’s budget, but far less than what is currently being paid. Officials have reached out to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, the Department of Transportation, and county lawyers for guidance on the impact of the transfer of utilities to the City and possible dissolution of the Authority. Regarding the City’s capacity to manage the facilities, “I think the research has already been done when the Authority decided to utilize City of Bonifay’s resources 10 years ago (for the infrastructure project),” McCann said. However, “We’re still a little premature on the decision as we’re waiting on guidance from the funding agencies.” The Highway 79 Corridor Authority typically meets at 10 a.m. on the second Monday of the month at the Washington County Board of County Commissioners board room, 1331 South Blvd. The August meeting has been canceled and a notice will be issued for the next meeting.

Sweep nabs hemp products aimed at children

NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services said Tuesday that a week-long inspection sweep of businesses uncovered 68,689 packages of hemp-extract products --- some with euphoric, high-potency THC --- marketed toward children. The sweep, dubbed “Operation Kandy Krush,” was conducted at 475 business-

es in 37 counties. Packages marketed toward children were found at 134 establishments, said Aaron Keller, a department spokesman. A state law (SB 1676) that went into effect July 1 includes prohibiting sale of hemp-extract products intended for human ingestion to anyone under age 21. The sale of hemp-extract products that could be inhaled was already prohibited.

The new law also requires that packaging not be considered attractive to children. That means products can’t be shaped like humans, cartoons or animals or manufactured in a way that leads to them looking like popular candy. ‘Selling such products can lead to second-degree misdemeanor charges. Second violations within a year can draw first-degree misdemeanor charges.

Pre-trial held for former BPD officer

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A pre-trial conference was held Thursday, July 27, in Holmes County for former Bonifay Police Officer Jody Long. Long is facing a misdemeanor battery charge from a March 2023 incident in which he is accused of using excessive force during a domestic disturbance call.

The incident was captured by body camera footage and later investigated by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. The case is scheduled for another pre-trial on August 17; however, Long’s attorney, Kerry Adkison, is hoping to have the case cleared up before then, stating in court that he is negotiating a plea deal. Holmes County Advertiser will continue to bring updates as this case progresses.

Bonifay approves plans for Veterans Memorial Park

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Bonifay City Council approved proposed plans for a Veterans Memorial Park improvement project when they met in special session July 24. Engineers from Melvin Engineering presented the council with plans to apply for a Florida Recreation Department Assistance Program grant to fund the improvements. The project will need to be completed in phases as the \$200,000 grant will not be enough to cover all improvements planned by the

city. The project will take several years to complete, beginning with phase one, which will include purchasing new ADA compliant playground equipment, installing new lighting throughout the park, and installing a covered seating area. Melvin Engineering is expected to submit the application in the next few weeks. A regular session immediately followed the special meeting. Council members approved a measure to freeze utility rate increases for one year. The freeze is due to



the city implementing a new program and wanting to make sure there are no issues in the billing process before the rate increase process begins. Bonifay City Council will meet again in regular session at 6 p.m. on August 14.

Local stylists offering free haircuts for school

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Chipley High School graduates and local barber shop owners Kyle Aycock (KuttaKyle) and Jamar Franklin (FLAChoppers) partnered with Cut and Dye of Graceville to offer free haircuts to all Washington County Students, K-12. Both Aycock and Franklin were born and raised in Chipley and are thrilled to be able to give back to their community by offering free back-to-school haircuts. This event is completely free and will be held in the Chipley High School Gymnasium, from 8:30 a.m. till 5:30 p.m. on August 4. “I hope to make this a yearly event, because Chipley is my home town,” said Aycock. “If there is a good enough turnout, I hope to be able to offer free haircuts at other events as well. When I asked Jamar and others to do this, they jumped on board. It’s great to have friends that are willing to give back this way”. Franklin comes from a family of stylists, his mother, and even his son in college is following in the family footsteps. Franklin says, “He wants to encourage all K-12 students to come out and meet all the professionals at the event.” This event is being held during CHS orientations, so stop by and get a cut while you’re on campus. School starts Thursday, August 10, come get ready for the first day with those great free haircuts offered by our local hair stylists. For more information call Kyle Aycock at 850-718-6512.

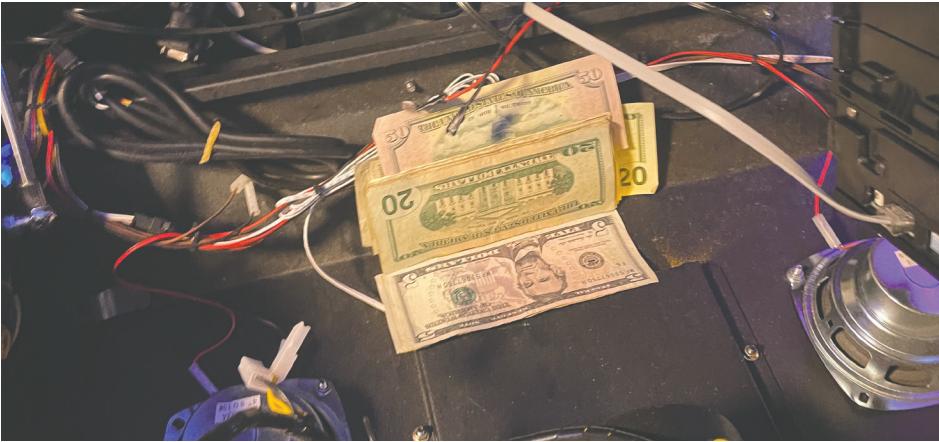


Above left, HCSO discovered several slot-style machines operating in Holmes County during an investigation that spanned nearly two months. At right, Chipley Police Department converged on the 77 Gas Mart on Main Street in Chipley last week to execute a search warrant in connection to illegal gambling at that location. [CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS]

GAMBLING

From Page 1A

Because the investigation is still active, details are limited; however, Sheriff Tate anticipates at least four arrests on a variety of charges, including money laundering. “We appreciate the Florida Gaming Control Commission’s willingness to come to Holmes County to assist in enforcing the regulations surrounding gaming in the State of Florida,” said Sheriff John Tate. “We are hopeful that seizing these machines and dismantling the operations, will serve as a warning to other business owners considering adding illegal gaming to their own establishments.” Illegal gambling operations like adult arcades often utilize predatory tactics to deceive customers into thinking their machines are legal, but they offer no consumer rights, no guarantee of fair play, and no recourse if an operator steals their money. Illegal gambling is a criminal offense, and these operations can expose individuals to other criminal activities, including armed



At left, HCSO recovered nearly \$16,000 during an investigation of an illegal gambling ring at a store in Esto and another in Bonifay. At right, Chipley Police Department recovered \$11,462 in cash from the 77 Gas Mart in Chipley during a similar investigation. [CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS]



assaults, drug trafficking, and prostitution. FGCC Executive Director Lou Trombetta stated, “The state of Florida will not condone illegal gambling.” “The FGCC will continue to combat illicit gambling to protect the safety of Florida’s communities, and we appreciate the public’s help in identifying suspected illegal gambling sites,” added Carl Herold, FGCC’s director of law enforcement. One hundred percent of legal gambling slot tax revenue directly funds the Florida Educational Enhancement Trust Fund, which supports education initiatives like Bright Futures (\$240,851,138 in fiscal year 2021/2022). Floridians can locate legal gambling establishments by visiting FGCC’s interactive gaming map.

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OPINION

Is there a loud talker in your life?



DANNY TYREE
Guest Columnist

“We are the Cubs from Den 3/And no one could be prouder/ If you cannot hear our shout/ We’ll yell a little LOUDER.”

That chant from my Cub Scout pack-meeting days comes to mind as I explore the issue of moderation-challenged speakers, or, as the prestigious American Psychiatric Association clinically labels them, “bozos who wouldn’t know an indoor voice if it bit them on the rear.”

Surely you could name some loud talkers. Maybe you are a loud talker. When you overhear people whispering about boorish behavior, perhaps you should consider asking, “Lord, is it I? I said, LORD, IS IT I????”

Booming voices disseminating too-much-information revelations are everywhere: across the hedge, in the classroom (my second-grade teacher Mrs. Shubert dubbed me “Old Cannon Mouth”), on the beach, in the grocery store, in the homes of people who use recorded jackhammer sounds in their “white noise” machine...

Retailers certainly need all the business they can get, but front-line employees dread the arrival of certain clueless extroverts. Everyone in the build-

ing hears them as soon as they enter the front door. Heck, the store’s vendors in Southeast Asia hear them as soon as they enter the front door!

You should consider yourself lucky if you meet an acquaintance who is merely loud. Sometimes you also get a dislocated shoulder from vigorous hand-shaking, a stinging slap on the back and a public recitation of how you obtained the embarrassing nickname you’ve been trying to live down since high school. (“I know you’re trying to get to the ER, stranger, but the ambulance driver can wait until you hear about Mr. Who Put the Dissected Frog in my Jockstrap?”)

Count your blessings (not out loud!) when you encounter a solo loudmouth. Too often, there are entire families who have been competing for attention for generations. (“Yes! Let’s play Twister! Then I can get even closer to your ear! What? No, I love YOU more. What? You actually said, ‘let’s make some s’mores’? I love you even more.”)

It’s obvious that some people unleash the decibels because they grew up poor in the middle of the 20th century. (“I can’t change my volume because I can’t find the pliers.”)

I wish all loud talkers could take some subtle hints when they’re getting carried away, but apparently many of them are colorblind as well. They mistake the blood oozing from your ears for sweat.

Don’t fall into the trap of pigeonholing

See TYREE, Page 5A

Try that in a small town



RON HART
Guest Columnist

To seem high-minded and caring, lefties cloak themselves in self-aggrandizing outrage.

The fashionable “worries” they latch onto help them virtue signal that they are better than the rest of us.

Topping their list is “global warming” or “climate change” (that way they cover both hot and cold). One thing we know

for sure: “climate change” is the Number One cause of documentaries in America. The second is anything racial. And now, song lyrics. Jason Aldean’s country song “Try That in a Small Town” really got the left spun up.

This is a simple song; the music video was filmed in front of our beautiful courthouse in my hometown of Columbia, Tennessee. Columbia is great, diverse town, 67% White, 18% Black and about 10% Hispanic. When I was growing up there, everyone got along.

It is not some racist small town like the left has implied.

Getting mad about a “dog whistle” in such a song is beyond

the pale. When I was a child there in the 70s, the song “Afternoon Delight” (about a couple sneaking away for a quickie) would come on the radio while the family was driving down the road. We all sang along together.

Maybe we were na-

325 million people, 205 million of them (over 60%) live in an incorporated place. And about 75% of the 19,500 incorporated cities have fewer than 5,000 people. Only 4% (780) of all cities have more than 50,000 living in them. Thus, only about 39% of the

The Jason Aldean song emphasizes both the First and Second Amendments. If you try hard enough, you can find a racial slight in anything.

ive, but you certainly cannot do that with rap songs or Cardi B’s “WAP.” Yet somehow “Try That in a Small Town” got banned by CMT? Really?

There are a lot of small towns in America. Of our nation’s

U.S. population (127 million) live in those “big cities.”

Atlanta, New York and L.A. are examples of big cities gone bad. They are filled with people who moved there because they think they are too

See HART, Page 5A



“THAT’S JONATHAN THE TORTOISE, THE OLDEST LIVING LAND ANIMAL. HE’S 191 YEARS OLD, HE’S BLIND, HE’S LOST HIS SENSE OF SMELL AND HE’S THINKING ABOUT RUNNING FOR CONGRESS.”

The GOP’s Presidential Debate will not be great again



MICHAEL REAGAN
Guest Columnist

Here we go again. The first Republican presidential primary debate is less than a month away and the GOP is hell-bent on making the same mistake it made in 2015.

For its first primary debate back then Republicans had a herd of medium-caliber presidential wannabes that was so large the party had to split them into two tiers based on their polling numbers.

Fox News hosted

two crowded debates back-to-back on one night that were more useless than usual.

In the main event, 24 million Americans watched a chorus line of party heavyweights – Jeb Bush, Scott Walker, Mike Huckabee, Ben Carson, Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio, Rand Paul, Chris Christie and John Kasich – struggle to out-promise each other while they ganged up on Donald Trump.

In the preliminary debate Rick Perry, Bobby Jindal, Rick Santorum, Lindsey Graham, Carly Fiorina, Jim Gilmore and George Pataki tried to do or say something memorable that might explain why they, their wives and their mothers thought they were presidential timber.

Today, most of those

2016 dreamers have disappeared from the scene, become answers to trivia questions or appear on Fox News every 20 minutes doing commercials for pain relief or sleep aids.

Those over-crowded Republican debates in 2015 were a waste of time and energy that did the

take again.”

So far, seven of the 11 Republican candidates who’ve announced for the 2024 presidency have qualified for the Aug. 23 debate in Milwaukee.

They are North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum, former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, former

Realistically, except for Trump and maybe DeSantis, the other candidates are kidding themselves and their supporters.

party, the candidates and the country no good. Plus, except for the entertaining Trump Factor, like most debates they were boring and unenlightening.

Apparently, the GOP’s thinking about primary debates this year was, “Hey, let’s make the same mis-

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy, South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott and some rude former president named Donald Trump.

Former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson and former Vice

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Washington County
NEWS & HOLMES COUNTY ADVERTISER



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The Washington County News and Holmes County News are published on Wednesdays by Kent Smith Group, LLC at 1364 N. Railroad Ave., Chipley, FL 32428.

Periodicals postage paid by Chipley, Florida. Postmaster: Send address change to: Washington County News P.O. Box 627, Chipley, FL 32428

USPS 667-360

In county
1 Year - \$49.50

Out of county
1 Year - \$75.00

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Letters may be sent to 1364 N. Railroad Ave., Chipley, FL 32428 or emailed to ckent@kentsmith.biz.

Questions? Call 850-638-0212

REAGAN

From Page 4A

President Mike Pence are still trying to meet all the polling and fundraising requirements they need to be included.

Ditto for former Texas congressman Will Herd and Miami Mayor Francis Suarez. Did I actually say the mayor of Miami? Really?

Other than Mayor Suarez, the Republican slate for 2024 is pretty impressive.

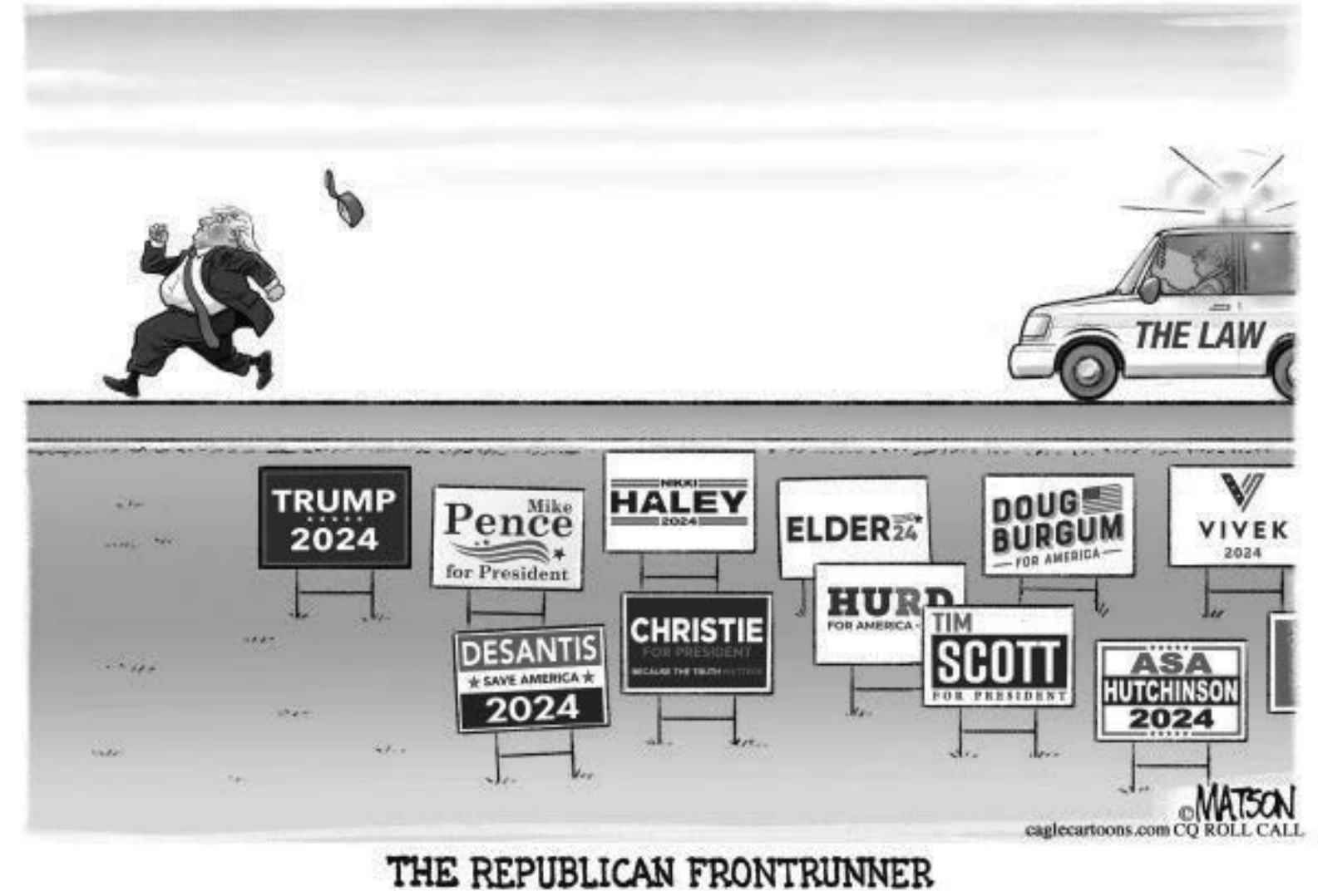
It's a deep, diverse and accomplished lineup of current and former public servants who should be thanked for their service – and then urged to drop out and endorse someone who can win in 2024.

Realistically, except for Trump and maybe DeSantis, the other candidates are kidding themselves and their supporters.

They have as much chance of becoming the 2024 Republican presidential nominee as my gardener and don't deserve to be included in a debate.

Meanwhile, our presidential debates are not really debates at all.

They're become places where candidates duck hard questions and instead deliver pre-packaged, poll-tested, 90-second



answers that no one remembers the next day.

In a better world, our political debates would be limited to three or four candidates who are competitive.

In a perfect world, they also would be conducted by unbiased, skeptical journalists and would allow plenty of time for candidates to answer important policy questions and challenge each other.

Unfortunately, we live in the real world. Which is why we're going to continue to get overcrowded debates, poorly constructed debates or no debates at all from the major parties and the major media.

The GOP's upcoming string of presidential primary debates will be another waste of time and energy.

They will just be a series of TV tryouts to see who has the brains and guts to be Trump's

vice president pick – which makes Pence's candidacy make even less sense.

I respect Pence, but he's never going to be nominated for president by a MAGA Republican Party. He'd have 75 million votes against him on Election Day.

And anyway, he shouldn't be in the primary debates because he's already been Trump's VP.

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.

TRI-COUNTY COMMUNITY COUNCIL, INC.
302 North Oklahoma Street; Bonifay, FL 32425

Due to on-going COVID-19 concerns, Tri-County Community Council, Inc., Board of Directors will meet via hybrid format at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 10, 2023 at the Life Enrichment Senior Center located at 312 College Avenue, DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435. The hybrid meeting will allow for in-person or online attendance. Finance & Head Start Committee meetings will be held at 4:15. For more information, please call 1-800-395-2696.

HART

From Page 4A

good for their small hometown. Not a one of them has refrained from showing some arrogance when joking about small towns. And notably, those very cities are falling apart from decades of one-party Democrat rule. Not only are there a lot of small towns, there are sparsely populated big states with a lot of land like Wyoming and Montana. The U.S. has deemed about 25% of our land as wilderness (30% if you count Chris Stapleton's beard).

A lot of us live in smaller towns -- for a reason. We take pride in our community, get involved and can have an impact. Jason Aldean's song resonates with us. We do not share the values of big, decaying Democrat cities. And we are growing; they are not.

The lefties know this, and it angers them. Thus, the faux outrage about a benign song.

The song is Number One now, the consequence of the same pushback Bud Light and Target got when they tried to force their values on Americans in a heavy-handed, arrogant way. But we, as consumers, have the power to push back. Our power was made clear when we knocked to its knees the top brand of beer in America and reduced it to a bar joke.

This reminds us that we are the

consumers with the power, not government and not some woke, Ivy League elitist in the Bud Light marketing department in New York City.

Consumers have the power to make or break a product. And a song like "Try That in a Small Town," and a marginalized movie like "Sound of Freedom" remind us that we can overlay our value system on what we buy. Hopefully, it has just begun.

The Jason Aldean song emphasizes both the First and Second Amendments. If you try hard enough, you can find a racial slight in anything. Maybe I should start a boycott of Walmart because I'm offended by their cracker aisle.

The left keeps moving the goalpost of what is accepted or not. Let us just take history as it was and quit using it against our political enemies. They have gone after Confederate statues and vilified America's Founding Fathers. With the left, the past changes so frequently that you never know what's going to happen yesterday.

My dad was in law enforcement in Columbia and president of the FOP. I once asked him who was the town drunk. He said, "We all take turns."

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

TYREE

From Page 4A

people purely on the basis of volume. Some people are loud only intermittently, when they're excited to share some news; others are always "on." Some are apologetic; some are oblivious. Some are amiable and earnest with their gushing. Others are downright obnoxious. Some you make excuses for. Others, you make burial-

in-a-shallow-grave plans for.

Not all loud talkers are egotistical. Some are preemptively bluffing to cover their insecurities. (Judging by the intensity of their utterances, they must think that alien invaders are about to drain their bank account and induce male pattern baldness.)

I would shout, "Yahoo!" now that I have met my deadline, but my wife is sensitive to loud noises, and I

don't want to trigger any migraines.

She might throw out my Cub Scout merit badge for Untying Sheepshank Knots by Yodeling at Them.

Almost as coveted as the one for Scaring Little Old Ladies into Crossing the Street to Avoid You.

Danny Tyree welcomes email responses at tyreetyrades@aol.com and visits to his Facebook fan page "Tyree's Tyrades."

Soak in all the fun!

Home to the Red & White "Diver Down" Flag
The Gulf Coast's Premier and Largest Inland Dive Resort in the State of Florida

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It's getting HOT outside, so we welcome you to the home of year-round 68 degree chill!

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- NAUI/ Divemaster NES-VA003
- NAUI/ Assistant Instructor NES-VA002
- NAUI/ Instructor Course NES-VA001
- NAUI/ Instructor Trainer NES-VA004

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1517 Vortex Springs Lane • Ponce de Leon, FL • 850.836.4979

Chipley 17u Boys baseball participates in Pre- Majors World Series



Front Row From L-R. Coach Ty Russ, Lawson Corbitt, Blaine Woodham, Rayce Griffin, Gavin O’Neil, Callen Scurlock, JP Peters, Cason Nelson, Head Coach Andy Compton
Back Row from L-R Brody Price, Thad Brown, Brantley Kirkland, Conner Goddin, Gabe Cushing, Cade Culbreth, Carter Kirkland, Aiden Wheeler, David Carley, Coach Jesse Carter
[CONTRIBUTED PHOTO]

Register Now for Fall 2023

Classes Begin August 21

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CHIPOLA COLLEGE
An Equal Access /Equal Opportunity Institution www.chipola.edu/equity

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS AND ADVERTISER

The Chipley Boys Pre-Majors World Series tournament held in Sterling, Louisiana July 21-25,2023.

Billy Baxley joins Marianna Toyota

Billy Baxley has joined the team at Marianna Toyota, bringing with him more than 40 years of experience serving customers in and around Northwest Florida. Let his expert knowledge work for you and help take care of all your transportation needs.

Contact him today at:
2961 Penn Ave., Marianna, FL 32448
850-526-3511

Chipley’s first game paired them with North Charleston, SC. The Tigers came out on top winning 6-4. Next, the Tigers faced Pleasant View, TN. The Tigers put 6 runs on the board, outscoring Pleasant View by 2 runs. The third game saw the Tigers playing Southland, La. After a hard fight the Tigers came up short losing 8-7 give if the Tigers their first loss of the tournament. The Tigers faced Panola County, TX. The Tigers put 6 runs on the board. The final was Tigers-6, Panola County, Tx-0. Game 4 saw the Tigers facing DeQuincy,La in the final 4. Chipley was unable to put any runs on the board. Chipley lost 3-0 resulting in the Tigers losing out of the tournament in the Semifinal round. Chipley ended up placing third in the tournament.

BEEF’S

From Page 1A

food is a logistical priority. “Being in a small town, you develop a good relationship with your community and people plan on being there (at Beef’s) frequently. They will find on our menu there is something for everyone.” O’Brien anticipates the new location will create 40-50 new jobs and will soon join the Washington County Chamber of Commerce. He said he is excited to bring the brand to the county and believes the innovative thinking by the brand’s leadership has prepared him to open another successful location. “It’s a very special and unique business to connect with people, provide jobs, a great work environment, and to really be a part of your community,” O’Brien said. “We’re here to complement the community. We’re not here to hurt any other businesses.” “We have always believed that a Beef O’Brady’s would complement Washington County,” he concluded. “And that’s our goal.”

The Road to Recovery Starts Here!

Providing Inpatient Rehab to Those in Need!

After surgery, stroke, injury, or long-term illness, inpatient rehabilitation is often essential. Typically, an inpatient rehab patient has been hospitalized, no longer needs the same level of care, but isn’t quite ready to go home.

From needs including physical, occupational, respiratory, speech therapies and more, we understand that every situation is unique, and are here to help our patients reach their personal goals and maximum capacity for independent living.

Our fully-equipped rehabilitation facilities offer a friendly, comfortable setting for recovery, all delivered with the care and compassion our patients deserve - right here, close to home!

“Your Health... Our Mission”

1360 Brickyard Rd, Chipley, FL 32428 • (850) 638-1610 • www.nfch.org

Four Washington County residents sentenced in meth trafficking case

STAFF REPORT

PENSACOLA – A federal judge sentenced four defendants in a large-scale-methamphetamine trafficking organization operating primarily in Washington County.

The convictions and sentences were announced Thursday, July 27, by Jason R. Coody United States Attorney for the Northern District of Florida.

Sentenced in the case were:

Ashley Michelle Zurica, 43, of Caryville – 220 months in prison

Ashley Elliot Brown, 41, of Caryville – 180 months in prison

Donald Eugene Skipper, 55, of Chipley -180 months in prison

William Keith Carter, 52, of Wausau -168 months in prison

Coody called methamphetamine distribution a “scourge on large and small communities” in the Thursday statement.

“With our dedicated law enforcement partners, we are committed to identifying and aggressively prosecuting those who threaten our citizens’ health and safety by distributing such addictive, controlled substances,” said Coody. “These sentences

demonstrate that resolve.”

The sentences stem from a 2019 investigation launched by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Panama City Resident Office Task Force.

The investigation targeted the distribution of multiple kilograms of methamphetamine by Zurica, Brown, Skipper, Carter, and others in Washington County and surrounding areas of North Florida.



Keith Carter



Ashley Brown



Ashley Zurica



Donald Skipper

Holmes County Arrest Reports

The following arrests were made in Holmes County between July 21 and July 28 as reported by the Holmes County Jail. All subjects are considered innocent until convicted.



Aaron Michael Grant, 24, Ponce De Leon- Possession of narcotics [HCSO]



Melvin Cole Murchison, 21, Westville- Operating motorcycle without license, license plate not assigned. [HCSO]



Wrangler Pitts, 21, Bonifay- Possession of controlled substance without prescription. [HCSO]



Brenda Ann Sellers, 42, Chipley- Counterfeit Bills X2, Out of County Warrant [HCSO]



Kermine Williams, 52- DWLSR [HCSO]

Washington County Arrest Reports

The following arrests were made in Washington County between July 21 and July 28 as reported by the Washington County Jail. All subjects are considered innocent until convicted.



Andrea Albert Banks, 33, Homeless- Lewd/ Lascivious behavior: commit sex act presence facility employee X2. [WCSO]



Laura Lee Rose Biggs, 32- Possession of paraphernalia, possession of marijuana not more than 20 grams, produce methamphetamine within 1000 ft of specified area. [WCSO]



Rodney Leon Broxton, 31, Chipley- Possession of marijuana not more than 20 grams. [WCSO]



William David Carlisle, 41, Chipley- Attach registration: license plate not assigned. [WCSO]



John Fitzgerald Chiodo, 52, Chipley- Charges not listed. [WCSO]



Jonathan Anthony Chiodo, 30, Panama City- Assault: intent threat to do violence. [WCSO]



Robert Preston Cummins, 33, Chipley- Contempt of Court: viol injunction protection domestic violence. [WCSO]



Daniel Joseph Donofrio, 48, Chipley- Lewd/ Lascivious behavior battery victim age 12 to 16. [WCSO]



Dale Joseph Gremillion, 45, Panama City Beach- Possession of marijuana not over 20 grams, possession of paraphernalia. [WCSO]



Xavier Desmond Hooks, 18, Chipley- Send a written threat to kill. [WCSO]



Dona D Jackson, 46, Cottondale- possession of controlled substance without prescription, display firearm during felony, possession of paraphernalia, resisting officer without violence. [WCSO]



Charles Casey Locke, 28, Chipley- DWLSR, criminal mischief. [WCSO]



Destiny Marie McConnell, 21, Bonifay- probation violation. [WCSO]



William Dane Mongoven, 40, Vernon- battery, aggravated assault with deadly weapon without intent to kill. [WCSO]



Travis Lee Newsome, 34, Chipley- Battery, Contempt of Court: Viol injunction protection domestic violence [WCSO]



Jorge Luis Rosa Perez, 3, Chipley- damage property over 200 dollars less than 1000 dollars, aggravated battery offender known/should have known the victim was pregnant. [WCSO]



Latrenda Kay Robinson, 38, Slocomb- Possession of drug paraphernalia. [WCSO]



Jarvis Dashaun Roulhac, 31, Chipley- possession of cocaine. [WCSO]



Christopher Ryan Sapp, 23, Chipley- Charges not listed. [WCSO]



Ashton Michael Selemon, 19, Southport- grand theft of firearm. [WCSO]



John David Smith, 44, Slocomb- Possession of drug paraphernalia, DWLSR X2. [WCSO]



Mark David Swearington, 30, Cottondale- Grand theft more than 10 thousand less than 20 thousand, second-degree petit theft, fraud: utter false instrument. [WCSO]



Devonta Lasalle Thomas, 29, Quincy- Contempt of court: child support. [WCSO]



Christopher Bernard Watford, 20, Graceville- Carrying concealed firearm, possession of marijuana not more than 20 grams. [WCSO]

Washington County

Classifieds



Place your classifieds by calling 850.638.0212

LEGAL ADVERTISING

000231
NOTICE OF AP-
PLICATION FOR TAX
DEED

Notice Is Hereby
Given IDE TECHNOLOGIES INC, the holder
of the following Tax
certificate, has filed
said certificate for
a Tax Deed to be
issued thereon. The
Parcel number, Cer-
tificate number and
year of issuance,
the description of
the property, and
the names in which
it was assessed are
as follows:

Certificate #: 21-
00-02138

Year of Issuance:
2021

Parcel: 000000000-
06-0378-0010

Assessed To:

JOHN J DAVIS

Description:

LEGAL ADVERTISING

SUNNY HILLS UNIT
#6 LOT 10 ORB 161 P
564 BLK 0378

All of said prop-
erty being located
in the County of
Washington, State
of Florida.

Unless such cer-
tificate shall be re-
deemed according
to law, the property
described in such
Certificate will be
sold to the highest
bidder ONLINE AT
WASHINGTON.REAL-
TAXDEED.COM on
SEPTEMBER 12, 2023
at 10:00 AM CT.

Lora C. Bell Clerk
of Court, Washing-
ton County Florida
By: Kelsey Odom,
Deputy Clerk
July 12, 19, 26,
2023
August 2, 2023

000233
NOTICE OF AP-
PLICATION FOR TAX
DEED

25 4 15 5 ORB 920
P 514 S2 OF NW4 OF
NW4 OF NE4, ORB
1142 P 540

Notice Is Hereby
Given IDE TECHNOLOGIES INC, the holder

LEGAL ADVERTISING

Notice Is Hereby
Given IDE TECHNOLOGIES INC, the holder
of the following Tax
certificate, has filed
said certificate for
a Tax Deed to be
issued thereon. The
Parcel number, Cer-
tificate number and
year of issuance,
the description of
the property, and
the names in which
it was assessed are
as follows:

Certificate #: 21-
00-01074

Year of Issuance:
2021

Parcel: 000000000-
00-5049-0005

Assessed To:

AMBER N COOPER,
AMBER N RILEY

Description:

LEGAL ADVERTISING

All of said prop-
erty being located
in the County of
Washington, State
of Florida.

Unless such cer-
tificate shall be re-
deemed according
to law, the property
described in such
Certificate will be
sold to the highest
bidder ONLINE AT
WASHINGTON.RE-
ALTAXDEED.COM on
SEPTEMBER 12, 2023
at 10:00 AM CT.

Lora C. Bell Clerk
of Court, Washing-
ton County Florida
By: Kelsey Odom,
Deputy Clerk
July 12, 19, 26,
2023
August 2, 2023

000234
NOTICE OF AP-
PLICATION FOR TAX
DEED

Notice Is Hereby
Given IDE TECHNOLOGIES INC, the holder

LEGAL ADVERTISING

of the following Tax
certificate, has filed
said certificate for
a Tax Deed to be
issued thereon. The
Parcel number, Cer-
tificate number and
year of issuance,
the description of
the property, and
the names in which
it was assessed are
as follows:

Certificate #: 21-
00-00081

Year of Issuance:
2021

Parcel: 000000000-
00-0310-0106

Assessed To:

ELAINE L HENDRICK

Description:

LEGAL ADVERTISING

of Florida.

Unless such cer-
tificate shall be re-
deemed according
to law, the property
described in such
Certificate will be
sold to the highest
bidder ONLINE AT
WASHINGTON.RE-
ALTAXDEED.COM on
SEPTEMBER 12, 2023
at 10:00 AM CT.

Lora C. Bell Clerk
of Court, Washing-
ton County Florida
By: Kelsey Odom,
Deputy Clerk
July 12, 19, 26,
2023
August 2, 2023

000250
NOTICE OF AP-
PLICATION FOR TAX
DEED

Notice Is Hereby
Given CHRISTOPHER
S BUTLER, the holder
of the following Tax
certificate, has filed
said certificate for
a Tax Deed to be
issued thereon. The

LEGAL ADVERTISING

Parcel number, Cer-
tificate number and
year of issuance, the
description of the
property, and the
names in which it
was assessed are as
follows:

Certificate #: 16-
00-04478

Year of Issuance:
2016

Parcel: 000000000-
10-0613-0012

Assessed To:

DARA SHOFF

Description:

LEGAL ADVERTISING

SUNNY HILLS UNIT
#10 LOT 12 ORB 780 P
487 BLK 0613

All of said prop-
erty being located
in the County of
Washington, State
of Florida.

Unless such cer-
tificate shall be re-
deemed according

LEGAL ADVERTISING

to law, the property
described in such
Certificate will be
sold to the high-
est bidder ONLINE
AT WASHINGTON.
REALTAXDEED.COM
on OCTOBER 03, 2023
at 10:00 AM CT.
August 2, 9, 16,
23, 2023

000255
NOTICE OF AP-
PLICATION FOR TAX
DEED

Notice Is Hereby
Given IDE TECHNOLOGIES INC, the holder
of the following Tax
certificate, has filed
said certificate for
a Tax Deed to be
issued thereon. The
Parcel number, Cer-
tificate number and
year of issuance, the
description of the
property, and the
names in which it
was assessed are as
follows:

Certificate #: 21-
00-01127

Unless such

LEGAL ADVERTISING

Year of Issuance:
2021

Parcel: 000000000-
00-5360-0193

Assessed To:

CAROLYN LEDFORD
AIELLO, DEBORAH
LEDFORD DICERO,
FAYE LEDFORD MC-
CALL, GLENDA LED-
FORD EVANS, KATHY
LEDFORD HENSON,
KATHY LEDFORD
HENSON & ETAL FAYE
LEDORD MCCALL,
KAY LEDFORD GUY,
WILBUR CLAUDE LED-
FORD, WILLIAM DAVIS
LEDFORD

Description:

16 2 16 ORB 858 P
289 LOT 193 HOLMES
RIVER CAMPSITES,
UNRECORDED PLAT

All of said prop-
erty being located
in the County of
Washington, State
of Florida.

Unless such

LEGAL ADVERTISING

certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such Certificate will be sold to the highest bidder **ONLINE AT WASHINGTON. REALTAXDEED.COM on OCTOBER 03, 2023 at 10:00 AM CT.**

Lora C. Bell Clerk of Court, Washington County Florida By: Kelsey Odom, Deputy Clerk August 2, 9, 16, 23, 2023

000258
NOTICE OF AP-
PLICATION FOR TAX
DEED

Notice Is Hereby Given **IDE TECHNOLOGIES INC.**, the holder of the following Tax certificate, has filed said certificate for a Tax Deed to be issued thereon. The Parcel number, Certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate #: **21-00-00452**

Year of Issuance: **2021**

Parcel: **00000000-00-2827-0000**

Assessed To:

CHARLES ANDREW FISH CO-TRUSTEE OF THE IRENE G FISH TRUST AGREEMENT, IRENE G FISH TRUST TABITHA A F WICHOWSKI % CHARLES FISH, TABITHA ANN FISH WICHOWSKI CO-TRUSTEE OF THE IRENE G FISH TRUST AGREEMENT

Description: **33 5 13 ORB 810 P 20 LOT 16 & N 25' OF LOT 17 1/4 BLK FA, ORB 900 P 506-508**

All of said property being located in the County of Washington, State of Florida.

Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such Certificate will be sold to the highest bidder **ONLINE AT WASHINGTON. REALTAXDEED.COM on OCTOBER 03, 2023 at 10:00 AM CT.**

Lora C. Bell Clerk of Court, Washington County Florida By: Kelsey Odom, Deputy Clerk August 2, 9, 16, 23, 2023

000261
NOTICE OF AP-
PLICATION FOR TAX
DEED

Notice Is Hereby Given **IDE TECHNOLOGIES INC.**, the holder of the following Tax certificate, has filed said certificate for a Tax Deed to be issued thereon. The Parcel number, Certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate #: **21-00-00282**

Year of Issuance: **2021**

Parcel: **00000000-00-1227-0000**

Assessed To:

GWAUN REED

Description:

4 4 13 BEG.166 1/2", N. OF SEC OF LOT 7, RUN N. 56 1/2', W.120", S.56 1/2' E.120' TO BEG. N1/2 OF NE1/4 BLK 2, O RB 572 P 265

All of said property being located in the County of Washington, State of Florida.

Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such Certificate will be sold to the highest bidder **ONLINE AT WASHINGTON. REALTAXDEED.COM on OCTOBER 03, 2023 at 10:00 AM CT.**

Lora C. Bell Clerk of Court, Washington County Florida By: Kelsey Odom, Deputy Clerk August 2, 9, 16, 23, 2023

000268
IN THE FOUR-
TEENTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT IN AND
FOR WASHINGTON
COUNTY, FLORIDA
CITY OF CHIPLEY,
a Florida municipal
corporation,
Plaintiff,

LEGAL ADVERTISING

Case No. 23-CA-07 v. **ANNIE HOLMES, Defendants.**

NOTICE OF AC-
TION IN FORECLO-
SURE PROCEED-
INGS

TO: ANNIE HOLMES :
YOU ARE NOTI- FIED that an action to foreclosure municipal code enforcement liens on the following described property in Washington County, Florida, to wit,

The East Half of Lot Six (6), in the South Half of Northeast Quarter of Section Four (4), Township Four (4) North, Range Thirteen (13) West, in City of Chipley, Florida, located at Church Avenue, Chipley Florida, being tax parcel numbered 00-1317-0000 , (the "property"), has been filed against you and you are required to serve an Answer or copy of your written defenses, if any, to Attorney Jeremy A. Mutz, 1512 Hwy 90, Chipley, FL 32428, Plaintiff's attorney, on or before **August 10, 2023** or within thirty (30) days after the first publication of this Notice of Action, and file the original with the clerk of this court at 1293 Jackson Avenue, Chipley, Florida 32428, either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Dated: 7/16/23
LORA BELL
CLERK OF THE COURT
WASHINGTON COUNTY, FLORIDA
Jo Ann Hayes
As Deputy Clerk
July 26, August 2, 2023

000274
LEAVE IT AT
LENNY'S SELF
STORAGE, LLC. 2855
PATE POND ROAD
CARYVILLE, FL.
32427

NOTICE OF PUB-
LIC SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given, that we will sell or otherwise dispose of the contents of the following self storage units in order to satisfy the delinquent storage lien placed in accordance with the State of Florida Statute 83.806.

UNIT#
NAME
CONTENTS
21A
Fred Wright Household items
18C
Charles Miller Household items
The public sale will be conducted at "Self-StorageAuction.com" The facility address is: "Leave it at Lenny's Self Storage, LLC.", located at: 2855 Pate Pond Road, Caryville, FL 32427. The sale will take place on Tuesday, August 56 th, 2021, at 11:00 a.m., or thereafter. Units will be sold to the highest bidder. Terms are CREDIT CARD only. A cleaning deposit of \$100.00 will be taken for each unit purchased. (850) 290-4118
July 26, 2023
August 2, 2023

000287
IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF THE
FOURTEENTH JUDI-
CIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR
WASHINGTON
COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIVIL ACTION

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
Case #: 21000069CAAXMX Plaintiff, -vs.-
Unknown Heirs, Devisees, Grantees, Assignees, Creditors, Lienors, and Trustees of Barbara Daniels a/k/a Barbara White Daniels, Deceased, and All Other Persons Claiming by and Through, Under, Against The Named Defendant(s);
Tiffany Deann Worthington a/k/a Tiffany Deann Combs; Talitha Maureen Douglas a/k/a Talitha Douglas; Madison Star Douglas; Unknown Spouse of Tiffany Deann Worthington a/k/a Tiffany Deann Combs; Unknown Spouse of Talitha Maureen Douglas a/k/a Talitha Douglas; Unknown Spouse of Madison Star Douglas; Unknown Parties in Possession #1, if living, and all Unknown Parties claiming by, through, under and against the above named Defendant(s);
Unknown Parties in Possession #2, if living, and all Unknown Parties claiming by,

through, under and against the above named Defendant(s)

Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to order rescheduling foreclosure sale or Final Judgment, entered in Civil Case No. 21000069CAAX-MX of the Circuit Court of the 14th Judicial Circuit in and for Washington County, Florida, wherein Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., Plaintiff and Unknown Heirs, Devisees, Grantees, Assignees, Creditors, Lienors, and Trustees of Barbara Daniels a/k/a Barbara White Daniels, Deceased, and All Other Persons Claiming by and Through, Under, Against The Named Defendant(s) are defendant(s), I, Clerk of Court, Lora C. Bell, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash https://washing-ton.realforeclose.com/ AT 10:00 A.M. CENTRAL STANDARD TIME. on August 23, 2023, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to-wit:

THE FOLLOWING REAL PROPERTY SITUATE IN, COUNTY OF WASHINGTON AND STATE OF FLORIDA, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGIN- NING AT THE NW CORNER OF THE SW 1/4 OF SW 1/4 AND RUNNING EAST ALONG FORTY LINE 340 FEET, THENCE S 2° 15' E 400 FEET. THENCE S 88° 00' W 340 FEET TO CENTER OF COUNTY ROAD OR SECTION LINE, THENCE NORTH ALONG SECTION LINE 400 FEET TO POINT OF BEGIN- NING, BEING IN SEC- TION 25, TOWNSHIP 4 NORTH, RANGE 14 WEST.

ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTER- EST 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 NO LATER THAN THE DATE THAT THE CLERK REPORTS THE FUNDS AS UNCLAIMED.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accom- modation 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, call 711.

Lora C. Bell
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
Washington County, Florida

Jo Ann Hayes
DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT

Submitted By:
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF:
LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP

2424 North Federal Highway, Suite 360

Boca Raton, Florida 33431 (561) 998-6700 (561) 998-6707
The above is to be published in: Washington County News

21-325143 FC01 WEQ
July 26, August 2, 2023

000288
IN THE COUNTY
COURT OF THE
FOURTEENTH JUDI-
CIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR
WASHINGTON
COUNTY, FLORIDA

CYPRESS CROSS- ING PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIA- TION, INC., a Florida not-for-profit corpora- tion,

Plaintiff,

v. CASE NO.: 23- 07-CC
ROBERT K. BOND- ESEN, SR., GIRISH K. KAKARADKAR, and PRIMESOUTH BANK,

Defendants.

NOTICE OF AC-
TION

TO: GIRISH K. KAKARADKAR

YOU ARE NOTI- FIED that an action to foreclose a lien of a homeowners' as- sociation on the fol- lowing property in Washington County, Florida:

Lot 23, Cypress Crossing, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 5, pages 46 and 47, of the public re- cords of Washington County, Florida.

a/k/a

25 3 16 3.31 ORB 715 P 55 LOT 23 CYPRESS CROSSING PLAT BK 5 PG 46-47

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Timothy J. Sloan, the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 427 McKenzie Avenue, Panama City, FL 32401, on or before August 25, 2023, and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on the Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

DATED on July 14, 2023.

CLERK OF THE COURT

By Deputy Clerk
July 26, 2023
August 2, 2023

000293
IN THE FOUR-
TEENTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT IN AND
FOR WASHINGTON
COUNTY, FLORIDA
CITY OF CHIPLEY,
a Florida municipal
corporation,
Plaintiff,
Case No. 2023- CA-59
v.
ESTATE OF JOSEPH R. LEDLOW a/k/a JOSEPH R. LEDLOW, Deceased; ALL HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, LEGATEES, SPOUSES AND CREDITORS OF JOSEPH R. LEDLOW a/k/a JOSEPH R. LEDLOW, Deceased, Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION
IN FORECLOSURE
PROCEEDINGS
TO: ESTATE OF JOSEPH R. LEDLOW A/K/A JOSEPH R. LEDLOW, DECEASED; ALL HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, LEGATEES, SPOUSES AND CREDITORS OF JOSEPH R. LEDLOW A/K/A JOSEPH R. LEDLOW, DECEASED;

YOU ARE NOTI- FIED that an action to foreclosure a municipal code enforcement lien on the following de- scribed property in Washington County, Florida, to wit,

The East 400 feet of Lots 26 and 27 in Block "C" of Rubenstein & Laken Addition to the town of Chipley, Florida, according to plat thereof on file in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Washington County, Florida, being in Section 33, Town- ship 5 North, Range 13 West.

Located at 1278 Holley Ave., Chipley, Florida, being tax parcel numbered 00-2847-0000 (the "property"), has been file against you and you are required to serve an Answer or copy of your written defenses, if any, to Attorney Jeremy A. Mutz, 1512 Hwy 90, Chipley, FL 32428, Plaintiff's attorney, on or before **August 15, 2023** or within thirty (30) days after the first publica- tion of this Notice of Action, and file the original with the clerk of this court at 1293 Jackson Avenue, Chipley, Florida 32428, either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or im- mediately thereafter; otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Dated: 6/7/23
LORA BELL
CLERK OF THE COURT

WASHINGTON COUNTY, FLORIDA
Jo Ann Hayes
As Deputy Clerk
July 26, 2023
August 2, 2023

000294
STORAGE
TRESURES A Safe
Storage, LLC First
Lien Holder, will
hold an ONLINE PUB-
LIC AUCTION. The
auction will be held
online at www.Storage
Treasures.com on
August 12, 2023
or thereafter to sat-
isfy past due rents.
08/12/2023 Auction
Units C011 Rebecca
Leonard 448 2nd

Street lot K Chipley, FL 32428, 6026 Clinton Kelly 456 1st Street Chipley, FL 32428, E018 Paige Holmes 747 First Street Chipley, FL 32428, H006 Laurie Messner PO Box 465 Grand Ridge 32442, E024 James Taylor 683 Highbrook Lane Chipley, Florida 32428, H009 Stevie Olson 930 Prissy Lane Chipley, Florida 32428, X12 Wesley Eubanks 1465 Joe Neel Road Chipley, Florida 32428, Unless otherwise noted, the contents are: All household, personal, business goods, all boxes, loose clothes, elec- tronics, any/all other items contained in the unit(s). Legal Notice
July 26, 2023
August 2, 2023

000295
FREEDOM MORT-
GAGE CORPORATION
PLAINTIFF,
VS.
CDC CAPITAL INVESTMENTS, LLC., AS TRUSTEE OF THE 1520 NEARING HILLS CIRCLE CHIPLEY LAND TRUST ET AL., DEFENDANTS.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR WASH- INGTON COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIVIL DIVISION
CASE NO.: 672022CA- 000048CAAXMX

NOTICE OF FORE-
CLOSURE SALE
(Please publish in
Washington County
News)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated the 28 th day of June, 2023, and entered in Case No. 672022CA- 000048CAAXMX, of the Circuit Court of the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit in and for Washington County, Florida, wherein Freedom Mortgage Corpora- tion is the Plaintiff and CDC CAPITAL INVESTMENTS, LLC., AS TRUSTEE OF THE 1520 NEARING HILLS CIRCLE CHIPLEY LAND TRUST ; and UNKNOWN TENANTS IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROP- ERTY are Defen- dants. Lora C. Bell as the Clerk of the Circuit Court shall sell to the highest and best bidder for cash electronically at www.washington. realforeclose.com at 10:00 A.M. CST on the **6 th day of September, 2023**, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judg- ment, to wit:

THE LAND RE- FERRED TO HEREIN BELOW IS SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF WASHINGTON, STATE OF FLORIDA, AND IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCING AT THE NW CORNER OF THE NE 1/4 OF THE NE 1/4 OF SECTION 17, TOWNSHIP 4 NORTH, RANGE 13 WEST, WASHINGTON COUNTY, FLORIDA, FOR A POINT OF BE- GINNING, THENCE S 01 DEGREES 17 MIN- UTES 06 SECONDS W, 146.38 FEET, THENCE N 88 DEGREES 59 MINUTES 09 SECONDS W, 572.18 FEET, THENCE N 01 DEGREES 00 MIN- UTES 51 SECONDS E, 468.49 FEET, THENCE S 88 DEGREES 31 MINUTES 56 SECONDS E, 286.22 FEET, THENCE S 01 DEGREES 28 MIN- UTES 04 SECONDS W, 317.44 FEET, THENCE S 88 DEGREES 30 MINUTES 26 SEC- ONDS E, 289.18 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

LESS AND EXCEPT THAT PORTION DE- SCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 376, PAGE 526, PUBLIC RECORDS OF WASH- INGTON COUNTY, FLORIDA.

IF YOU ARE A PERSON CLAIMING A RIGHT TO FUNDS RE- MAINING AFTER THE SALE, YOU MUST FILE A CLAIM WITH THE CLERK NO LATER THAN THE DATE THAT THE CLERK REPORTS THE FUNDS AS UNCLAIMED. IF YOU FAIL TO FILE A CLAIM, YOU WILL NOT BE ENTITLED TO ANY REMAIN- ING FUNDS. AFTER THE FUNDS ARE REPORTED AS UN- CLAIMED, ONLY THE OWNER OF RECORD AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MAY CLAIM THE SURPLUS.

Persons with a

disability needing special accommo- dation in order to access court facili- ties or participate in a court proceeding at any courthouse or court program, should within two (2) days of receipt of notice, contact Court Administra- tion to request such an accommodation. Please contact the following: Court Administration, P.O. Box 826, Mari- anna, Florida 32447; Phone: 850-718-0026; Hearing & Voice Impaired: 1-800- 955-8771; Email: ADARquest@jud14. flcourts.org

Dated this 11th day of July, 2023.

Lora C. Bell
Clerk of The Cir-
cuit Court

By: /s/ Jo Ann Hayes
Deputy Clerk

Submitted by:
Miller, George & Suggs, PLLC
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF
210 N. University Drive, Suite 900 Coral Springs, FL 33071
DESIGNATED PRI- MARY E-MAIL FOR SERVICE
PURSUANT TO FLA. R. JUD. ADMIN 2.516
ESERVICE@MGS- LEGAL.COM
July 26, August 2, 2023

000298
IN THE FOUR-
TEENTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT IN AND
FOR WASHINGTON
COUNTY, FLORIDA
CITY OF CHIPLEY,
a Florida municipal
corporation,
Plaintiff,
Case No. 2023- CC-39
v.
ESTATE OF MARY C. MYDOSH a/k/a MARY C. MYDOSH a/k/a MARY MYDOSH a/k/a MARY CARMELLA DAVIS, deceased, ALL HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, LEGATEES, SPOUSES AND CREDITORS OF THE ESTATE OF MARY C. MYDOSH a/k/a MARY C. MYDOSH a/k/a MARY MYDOSH, a/k/a MARY CARMELLA DAVIS, deceased, and CHARLES SMEJKAL, JR., individually, Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION
IN FORECLOSURE
PROCEEDINGS
TO: ESTATE OF MARY C. MYDOSH A/K/A MARY C. MYDOSH A/K/A MARY MYDOSH A/K/A MARY CARMELLA DAVIS, DECEASED, ALL HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, LEGATEES, SPOUSES AND CREDITORS OF THE ESTATE OF MARY C. MYDOSH A/K/A MARY C. MYDOSH A/K/A MARY MYDOSH, A/K/A MARY CARMELLA DAVIS, DECEASED, AND CHARLES SMEJKAL, JR. :

YOU ARE NOTI- FIED that an action to foreclosure municipal code enforcement liens on the following de- scribed property in Washington County, Florida, to wit,

Lots 40 and 41 of Block "B" of the Rubenstein & Laken addition to the Town of Chipley, Florida, as per plat on file in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Washington County, Florida and being a re-plat of Lots 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 of Block "E" of the Hagerman Addition to said Town of Chipley, Florida and being in Section 33, Township 5 North, Range 13 West, and being on the East side of Sixth Street in the North part of Chipley, Florida.

located at 589 Main Street, Chipley, Florida 32428 and being referenced as tax parcel identi- fication 00000000- 00-2840-0000, and on the following- described real prop- erty in Washington County, Florida, to-wit:

Beginning at a point 285 feet North of the SE Corner of Lot 20, Block F, Hagerman Addition to the Town of Chi- pley, Florida, thence North 150 feet, thence South 130 feet, thence East 130 feet to Point of Beginning, in Sec- tion 33, Township 5 North, Range 13 West, Washington County, Florida.

located at 592 Main Street, Chipley, Florida 32428 and being referenced as tax parcel identi- fication 00000000- 00-2872-0000, (the

"properties"), has been filed against you and you are required to serve an Answer or copy of your written defenses, if any, to Attorney Jeremy A. Mutz, 1512 Hwy 90, Chipley, FL 32428, Plaintiff's attorney, on or before **August 15, 2023** or within thirty (30) days after the first publica- tion of this Notice of Action, and file the original with the clerk of this court at 1293 Jackson Avenue, Chipley, Florida 32428, either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or im- mediately thereafter; otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Dated: 7/10/2023
LORA BELL
CLERK OF THE COURT
WASHINGTON COUNTY, FLORIDA
Kelsey Odom

000299
IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF THE
FOURTEENTH JUDI-
CIAL CIRCUIT IN AND
FOR WASHINGTON
COUNTY, FLORIDA
GENERAL JURISDI-
CTION DIVISION CASE
NO. 67-2022-CA-
000030 MORTGAGE
ASSET MANAGE-
MENT, LLC, Plaintiff,
vs.
FRED BOOKER, III,
et al.
Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORE-
CLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated April 17, 2023, and entered in 67-2022- CA-000030 of the Circuit Court of the FOURTEENTH Judicial Circuit in and for Washington County, Florida, wherein MORTGAGE ASSET MANAGEMENT, LLC is the Plaintiff and FRED BOOKER, III; UNKNOWN SPOUSE FRED BOOKER, III; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ACT- ING ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND UR- BAN DEVELOPMENT; STATE OF FLORIDA, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE; WASH- INGTON COUNTY CLERK OF THE COURT; WASH- INGTON COUNTY, FL are the Defendant(s). Lora C. Bell as the Clerk of the Circuit Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at www.washington. realforeclose.com, at 10:00 AM, on August 23, 2023, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judg- ment, to wit:

THE N1/2 OF THE NW1/4 OF NE1/4 OF SW1/4 OF SECTION 17, TOWNSHIP 3 NORTH, RANGE 13 WEST, CONTAINING 5 ACRES MORE OR LESS.

Property Address: 1636A OLD MILL ROAD, CHIPLEY, FL 32428

Any person claim- ing an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim in accordance with Florida Statutes, Section 45.031.

Dated this 19th day of July, 2023.

Lora C. Bell
As Clerk of the Court

By: Jo Ann Hayes
As Deputy Clerk

IMPORTANT AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. If you are a person with a disability who needs any ac- commodation 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 sched- uled court appear- ance, or immedi- ately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appear- ance is less than seven (7) days. If you are hearing impaired, please call 711 or email ADARquest@jud14. flcourts.org.

Submitted by: Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid,

LEGAL ADVERTISING

Crane & Partners, PLLC
Attorneys for Plaintiff
6409 Congress Avenue, Suite 100, Boca Raton, FL 33487
Telephone: 561- 241-6901 Fax: 561- 997-6909

July 26, 2023
August 2, 2023

000302
The following
vehicle will be sold
at public auction at
Nichols Auto Repair
and Towing at 1146
Jackson Avenue,
Chipley, FL 32428 at
8:00 am on the fol-
lowing date:

2006 Chev
2GCE13V561293417
August 23, 2023
August 2, 2023

000305
IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT FOR WASH-
INGTON COUNTY,
FLORIDA

IN RE: ESTATE OF

JANE R. SHUMAK-
ER, a/k/a LORENA JANE SHUMAKER
JANE REYNOLDS SHUMAKER
PROBATE DIVI-
SION File No. 2023- CP-48 Division U
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDI-
TORS

The administra- tion of the estate of JANE R. SHUMAKER, f/k/a LORENA JANE SHUMAKER, de- ceased, whose date of death was Febru- ary 8, 2023, is pend- ing in the Circuit Court for Washing- ton County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 1293 W Jackson Ave # 100, Chipley, FL 32428. The names and addresses of the personal repre- sentative and the personal representa- tive'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 re- quired to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF three (3) MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR thirty (30) DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

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 three (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOR- EVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTAND- ING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AF- TER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is August 2, 2023.

Attorney for Personal Represen- tative:
Personal Represen- tative:
STEVEN E. QUIN- NELL Attorney Florida Bar Number: 586595 913 Gulf Breeze Parkway Suite 8 - Harbour- town Gulf Breeze, FL 32561 Telephone: (850) 432-4386 Fax: (877) 829-6329 E-Mail: EFILING@ QLAWFLORIDA.COM

DAWN SHUMAKER SMITH 401 Bryant Rd. Pensacola, FL 32507

August 2, 9, 2023

000306
The following
vehicle will be sold
at public auction at
Nichols Auto Repair
and Towing at 1146
Jackson Avenue,
Chipley, FL 32428 at
8:00 am on the fol-
lowing date:

2000 Chev
2GCE19V2Y1268985
August 14, 2023
August 2, 2023

000307
IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT
IN WASHINGTON
COUNTY, FLORIDA

IN RE: Estate of Joyce Brunelle
PROBATE DIVI-
SION
Parker, deceased.
CASE NO. 23-86-CP

NOTICE OF AD-

</

CELEBRATE

It’s time for back-to-school

DIANE M. MOORE
Dmoore@kentsmith.biz

As the 2023-2024 school year is set to begin, parents and students are preparing to return for another year of learning. Holmes and Washington County School Districts are giving parents one less thing to worry about by pro-

viding breakfast and lunch free to all students. Washington County is set to provide school supplies to each student as well. Holmes County will be providing supplies in limited quantities to specific groups of students, according to Superintendent Buddy Brown.

Here is a list of local back-to-school events where supplies, games, fun and even haircuts can be obtained for free:

Hometown Haircuts - August 4 at Chipley High School gym 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Holmes Valley Church - August 5, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Waukesha Way in Bonifay - August 5, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Pittman Fire Department - August 5, 6 p.m.

Live Oak Baptist Church - August 12, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Leisure Lakes - August 12; Events begin at 4 p.m. and end with a movie at 8 p.m.

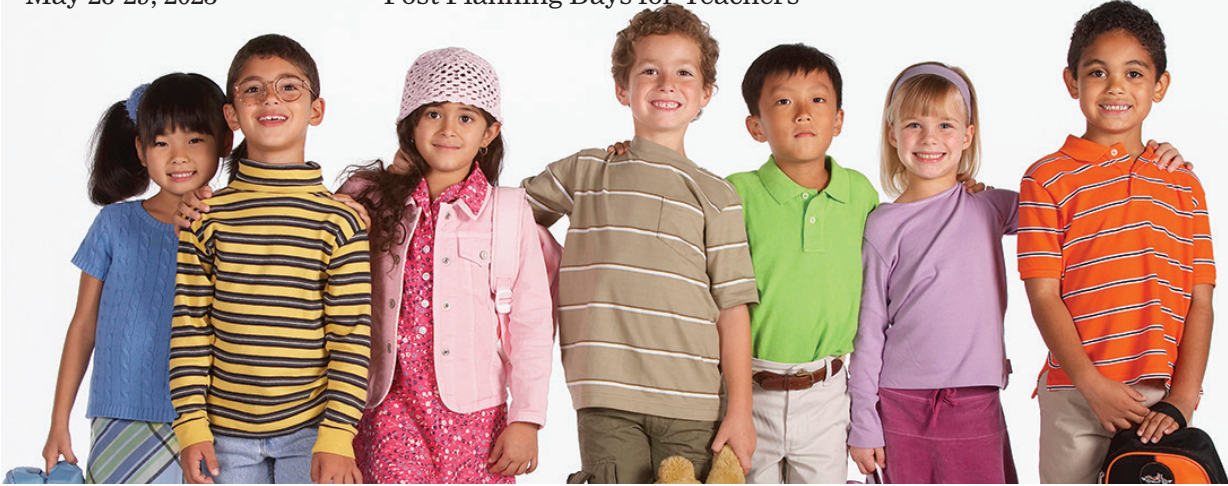
2023-2024 Holmes County School Calendar

DATE:	EVENT:
July 4, 2023 Personnel Out)	Independence Day (Students and All
August 1, 2023 August 10, 2023	Pre-School Begins for Teachers Classes Begin for Students
September 4, 2023	Labor Day (Students and Personnel Out)
October 6, 2023 October 9-13, 2023 October 13, 2023 October 23, 2023 October 30-31, 2023	Students and Personnel Out FTE Week End of First Grading Period Report Cards Issued Fall Break
November 1, 2023 November 20-24, 2023 November 22-24, 2023 November 23, 2023	Classes Resume Students and Personnel Out 12 Month Personnel Out Paid Holiday for Teachers
December 19, 2023 December 20- Jan 3, 2024 December 20- Jan 2, 2024 December 25, 2023 December 21-Jan 1, 2024	End of First Semester/ Early Release for Students Christmas Break for Students Teachers / 10 Month Personnel Out Paid Holiday for Teachers 12 Month Personnel Out
January 2, 2024 January 3, 2024 January 4, 2024 January 12, 2024 January 15, 2024	12 Month Personnel Return to Work Teachers and 10 Month Personnel Return to Work Classes Resume Report Cards Issued Students and Personnel Out/ Paid Holiday for Teachers
February 5-9, 2024 February 19, 2024	FTE Week Students and Personnel Out/ Paid Holiday for Teachers
March 8, 2024 March 18, 2024 March 25-29, 2024	End of Third Grading Period Report Cards Issued Spring Break
April 1, 2024 May 17, 2024 May 20, 2024 May 21, 2024 May 23, 2024 May 24, 2024 May 27, 2024 May 28-29, 2024	Classes Resume Poplar Springs High School Graduation Bethlehem High School Graduation Holmes County High School Graduation Ponce De Leon High School Graduation End of Second Semester/ Early Release for Students All Personnel Out/ Paid Holiday for Teachers Post School for Teachers



2023-2024 Washington County School Calendar

DATE:	EVENT:
July 4, 2023	12 Month Personnel Out
August 1, 2023 August 1-9, 2023 August 10, 2023	First Day for Teachers Planning Days for Teachers First Day for Students
September 4, 2023 September 11, 2023 September 18, 2023 September 20, 2023 September 25-29, 2023	Labor day (Students and Personnel out) Recognition of “Patriots Day” in School Recognition of “Constitution Day” in School Early Release (Students out at 1 P.M.) Recognition of “Celebrate Freedom Week” in School
October 16, 2023	Fall Day (Personnel and Students Out)
November 10, 2023 November 20-24, 2023	Recognition of Veterans at Chipley and Vernon Schools Thanksgiving Break
December 15, 2023 December 18-29, 2023 December 22-25, 2023	Early Release (Students out at 1 P.M.) Christmas Break 12 Month Personnel Out
January 1, 2024 January 2, 2024 January 3, 2024 January 15, 2024	All Personnel Out Teacher Planning Day Classes Resume Martin Luther King Day (Students and Personnel Out)
February 19, 2024	President’s Day (Students and Personnel Out)
March 18-22, 2024 March 29, 2024	Spring Break Spring Day (Students and 10 Month Personnel Out)
April 18, 2024	Early Release (Students Released at 1P.M.)
May 24, 2024 May 27, 2024 May 28-29, 2023	Last Day of School Early Release (Students Released at 1P.M.) Memorial Day (All Personnel Out) Post Planning Days for Teachers



A message from Holmes Co. School Superintendent Buddy Brown



BUDDY BROWN
Holmes County
School Superintendent

I’d like to take this opportunity to say I hope everyone had a good summer. Most people don’t realize that for District, Administrative, and some teachers the summer is a very busy time of the year for us. We spend, what feels like a few short weeks, preparing for the next school year through trainings, adjustments of the curriculum, hiring new employees, and handling the administrative duties that fall upon us after a legislative session. With those things being said we are excited about the upcoming 23-24 school year. We look forward to seeing how all this preparation comes to fruition and most importantly we are ready to see our students again

As those “veterans” of school know the first few days will be very hectic. I suspect our parents are looking for their “break” but also having to adjust to a new schedule or in some cases a new school, this same thing applies to our students. I ask that everyone be extra cautious in our school zones as some of our students will be brand new and may not be familiar with our traffic patterns and in some instances some of our students will be new drivers. I am excited about the future and the possibilities this year holds. We have come a long way since 2020 with the pandemic, new school laws, new school standards for our students, and a lot of new faces on both sides of the aisle. I urge students to hit the road running. I urge parents to reach out to their children’s school if they have any questions. Remember that our teachers come back to work on August 1 and we will see our most important resource step into the doors on August 10 th . Welcome back and see all of you on the first day of school!

A message from Washington Co. School Superintendent Joe Taylor



JOE TAYLOR
Washington County
School Superintendent

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! I hope you had an enjoyable and safe summer break. We are looking forward to a successful start to the school year. As we look ahead to this school year, we stay committed to preparing our students for the potential challenges they may face in their academic journey. To assist them in meeting these challenges, we depend on our excellent teaching staff to continue to raise the bar in their classrooms and build on our District’s strong foundation. I am proud of our many accomplishments in our schools, and I look forward to creating more opportunities for our students to be successful. This year, we look forward to getting back on track in educating our students and moving our District from a “B” to an “A”. While both District and School grades are important, the District continues

to strive to meet the emotional needs of our students through guidance counselors at all schools, District mental health counselors, and our school psychologist. As students return to school, they will have opportunities to participate in various academic, elective, and industry certification courses. We will continue to offer dual enrollment at the Florida Panhandle Technical College, Chipola College, and Gulf Coast College, as well as many online course options. Our middle and high schools continue to offer electives such as band, JROTC, AVID, and STEM classes. Our District will continue participating in the Community Eligibility Provision, in which all students will receive a Free nutritional breakfast and lunch. Washington County wants to continue our goal to provide excellent instruction to every child to be an academically successful student and socially responsible citizen. We are equipped with an instructional Contingency Plan in the event we are challenged with all unprecedented circumstance that impacts the continuity of student learning; Washington County will continue to utilize resources and community partnerships to include guidance

Holmes Co. golfer competing in Junior PGA Championship

WMBB

Holmes County rising junior, Savannah Goodman has established herself as one of the top amateur golfers in the southeast, qualifying for the Junior PGA Championship. In her first two high school seasons, Goodman qualified for the FHSAA State Championship meet twice and took first place in regionals as a sophomore. But her golf journey began long before the ninth grade. “I played my first tournament in the fourth grade, and I’d say kind of fifth grade on I’ve been playing competitively,” Goodman said. Since then, she hasn’t looked back, turning her hobby into a lifestyle. “During a week, I’d say I

practice a good five times, five or six times,” Goodman said. While the summer might be a break for most in high



Savannah Goodman tees off during a round of golf. [CONTRIBUTED PHOTO]

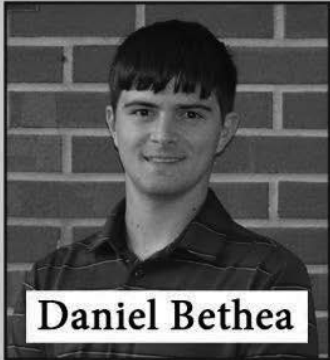
school, it’s the opposite for Goodman. “During the summer, it’s tournament season, Goodman said. “So I’ve been gone the majority of my summer just traveling all over the South, (playing at) different tournaments.” Her most recent competition was at the Azalea City Golf Course in Mobile, Alabama, playing in the Northwest Florida-Alabama Junior PGA Championship qualifier, a tournament she was desperate to win. “No matter if I was two over at the time or if I was four under at the time, like I just was like next shot, next shot,” Goodman said. “If I just made a birdie, okay next hole. If I just made a double bogey, it’s the next hole.”

Students with ‘math deficiency’ eyed

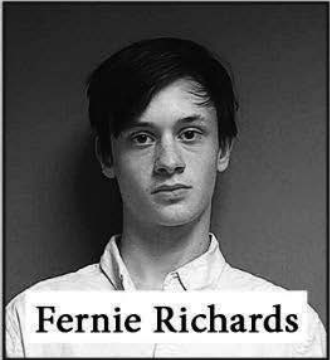
NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA

The state Department of Education is proposing a rule that would help determine when students have a “substantial math deficiency,” which could lead to needing such things as individual education plans. The proposal, published Monday by the department, would apply to students in kindergarten through fourth grade. Under the proposal, students who meet certain criteria would be deemed to have a substantial math deficiency. Students would have to score below the 10th percentile “based upon screening, diagnostic assessments, progress monitoring, other classroom data, or statewide assessments.” Alternatively, students could be designated with a deficiency if “through teacher observation, the student has demonstrated minimum skill levels for mathematics competencies in one or more of the areas of emphasis for that grade level.” For example, one area of emphasis for kindergarten students would be “measuring, comparing, and categorizing objects according to various attributes, including their two- and three-dimensional shapes.” For fourth-grade students, an area of emphasis would be “developing an understanding for interpreting data to include mode, median and range.” The proposed rule says students found to have math deficiencies “must be covered by a federally required student plan” such as an individual education plan, or IEP. An IEP is a “written plan for the special education of a student with a disability,” according to a document on the department’s website.

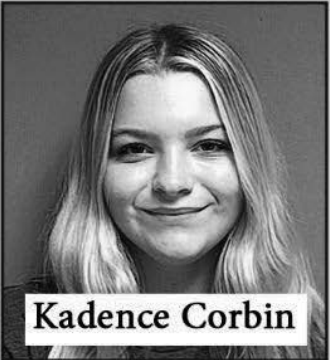
Chipola Dual Enrollment Students Earn Two Diplomas



Daniel Bethea



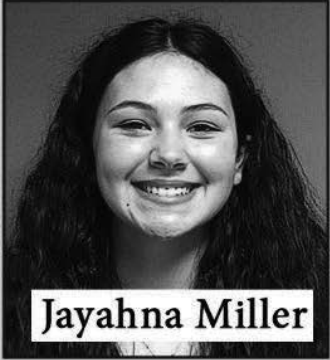
Fernie Richards



Kadence Corbin



Hailee Brown



Jayahna Miller



Not Pictured: Rose McDaniel, Kadence Treadwell

STAFF REPORT

With their eyes on their future, a total of seven Chipola College Dual Enrollment students doubled their accomplishments this spring and graduated not only with their high school diploma but also with their Associate in Arts degree. Graduates include Daniel Bethea of Marianna High School; Hailee Brown of Chi-

pley High School; Kadence Corbin of Cottondale High School; Jayahna Miller of Blountstown High School; Fernie Richards and Rose McDaniel of Sneads High School and Kadence Treadwell of Poplar Springs High School. These students graduated from Chipola College (commencement held May 7, 2023) before they graduated high school (ceremonies held between May 22 and May 26, 2023).

Chipola College’s Dual Enrollment program helps high school students get a head start on their college education at zero cost. Because DE tuition and books are free to the student, over \$7000 or nearly \$8000 can be saved by taking DE courses. For more information about dual enrollment for the upcoming Fall Semester, contact Karen Hall at (850) 718-2424 or hallk@chipola.edu.

SCHOOL BRIEFS

Troy University recognizes new students for Fall 2023 semester

Troy University is recognizing new students who have completed IMPACT orientation and enrolled in classes for the Fall 2023 semester. Local students who will attend are: Chad Albury of Bonifay; Grayson Commander of Chipley; Madison Hayes of Bonifay; Reis Hutchinson of Fountain; Kasen Pemberton of Chipley; Erilyn Smith of Bonifay and Daxton Wright of Chipley.

Hometown haircuts offering free back-to-school haircuts

Local K-12 students can receive free food and back-to-school haircuts from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on August 4 at the Chipley High School gymnasium, thanks to a joint effort by FLAChoppas, Cut n Dye, and Kutta Kyle. For more information, contact Kyle Aycock at 850-718-6512 or at kuttakyle@gmail.com

Leisure Lakes Back-to-School Bash

On Saturday, August 12, Leisure Lakes is hosting a back to school bash for parents and children with activities such as a free pool movie at 8 p.m. and a sidewalk chalk art competition from 6 to 7 p.m. Free school supplies will be given away from 5:00 P.M. until the end of the night, and Big Jim’s BBQ will be set up from 4:00 p.m. until sold out.

Pee-wee cheerleaders hosting Father-Daughter Dance

The Holmes County Pee-wee Cheerleaders will host a father daughter dance, featuring music from a DJ with dancing, a photo booth, and refreshments. Tickets are \$25 for dad and daughter \$15 for each additional adult, and \$10 for each additional child. The event will take place September 15, 5:30-7:30 P.M. at The Majestic Oaks, located at 3351 Mallory Road, in Vernon. All proceeds go towards the Pewee Cheerleaders season.

Chipola College offers building construction technology



Chipola’s construction technology program gives students an overview of all types of construction and provides hands on experience. This photo shows Chipola students on a site build for Habitat for Humanity. [CONTRIBUTED PHOTO]

STAFF REPORT

Chipola College was one of the nine designated sites in Florida to receive the Community Development Block Grant for Disaster Recovery across the state after Hurricanes Irma and Michael. Financial assistance and support services are available to help with successful training, job readiness and job placement. The W RTP grant will be in place through August 2025 in the Welding and Construction Technology Programs here at Chipola College. This is a grant with funds available to cover tuition & fees and career assistance in these construction trades! Call Program Manager Joli Hartzog at 850-718-2457 to learn more.

COMMUNITY



“Donkey ball” is making a comeback Wausau this weekend. [CONTRIBUTED PHOTO]

‘Donkey ball’ returns to Wausau

NAN THOMPSON
Nthompson@kentsmith.biz

Wausau’s 54th Possum Festival and Fun Day will see the return of an old favorite, Donkey ball. Donkey ball was a big hit in Wausau in the 70s and 80s, but the fad slowly left the area.

For those who don’t know, “donkey ball” is exactly what it sounds like: Baseball or softball played on the back of

a donkey. The batter hits the ball, runs and jumps on the back of a donkey, and hopes he can make it to first base. Hopes - because donkeys don’t always cooperate. The chances are the rider will be thrown off, go in another direction, or just stand there. While other players are also on donkeys, try to get around the baseball diamond.

This year’s donkey baseball

teams are Hometown Heros, made up of Washington and Bay County first responders, and JJ Da Possum, locals from the community.

Donkey Ball Entertainment brings their own donkeys. They also provide instruction to the players, as well as entertainment to those of us in the stands.

Catch the donkey ball fun this Saturday, August 5, at the

Possum Palace in Wausau. Pregame festivities are at 6 p.m., with the game beginning at 7 p.m. Concessions will be for sale at the game.

Admission is \$10 per person over sixteen at the gate with free admission for those under 16.

Bleachers will be set up for watching the game, but spectators are welcome to bring their own chairs.

IN BRIEF

Tiny Art Show and Fundraiser Auction

The Chipley Branch of the Washington County Library is hosting a Tiny Art Show and Fundraiser Auction. The library invites you to show off your creative talents in this event. Pick up a 4×4” canvas at the library for a \$1 donation and create a mini masterpiece at home in your choice of medium. Return your completed canvas no later than Thursday, August 31. Tiny Art submissions will be displayed throughout the library September 4 -14 and included in the library’s fundraiser auction on Thursday, September 14. Auction proceeds will be used to purchase Experience Kits and Memory Care Kits for adult patrons. Canvases are available now for pick up (1 per patron - while supplies last). Voting will take place from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, September 14. Submissions should be family friendly. Ages 18+ and all skill levels are welcome to participate.

Andrew Elton Williams Family Reunion

The 120th annual Andrew Elton Williams Family Reunion will be Saturday, October 7, at Galilee United Methodist Church, located on Galilee Road in Graceville. Registration is at 9 a.m., and the program begins at 10:30. For more information, contact: Lamar Faircloth at 850-547-2275 or 850-326-3045.

Public Housing One Bedroom Waitlist Closing August 10

In accordance with the guidelines of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Chipley Housing Authority will stop accepting applications to the One(1) Bedroom waitlist effective August 10, 2023 at 3:00 p.m., until further notice. Applications received prior to this date will be processed according to the approved policies in the order they have been received. Chipley Housing Authority provides Equal Housing Opportunity.

Ingle celebrates 100th birthday

STAFF REPORT

On Saturday July 22, 2023 the fellowship hall at First United Methodist Church in Bonifay was the setting for a celebration of a long time Bonifay resident Alberta Ingle. When Alberta’s family asked her what she wanted for her 100th birthday, she said to go home and see everyone. The planning began.

Alberta has resided in assisted living (Whitehall) in Dothan, Alabama closer to her daughters (Theresa and Peggy) since February 2018.

The family moved to Bonifay in 1962 when Alberta’s husband, Robert W. “Pete” Ingle (deceased) took over the Florida telephone holdings in Bonifay. They moved to Bonifay from St. Marys, West Virginia.

Guests say the Bonifay FUMC fellowship hall was decorated beautifully in pink, white, and black.

Antique baskets were artfully arranged with fresh greenery, zinnias, and daisies. A memory table had photos and memorabilia of Alberta’s active 100 years. The food tables and cake



alongside the decor were elegant and delicious.

Alberta was involved in many community activities, FUMC, Nursing Home Ministry, many school activities with both daughters and grandson. President of Bonifay Woman’s Club numerous times, as well as taking part in Band Boosters and PTA. Alberta is a people person and remains so even today.

More than 100 family and friends celebrated the occasion. She had guests from North Carolina, Jacksonville, Foley, Alabama, and Lakeland, The Villages, Panama City, Tallahassee, Pensacola, and her beloved



Alberta Ingle poses with her family at her 100th birthday party. [CONTRIBUTED PHOTO]

home, Bonifay Florida.

The immediate family Jerry and Peggy. Theresa and Kim reside in Dothan. Grandson Bobby and wife Rebekah reside in Birmingham.

The family says the party would not have been possible without lots of help from talented lifelong friend Dena Hall Moree. Her mother, Margaret Hall, and Alberta were close friends until her passing. The family also thanked Cindy Mitchell for

catering and Willard Powell of the Bonifay Florist.

When Ms. Alberta was asked who she was most glad to see, she thought for a minute with tears streaming down her face. She replied, “Every single face.”

The family expressed thanks to friends and family for the wonderful event.

“It was her family’s honor and privilege to have this wonderful opportunity to celebrate her,” they said.

54th annual Funday kings and queens crowned

NAN THOMPSON
Nthompson@kentsmith.biz

Wausau Development Club Inc. held their 54th annual Funday king and queen pageant Friday, July 21, at the Possum Palace.

Winners are as follows:

Baby King - Wylder Wayne Corbin,
Baby Queen - Emma Raye Folds,
Toddler Queen - AVerie Edwards,
Junior Queen - Joely Bennett,
Little Miss Funday - Presley Jones
Miss Funday Queen - Dani Ross,
Most Popular/People’s Choice - Anisley Marsh,
Funday King - Matthew Woods

Organizers say everyone working behind the scenes volunteer many

hours to make this pageant better every year. Each contestant must collect sponsorships to participate in the pageant. Top sponsorship earner this year was Ainsley Marsh, collecting more than \$1,000.

All proceeds collected are placed into a fund and offered as scholarships in amounts up to \$4,000, given each year to Washington County seniors.

Pageant director Cindy Johnson Brown, who was also Funday Tiny Queen in 1981, says the scholarship fund is in its 30th year, and she hopes it will offer more scholarships in the years to come. “I’m just continuing the tradition,” says Brown.

Kings and queens can be seen at the Funday events this Friday and Saturday, August 4 and 5.



From left: Wylder Wayne Corbin, Emma Raye Folds, AVerie Edwards, Joely Bennett, Presley Jones, Dani Ross. Center front: Anisley Marsh, Matthew Woods. [CONTRIBUTED PHOTO]

BUSINESS

Farrah Jane’s hosts ribbon cutting



Farrah Jane’s Embroidery and Boutique hosted an official grand opening on July 27, for their new location at 1014 Main Street in Chipley. Owner Farrah Suggs was joined by the Washington County Chamber of Commerce, which held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the occasion. The boutique offers facial and hair removal treatments, customized embroidery, beautiful home decor, and gifts. [KRISTIN MARTIN | The News and Advertiser]

Chipola announces Employees of the Year



Chipola College recently announced its Employees of the Year. Dr. Cornelius Clark (above, right with Chipola President Dr. Sarah Clemmons) is Faculty/Administrator/ Other Professional of the Year, and Linda Morales (below, middle, with Clemmons and Dr. Willie Spires) is Career Employee of the Year for 2023. [CONTRIBUED PHOTOS]



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CLUES ACROSS

1. Bonus materials

7. Formal names

13. Free from restraints

14. One who scrapes away

16. Type of device

17. Skin cancers

19. The Show Me State

20. Plate glasses

22. Red-brown sea bream

23. Small (Fr.)

25. Flightless Australian birds

26. High IQ group

28. Stiff structures

29. Revolutions per minute

30. Where a bachelor lives

31. Licensed for Wall Street

33. A place to park

34. Energy, style and enthusiasm

36. An important creed in Catholic Church
38. 18-year astronomical period

40. Furies

41. Removes from the record

43. Noted child psychiatrist

44. Feline

45. High schoolers’ test

47. Not happy

48. They ___

51. On top

53. Precious stones unit of weight

55. Moved quickly

56. Seagulls

58. A seed with hooks or teeth

59. Partner to “oohed”

60. Exclamation of surprise

61. Most unpleasant

64. Organization help service members

65. Type of cockatoo

67. Humorous criticisms

69. Went through and organized

70. Wakes up

CLUES DOWN

1. Settle in tents

2. Big

3. Books

4. Masses of eggs in fish

5. Language

6. Not standing

7. Chinese philosophy

8. Computer giant

9. A device to catch

10. Emits coherent radiation

11. Actor O’Neill

12. Smallest interval in western music

13. Not lower

15. Revolves

18. Leavened bread

21. Number above the line in a fraction

24. Cable

26. Adult male

27. Airborne (abbr.)
30. Bullfighting maneuvers

32. Broadcast

35. ___ Angeles

37. Vehicle

38. Not religious

39. North American peoples

42. A baglike structure

43. Body art (slang)

46. Picked for a role

47. Actress Tomei

49. Former hoopster “Big Country”

50. Icelandic poems

52. More pleasant

54. It can add flavor to meat

55. Self-immolation by fire rituals

57. Expression of annoyance

59. ___ Spumante (Italian wine)

62. Consumed

63. Body part

66. Thus

68. In reply (abbr.)

FPL commissions latest solar site, completes 2023 planned construction

STAFF REPORT

The latest Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) commissioned its latest solar energy center, FPL Etonia Creek, in Putnam County, completing the company’s planned solar construction for the year.

2023 Milestone: In 2023, FPL commissioned 16 solar energy centers across the state, capable of generating enough energy to power approximately 240,000 homes combined. The company now has 66 solar sites in operation statewide. The new sites in our area are:

- FPL Saw Palmetto Solar Energy Center – Bay County
- FPL Chipola River Solar Energy Center – Calhoun County
- FPL Flowers Creek Solar Energy Center – Calhoun County
- FPL Shirer Branch Solar Energy Center – Calhoun County
- FPL Wild Azalea Solar Energy Center – Gadsden County
- FPL Apalachee Solar Energy Center – Jackson County
- FPL Chautauqua Solar Energy Center – Walton County
- FPL Cypress Pond Solar Energy Center – Washington County

Customer benefit: Solar energy is the most cost-effective source of power generation FPL can invest in today, and these solar sites provide low-cost, reliable energy to FPL customers throughout the state.

- Solar energy requires no fuel to operate, which can help stabilize customer bills by removing fuel costs.

Community benefits: Each of the sites provides numerous benefits to the counties they operate in and the surrounding community, including:

- Hundreds of thousands of dollars in annual tax revenue, funds that can be used to enhance schools, infrastructure and emergency services
- Protection against urban sprawl
- No impact on public services
- No need for fuel
- Increased biodiversity and habitats for native wildlife

FPL SolarTogether®: Of the 16 new sites, six of them are community solar sites that support the FPL SolarTogether® program, which provides voluntary subscribers the ability to lower their electric bills with credits that increase over time.

How it works: FPL SolarTogether® participants receive monthly bill credits for their share of solar energy produced by the company’s community solar sites.

- Customer credits grow over time to exceed the program cost and can help reduce their bills.
- All eligible FPL customers can participate regardless of whether they rent or own their home, apartment, condo or business.
- FPL now has 26 solar energy centers across the state that support the program.
- Customers can visit [FPL.com/SolarTogether](https://www.fpl.com/SolarTogether) for more information.

“We’re committed to bringing reliable, low-cost energy to our customers in Northwest Florida, and solar energy continues to be the best way of doing just that,” said FPL Northwest Vice President and General Manager J.T. Young.

“With the introduction of FPL SolarTogether® to the NW Florida region, and more sites coming to support the program, we’re growing our community solar program. This can help our customers who subscribe to lower their electric bill over time. We remain committed to our customers, and to investing in innovative technology that helps bring stability to energy bills while maintaining the reliable energy our customers expect.”



FPL recently completed its planned construction for 2023. [CONTRIBUTED PHOTO]

Motorists face higher gas prices

NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA

Average gasoline prices in Florida surged 19 cents a gallon during the past week as motorists continued their summer travels amid rising oil prices.

The average price of a gallon of regular unleaded Monday was \$3.66, up from \$3.47 a week earlier, according to the AAA auto club. Pump prices hit an average of \$3.67 a gallon Friday and Saturday, the highest price since late April.

“Oil prices are the primary culprit behind the recent jump at the pump,” AAA spokesman Mark Jenkins said in a prepared statement. “The U.S. price of oil rose 15 percent through the past five weeks, which raised the cost of producing gasoline.”

Oil prices jumped \$10 a barrel since the start of the month to just over \$80 on Friday, according to AAA.

“According to our partners at the Oil Price Information Service, prices are being sent higher by strong economic data, which raises expectations for fuel demand,” AAA said in a news release.

“Additionally, record-breaking heat has led to some refinery outages along the Gulf Coast, leading to reductions in fuel output.” Nationally, the average price of a gallon of regular unleaded stood at \$3.76 on Monday, up from \$3.60 a week earlier.

The highest averages in Florida were in Southeast Florida and Southwest Florida. The lowest averages were in the Panhandle. Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis with the fuel-savings app GasBuddy, said summer demand might soon slow, ahead of students returning to school.

Have some good news?

Kent Smith Group is working to restore that old fashioned community news feel - while still keeping up with the newest innovations and conveniences. That includes sharing wedding, birth, and other society announcements, as well as community, church, and school news free of charge. If it makes you proud, it makes us proud, too! Send submissions to: news@holmescounty.news or news@washingtoncounty.news

Tax collections top estimates to end year

JIM TURNER
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE - General revenue collections continued to top expectations in June, as the state closed out a fiscal year that saw a jump in tax dollars.

A report posted Friday by the Legislature’s Office of Economic & Demographic Research said the state collected nearly \$4.664 billion in general revenue in June, \$432.4 million more than had been forecast. It said the state collected about \$47.33 billion in general revenue during the 2022-2023 fiscal year, which ended June 30, up from \$44 billion in the previous year.

General revenue, which includes money such as sales taxes, is closely watched because it plays a major role in funding education, health care and prisons. State economists update projections periodically during the year, with the most-recent forecast issued in March.

The June monthly total was \$432.4 million than had been projected in March. Also, the year-end total was \$1.08 billion more than had been forecast in March. In June, for example, sales-tax collections were 11.1 percent higher than anticipated for the month.

As has been repeatedly the case in recent months, economists fretted in Friday’s report about issues such as lagging consumer savings. The report said the personal savings rate in Florida “continues to be

subpar at 4.3 percent.”

By comparison, in 2019, the last full year before the COVID-19 pandemic, the average personal savings rate stood at 7.9 percent. The rate jumped to 33.7 percent in April 2020 as federal money was distributed to help people during the early stages of the pandemic.

While Florida’s labor market remains robust and the U.S. economy expanded by 2.4 percent in the April-to-June period, parts of Florida continue to see higher inflation than the rest of the nation. Friday’s report noted that “persistent inflation conditions ... ultimately suppress collections as consumers begin to spend more money on non-taxable necessities like food and health care.”

Meanwhile, sales taxes from tourism, auto sales and documentary-stamp tax collections on real-estate transactions topped the March forecast.

The Florida Department of Commerce said July 21 that the construction sector in June had a monthly increase in jobs for the first time in 2023. Construction job losses had been attributed to rising mortgage rates affecting demand for new housing, mostly in South Florida.


With a target of 2 percent inflation, the Federal Reserve last Wednesday approved an interest rate hike that put borrowing costs at their highest level in more than 22 years.

As it released housing data this month, the industry group Florida

Realtors said the housing market “showed signs of continued stabilization of statewide median prices and improving inventory levels.”

“Florida’s economy and lifestyle continue to attract people who want to live and work in the Sunshine State --- about 1,218 people move here per day, according to

Census data,” Florida Realtors President G. Mike McGraw said in a prepared statement. “The need for homeownership opportunities remains high, but increased borrowing costs, statewide inventory that is still below pre-pandemic levels and other factors continue to affect market activity.”



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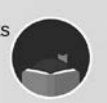

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FAITH

Look around: Jesus is coming soon



CALEB DUNCAN
Guest Columnist

“He who testifies to these things says, ‘Surely I am coming soon.’ Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!’” - Revelation 22:20

Over this past month, I’ve been studying the second coming of Jesus Christ. In my parents’ and grandparents’ generation, there was hardly anyone that questioned the fact that Jesus

was coming back. But in my generation, it is a concept where there are a lot of scoffers. I am seeing 2 Peter 3:3-4 played out before my eyes. “...scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. They will say, ‘Where is the promise of his coming?’ For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.” In an attempt to be practical, physical, and “common sense,” my generation has traded the truth of God for what sounds more reasonable. The lie we’ve embraced is that there is no life after death, and when we die, we will be buried

in the ground. That’s it. Oh, what a tragedy! What a fearful and dreadful neglect of the amazing things that have been promised to us in Christ Jesus! For those who are in Christ, death is a doorway to being in the physical presence of Jesus! The Bible has much to say about the return of Jesus Christ. I will admit, I have always feared talking about the end times. Not because I was afraid of it, but because there are so many differing views and opinions on what the Scriptures have to say about how exactly it will happen. But all views agree: it will happen. Come, Lord Jesus. I certainly don’t have it all figured out, but

studying Christ second coming has taught me and reminded me a few things about the goodness of God. First, Christ promises us a place in heaven where we can live with him forever. John 14:3 says, “If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to myself, so that where I am, you may be also.” Second, Christ promises that he will renew and transform our lowly bodies. When we are in the presence of God forever, we will not live any longer in this cursed world with our cursed bodies. Jesus will make all things new and our bodies will be transformed to be like his. There are

too many scriptures to count!! Third, at his coming, unbelievers will be judged and believers will be relieved. “...since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire...” 2 Thess 1:5-10. Lastly, at Christ’s coming, Jesus will establish us as holy and set us apart for God, to be with forever and ever. 1 Thess. 3:13 says, “...so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus

with all his saints.” I have much more to say. But I’ll keep this short. Friends, Jesus is coming back. Be patient, walk in the light, and be expectant for his arrival. One day, every eye will see him. “Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.” Revelation 1:7

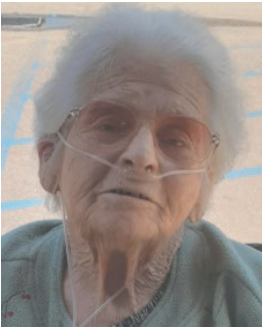
Caleb Duncan is the Director for the West Florida Baptist Association in Chipley and holds an M.A. in Ethics, Theology and Culture from South-eastern Seminary. Email him at WfbaDom@outlook.com or follow his twitter @calebtduncan.

OBITUARIES

DAPHIN BROWN HOLSOMBACH

Mrs. Daphin Urquhart Brown Holsombach, age 91, of Bonifay, Florida passed away July 24, 2023, at her home. She was born November 10, 1931, in Bonifay, Florida to the late Albert Urquhart and Linnie Elizabeth Messer Urquhart. In addition to her parents, Daphin was preceded in death by her former husband, George W. Brown, one son, George W. Brown, Jr., one granddaughter, Charity Wilkes, and three brothers, Vaughn Urquhart, Mack Douglas Urquhart, and Junior Urquhart. Mrs. Holsombach is survived by her husband, Lewis Ray Holsombach of Bonifay, FL; two daughters, Dianne Polston and husband

Larry of Bonifay, FL and Patricia Pitts and husband Harold of Donalsonville, GA; two sons, Todd Holsombach of Floral City, FL and Chad Holsombach and wife Jessica of Spring Hill, FL; two siblings, Pollie Stamis of Franklin Lakes, NJ and Jerry Urquhart of Nashville, TN; seven grandchildren, Chad-deus Pitts and wife Megan of Nampa, ID, Trista Jones and husband Anthony of Donalsonville, GA, Megan Holsombach, C.J. Holsombach, and Lindsey Holsombach all of Spring Hill, FL, Rayland Holsombach, and Wyatt Holsombach both of Floral City, FL; seven great-grandchildren, Tavis Wilkes, Kavan Wilkes, and An-naliese Wilkes all of Plano, TX, Kasen



Pitts and Emily Pitts both of Nampa, ID, Kyler Jones and Averlee Jones both of Donalsonville, GA; numerous nieces and nephews. The family received friends from 6 to 8 PM Thursday, July 27, 2023, at Peel Funeral Home. Funeral services were held at 3:00 PM Friday, July 28, 2023, in the Peel Funeral Home Chapel. Interment followed in the Union Hill Baptist Church Cemetery with Peel Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

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

EDWARD H. FRANKLIN

Edward H. Franklin Jr., age 84, of Chipley, FL went home to be with the Lord on Monday, July 24, 2023, following a brief illness. He was born May 20, 1939, in Pensacola, FL to the late Edward H. Franklin Sr. and Nola (Burnham) Franklin.



Ed worked at St. Joe Paper Mill in the 1970s until it closed in 1998. Following closure of the St. Joe Paper Mill, he worked for Barrier Dunes until his retirement in 2001. He was a faithful member of First Methodist Church of Port St. Joe. After many wonderful years in St. Joe Beach, Ed and Sarah moved to Chipley in March 2006. Upon moving, they joined First Methodist Church of Chipley. Ed had a passion for fishing and gardening. He loved the game of golf and his Miami Hurricanes. He also loved his family dearly. Along with his parents he is preceded in death by his first wife, Janis, and sister, Virginia Maxine George. He is survived by his loving wife of 34 years, Sarah (McQueen) Franklin and 6 children Cindy (Doyle) Bremer, Steven Franklin, Mike (Julie) Bush, Pat (Debbie) Bush, Kim (Daniel) Guettler, Kyle

(Blair) Bush. Grandchildren: Courtney (Josh) Ellis, Charity (BJ) Conrad, Kara Bremer, Leah Langley, Brandon (Tasha) Stitt, Danielle (Heath) Riley, Lance (Chelsea) Bush, Brennis (Keith) Stroud, Jennifer (Andy) Henderson, Blaine Bush, Kara Bush, Matt Bush, and Max Martin, 21 great-grandchildren and special friends Dan Burdeshaw and Wink Carmichael. Funeral services were held on Thursday, July 27, 2023 at First Methodist Church of Chipley, FL. Visitation began at 10:00 A.M. and the funeral service followed at 11:00 A.M. with Associate Pastor Moises Vallejos officiating. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations be made to the Care and Share Food Pantry in care of the First Methodist Church 1285 W. Jackson Avenue Chipley, FL 32428 or the Methodist Men’s Ministry First Methodist Church 1285 W. Jackson Avenue Chipley, FL 32428. Brown Funeral Home & Blue Lake Crematory of Chipley, FL is in charge of arrangements. Family and friends may sign the online register at www.brownfh.net

ARMIN KUNKLER

Armin Kunkler, 94, died Saturday, July 22, 2023, in his Bonifay home. He is predeceased by many: his parents, Johann and Emma (Zimmerman) Kunkler, his wife, Virginia Jo (Akins), his nephew, Daniel, his daughter, Katherine, his brother, Edwin, and many lifelong friends. Armin was born in Bern, Switzerland in 1928, served in the Swiss Army Signal Corps, graduated with the US equivalent of a Bachelors of Business Administration, and went on to be “the person in charge” throughout his career. He was the manager of long distance transports in Ghana/

West Africa and the manager of timber camps in Ghana in his early 20s. He was selected for the executive track with Kraft Foods



International where he held different financial-related positions in Germany, Mexico, Belgium and the US. His career and his love of jazz brought him to the US in 1958, where he met

Jenny, married, and had three daughters, Karen, Katherine and Christine. He retired from winters in Chicago to sunshine in Florida in 1984. He loved his property, his cats, the game of Bridge and his many Bridge partners over the years. Bridge was a perfect match for his strategic, analytic, competitive brain and his playful, social spirit. Taking care of his property kept him active and outdoors. His cats kept him company. He is survived by family in Switzerland and in the United States. He was sad to leave the property and people he loved, but he was ready to go. He will be missed by many, for a long time to come.

Be happy as a hotdog



CAROL ROUND
Guest Columnist

"I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live"— Ecclesiastes 3:12(NIV).

Standing on my deck, my five-year-old granddaughter sang a popular song released in the year 2000. At the top of her lungs, she sang, "Who let the dogs out? Who, who, who, who, who? Who let the dogs out? Who, who, who, who, who?"

As she belted out the lyrics, several neighborhood dogs started barking and howling. Ruby stopped long enough to hear the dogs' response before she continued singing. However, in a fit of giggles, she couldn't continue when I said, "Ruby, I think they are singing along with you. What do you think?"

The rest of our day was filled with more happy moments as I experienced the joy life brings when you're spending time with a

child. Maybe that's why Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" (Matthew 19:14).

If you're happy

A recent devotional in Mornings with Jesus led me to contemplate the simplicity of being happy. Barbranda Lumpkins Walls wrote about calling her mother, who lives in an assisted living facility. Although she calls several times a week, Walls was surprised by her mother's answer one day when she called. "Hi, Mom. How are you doing?"

Says Walls, "Instead of answering, I'm doing just fine," her mother replied, "I'm happy as a hot dog!"

After erupting into laughter, Walls' mother added, "I have my health. I have a nice clean place to live and good food to eat. What more could I ask for? Honey, I'm wonderfully blessed."

Finding happiness each day

With everything going on in our world today, it's sometimes difficult to experience happiness. However, as the writer of Ecclesiastes writes in chapter 13:1, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activ-



ity under the heavens" (NIV).

Jesus reminds us in John 16:33 that "In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

When we're experiencing trouble, we often forget to "count it all joy" when "we fall into various trials" (James 1:2-3). Without those trials, how could we grow in our faith, learn to appreciate each day—especially the simple things, and yes, learn patience?

The key to happiness

When I gave my life to Jesus, I discovered my real identity. Instead of being a people-pleaser and seeking to acquire

things to fit in with the crowd, I learned happiness is found in the simple life and celebrating God's goodness.

American pastor Henry Ward Beecher once said, "The art of being happy lies in the power of extracting happiness from common things."

I agree. It's found in spending time with your loved ones and laughing until your side hurts. Sharing moments, whether in person or on the phone. And, even in a simple hot dog.

Carol Round is a self-syndicated international columnist, Christian author, and inspirational speaker. Reach her at carol@carolaround.com

Christians in Bare Feet



MICHAEL BROOKS
Guest Columnist

It was a simple "aside" during mid-week Bible study when I asked attendees how the congregation might react the following Sunday if I asked everyone to take off their shoes in reverence to God, as Moses did at Horeb.

A comedian spoke up first, asking for advanced warning so he wouldn't wear socks with holes and be embarrassed.

I'd mentioned in the lesson that taking off one's shoes was more an oriental and Mideastern practice rather than an American one, but then had the thought about how it might be received at our church. I mused that everyone would probably do it in obedience to their pastor. But as I pondered this in the days following, the more I concluded that removing one's shoes might be an outward act, but meaningless if not coupled with a heart attuned to God.

Of course, this is always an occupational hazard in Christian living. Outward expressions are meaningful but must be connected to obedient lives.

I thought of Jesus chiding the Pharisees, telling them they looked good on the outside since they followed all the rules, but their hearts were far from God (Matthew 23:25). And the prophet Jeremiah delivered his inaugural sermon at the Jerusalem temple, telling worshippers that though they were in a holy place, their

lives were filled with rebellion against God (Jeremiah 7).

Thus, if I'd asked everyone to remove their shoes, it might've been a memorable event, but not necessarily a life-changing one.

Coincidentally I'd read Jen Hatmaker's "Simple and Free" lately in which she argues for decluttering our lives from stuff and sharing our bounty with others.

Hatmaker told of her experience one Easter evening when she and her husband visited a local church. The pastor was committed to the shelter where the homeless needed shoes. He explained that they were on their feet all day and most often had cast-off shoes that didn't give foot or leg support. The pastor said no one was under compulsion, but it they felt compelled, would they leave their shoes and socks at the table when they came forward for communion. He said they would wash the socks and deliver shoes and socks to the shelter the next day.

Hatmaker said she and her husband were wearing cowboy boots they'd given each other for Christmas—their favorite shoes as Texans! But they left church barefooted that night after giving a costly gift to needy people.

We live in a culture awash in materialism. Giving of our treasure to help the abused, the sick and the prisoner is one way to demonstrate that we're not simply going through the motions of righteous acts, but that our hearts are surrendered to God.

Michael J. Brooks is Pastor of the Siluria Baptist Church, Alabaster, Alabama. Contact him through the church's website: siluriabaptist.com.

ANSWERS

From page 4B

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FAITH EVENT

Revival at Otter Creek

Otter Creek Church will be having a revival August 7-11, 2023. Pastor Gary Gibben and his wife Debbie from Panama City will be guest speakers. Organizers state Gary is well known to the area and always delivers excellent scriptural messages, and Debbie provides great music and testimonies. Services will start at 7 p.m. each evening. Otter Creek Church will also have its Annual Homecoming service on Sunday August 13, and Gary will also be

bringing the message for homecoming. Services will begin at 11 a.m. following the 10 a.m. Sunday School. Church members say there will be a covered dish lunch afterwards, so "cook your favorite dish and join the church for some wonderful worship and fellowship." Otter Creek Church is located 4 miles north of Ponce De Leon off of Hwy 81 on Jack Johnson Lane.

Is your church hosting a special event? Let us help spread the word! Send faith events to: news@washington-county.news or news@holmescounty.news

Holmes
County

Classifieds

Place your classifieds by calling 850.638.0212

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000083 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR HOLMES COUNTY, FLORIDA

IN RE: ESTATE OF

COREY AARON
REYNOLDS
PROBATE DIVI-
SION File No. 2023-
000010-CP
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDI- TORS

The administration of the estate of Corey Aaron Reynolds, deceased, whose date of death was June 3, 2022, is pending in the Circuit Court for Holmes County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 201 N. Oklahoma St., 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

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notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

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Attorney for Personal Representative:
Personal Representative:
Todd C. Brister
Attorney Florida Bar Number: 24522 P.O. Box 1759 Panama City, FL 32402
Telephone: (850) 215-7885 Fax: (850) 215-0379 E-Mail: tbristerlaw@gmail.com
Secondary E-Mail: tbrister@knology.net

Michael S. Kriser
1218 Piney Grove Rd. Chipley, Florida 32428
July 26, 2023
August 2, 2023

000084 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR HOLMES COUNTY, FLORIDA

IN RE: ESTATE OF

JOHN ARTHUR
GUNNARSON
PROBATE DIVI-
SION File No. 2023-
000070-CP
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDI- TORS

The administration of the estate of John Arthur Gun-

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narson, deceased, whose date of death was December 18, 2022, is pending in the Circuit Court for Holmes County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 201 N. Oklahoma St., 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 ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this

LEGAL ADVERTISING

court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

Attorney for Personal Representative:
Personal Representative:
Todd C. Brister
Attorney Florida Bar Number: 24522 P.O. Box 1759 Panama City, FL 32402
Telephone: (850) 215-7885 Fax: (850) 215-0379 E-Mail: tbristerlaw@gmail.com
Secondary E-Mail: tbrister@knology.net

Nancy Gene
Brown Kanne Stray-

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er 110 Scissortail Trail Georgetown, Texas 78633
July 26, 2023
August 2, 2023

000087 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR HOLMES COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION

File No. 23000065PRAXMX

IN RE: ESTATE OF PENNY J. WOODHAM, Deceased

NOTICE TO CREDI- TORS

The administration of the estate of Penny J. Woodham, deceased, whose date of death was March 10, 2023, is pending in the Circuit Court for Holmes County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is P.O. Box 397, Bonifay, Florida 32425. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent

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

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2)

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YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is July 26, 2023.

Personal Representative:
Rustin Keith
Woodham
1152 Highway 173
Graceville, FL 32440

Attorney for Personal Representative: Laura C. Pyne, Esq.
Florida Bar No. 62517
Pyne Law Group, P.A.
2309 Frankford Avenue, Suite A
Panama City, Florida 32405
Telephone (850) 215-9090
July 26, 2023
August 2, 2023

000088
PURSUANT TO FL ST. 713.78
MOONLIGHT AUTO AND DIESEL REPAIR INC. WILL SELL AT A PUBLIC AUCTION AT THE FOLLOWING DATE
606 W HWY 90 BONIFAY FL 32425
TIME 9:00AM DATE 8/18/2023

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2005 TOYOTA TUN-
DRA
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2010 NISSAN ROGUE
JNBASSMT3AW025218
August 2, 9, 2023

000089 TRI-COUNTY COM- MUNITY COUNCIL, INC. 302 North Okla- homa Street, Bonifay, FL 32425

Due to on-going COVID-19 concerns, Tri-County Community Council, Inc., Board of Directors will meet via hybrid format at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 10, 2023 at the Life Enrichment Senior Center located at 312 College Avenue, DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435. The hybrid meeting will allow for in-person or online attendance. Finance & Head Start Committee meetings will be held at 4:15. For more information, please call 1-800-395-2696.
August 2, 2023

Simple safety tips for water sports enthusiasts

STAFF REPORT

Bodies of water like lakes, rivers and oceans often elicit fond memories of fun times spent under the sun. Safety should always be a priority when spending time on the water, especially when participating in water sports, including swimming and water skiing.

According to the World Health Organization, more than 40 people die by drowning every hour of every day, which equates to around 372,000 deaths each year. Many of those deaths, the vast majority of which occur in low- or middle-income countries, are preventable, and safety is at the core of drowning prevention. Though

drowning incidents are not as prevalent in the United States and Canada as they are elsewhere in the world, the popularity of water sports in both countries underscores the importance of revisiting the various ways to stay safe when out on the water.

• **Take water sports lessons.** The carefree nature of spring and summer can make it easy for water sports enthusiasts to forgo lessons before trying their hands at water skiing and wakeboarding. But such lessons can teach people techniques that can keep them safe on the water. Courses teach everything from how to get up and out of the water to how to properly handle a tow rope. They also can teach boaters how to



navigate waters while towing skiers, tubers and wakeboarders.

• **Learn hand signals and go over them before getting in the water.** The National Safety Council emphasizes the importance of basic

hand signals, which can be used to help boaters communicate with the people they're towing. Hand signals are vital because water sports tend to be noisy, so nonverbal communication may be the only way boaters can communicate with

the people they're towing. Signals can be used to communicate anything from directions of turns to speed requests to the condition of the person being towed. A list of hand signals can be found at www.boaterexam.com/safety/safety-common-hand-signals.aspx.

• **Inspect tow lines.** The NSC advises inspecting tow lines prior to beginning. Such inspections can confirm that tow lines are not caught in the propeller or wrapped around anyone before the activity begins.

• **Wait for the propeller to stop before getting back on the boat.** People being towed should always wait for propellers to stop before climbing back

into the boat. It doesn't take long for propellers to stop, and those extra few seconds can dramatically reduce risks for accidents or injuries.

• **Avoid water sports at night.** Visibility is compromised once the sun goes down. That can make it hard for boaters to see any obstacles that might appear in the water, and it also makes it very difficult for them to communicate with the people they're towing. As a result of such difficulties, the NSC urges water sports enthusiasts to only engage in such activities during daylight hours.

Water sports make summer even more fun. Safety should always be the utmost priority for anyone involved in such activities.

Rural land program draws applicants

JIM TURNER
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE - More than 180 landowners have applied to a state-funded program designed to keep swaths of rural property from commercial and residential development.

The state Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services announced Friday it will quickly start to rank the proposals that collectively seek to cover more than 200,000 acres through the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program. The deadline to apply for the program was Thursday.

The program puts land into conservation easements, allowing landowners to continue farming and cattle operations in exchange for not developing the property.

In a press release, Agriculture Commissioner Wilton Simpson said the proposals exceed the available funding, "which I will work to correct this coming legislative session."

Simpson in June opened the first application cycle for the program, which was created in 2001, since 2017, according to the release. The Legislature appropriated \$300 million for the program last year, but only about \$50 million of the funds were spent.

Final spending by the state for the program requires approval from the governor and Cabinet, which in May approved \$57.6 million to place 18,279 acres in St. Lucie, DeSoto, Walton, Hardee, Polk, Highlands and Charlotte counties into conservation easements.

DeSantis vetoed an additional \$100 million the Legislature earmarked for the program this year. The veto comprised nearly one-fifth of DeSantis' cuts from the budget for the fiscal year that began July 1. The governor's office has pointed to money being available from the prior fiscal year for the program.

Former President Donald Trump has raised the veto as a way to attack DeSantis, as the Republican candidates campaign in Iowa.

"Ron DeSantis is a disaster for American Farmers and the people of Iowa!" Trump posted on his Truth Social platform.

Simpson, who served for two years as Senate president prior to his election as agriculture commissioner in November, noted that the Legislature set aside billions of dollars in reserves in this year's \$117 billion state budget.

Simpson also said DeSantis' veto could delay efforts to keep 40,000 to 60,000 acres of agricultural land from development and potentially impact future acquisition efforts as land prices rise.

Simpson views the program as helping to connect lands for the burgeoning Florida Wildlife Corridor.

"Your farmers not only produce your food and fiber, the most safe, affordable, abundant food anywhere in the world, but we are the first environmentalists," Simpson said. "It is incumbent upon our farming community to take care of these properties. And again, I will go back and say I believe the farming community does a substantially better job than our state resources do and at a far better value to our taxpayer."

The corridor, which received \$850 million in the current fiscal year budget, is envisioned as connecting 18 million acres of land from the Florida Keys to the Panhandle.

About 8 million of those acres need to be secured, with a goal of 900,000 acres added by the end of this decade.

A bill signed by DeSantis earlier this year (SB 106) directs an additional \$200 million to expand Florida's Greenways and Trails System and the SUN Trail Network into the wildlife corridor.

TAYLOR

From Page 1B

from the Department of Health if we should have to implement our Distance Learning Plan to continue to

support the needs of all students.

Therefore, on behalf of the Washington County School District, School Board Members, the leadership and administrative teams, professionals, and support staff,

I welcome everyone to join in preparing our children for their future. Feel free to contact me if I can assist you at any time during the school year. I have an open-door policy and always invite your commentary.

Lonely Paws Club



Logan and Leo hope to find a home that will allow them to stay together. [NAN THOMPSON | The News and Advertiser]

Two times the love, two times the fun. That's what they say, and we are ready to prove it.

Our names are Logan and Leo. We are nine years old, but still have lots of love to give.

We are brothers and have always been together, so we will need to be adopted together, as we would be lost without each other.

We are standard sized dachshunds that love to play, eat, and sleep. Because we are older, we hope to be placed in a quieter home.

Unfortunately, our owner passed away and we were lucky to be sent to live at BARRK Rescue. While we love it there, we would really like to have a home to call our own. A lap for each of us to snuggle in would be great. Or maybe two nice soft beds to spend the night in. We can shower you in doggie kisses to show you how grateful we are.

We both love to romp and play so a fenced yard for our security is a must. But we would also like nice walks on a leash, if that is your pleasure.

We are both up to date on state required vaccinations, and neutered. So we are ready for our new home.

If you would like more information on us or any other of our friends here at BARRK Rescue in Bonifay, contact Kim at 850-786-0157

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

PAW BARN PET RESORT

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