

Washington County NEWS



Holmes County ADVERTISER

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Community Events

Fresh Start Coalition's Annual Youth Award Celebration

Fresh Start Anti-Drug Coalition has invited the public to join in celebrating the youth of Washington County on June 10 at 6 p.m. at the Washington County Agriculture Center. The organization wants to recognize and celebrate the youth completing K-12 for their contributions and accomplishments at their schools and in their communities. For more information or an application text 850-381-8173 or email at freshstartcoalition@gmail.com.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Celebration

The community is invited to celebrate five fallen Black veterans from Washington County who served in Vietnam and others who paid the greatest price for freedom over five days from May 29 to June 2 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. The event will be held at St. Joseph's Community Park located at 1350 Monroe-Sheffield Rd. in Chipley. Vendors are welcome to join in a time of fellowship, guest speakers, food and a car show. For more information, call Simon Sheffield at 850-703-9605.

National Garden Week

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

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Bonifay woman killed in head-on collision

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Vernon Sportsplex burglary; one in custody

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Local man receives award from the Sons of the American Revolution

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One dead in fatal shooting in Bonifay

DIANE M. MOORE

Dmoore@nevespublishing.com

An investigation is underway in the death of a Holmes County man. The Holmes County Sheriff's Office opened the investigation after Steven Lamar Hall was killed in an early morning shooting at the Holiday Inn Express in Bonifay on May 29.

During a press conference, Sheriff John Tate re-



Holmes County Sheriff John Tate gave a press conference regarding a fatal shooting in Bonifay in the early morning hours of May 29. [DIANE M. MOORE | THE NEWS AND ADVERTISER]

leased the following details.

HCSO Communications Center received a call at 3:23

a.m. from a female stating she had accidentally shot a male while loading a firearm. HCSO arrived on scene at 3:26 a.m. and found Hall had sustained a gunshot wound to his leg. He was transported to Doctors Memorial Hospital where he later died of his injuries.

The female subject was identified as Lois K. Merkel, of Panama City. Merkel told investigators she had retrieved a .40 caliber handgun from a personal gun safe and was attempting to load a round into the chamber of the gun when it accidentally went off and shot Hall in the leg.

Merkel was taken to the sheriff's office for questioning.

HCSO requested the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Crime Lab respond to the scene to perform forensic examinations on the room and vehicles. Search warrants for the room and vehicles were obtained and methamphetamine, marijuana, and prescription medications were found.

"On scene witness statements, verses Merkel's statement don't really coin-



Steven Lamar Hall was shot and killed at the Holiday Inn Express in Bonifay. The circumstances in his death are under investigation by the Holmes County Sheriff's Office. [CONTRIBUTED]

cide with each other," Tate said. "There are discrepancies we are trying to work out. This is still early in the investigation with FDLE on scene and investigators questioning witnesses. Things are subject to change at any moment. Right now, we are still trying to piece the puzzle together."

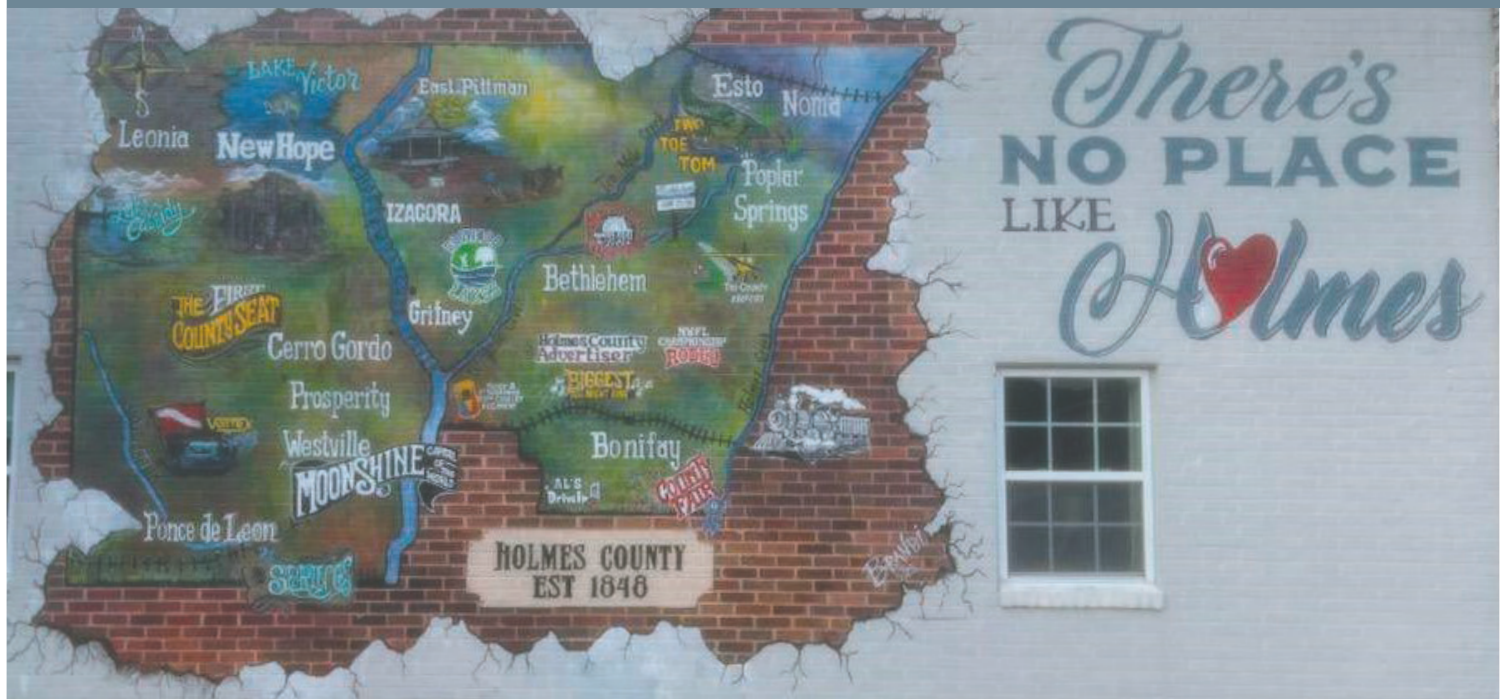
As part of the investigation, phone records have been subpoenaed as well as

a toxicology test for Merkel. An autopsy is expected to be performed on Tuesday by the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit Medical Examiner's Office.

"According to Merkel, she and Hall were engaged in an affair or a romantic relationship of some kind," said Tate. "I am not sure of the specifics in that regard."

As of press time, Merkel See **SHOOTING**, Page 2A

Home sweet Holmes



There is a new mural in downtown Bonifay which depicts each community in Holmes County. This mural is a 10 feet by 15 feet map of the county detailing the many communities therein and showcases the talent of local artist, Brandy Jordan. The mural is part of a grassroots effort that has been underway to add more visual appeal to the town of Bonifay. While private funding was obtained to cover the mural on the tax collector's building, Mayor Emily McCann said organizers have approached the Tourist Development Council (TDC) and reached an agreement for the TDC to help fund four more murals in Bonifay focused on Waukesha Street, one mural in Esto and another in Ponce de Leon. Each mural will depict Holmes County history and give travelers a reason to stop in town for a photo op and hopefully spend some time and money browsing in local shops. [BLAKELY HITZELBERGER | THE NEWS AND ADVERTISER]

New HCSO facility nearing completion

DIANE M. MOORE

Dmoore@nevespublishing.com

The Holmes County Sheriff's Office will soon have a new home as construction and refurbishment of the old Holmes County Agriculture Center is well underway.

The project started at the beginning of the year after the county was awarded

\$4.3 million in appropriations from the state. HCSO was given a budget of \$750,000 to demolish the entire inside of the building down to the foundation and refurbish throughout. With the use of inmate labor and repurposing some of the materials, that number is more than enough.

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The new home of the Holmes County Sheriff's Office is expected to be completed by the end of July. [DIANE M. MOORE | THE NEWS AND ADVERTISER]

HOLMES COUNTY



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WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2023



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WASHINGTON COUNTY



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EVENTS

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Panhandle Watermelon Festival

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

Orange Hill Fourth of July Celebration

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

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

SHOOTING

From Page 1A

is set to be charged with possession of methamphetamine and possession of marijuana.

Tate says other charges are likely forthcoming upon completion of the investigation. “We are piecing the puzzle together, once together we will confer with the State Attorney’s office in order to

secure some sort of charge,” Tate said. “Please be patient with us as the investigation is ongoing at this point,” said Tate. “We will release information as it becomes available, but

investigations take time to be done properly.” The Holmes County Advertiser will continue to follow this story and will update as information becomes available.

Bonifay woman killed in head-on collision

STAFF REPORT

A Bonifay woman was killed in a head-on collision in the late afternoon of May 24. A Florida Highway Patrol release states troopers responded to Highway 173 south of Budfield Road at the scene of a head on collision.

At the scene a 2019 Honda CRV that was being driven by a 16-year-old male from Bonifay, was on the south bound shoulder rolled onto the driver’s side and a 2017 Nissan Sentra being driven by a 26-year-old woman from Bonifay in the ditch on the northbound shoulder. FHP says the woman succumbed to

her injuries on scene. A four-year-old passenger in the Nissan Sentra and the 16-year-old driver of the Honda CRV were transported to an area hospital with serious injuries. There is no further information at this time as the crash is still under investigation.



DeSantis enters Presidential race, vows to ‘get the job done’

JIM TURNER News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — Gov. Ron DeSantis made his White House bid official Wednesday, announcing a 2024 presidential run in an online discussion with Elon Musk that ended months of speculation and set up a clash with former President Donald Trump. As he entered a growing Republican primary field, DeSantis, 44, pledged to be an “energetic executive” who “will get the job done” as president to rein in government agencies that “are totally out of control.” “These past few years have given me a new appreciation for the fragility of our freedoms,” DeSantis said during an appearance on Twitter Spaces with Musk, the billionaire owner of the social-media site. DeSantis said one of his priorities as president would be an “overhaul” of agencies that oversaw the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. His criticism of lockdowns and vaccination mandates has helped build his national political reputation with conservatives. DeSantis, whose team filed campaign paperwork earlier in the day with the Federal Election Commission, also used the online announcement to criticize the “legacy” media and “elites” whose “assumptions are never challenged.” Shortly before the interview with Musk, DeSantis signed a wide-ranging elections bill (SB 7050) that included changing Florida’s resign-to-run law so that he could run for president without having to submit his resignation as governor. But the online event was delayed about 20 minutes as demand strained the Twit-

ter Spaces servers — leading DeSantis’ opponents to mock the campaign launch. President Joe Biden tweeted a link to his campaign website with the line, “This link works.” Trump’s campaign also took aim at DeSantis: “Glitchy. Tech issues. Uncomfortable silences. A complete failure to launch. And that’s just the candidate!” the Trump campaign said in a release. Early polls have shown Trump leading DeSantis in the Republican primary fight, with other GOP candidates further behind. Trump, whose endorsement helped DeSantis get elected governor in 2018, contends DeSantis is being “disloyal” by mounting a challenge. Trump has long viewed DeSantis as his top primary rival and has used his Truth Social online site to insult and criticize DeSantis, including taunting the governor as Ron DeSanctimonious, which is often shortened to DeSanctus. DeSantis didn’t directly address Trump during Wednesday’s interview with Musk and mostly has maintained a hands-off approach amid the barrage of insults. But without invoking Trump’s name, DeSantis has criticized the former president and current Florida resident over an indictment on criminal charges related to paying a porn star to keep quiet about an alleged affair. More recently, DeSantis

went after Trump’s pandemic response, telling the Florida Family Policy Council on Saturday, “We can never allow Warp Speed to trump informed consent in this country ever again.” Trump’s push for a COVID-19 vaccine was dubbed “Operation Warp Speed.” released a campaign-style video Wednesday that declared DeSantis “a president for the people.” Lt. Gov. Jeanette Nuñez, who would become Florida’s first female governor if DeSantis is elected president, said in a statement that DeSantis is “guided by his convictions and principles. He does not waiver in the face of adversity.” Throughout the day Wednesday, Democrats and other opponents criticized DeSantis in advance of his chat with Musk. Florida Democratic Party Chairwoman Nikki Fried, who often clashed with DeSantis while she was state agriculture commissioner, said in a statement that Floridians have been “literally footing the bill for his national ambitions.” “DeSantis has spent his entire career using Floridians’ lives as a stepping stool to cater to the MAGA base,” Fried said. “We’ve already seen how catastrophic it is for working families when DeSantis is in office, with Floridians facing unaffordable housing, health care and property insurance costs.” David Jolly, a former Republican and former Florida congressman, called DeSantis’ decision to announce with Musk “a serious miscalculation.” “1. He’s leaning into the ‘weird’. 2. He’s doubling down on being the candidate who needs a safe space. 3. He’s promoting his associa-

tion with regressive ideology,” Jolly tweeted. “Dumb move.” For months, DeSantis deflected speculation about a presidential run, but his national aspirations were apparent. As he successfully ran for re-election as governor last year, he repeatedly drew contrasts with Biden on issues such as immigration, the economy and COVID-19. DeSantis this year traveled across the nation on a book tour. He also took an overseas trip to bulk up his international credentials late in Florida’s legislative session. DeSantis is expected to run as an accomplished politician without the drama and rhetoric associated with Trump. DeSantis will brandish Republican credentials bolstered through Florida legislation about issues such as parental rights, gun rights and abortion restrictions. Banned from Twitter after his supporters attacked the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, Trump has not returned to the platform after being reinstated by Musk in November. Earlier this week, U.S. Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C., formally entered the primary contest, which already included Trump, former United Nations Ambassador Nikki Haley, entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy, former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson and radio host Larry Elder. In an ad welcoming DeSantis to the contest, Haley’s campaign compared him to an “echo” of Trump. Former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu and former Vice President Mike Pence are also weighing entry.



HCSO

From Page 1A

“We should be coming in under \$500,000 upon completion,” Sheriff John Tate said. “85 percent of the work has been completed through inmate labor, saving a lot of money.”

“There were 35 tons of demoed materials,” Auxiliary Deputy Steve Herrington said. “We have been able to reuse 20 tons of that in rock, dirt and metal. That was a huge bonus for us.”

The newly constructed interior of the building holds offices, a conference room, records room, kitchen and dining area, arms room and a hardened evidence room. That room in particular has a steel framework in the walls for extra security. The evidence room will also hold records that HCSO is mandated to keep

for extended periods, as well as a cold storage area for DNA and samples that must be kept cold. The walls of the new interrogation rooms are reinforced to keep suspects from kicking through or damaging them in any way.

After abating the areas that contained mold, a new roof, siding and construction of offices was completed. All that remains for total completion is to paint the walls, finish the ceiling and install fixtures and finally to lay new flooring.

Tate says everything has gone as expected and that HCSO should be moved in by the end of July.

“We are excited to get moved in and be in a new and bigger space,” Tate said. “We are thankful for the funding to be able to make this new facility happen.”



HCSO Auxiliary Deputy Steve Herrington shows Sheriff John Tate where the shelves in the evidence room will be placed. [DIANE M. MOORE | THE NEWS AND ADVERTISER]



Offices run the length of each hallway in the new Holmes County Sheriff's Office facility. [DIANE M. MOORE | THE NEWS AND ADVERTISER]



The front office at the new HCSO building has hand cut wood lining the walls and is more spacious than the current facility. [DIANE M. MOORE | THE NEWS AND ADVERTISER]

Hospital payments case gets go-ahead

NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA

TALLAHASSEE—A federal appeals court Thursday cleared the way for eight South Florida hospitals to pursue a lawsuit against a health insurer in a dispute about payments for emergency-room care.

A three-judge panel of the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals overturned a district judge's summary judgment ruling in favor of Cigna Health and Life Insurance Co. and said a jury should decide whether the insurer shortchanged the hospitals.

The lawsuit, filed in 2020 by North Shore Medical Center, Palmetto General Hospital, Delray Medical Center, Good Samaritan Medical Center, Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center, St. Mary's Medical Center, West Boca Medical Center and Coral Gables Hospital, deals with emergency care provided to Cigna customers.

The hospitals in Miami-Dade and Palm Beach counties were not part of Cigna's contracted network of providers. Under state and federal law, the hospitals were required to provide emergency care to the Cigna customers, but the dispute involves how much Cigna should have paid for the out-of-network care.

A key issue focuses on a state law that requires insurers to pay "usual and customary provider charges for similar services in the community where the services were provided."

The hospitals contended that Cigna in 2020 paid below-market rates. But Cigna argued the hospitals were only basing that on their own prices — and not on amounts charged by hospitals in the broader Miami-Dade and Palm Beach communities.

U.S. District Judge K. Michael Moore granted summary judgment to Cigna in January 2022,

prompting the hospitals to go to the Atlanta-based appeals court. In Thursday's 10-page decision, the appellate panel expressed skepticism about the insurer's arguments about how to evaluate rates in the communities.

"Contrary to Cigna's contention, we think that the plaintiff hospitals' rates alone could be enough to support a fact-finder's reasonable determination of the 'usual and customary' rates in the Palm Beach/Miami-Dade 'community,'" said the decision, written by

See HOSPITAL, Page 5A



“I received a month of great care at Northwest Florida Community Hospital!”
—Gary Hartman

Gary Hartman (center) recently spent 31 days at Northwest Florida Community Hospital. It all started last October when Gary had extensive back surgery at another hospital. The surgery was successful, but several days later, Gary's whole digestive system shut down. "This is the third time I've had severe constipation after having anesthesia," says Gary.

But the problem was much worse than that. Because of severe internal bleeding, Gary lost several pints of blood. "My blood pressure got so low, it was hard to detect," Gary says. "The nurses said they came very close to losing me. But thanks to Hospitalist Dr. Annette Porter (left), Nick Bass, APRN (right), and the rest of the amazing staff, I made it!"

Gary then began inpatient rehab. "I needed to work on balance and coordination so I could live on my own again," Gary explains. "I had physical therapy sessions twice a day and the staff watched me like a hawk to make sure I did everything right."

Today, Gary says he feels great. "I can even mow my lawn!" he says. "And I see my primary care provider for regular checkups. If I had to do it over, I wouldn't change a thing about my experience!"



“Your Health...
Our Mission”

OPINION

Memorial Day in contemporary America



Austin Bay
Guest Columnist

Memorial Day emerged from America’s most deadly and destructive war: the Civil War.

Agreed, social, political and moral divisions are wracking and weakening contemporary America. But no external or internal challenge quite compares to the Civil War – at least not yet.

Measured by soldiers and civilians killed in combat and by war’s derivative killers—starvation, disease and exposure – the Civil War has no rival.

Physical, economic and social destruction are more relative terms and comparing them in different historical

eras is tricky.

The Union’s best generals, Grant and Sherman, targeted Confederate economic productivity. They knew the South’s ability to supply its armies prolonged the war. Sherman’s vow to “make Georgia howl” expressed the strategy succinctly.

Blue and Gray armies burned farms and factories. The Confederate and border states (Kentucky, Missouri, even Maryland) suffered terrible devastation from both armies. This assertion is debatable, but I think it has merit. It took the Deep South 90 years (and the unifying effects of two world wars with international enemies) to overcome its economic backwardness, in comparison to the Yankee Northeast and Midwest.

Yet the social-political Civil War lingered... and lingered.

The 1950s and 1960s desegregation movement was a Civil War battle, hopefully the

last battle. Circa 1957 my father said that in just about those very words. (We were in an old Plymouth station wagon.)

My mother, a movement civil rights activist advocating individual rights and a society disregarding creed and color, outright riled segments of 1958 Midland, Texas, society. She went public with her views on author James Baldwin’s instructive rage and why Dr. Martin Luther King’s nonviolent crusade was politically and spiritually healing and just totally American.

Mom said she fought a “just war.”

OK. 1959, 1960. Hundredth anniversary of the Civil War approaching; no kid could miss it. I remember thinking that if Mom fought a just war, then the Union soldiers who fought and died certainly did. Roughly 360,000 Union soldiers died. Fact: Their blood ended slavery.

No matter what those

young men of 1863 believed, their sacrifice should silence the race-hustling anti-American bigots of 2023.

Unfortunately, there’s money and media fame in hating America. Examples of contemptible self-serving disregard: 1619 Project (this outfit banks on a big lie, told often: America was founded on slavery); Black Lives Matter (a grift operation; its leaders buy mansions off their take); and despicable media jaws like Joy Behar who presume to tell Justice Clarence Thomas (who grew up in the Jim Crow South) he doesn’t know what it’s like to be a black man in America.

Since 2009 the civil rights battle has certainly changed. The Neo-Civil War is a political war in psychosexual drag. Basic tactic: If you disagree with me, you’re violent!

The armed services have recruiting problems and many of these problems have roots

in these very curious internal divisions. The worst are highly neurotic and narcissistic individual demands for “rights” that challenge human chromosomes and common sense.

On the macro level these demands undermine social cohesion: Parents are investigated for terrorism because they wish to protect their kids from mental and physical harm.

In the micro level of a military unit, these demands -- which are always in flux, they change; very “trans,” so to speak -- this self-righteous selfishness destroys the trust and discipline it takes to win in combat.

This is a Memorial Day column. Decoration Day was a Union observance. Union survivors set aside a day in May for “decorating” the graves of dead soldiers with flowers. The website usmemorialday.org notes that Southern states “refused to acknowledge the day, honoring their

dead on separate days until after WWI.” Yes, a unifying effect. After WWI the day changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war.

Memorial Day became a national day, a healing day of remembrance to say “thanks,” no matter an individual’s personal history.

Memorial Day became a moment to reflect and to remember, to reflect and to respect the special gift of those who did their duty.

Military service is the most difficult duty in a democracy. Military sacrifice protects rights -- the real rights to life and liberty.

To find out more about Austin Bay and read features by other Creators writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate webpage at www.creators.com.

The OG of white people



Ron Hart
Guest Columnist

We just visited Mother England. It is just like America, only whiter. I went there with eight buddies; all together we were whiter than a Dave

Matthews concert in a snowstorm.

One of the guys from Georgia on the trip (an accomplished drunk named Fortnight who slept multiple nights in his roommate’s shower with the water running) keenly observed, “From what I’ve seen in movies, I really thought we would have met more chimney sweeps in England.”

We played golf for five days. The weather was nice, in the 50s each day. It never dipped into the teens or, as it should be called

here, “Prince Andrew weather.”

The exchange rate for the pound sterling is about 1.3 pounds to the U.S. dollar. It is the same for women. A woman in the USA who is a 7 would be about a 9 here. Their currency is stronger than ours, but our women are much stronger than theirs.

The exchange rate on women in the UK goes long way in explaining how Queen

Camilla got King Charles. Kudos to American women -- we all appreciate you (and American dentistry) more now.

Many Americans are not sure about King Charles, formerly known as Prince. It is hard to take the measure of the man. And even if we could, the UK is on the metric system, so Americans would not know what to make of the measurement.

We do know that King Charles contracted COVID a few times; many think this was caused by all that hand shaking he had to do. But our own Anthony

Fauci and the CDC have maintained he got COVID from sleeping with an old bat. Do not get mad at me, people. That is just science and, as we are told by Democrats, “The science is settled.”

Never question it or you will look stupid.

King Charles succeeded his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, who was a bad ass. She kept the royal family ducks in a row. The Queen was “Old Gangster,” and we loved her.

Queen Elizabeth did not like it when Meghan Markel, a B level US TV actress, distracted Prince Harry and the royals with her whimpering and clamoring for media attention. The royals are keeping an eye on her in America; they realize no one will buy that whole “car crash in a tunnel” story again. So they have reached out to our CIA, FBI and Hillary Clinton for some fresh new ideas to get rid of Meghan. Stay tuned.

There is a symmetry between the United States and England.

I really like the English, and I totally see why we have fought all these unnecessary wars together these last 75 years. We say to them, “Hey we are going to fight Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan and

Ukraine.” They ask. “Why, and to what end?” We say, “Well we really are not sure, but basically because we want to,” and they say, “OK guys, we are in.” And that is now called international diplomacy. The USA’s internal code name is “Quagmire.”

Since breaking away, and certainly since the War of 1812, we have gotten along well with the Brits. I learned more about that war here, in which New England actually sided with Great Britain against the United States. Most woke kids today know little of that war, and most could not even tell you in what year it occurred. Britain sailed up the

Chesapeake, freed fifty thousand slaves and burned down the White House. We lost that war so badly that to this day our government calls it a tie.

They are facing the woke left in England the same way we are in the United States, but they are more tethered to their shared history. The Anglican Communion church leaders met a while back and decided to suspend the American Episcopal Church for sanctioning gay marriage and female priesthood. It split the church in two: one will have an active gay community in their church and the other an awful choir.

Britain is the home of James Bond, a real man’s man who is a hero who had lovers and fatalities over his movie career. I read where, in the history of Bond movies, he bedded fifty women and killed one hundred villains. Yet he aged. This teaches us an important reality: Certain guns take more time to reload than others.

A libertarian op-ed humorist, standup comedian and award-winning author, Ron does commentary on radio and TV. He can be seen on CNN and Fox. And contacted at Ron@RonaldHart.com or @RonaldHart on Twitter.

Updated: DeSantis signs elections revamp

NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA

TALLAHASSEE — As he entered the 2024 race for the White House, Gov. Ron DeSantis on Wednesday signed a major elections bill that places additional restrictions on voter-registration groups and helps clear the way for him to run for president without resigning from office.

The League of Women Voters

of Florida quickly filed a federal lawsuit contending that the restrictions on voter-registration groups violate First Amendment and due-process rights.

“This is a lawsuit challenging burdensome, unnecessary, and irrational restrictions on constitutionally protected voter registration speech and activity of third-party voter registration organizations in violation of the

(U.S. Constitution’s) First and Fourteenth Amendment,” said the lawsuit, filed in federal court in Tallahassee.

The 96-page bill, passed by the Legislature in late April, is a continuation of a years-long effort by DeSantis and Republican lawmakers to make elections-law changes that they

See REVAMP, Page 5A

Have something to say?

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

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

Questions? Call 850-638-0212

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PUBLISHER
Todd Neves

CONTACT US

Advertising:

Jill Silcox-Bischel, jillian@nevesmedia.net

News, sports, opinion:

news@washingtoncounty.news

Legal Web Portal:

washingtoncounty.column.us/place

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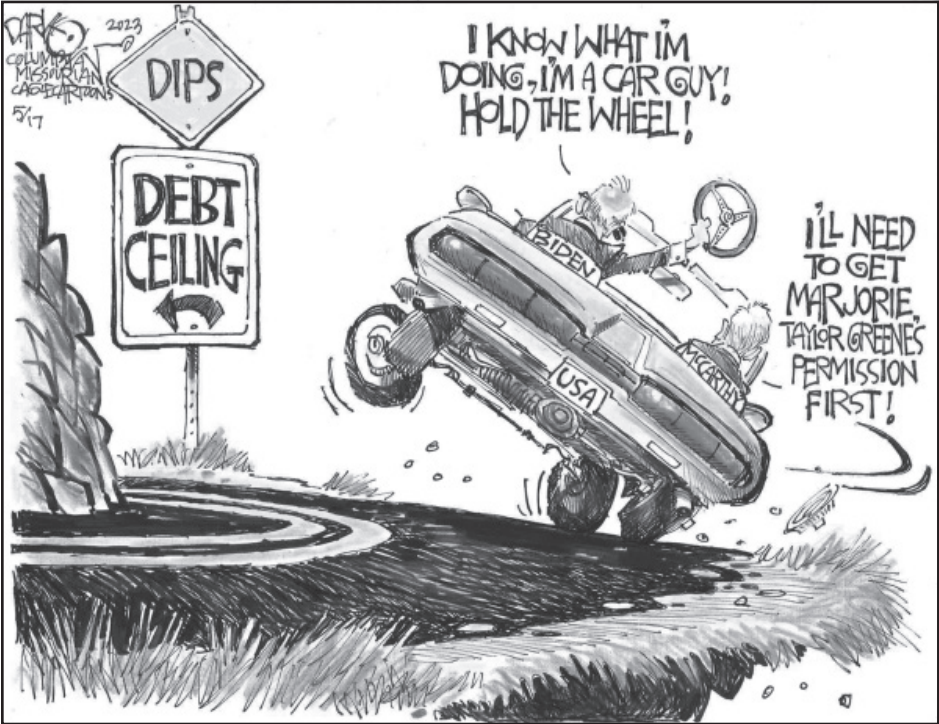
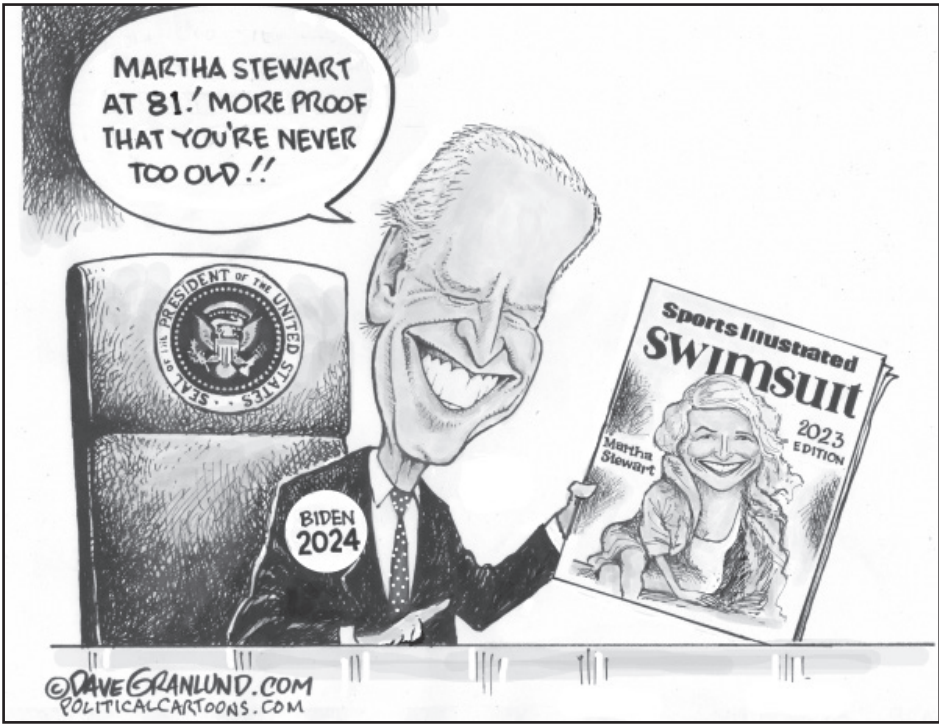
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HOSPITAL

From Page 3A

Judge Kevin Newsom and joined by Judges Adalberto Jordan and Ed Carnes. “Cigna insists—and we’ll accept for present purposes — that there are ‘over a dozen other providers of ER services’ in the two-county area. But we can see no reason

why, as a matter of law, eight good data points — out of, say, 20, or even 30 — can’t support a reasonable inference about the whole set.” The decision said that even “if the relevant ‘community’ here extends beyond the eight plaintiff hospitals, their receipts alone are enough to create a genuine factual dispute about what the ‘com-

munity’ rates are.” “If it (Cigna) can show there that most other providers in the ‘community’ charge less than the plaintiff hospitals do, then it may well debunk the hospitals’ estimate,” Newsom wrote. “But unless and until that happens, it remains the case that a reasonable jury could conclude that the eight plain-

tiff hospitals’ rates reflect the prevailing community rate — and thus that Cigna shortchanged them. The district court was wrong to hold that this conclusion would be beyond the pale.” An expert witness for the hospitals concluded that a “fair market value” was 75 percent of what the hospitals charged for

the emergency services, according to a brief filed in June 2022 by the hospitals’ attorneys. The document said Cigna paid 15 percent, a difference of millions of dollars in potential revenue. But in an August brief, Cigna said paying 75 percent of the charges would lead to a “windfall” for the hospitals.


“In short, billed charges are make-believe prices that providers manipulate to maximize their revenue, and they bear no connection to either the actual cost of health-care services or to what the provider should reasonably expect to receive,” Cigna’s attorneys wrote.

REVAMP

From Page 4A

contend are necessary to prevent wrongdoing. Democrats, meanwhile, argue the moves are aimed at making it harder to vote and target Black and Hispanic people. Democrats also harshly criticized part of the bill (SB 7050) that changed what is known as the state’s “resign-to-run” law to help clear the way for DeSantis’ presidential bid. The governor filed federal paperwork for his candidacy Wednesday. Florida law has said any state officeholder who “qualifies for federal public office must resign from the office he or she presently holds if the terms, or any part thereof, run concurrently with each other.” But the bill created an exemption for candidates for president or vice president, effectively allowing DeSantis to avoid having to submit his resignation as he runs for president. During a debate on the bill last month, Democrats argued the Legislature should not create an exemption to benefit only DeSantis, noting that state lawmakers in the past had to submit their resignations to run in special elections for congressional seats. “If you’re going to do it (change the law), you should really consider at least evening the playing field for others, not selectively carving it out for one man,” Rep. Anna Eskamani, D-Orlando, said on April 28. “I’m not going to change a law for one man.” DeSantis signed the elections bill and 19 other measures Wednesday without any comment. Other contentious parts of the bill are directed at “third-party” registration groups that help people sign up to vote. Under the bill, voter-registration groups could face a maximum of \$250,000 in fines each year —

five times the current \$50,000 annual cap — for violating laws such as failing to submit completed registration applications to elections supervisors on time. The measure shortens from 14 to 10 days the length of time groups have to turn applications in to supervisors and imposes a \$50-per-day fine for each application that is turned in late. The groups also will have to issue receipts to people when collecting voter-registration applications. During debate on the measure last month, Democrats pointed to research that indicated one out of 10 Black voters and one out of 10 Hispanic voters use third-party groups to sign up to vote.



They argued the increased penalties are designed to make it harder for Black and Hispanic voters to cast ballots. Also, Democrats said proposed changes are aimed at keeping Republicans, who hold supermajorities in the House and Senate, in control. The bill is designed to “achieve the outcomes that the people in power want,” Sen. Geraldine Thompson, D-Windermere, said during an April 26 debate. “This really is suppression. It is suppression, just like poll taxes. That was suppression. Just

like violence against people who wanted to vote was suppression. Just like intimidation when you had the Ku Klux Klan march through certain communities was suppression,” Thompson, who is Black, said. “So I see different characters but the same objective, and that’s to make sure that only certain people vote.” But Senate Ethics and Elections Chairman Danny Burgess, a Zephyrhills Republican who helped shepherd the bill, disputed Democrats’ objections. “This bill does not and will not hinder anyone’s right to vote, nor would I ever subscribe my name to something that could even remotely be concluded to be voter suppression. There is nothing in this bill that makes it harder for a lawfully registered voter to cast their ballot,” he said. The bill also shortens the time for voters to request mail-in ballots and eases campaign-finance reporting requirements for candidates and political committees. A coalition of three-dozen groups recently asked DeSantis to veto the bill, arguing it would hurt the state’s elections and voter-registration organizations. “Today, Gov. Ron DeSantis signed into law SB 7050, which will do widespread harm to Florida’s elections, especially the important work of community organizations who register people to vote who may not traditionally get involved in the democratic process,” Brad Ashwell, Florida state director of the group All Voting is Local, said in a Twitter post Wednesday. The bill-signing marked the third year in a row that DeSantis and Republican lawmakers approved elections overhauls. Last year’s version included fulfilling a DeSantis request to create a first-of-its-kind Office of Election Crimes & Security to investigate alleged voting irregularities.

Lawmakers shielded in redistricting fight

NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA

TALLAHASSEE — A panel of federal judges Thursday shielded eight current and former legislative leaders from having to testify in a challenge to a congressional redistricting plan that Gov. Ron DeSantis pushed through last year. The panel blocked an attempt by plaintiffs’ attorneys to depose the Republican leaders, including former Senate President Wilton Simpson and former House Speaker Chris Sprowls, in a lawsuit that alleges the redistricting plan intentionally discriminated against Black voters. The ruling cited a legal concept known as “legislative privilege,” which it said prevents inquiry into motivations for legislative decisions. “This is true even when — as in this case — there are allega-

tions of improper or unlawful motives,” U.S. District Judge Allen Winsor wrote for the panel. While saying legislative privilege is not “absolute,” Winsor wrote that the plaintiffs “have not shown that this is the extraordinary case in which legislative privilege must yield to federal interests.” Along with Simpson and Sprowls, the ruling shielded Sen. Jennifer Bradley, R-Fleming Island; former Sen. Ray Rodrigues, R-Estero; Rep. Tyler Sirois, R-Merritt Island; Rep. Tom Leek, R-Ormond Beach; Rep. Kaylee Tuck, R-Lake Placid; and Rep. Randy Fine, R-Brevard County. All had leadership roles in the once-a-decade redistricting process. The lawsuit, filed last year by Common Cause Florida, Fair Districts Now, the Florida State Conference of the NAACP and individual plaintiffs,

alleges that the redistricting plan violated the U.S. Constitution’s 14th Amendment and 15th Amendment. The 14th Amendment ensures equal protection, while the 15th Amendment prohibits denying or abridging the right to vote based on race. The case focuses, in part, on a decision to redraw North Florida’s Congressional District 5, which in the past elected Black Democrat Al Lawson. After DeSantis vetoed an initial redistricting plan, lawmakers approved a map that dramatically changed the North Florida district — ultimately leading in November to white Republicans winning all seats across the region. In a court document last week, attorneys for the plaintiffs said they wanted to question the legislative leaders about a roughly three-week period last spring. That period started

with DeSantis’ veto of the initial plan and ended with lawmakers passing a map that DeSantis proposed during a special legislative session. “The public record contains virtually no explanation of the crucial juncture where the Legislature, including these legislators, who had repeatedly endorsed and defended a congressional redistricting map that preserved minority access, abruptly reversed their stance, abdicated their mapmaking responsibilities to the governor, and ultimately passed a map that destroyed the minority access district they had previously sought to protect,” the plaintiffs’ attorneys wrote in the May 19 document. “The black box of the Legislature’s special session stands in stark contrast to how the Legislature, and legislators, conducted the redistricting process up to that point,

which was characterized by open debate and good-faith deliberations based on a shared and clear understanding of the Legislature’s obligations under state and federal law.” But in a Feb. 1 motion to quash subpoenas for the depositions, attorneys for the lawmakers wrote that legislative privilege protects “the legislative process from the harms that result when unwelcome entanglement in civil litigation inhibits lawmakers in the discharge of legislative duties. Most courts have recognized the higher interests at stake and diligently protected the legislative process from those harms.” “The privilege applies even — or especially — in important cases, and where the motives of the legislative branch are relevant,” the motion said. “Plaintiffs are not entitled to interrogate legislators regarding

their role in the enactment of Florida’s new congressional districts.” Unlike most cases, a three-judge panel is hearing the redistricting case. Along with Winsor, the panel is made up of 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Adalberto Jordan and U.S. District Judge M. Casey Rodgers. Thursday’s ruling also shielded DeSantis’ general counsel, Ryan Newman, from testifying. It allowed a deposition on limited topics of J. Alex Kelly, a deputy chief of staff for DeSantis who played a key role in the redistricting process. Meanwhile, a separate lawsuit is pending in Leon County circuit court that alleges the changes to Congressional District 5 violated a 2010 state constitutional amendment that set standards for redistricting.

Democrat enters race for Hutson seat



NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA

A Democrat has joined the race to try to succeed term-limited state Sen. Travis Hutson, R-St. Augustine, in 2024. St. Augustine Democrat George Anthony “T”

Hill II opened a campaign account this week to run in Senate District 7, which is made up of St. Johns, Flagler, Putnam and part of Volusia counties, according to the state Division of Elections website. Hill joined House Appro-

priations Chairman Tom Leek, R-Ormond Beach, and Ponte Vedra Beach Republican Gerald James, who opened campaign accounts earlier. Leek had raised \$317,600 for his account as of April 30, a finance report.



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REPRESENTATIVE SHANE

ABBOTT

Post-Session Newsletter

Upcoming Sales Tax Holidays for Consumers

Back-to-School

| July 24 – Aug. 6
| Jan. 1 – Jan. 14

Disaster Preparedness

| May 27 – June 9
| Aug. 26 – Sept. 8

Freedom Summer

| May 29 – Sept. 4

Skilled Worker Tools

| Sept. 2 – Sept. 8

Energy Efficient Home Appliance

| July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

For any questions on the tax holidays, please reach out to my office

Capitol Office
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
PH: (850) 717-5007

District Office
908 US Highway 90 West
DeFuniak Springs, FL 32433
PH: (850) 951-0547

District Office
3094 Indian Circle
Marianna, FL 32446
PH: (850) 718-0047

shane.abbott@myfloridahouse.gov

State urges justices to reject inmate’s arguments

NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA

Attorney General Ashley Moody’s office Thursday urged the Florida Supreme Court to reject arguments aimed at blocking the scheduled execution next month of Death Row inmate Duane Owen. Lawyers in Moody’s office filed a 56-page brief after Owen’s attorneys Wednesday requested a stay

of execution to allow a determination about whether he is mentally competent to be put to death. But Moody’s officesaidinformationabout Owen’s mental health has long been known and that “re-litigation of claims premised on ‘new information and testing’ is barred.” The brief, partially quoting a legal precedent, also said,

“By definition, Owen being aware of mental health issues for 25 years is not ‘newly discovered’ ... Consequently, he is not entitled to pursue repackaged claims to seek further testing to ‘discover new evidence.’” Gov. Ron DeSantis on May 9 signed a death warrant for Owen in the murder of Georgianna Worden, who

was bludgeoned with a hammer and sexually assaulted in her Boca Raton home in May 1984, according to the death warrant and court records. Owen, now 62, also was sentenced to death in the March 1984 murder of 14-year-old Karen Slattery, who was babysitting at a Delray Beach home, according to state and federal court

documents. Slattery was stabbed to death. The execution has been scheduled for June 15, though DeSantis on Monday ordered a psychiatric evaluation of Owen and put a temporary hold on the execution. A Palm Beach County circuit judge last week rejected arguments raised by Owen’s attorneys.

North Carolina man jailed on multiple felony charges

STAFF REPORT

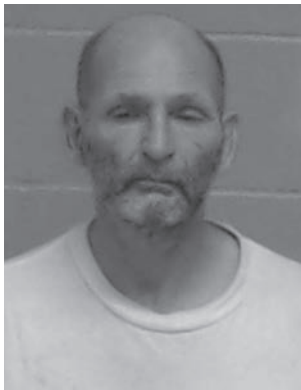
A North Carolina man is behind bars in Washington County on multiple felony charges stemming from a suspicious person call on My 24. The suspicious person and vehicle were located at Potter Springs Road and Highway 79. As deputies were enroute to

the location, they spotted a vehicle matching the description given by the caller heading north on Highway 79 near Millers Ferry Road that was experiencing vehicle problems. Deputies made contact with the driver, who was identified as 62-year-old Richard Hamilton Rodgers.

After running a check of Rodgers’ driver’s license and the license plate, it was found Rodgers is on probation in Bay County for burglary vehicle. The check also showed the vehicle was not registered to Rodgers. According to WCSO, Rodgers created an elaborate story to justify his possession of the vehicle. A call to the registered owner of the vehicle found the vehicle had been stolen. Deputies searched the vehicle and found several stolen items. Further investigation revealed two other vehicles had been burglarized in the same location in Ebro where Rodgers had stolen the vehicle from. Rodgers is charged with grand theft of a motor vehicle, grand theft of a firearm, two counts of burglary of unoccupied conveyance, armed burglary of an unoccupied conveyance and VOP-Bay County. All stolen items have been recovered.

Resident, investigators began to follow up on leads which lead them to 20-year-old Duncan Reddick Bray of Chipley. Bray was arrested and transported to the

Washington County Jail on charges of burglary of an unoccupied dwelling, damaging property due to criminal mischief and petit theft.



Richard Hamilton Rogers

Vernon Sportsplex burglary; one in custody

STAFF REPORT

Burglary reported at the Vernon Sportsplex resulted in one arrest. On May 5th a call in reference to a burglary at the Vernon Sportsplex came into the Washington County Communications Center. Workers from the sportsplex noticed a door open and a cash box empty upon arrival. The Sportsplex surveillance system had also been shut off during the burglary but not before footage of the suspect and vehicle were recorded. With the assistance of a Washington County

resident, investigators began to follow up on leads which lead them to 20-year-old Duncan Reddick Bray of Chipley. Bray was arrested and transported to the

Washington County Jail on charges of burglary of an unoccupied dwelling, damaging property due to criminal mischief and petit theft.

Washington County Jail on charges of burglary of an unoccupied dwelling, damaging property due to criminal mischief and petit theft.

Washington County Jail on charges of burglary of an unoccupied dwelling, damaging property due to criminal mischief and petit theft.



Duncan Reddick Bray

Washington County Arrest Reports

The following arrests were made in Washington County between May 19 and May 24 as reported by the Washington County Jail. All subjects are considered innocent until convicted.

- Michael Douglas Collins**, 30, Vernon - Battery [WCSO]

James Alan Carnley, 53, Marianna - No motor vehicle registration, Possession of paraphernalia [WCSO]

Justin Lee Thomas, 39, Chipley - Illegal use of credit cards-two times in six months to obtain goods less than 100 [WCSO]

Kristin Leigh Kirk, 42, Westville - Possession of controlled substance without a prescription [WCSO]

Lauren Taylor Goldsboro, 33, Panama City - DUI, Possession of marijuana less than 20 grams, Possession of paraphernalia, Petit theft - second degree - first offense [WCSO]

Shermara Latrice Curry, 32, Chipley - Battery, Resisting arrest without violence [WCSO]

Thomas Russell Schmitt, 63, Chipley - Trespassing [WCSO]

Maurice Shandre Stanley, 28, Longs, SC - Grand theft-more than 750 less than 5,000, Aggravated battery cause harm or disability, Robbery with a weapon, Petit theft-second degree-first offense [WCSO]

Cassie Bernice Coatney, 32, Vernon - DWLSR -second
- subsequent offense - two counts [WCSO]

Jonathan Rex Johnson, 46, Defuniak Springs - Petit theft-first degree-more than 100 less than 750 [WCSO]

Clifton Reid Hammack, 19, Panama City - Possession of marijuana less than 20 grams, Possession of synthetic narcotic more than 10 grams of Schedule I [WCSO]

Daniel Gyon Duke, 43, Florence, AL - Out of county warrant - Jackson County - misuse of 911, Out of state fugitive warrant of extradition [WCSO]

Elian Jared Reyes, 21, Chipley - Fleeing/eluding [WCSO]

Tremin Marquis Hill, 33, Chipley - Battery - second or subsequent offense [WCSO]

Carl Adrian Hogue, 48, Chipley - DWLS - first offense [WCSO]

Richard Hamilton Rodgers, 52, Greensboro, NC - Charges not listed [WCSO]

Travis Harley Swain, 41, Hosford, FL - Possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute [WCSO]

Holmes County Arrest Reports

The following arrests were made in Holmes County between May 19 and May 24 as reported by the Holmes County Jail. All subjects are considered innocent until convicted.

- Billie Lee Applegate**, 39, Bonifay - Child abuse without great bodily harm [HCSO]

Susan Woods, 35, Perry - Disorderly conduct [HCSO]

Simeon L. Prevatt, 39, Ponce de Leon - DWLSR - habitual offender [HCSO]

Cheyenne Allison Faith Swartz, 19, Cincinnati, OH - VOP-possession of marijuana [HCSO]

Lynze Renee Bramlet, 37, Homeless - Out of county warrant, Trespassing, Petit theft - first
- degree, False ID given to LEO [HCSO]

David Phillips Rhodes, 36, Defuniak Springs - Out of county warrant [HCSO]

Colby O’neil Wilson, 36, Alford - Out of county warrant [HCSO]

Linda Ray, 37, Address not listed - Possession of methamphetamine, Tampering with evidence, Possession of marijuana less than 20 grams, Possession of paraphernalia [HCSO]

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

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000151 NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED Notice Is Hereby Given JAMES CHARLES GESSLEIN , the holder of the following Tax certificate, has filed said certificate for a Tax Deed to be issued thereon. The	Parcel number, Certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows: Certificate #: 18-00-02045 Year of Issuance: 2018	Parcel: 00000000-02-0266-0008 Assessed To: JULIANN LOCKHART, KENNETH A LOCKHART Description: SUNNY HILLS UNIT #2 LOT 8 ORB 240 P	187 BLK 0266 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 JULY 18, 2023 at 10:00 AM CT. Lora C. Bell Clerk of Court, Washington County Florida By: Kelsey Odum, Deputy Clerk May 17, 24, 31, 2023	June 7, 2023 000157 NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED Notice Is Hereby Given TOMMY JASON HOLLEY , the holder of the following Tax certificate, has filed said certificate for	a Tax Deed to be issued thereon. The Parcel number, Certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows: Certificate #: 18-00-01335	Year of Issuance: 2018 Parcel: 00000000-00-4961-0000 Assessed To: EDWARD HERMAN SMITH, GARY SMITH ESTATE Description:	8 4 15 13.5 ORB 754 P 173 S1/2 OF SW1/4 OF SE1/4, LESS HWY All of said property being located in the County of Washington, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the

LEGAL ADVERTISING

property described in such Certificate will be sold to the highest bidder **ONLINE AT WASHINGTON.REALTAXDEED.COM on JULY 25, 2023 at 10:00 AM CT.**

Lora C. Bell Clerk of Court, Washington County Florida By: Kelsey Odom, Deputy Clerk
May 24, 31, 2023
June 7, 14, 2023

000172
NOTICE OF AP-
PLICATION FOR TAX
DEED

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

Certificate #: **19-00-01884**

Year of Issuance: **2019**

Parcel: **000000000-01-0113-0003**

Assessed To:

MARGIT JIRSCHIK, REINER JIR SCHIK

Description:

SUNNY HILLS UNIT #1 LOT 3 ORB 434 P 399 BLK 0113

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 AUGUST 01, 2023 at 10:00 AM CT.**

Lora C. Bell Clerk of Court, Washington County Florida By: Kelsey Odom, Deputy Clerk
May 31, 2023
June 7, 14, 21, 2023

000174
NOTICE OF AP-
PLICATION FOR TAX
DEED

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

Certificate #: **18-00-02050**

Year of Issuance: **2018**

Parcel: **000000000-02-0269-0003**

Assessed To:

IRMA MASULLO, MARIA G BARDITCH

Description:

SUNNY HILLS UNIT #2 LOT 3 ORB 638 P 32 BLK 0269

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 AUGUST 01, 2023 at 10:00 AM CT.**

Lora C. Bell Clerk of Court, Washington County Florida By: Kelsey Odom, Deputy Clerk
May 31, 2023
June 7, 14, 21, 2023

000175
NOTICE OF AP-
PLICATION FOR TAX
DEED

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

Certificate #: **20-00-02359**

Year of Issuance: **2020**

LEGAL ADVERTISING

Parcel: **00000000-05-0304-0012**

Assessed To:

ANN MARIE FONTANA AKA ANN MARIE MARLOW, BARBARA ELLEN MARLOW, CATHERINE MARLOW, DOUGLAS JOSEPH MARLOW, PATRICIA MARLOW

Description:

SUNNY HILLS UNIT #5 LOT 12 ORB 170 P 785 BLK 0304

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 AUGUST 01, 2023 at 10:00 AM CT.**

Lora C. Bell Clerk of Court, Washington County Florida By: Kelsey Odom, Deputy Clerk
May 31, 2023
June 7, 14, 21, 2023

000178
NOTICE OF AP-
PLICATION FOR TAX
DEED

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

Certificate #: **16-00-03266**

Year of Issuance: **2016**

Parcel: **000000000-05-0307-0016**

Assessed To:

PARAMDAYE MOHAMED, SHAH MOHAMED

Description:

SUNNY HILLS UNIT #5 LOT 16 ORB 651 P 75 BLK 0307

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 AUGUST 01, 2023 at 10:00 AM CT.**

Lora C. Bell Clerk of Court, Washington County Florida By: Kelsey Odom, Deputy Clerk
May 31, 2023
June 7, 14, 21, 2023

000179
NOTICE OF AP-
PLICATION FOR TAX
DEED

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

Certificate #: **16-00-03290**

Year of Issuance: **2016**

Parcel: **000000000-05-0318-0013**

Assessed To:

ANNE SANTOS % ECUADECO

Description:

SUNNY HILLS UNIT #5 LOT 13 ORB 218 P 782 BLK 0318

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 AUGUST 01, 2023 at 10:00 AM CT.**

Lora C. Bell Clerk of Court, Washington County Florida By: Kelsey Odom, Deputy Clerk
May 31, 2023
June 7, 14, 21, 2023

LEGAL ADVERTISING

May 31, 2023
June 7, 14, 21, 2023

000182
NOTICE OF AP-
PLICATION FOR TAX
DEED

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

Certificate #: **17-00-02522**

Year of Issuance: **2017**

Parcel: **000000000-06-0397-0002**

Assessed To:

EILEEN T BRENNAN

Description:

SUNNY HILLS UNIT #6 LOT 2 ORB 243 P 1430 BLK 0397

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 AUGUST 01, 2023 at 10:00 AM CT.**

Lora C. Bell Clerk of Court, Washington County Florida By: Kelsey Odom, Deputy Clerk
May 31, 2023
June 7, 14, 21, 2023

000200
IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF THE
FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR
WASHINGTON
COUNTY, FLORIDA

Freedom Mortgage Corporation,

Plaintiff,

vs.

The Unknown Heirs or Beneficiaries of The Estate of Robert Clarence Eddins a/k/a Robert C. Eddins, Sr. a/k/a Robert Eddins, Deceased, et al.,

Defendants.

/

GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION

Case No. 22000045CAAXMX

NOTICE OF FORE-
CLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the Final Judgment and/or Order Rescheduling Foreclosure Sale, entered in Case No. 22000045CAAXMX of the Circuit Court of the FOURTEENTH Judicial Circuit, in and for Washington County, Florida, wherein Freedom Mortgage Corporation is the Plaintiff and The Unknown Heirs or Beneficiaries of The Estate of Robert Clarence Eddins a/k/a Robert C. Eddins, Sr. a/k/a Robert Eddins, Deceased; Tabatha Marie Eddins a/k/a Tabatha Eddins; ROBERT CLARENCE EDDINS A/K/A ROBERT CLARENCE EDDINS, Jr.; CYNTHIA WOOD PARK; Clerk of the Court, Washington County, Florida are the Defendants, that I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at, The Lobby of the Courthouse, 1293 Jackson Avenue, Building 100, Chipley, FL 32428, beginning on at **10:00 AM on the 14th day of June, 2023**, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

A PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN SECTION 31, TOWNSHIP 1 NORTH, RANGE 14 WEST, WASHINGTON COUNTY, FLORIDA; BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCE AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 31; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 18 MINUTES 09 SECONDS WEST, ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 31, 900.93 FEET; THENCE NORTH 01 DEGREES 05 MINUTES 14 SECONDS EAST,

508.77 FEET; THENCE NORTH 15 DEGREES 30 MINUTES 00 SECONDS WEST, 808.66 FEET, TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE SOUTH 83 DEGREES 43 MINUTES 30 SECONDS WEST, 1132.25 FEET, TO THE EASTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF A 60 FOOT ROAD; THENCE NORTH 25 DEGREES 24 MINUTES 58 SECONDS WEST, ALONG SAID EASTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE, 111.11 FEET, TO A POINT OF CURVATURE; THENCE NORTH-WESTERLY ALONG THE ARC OF A CURVE TO THE LEFT, 73.91 FEET, SAID CURVE HAVING A RADIUS 280.00 FEET, A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 15 DEGREES 07 MINUTES 27 SECONDS, AND A CHORD BEARING AND DISTANCE OF NORTH 32 DEGREES 58 MINUTES 42 SECONDS WEST, 73.70 FEET; THENCE NORTH 83 DEGREES 43 MINUTES 30 SECONDS EAST, 1174.06 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 15 DEGREES 30 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST, 173.04 FEET, TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

A PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN SECTION 31, TOWNSHIP 1 NORTH, RANGE 14 WEST, WASHINGTON COUNTY, FLORIDA, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCE AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 31, THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 18 MINUTES 09 SECONDS WEST, ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 31 FOR 900.93 FEET; THENCE DEPARTING SAID SECTION LINE, RUN NORTH 01 DEGREES 05 MINUTES 14 SECONDS EAST, 506.76 FEET; THENCE NORTH 15 DEGREES 30 MINUTES 00 SECONDS WEST, 981.69 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE SOUTH 83 DEGREES 43 MINUTES 30 SECONDS WEST FOR 1,174.06 FEET TO THE NORTHEASTERLY CURVING RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF RIVER LAKE DRIVE (60.00 FOOT WIDE RIGHT-OF-WAY); THENCE NORTHWESTERLY ON THE ARC OF A CURVE CONCAVE TO THE SOUTHWEST A DISTANCE OF 62.25 FEET; SAID CURVE HAVING A RADIUS OF 280.00 FEET AND A CHORD LENGTH OF 62.12 FEET, BEARING NORTH 46 DEGREES 54 MINUTES 35 SECONDS WEST; THENCE DEPARTING SAID NORTHEASTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE, RUN NORTH 77 DEGREES 57 MINUTES 22 SECONDS EAST, 958.61 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 72 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST, 281.08 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 15 DEGREES 30 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST, 28.31 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

TOGETHER WITH MOBILE HOME VIN NO. GAFLT54A78145 AND VIN NO. GAFLT54B78145

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

Dated this 8th day of May, 2023 .

Lora Bell
As Clerk of the Court

By: JoAnn Hayes
As Deputy Clerk

PUBLISH IN: THE WASHINGTON COUNTY NEWS

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator by mail at P. O. Box 1089, Panama City, FL 32402 or by phone at (850) 747-5338 at least seven (7) days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than seven (7) days. If you are hearing impaired, please call 711.

May 24, 31, 2023

000203

IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT FOR WASH-
INGTON COUNTY,
FLORIDA

IN RE: ESTATE OF

JANE R. SHUMAKER, f/k/a LORENA JANE SHUMAKER PROBATE DIVISION File No. 2023-CP-48 Division U Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDI-
TORS

The administration of the estate of JANE R. SHUMAKER, f/k/a LORENA JANE SHUMAKER, deceased, whose date of death was February 8, 2023, is pending in the Circuit Court for Washington County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 1293 W Jackson Ave # 100, Chipley, FL 32428 . The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

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

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

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is May 24, 2023.

Attorney for Personal Representative:

Personal Representative:

STEVEN E. QUINNELL Attorney Florida Bar Number: 586595 913 Gulf Breeze Parkway Suite 8 - Harbourtown Gulf Breeze, FL 32561 Telephone: (850) 432-4386 Fax: (877) 829-6329 E-Mail: EFILING@QLAWFLORIDA.COM

DAWN SHUMAKER SMITH 401 Bryant Rd. Pensacola, FL 32507

May 24, 31, 2023

000204
IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF THE FOUR-
TEENTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR WASH-
INGTON COUNTY,
FLORIDA

PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF

Case No.: 23-38-CP

LONNIE THOMAS CROPPER, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDI-
TORS

The administration of the Estate of Lonnie Thomas Cropper, deceased, whose date of death was January 8, 2023, Case Number 23-38-CP, is pending in the Circuit Court for Washington County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is the Washington County Clerk, 1293 W. Jackson Ave #100, Chipley, FL 32428. The names and addresses of the Petitioner and the Petitioner's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons who have claims or demands against decedent's Estate, including unmatured, contingent, or unliquidated claims and who may have been served a copy of this notice must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY

DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons who have claims or demands against the decedent's Estate, including unmatured, contingent, or unliquidated claims must file their claims with this COURT WITHIN THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIMS FILED TWO YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of the first publication of this notice is: May 24, 2023.

TIA LYNN CROPPER Petitioner/executor

3939 Gates Ave. Chipley, FL 32428

KRISTI MILLER NOVONGLOSKY Florida Bar No. 0182044

Post Office Box 1129

Chipley, Florida 32428

Telephone: (850) 638-7587

Attorney for Petitioner knovonglosky@gmail.com

May 24, 31, 2023

000205
IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF THE
14TH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT, IN AND
FOR WASHINGTON
COUNTY, FLORIDA

CIVIL DIVISION: CASE NO.: 21000060CAAX

U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff,

vs.

MATTHEW J. THORNE; FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION; MADALYN P. THORNE; UNKNOWN TENANT IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY, Defendants.

RE-NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE (Please publish in THE WASHINGTON COUNTY NEWS)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an **Order on Motion to Cancel and Reschedule Foreclosure Sale dated the 16 th day of May 2023 and entered in Case No. 21000060CAAX**, of the Circuit Court of the 14TH Judicial Circuit in and for WASHINGTON County, Florida, wherein U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION is the Plaintiff and MATTHEW J. THORNE FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION MADALYN P. THORNE UNKNOWN TENANT; and IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY are defendants.

LORA C. BELL as the Clerk of the Circuit Court shall sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the, **LOBBY OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 1293 JACKSON AVE, CHIPLEY, FL 32428, 10:00 AM central time on the 26th day of July 2023**, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

LOT 4, ADAMS AND MURPHY SUBDIVISION BEING A REPLAT OF A PART OF LOT 1, BLOCK B HAGERMAN'S ADDITION TO THE TOWN OF CHIPLEY, FLORIDA SECTION 33, TOWNSHIP 5 NORTH, RANGE 13 WEST, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 43, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, FLORIDA.

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

LEGAL ADVERTISING

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator by mail at P. O. Box 1089, Panama City, FL 32402 or by phone at (850) 747-5338 at least seven (7) days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than seven (7) days. If you are hearing impaired, please call 711 or email ADARquest@jud14.flcourts.org.

Dated this 17th day of May 2023.

LORA C. BELL Clerk Of The Circuit Court

By: Kelsey Odom Deputy Clerk

Submitted by: De Cubas & Lewis, P.A. P.O. Box 771270

Coral Springs, FL 33077

DESIGNATED PRI-
MARY E-MAIL FOR
SERVICE
PURSUANT TO
FLA. R. JUD. ADMIN
2.516

eservice@decubaslewis.com

FILE NO. 21-00586

May 24, 31, 2023

000210
Notice Under
Fictitious Name Law
Pursuant to Section
865.09, Florida
Statutes

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of Taylor & Burch Clothing located at 1165 Cottonwood Rd , in the County of Washington in the City of Cottondale, Florida 32431 intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida.

Dated at Cottondale, Florida, this 16th day of May 2023 .

Ethan Taylor

May 31, 2023

000212
IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF THE
FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR
WASHINGTON
COUNTY, FLORIDA

CIVIL ACTION

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

Case #: 21000069CAAXMX

Plaintiff,

-vs.-

Unknown Heirs, Devisees, Grantees, Assignees, 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)

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to order rescheduling foreclosure sale or Final Judgment, entered in Civil Case No. 21000069CAAXMX 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 at THE FRONT COURTHOUSE STEP OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 1293 JACKSON AVE., CHIPLEY, FLORIDA AT 11:00 A.M. CENTRAL STANDARD TIME. on June 14, 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: BEGINNING 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

Defendant(s).

Submitted By: ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF: LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP 2424 North Federal Highway, Suite 360

Boca Raton, Florida 33431 (561) 998-670

CELEBRATE COMMUNITY

Local man receives award from the Sons of the American Revolution

TOM RANKIN
Special to The News and Advertiser

Earl F. “Matt” Mathews Jr., a resident of Greenwood, was awarded the prestigious National Society Sons of the American Revolution (NSSAR) Patriot Medal at the Florida Society Sons of the American Revolution (FLSSAR) annual meeting in Kissimmee on May 20, by Patrick J. Niemann, Patriot Medal Committee Chairman.

The Patriot Medal is the highest award presented to a member by a State Society and recognizes faithful, outstanding, and distinguished service at the state and/or chapter level. The Patriot Medal is awarded only to an individual by a State Society. State societies with more than 1,000 members may present one medal for each 500 members. Matt was one of three state members to receive the medal this year.

Matt recently completed his term as the President of the FLSSAR. He is an active member of the William Dunaway Chapter (WDC) in Marianna where he previously served as President. Currently, he serves as the Chapter’s Registrar/Geneologist. He continues to support the goals of the SAR to

promote patriotism, educate youth and others about the American Revolution and our nation’s history, and historical preservation. He has participated in numerous revolutionary war memorial services in Florida and across the southeast, often participating in color guards in a period continental uniform. He works with the chapter to assist our community supporting Veterans, JROTC programs in Holmes and Washington counties, youth programs with the National Society Children of the American Revolution, flag retirement ceremonies and grave marking ceremonies to honor Patriots who fought for America’s independence.

NSSAR is the largest male lineage organization in the country. The members have ancestors who fought for our country’s independence during the American Revolution. The William Dunaway Chapter, FLSSAR of Marianna, Florida meets the second Thursday of each month, September-May, 6 PM, at Jim’s Buffet and Grill located on Lafayette Street in Marianna. For more information on how to join, email Tom Rankin, Chapter President, at tomrankin11@yahoo.com.



Matt Mathews received the prestigious National Society Sons of the American Revolution Patriot Medal recently. [CONTRIBUTED]



Dressed in color guard uniforms, William Dunaway Chapter members pictured from left Matt Mathews with Tom Rankin and Dale Macumber, commemorate the 246th anniversary of the American Revolution Battle of Thomas Creek in Jacksonville. [CONTRIBUTED]



Matt Mathews (front left) participating with other SAR members in Flag Retirement Program with VFW Post 10246. [CONTRIBUTED]



Matt Mathews presents Cadet DePalma from Holmes County High School with the SAR JROTC Outstanding Cadet Medal and Certificate. [CONTRIBUTED]



**CELEBRATE
COMMUNITY**



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

Goddin is going fishin’

DIANE M. MOORE
Dmoore@nevespublishing.com

After more than three decades, Captain Keith Goddin is retiring from the Holmes County Sheriff’s Office.

Goddin started in law enforcement in 1990 dispatching for Holmes County, in 1992 he went to work for the Bonifay Police Chief Dennis Lee. When Lee was elected sheriff in 1993, Goddin moved to the sheriff’s office with him, and he has served HCSO since.

“I never had to look over my shoulder at Keith,” Lee said. “I always knew that when I told Keith I wanted something done that it would get done. It may not have been in the way that I wanted it done, but it was done. I appreciate everything that you have done for me and for the county, you’re a good man and I love you.”

“He was the onliest one that knew everything,” Lee joked during Goddin’s retirement luncheon. “The rest of us only knew what he wanted us to.”

“We over at the State Attorney’s office appreciate everything that you’ve done for us and for what

you have been to the citizens of Holmes County,” State Attorney Ben Keown said. “Hopefully we will see you on the river catching fish since you’ll have the time for it.”

Fellow deputies remembered times working with Goddin with laughter and love.

“I remember when I was a kid and Keith was just starting,” Major Michael Raley said. “I gave him a hard time like kids do. When I came back, we were partners. He taught me a lot and kept me out of trouble when I actually listened. There were times when we were about to fight and times when we got along but all in all, I love ya.”

Goddin is looking forward to retirement after 33 years so he can spend time doing things he loves.

“I plan to do some hunting and some fishing,” Goddin said. “And of course, I’m going to tackle my honey-do list. I am going to celebrate life and enjoy all 12 of my grandchildren.”

“I appreciate every one of y’all and I’m never more than a phone call away,” said Goddin.



Former Sheriff Dennis Lee and Sheriff John Tate celebrated Captain Keith Goddin (center) at his recent retirement luncheon. [DIANE M. MOORE | THE NEWS AND ADVERTISER]



Sheriff John Tate presented Captain Keith Goddin with a handmade flag at his retirement luncheon which commemorates his time with HCSO. [DIANE M. MOORE | THE NEWS AND ADVERTISER]

The physical and mental health benefits of hobbies



SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
AND ADVERTISER

Maintaining physical and mental health often requires a multifaceted approach. Eating well, exercising, and reducing stress are part of a healthy regimen, but those are not the only components of a healthy lifestyle.

Hobbies can have a positive effect on overall health. Hobbies can seem like ways to simply pass the time or alleviate boredom. But a deeper exploration could shed light on just how healthy hobbies can be. In fact, it is essential to carve out time for hobbies because they can be so beneficial.

According to a study published in Aging Clinical and Experimental Research, participation in leisure activities positively influences self-perceived well-being and depressive symptoms. The blue zone refers to the areas of the world that have the longest-living people on the planet, which include Okinawa, Japan; Sardinia, Italy; and Ikaria, Greece, among others. Participation in ac-

tivities that bring out a creative side leads to an increased sense of well-being that is good for long-term health. They also can reduce cortisol levels. Cortisol is known as the stress hormone, and it can negatively affect energy, mood and sleep.

While most leisure activities regularly engaged in can have positive effects on health, those that focus on a combination of physical and mental stimulation are most beneficial. Women looking to change their daily routines may want to focus on these health-boosting hobbies.

Dancing: Laugh, sweat and learn some footwork in a dance class. It can make exercise fun for those who find traditional exercise does not keep their attention.

Kayaking: There’s something serene about being on the water away from the hustle of life on land. Kayaking strengthens the body, but the calm of taking in the water and scenery nourishes the mind. Experts agree that outdoor hobbies add another benefit since sunlight

helps the body release neuroreceptors that trigger more positive thoughts.

Gardening: Gardening is physical, requires planning, involves spending time outdoors, and yields tangible results through thriving plants. These are all factors that promote good health.

Fostering animals: Fostering animals offers them an opportunity to spend time in domestic settings before being adopted by permanent owners. For the foster person, having a dog involves going out on walks and play sessions in the backyard. A sense of purpose comes from helping needy animals, and this hobby also taps into physical wellness.

Volunteering: Being a presence in your community can foster social engagement and boost emotional health. It also can keep you physically active.

Various hobbies can be good for the mind and body, which makes it worth anyone’s effort to make more time for recreation and leisure.

Community-based efforts to show support for EMS workers

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
AND ADVERTISER

The often-unheralded contributions of first responders garnered considerable attention during the COVID-19 pandemic. In the early days of the pandemic, when much about COVID-19 was still a mystery, first responders put their lives on the line and worked long hours to help people in need.

EMS workers were on the front lines in the fight against COVID-19. Even though life has now returned to normal, EMS workers continue to bravely provide an invaluable public service. The contributions of EMS workers are worthy of recognition and celebration.

The National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians suggests these community-based efforts can be great ways to celebrate EMS workers who save lives and help make their towns and cities safe each and every day.

Host a blood drive. A blood shortage during the pandemic left many hospitals scrambling for potentially life-saving blood. Though the American Red Cross

indicated the blood supply had stabilized in the early months of 2023, shortages remain a possibility. Community leaders can work alongside local EMS agencies and help them to organize local blood drives to reduce vulnerability to shortages in the future. Leaders and local business leaders can work together to offer incentives to donors, such as discounted meals, items or services at popular restaurants, stores, and service providers in town.

Highlight EMS workers on community social media accounts. Many locals now get their community news and other information from social media accounts linked to township offices and departments. Leaders can use these platforms to shine a light on local EMS workers. Interview a different EMS worker each month, speaking to them about what inspired them to become a first responder and what they like about the job, but also their own interests and hobbies when they are not on duty.

Highlight life-saving efforts. Communi-

ties also can utilize social media platforms and other programs to showcase EMS workers who have gone to extraordinary lengths to help others. Share information about EMS workers who have saved a life and even promote public events when those workers are commended. Encourage people affected by EMS workers’ life-saving efforts, including the person who was saved and their family members, to share their stories and express their appreciation.

Let residents tour EMS facilities. It’s easy to take EMS workers for granted because they do not often seek attention. But that does not mean they’re not worthy. Allow locals to tour EMS facilities during certain times each month, which can help locals gain greater recognition of everything EMS workers do to keep communities safe.

EMS workers are worthy of recognition and celebration. There are many ways for community leaders and residents to express their appreciation to these invaluable workers.



The Nelons and HCHS Gospel Group ensemble

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS AND ADVERTISER

The Dove Award winning and Grammy nominated gospel music group, The Nelons, along with the Holmes County High School Gospel Group, will be at Calvary Baptist Church in Bonifay on Saturday June 10 beginning at 6:00pm.

The Nelons were inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of fame in

2016. They are regulars on the Bill Gaither Homecoming Videos and on the Gaither tours.

The ensemble is led by the legendary, multi-award winning vocalist, co-founding member Kelly Nelon Clark and her husband, singer, songwriter, musician, and producer, Jason Clark. Their daughters, Amber and Autumn, complete this supremely gifted musical troupe as they contribute their powerful vo-

cals to this traveling family band's harmonic sound.

The group is known for classic songs such as Come Morning, O For a Thousand Tongues, The Sun's Coming Up, and We Shall Wear a Robe and Crown.

The Holmes County High School Gospel Group will be singing songs from their recent Gospel Music Weekend. Songs will include The Old Gospel Ship, These Are They,

Because He Lives, Temporary Home, Love Is Like a River, and Give It Away.

The two groups will combine to sing the finale of the evening.

Everyone is invited to attend this special evening of gospel music.

There will be no charge for this event. A love offering will be taken.

Calvary Baptist is located at 595 Son In Law Road Bonifay, FL.



The Nelons [CONTRIBUTED]



Holmes County High School Gospel Group [CONTRIBUTED]

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FOOD

Staying centered around the supper table



Stephanie Hill-Frazier
Guest Columnist

"Before learning computers, children should learn to read. They should sit around the dinner table and hear what their parents have to say and think." - Dixie Carter

I don't know how many times I heard "dinner's ready, y'all" coming from the kitchen in our little house on St. Joe Beach when I was growing up. Thousands, I'm guessing, as

I had the type of mom who cooked every night of the week. It may have been chili dogs sometimes, instead of her famous fried chicken with mashed potatoes and gravy, or spaghetti with homemade meat sauce, but it was something she'd put her hands to, to make for her family. (Besides, we loved chili dogs!)

I love what Dixie Carter suggested in the above quote, that children should learn to read and converse before learning to play games and be otherwise preoccupied by a computer or whatever screen is available. Prior to computers, it was mom's and dad's responsibility to engage the child's mind when they had ques-

tions to ask or observations to share. If this is frequently handed off to screens, we are robbing our children of learning the art of conversation; not only the "how was your day, kiddo?" kinds of conversations, but also the passing on of stories about one's own childhood, or conversations about favorite ice cream flavors or the existence of God, and every wonderful thing in between.

Sitting around the dinner table together is one of the best places where all of those things can be passed along from adult to child. The funny story about the time grandmother chased a runaway chicken around the yard, trying to catch it for that night's



Gathered around the dinner table [ANNA SHVETS]

dinner, is more likely to be shared with laughter over a plate of barbecued chicken around the kitchen table than in front of the television or in the car eating fast food. Sitting at the table together centers us. It stops us for a little while each day, and gives us the opportunity to connect again in the midst of a busy day.

We have benefited so much from adults like my parents who made sure we had dinner, no matter how simple, around the table together. That was a priority a few decades ago, and it was a good thing. As we sat together around our oval-shaped maple kitchen table, we discussed everything from grades and college plans to family history and how to make the best pasta sauce. We learned table manners; how many times was I told to keep my elbows off the table as a little girl and not to talk with my mouth

full of food? I can't even count. But I remember it now, decades later.

We have also benefited from teachers like the late Mrs. Martha Sanborn, who was such a blessing to all of us students. In her home economics classes she taught us how to create those meals and how to budget for them. She taught us those things not just because eating is a vital part of human existence; it went much deeper than that. She taught us that sitting down together and talking with one another connects us to each other and helps ground us, teaching us to love where, and from whom, we came.

That, my friends, has much more value than anything I could watch on TV or see on my iPhone during a meal. I'm certain that you agree. Don't rob your children, or yourself, of those experiences.

Now, on the practical side of it, if you are concerned about the

lack of time in your schedule to cook a family dinner, please check out the following recipes, which really are quick ways to make supper in one pot. This second meal idea has a lot of things going for it; it's delicious, it's easy to make, and it can be put together in just one pot. I hope you'll give it a try soon. You can also visit my website, WhatSouthernFolksEat.com, to get more quick recipes to enjoy around your family table.

Enjoy!
Stephanie Hill-Frazier is a writer, food blogger and regional television chef, whose on-air nickname is "Mama Steph". She grew up in Gulf County, on St. Joe Beach, a place she will forever call home. She has three young adult sons who still compete for the last deviled egg at the family table. You can find more of her recipes at WhatSouthernFolksEat.com.



Creamy one-pot pasta with chicken and veggies [STEPHANIE HILL-FRAZIER]

Creamy one-pot pasta with chicken and veggies

Ingredients:

- 1 pound box of penne pasta
- 1 pint cherry or grape tomatoes, halved
- One bag of precooked chicken strips
- One 12-14 ounce bag frozen vegetables (I used a broccoli-cauliflower mixture)
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 32 ounces vegetable or chicken broth
- 1 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 4 ounces cream cheese

Method:

1. In a Dutch oven or stock pot, warm oil, then add the garlic. Cook for one minute.
2. Add broth to pan, then bring to a boil.
3. Add salt, pasta, frozen vegetables and pepper flakes to the broth, stirring frequently to prevent sticking. Cook for 10 minutes, or recommended time on pasta box.
4. Add to the pot the chicken strips, halved cherry tomatoes, and cream cheese. Stir as it simmers for several minutes until everything is heated through and cream cheese is melted.

Makes 6 generous servings.

Creamy chicken Florentine pasta by Mama Steph

Ingredients:

- 1 pound of boneless and skinless chicken tenders or thighs, cut into bite-sized pieces
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/3 cup chopped sun-dried tomatoes
- 6 ounces sliced white or Baby Bella mushrooms
- 1 tablespoon plain flour
- 2 cups chicken broth (plus more, if needed)
- 1 1/2 cups cream, whole milk, or half and half
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 8 ounces linguine pasta, broken in half
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan
- 2 cups baby spinach leaves

Method:

1. Set a large skillet or a Dutch oven over medium heat. Add the olive oil, and when it's quite warm, add the chicken pieces. Sprinkle them with salt.
2. Brown the chicken on both sides.
3. Add the garlic, mushrooms and tomatoes. Stir into the chicken.
4. Sprinkle the flour over the mixture, and stir in.
5. Next, add the broth and cream, stirring in well.
6. Add the pasta, and bring mixture to a simmer. Cover and cook for about 10 minutes. (If pasta begins to look dry toward the end of the 10 minutes, add another 1/2 to one cup of broth, or even water.
7. After the 10 minutes, add the Parmesan and spinach leaves, and stir in.
8. Allow to cook just for a few more minutes so the spinach wilts into the mixture.
9. Serve sprinkled with more Parmesan.

BUSINESS

5 reasons to shop small versus big box businesses

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS & ADVERTISER

The importance of small businesses to the economy cannot be overstated. Though national chains often garner publicity, local businesses are equally, if not exceedingly, worthy of attention.

What defines a small business as “small” varies significantly, but these businesses are generally privately owned and generate far less revenue than big corporations. General consensus also defines small businesses as companies with fewer than 500 paid employees, according to the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Here’s a deep look at why small businesses are so vital, and why consumers should direct more of their purchasing power to smaller companies rather than the big box retailers and other national chains.

1. Autonomy and diversity

The layout and offerings at national chains will be identical whether you live in the mountains or at the beach. Big box stores follow a consistent marketing strategy and look the same regardless of where they are located. That familiarity can come at the cost of variety. On the other hand, an independent business offers the products and services that are reflective of the customers and the community they serve.

2. Local hiring strategy

Certain big box retailers will hire local residents, but hiring policies may push for promoting from within the organization. This could mean relocating an employee rather than bringing in someone from the community who may be more in tune with local sensibilities. Small businesses may be more inclined to hire residents they know and keep hiring centralized to the local area - something that keeps more resources and money in the community.

3. Adaptability and change

Local businesses can move more quickly to respond to economic factors that require change. Since they are focused more on the needs of their customers rather than stockholders, changes can be implemented



rapidly without having to go through red tape, meetings and updates to corporate policies. Changes also can be customized to the local community at large.

4. Investing in the town

According to the financial resource Financial Slot, shopping at locally owned businesses rather than big box retailers keeps more money in the community. Local property taxes and other taxes paid by the businesses go right back into the community. This helps raise overall value for homeowners and can even reduce their taxes. The funding helps keep police, fire and school departments functioning properly.

5. Turnover is greater

While no one wants to see a small business fail, that fate is sometimes unavoidable. However, that turnover helps teach communities what was done poorly and helps others learn from those mistakes. It also means fresh businesses will come in and replace the old, driving new growth, opportunity and competition that keeps prices competitive.

The benefits of a thriving small business sector are numerous. Consumers can do their part by patronizing these firms more frequently.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, FLORIDA INVITATION TO BID (ITB) FOR EOC Food and Catering Services During Emergencies ITB No. 2023-09

Washington County plans for and responds to natural disasters and other emergency related crises. The County is accepting bids from qualified vendors for meal (catering) services in support of an activation at the County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC). **REQUEST Deadline:** Sealed bids to provide EOC Food and Catering Services will be received until 3:00 PM CST, June 15, 2023, at 1331 South Blvd, Chipley, FL 32428

The complete Invitation to Bid information package can be obtained from Kimberly Birge by email at kbirge@washingtonfl.com. Washington County Board of County Commissioners accepts no responsibility for any expenses incurred by bidders in the preparation of a response to this bid.

LATE SUBMITTALS RECEIVED AFTER THE FOREMENTIONED DEADLINE DATE, EITHER BY MAIL, OR OTHERWISE, WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED AND RETURNED UNOPENED. THE TIME OF RECEIPT WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE TIME RECEIVED IN THE PURCHASING AGENT'S OFFICE. IT IS THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE FIRM FOR ASSURING THAT THE SUBMITTAL IF RECEIVED IN THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE BY THE DESIGNATED DATE AND TIME. NO FAXED, ELECTRONIC OR ORAL SUBMITTAL WILL BE ACCEPTED. FIRM/INDIVIDUALS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DELIVERY OF ITS' SUBMITTAL. SUBMITTALS RECEIVED AFTER THE SPECIFIED DAY AND TIME WILL NOT BE OPENED.

To be considered, the respondent must submit one (1) manually signed original, three (3) hard copies and one (1) digital copy on CD/USB Flash Drive (in pdf) of the SUBMITTAL in a sealed envelope or package, clearly marked with the respondent's name and address, and the words "ITB 2023-09 Food & Catering Services During Emergencies" addressed to:

Washington County Board of County Commissioners
c/o Kimberly Birge
1331 South Boulevard
Chipley, Florida 32428

ADA – Special Accommodations: Any person requiring accommodations by the Authority due to a disability should call Wendy White, Washington County Human Resources Coordinator at (850) 415-5151 at least five (5) days prior to any pre-response conference, response opening, or meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact Wendy White via the Florida Relay Service, which can be reached at 1-800-955-8771 (TDD).

CITY OF CHIPLEY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Chipley City Council will conduct a PUBLIC HEARING regarding adoption of the following ordinance on Tuesday, June 13, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., at the City Hall Council Chambers, 1442 Jackson Ave., Chipley, Florida and via Zoom Webinar.

**ORDINANCE NO. 976
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF THE CITY OF CHIPLEY; PROVIDING FOR REVISIONS TO SECTION 2.8 - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, TABLE 2.8.2 - FIVE-YEAR SCHEDULE OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS; PROVIDING FOR A TITLE; PROVIDING FOR A COPY ON FILE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This Ordinance, if approved, will amend the Comprehensive Plan revising Section 2.8 – Capital Improvements, Table 2.8.2 – Five-Year Schedule of Capital Improvements.

All citizens and interested parties are encouraged to attend the public hearing and to provide written and/or verbal comments on the matter under consideration. Any person requiring a special accommodation at this hearing because of disability or physical impairments should contact the City at (850) 638-6350, 48 hours prior to the hearing.

Zoom webinar information:

When: **June 13, 2023 6:00 PM** Central Time (US and Canada)

Topic: **City Council Regular Meeting**

Please click the link below to join the webinar:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84468100965>

Or One tap mobile :

+13126266799,84468100965# US (Chicago),
+16465588656,84468100965# US (New York)

Or Telephone: Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago), +1 646 558 8656 US (New York), +1 646 931 3860 US

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC), +1 305 224 1968 US, +1 309 205 3325 US, +1 507 473 4847 US, +1 564 217 2000 US, +1 669 444 9171 US, +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose), +1 689 278 1000 US, +1 719 359 4580 US, +1 253 205 0468 US, +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma), +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston), +1 360 209 5623 US, +1 386 347 5053 US

Webinar ID: 844 6810 0965

For further information pertaining to the proposed ordinance, contact Dan Miner, City Administrator.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS ON PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

The Holmes County Board of County Commissioners shall hold two advertised public hearings on a proposed ordinance amendment concerning the building code and zoning. Both hearings shall be held after 5 PM on a weekday, and the first shall be held approximately seven (7) days after the day that the first advertisement is published. The second hearing shall be held approximately two (2) weeks after the first hearing and shall be advertised approximately five (5) days prior to the public hearing. The date, time and place at which the second public hearing will be held shall be announced at the first public hearing.

NOTICE is hereby given that, pursuant to the provisions of Florida law and a resolution of the Holmes County Board of County Commissioners, a public hearing will be held on June 6, 2023, at 6:00 P.M. in the County Commissioner Chambers to consider the advisability of:

Amending Provisions of the Accessory Structure & Lot Split portions of the Land Development Regulation (LDR) for Holmes County

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

On Tuesday, August 1, 2023, a General Election will be held for the City of Chipley at Chipley City Hall, 1442 Jackson Avenue. Term of office expires on September 30, 2023 for the following positions: Council Member Ward 2 and Council Member Ward 3. These offices will be opened to qualified candidates. Qualifying for these offices will begin at 8:00 a.m., Monday, June 5, 2023, and end at 4:00 p.m., Friday, June 9, 2023. The qualifying fee for each office is \$252.00. Those wishing to qualify may do so with the City Clerk at Chipley City Hall during the above stated time period.

The Voter Registration books will close on July 3, 2023. All city residents within the city limits of Chipley, who are registered to vote by July 3, 2023, are eligible to vote in this election regardless of where you live in the city.

City elections are non-partisan and political party affiliation does not apply.

Please contact Patrice A. Tanner, Asst. City Administrator/City Clerk at (850) 638-6350 should you have any questions or need other information regarding the upcoming city election.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of County Commissioners in and for Washington County, Florida, will hold a public hearing to consider a proposed Ordinance to be titled as follows: **AN ORDINANCE BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE WASHINGTON COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES BY AMENDING CHAPTER 50, SECTION 50-171-PUBLIC NUISANCE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR REPEALER; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.** The passage of the proposed Ordinance will be considered by the Board of County Commissioners, at their regular meeting at **9:00 A.M., C.S.T., on Thursday, the 15th day of June 2023**, at the County Commission Boardroom, Courthouse Annex, 1331 South Boulevard, Chipley, Florida. The Board of County Commissioners will hold a regular meeting immediately following this public hearing for adoption of the Ordinance and such other business as may be necessary.

A copy of the proposed Ordinance can be inspected by the public at the County Commissioners' Office, 1331 South Boulevard, Suite 400, Chipley, Florida. All interested parties may appear at the meeting and be heard with respect to the proposed Ordinance. If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in the meeting, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the Administrative Office by calling 850-638-6200 at least three (3) days prior to the meeting.

HIGHWAY 79 CORRIDOR AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Highway 79 Corridor Authority Board of Directors (the "Authority") announces a regular public meeting to which all interested persons are invited. The Authority is a legal entity and public body created pursuant to the provisions of Section 163.01, Florida Statutes, and an Interlocal Agreement among the City of Bonifay, Florida; Holmes County, Florida; and Washington County, Florida. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 14, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. CST at the following location:

Highway 79 Corridor Authority Board Meeting
June 14, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. CST
Washington County Annex
1331 South Boulevard, Chipley, Florida

Interested persons having questions or requiring assistance with participating in the meeting should contact Tammy Peters (850) 681-3717 or tpeters@govserv.com.

If a person decides to appeal any decision made with respect to any matter considered at the meeting, such person will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be made. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing special accommodations or an interpreter to participate in these meetings should contact the Washington County BoCC Administrative Office at (850) 638-6200 at least three (3) business days prior to the date of the meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Massey, the Washington County Administrator at (850) 638-6200.

FAITH

Try a little encouraging kindness



MICHAEL J. BROOKS
Guest Columnist

I met them at the baseball field in Vestavia, Alabama, where their son is our grandson’s teammate. Something was said about her difficulty learning English, so I asked where she was

from. “Moldova,” she said. “I’m Russian.” I told them I’d had a student at Judson College from Moldova named Anna, and then I struggled to pronounce her Russian surname. “Oh,” Anastasia said, “Anna is my sister.” What a coincidence. The only two Russians I know are sisters, one in Alabama and one in Louisiana, and 10 years after leaving the college! I remembered a job interview I had years ago in Birmingham when I was surprised

that the director of human resources was a former junior high classmate (in ancient times we had junior high before middle school was invented). There’s an adage about being nice to others on the way up because you’ll meet the same people on the way down. It’s amazing how often old acquaintances can come back into our lives. It’s good to be nice to people who may offer us a job one day, but there are other reasons to be nice to people. One reason is that we might not know the

struggles they’re going through. I thought about this a few weeks ago when coming home from the hospital. I spent one night after surgery and was discharged with equipment attached for a few days. I asked my wife to drive slowly since I was in pain. The drive home was only four miles, but a driver in a giant truck let us know twice with long horn blasts how distraught he was that we crept along. Perhaps he thought we were geezers making our weekly Saturday outing to pick up supplies!

The word for “encourager” in the New Testament is the same word Jesus used to describe the Holy Spirit — “the one called to your side.” This means that encouragement can be among the most godly things we do since those we meet may be experiencing pain or loss. Another reason we should be kind to others is because of a surprising exhortation in the book of Hebrews: “Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares” (Heb. 13:2). I sometimes chide myself with this verse when I get frustrated

by panhandlers on the street asking for money. The better side of my nature reminds me this may be a divine appointment to minister to an angel and thus demonstrate my love for God. A third reason to be kind is that we live in debt. The Apostle Paul reminded us to be charitable toward others since this is exactly what God did for us (Ephesians 4:32). “Reflections” is a weekly faith column written by Michael J. Brooks, pastor of the Siluria Baptist Church, Alabaster, Alabama. The church’s website is siluriabaptist.com.

Do you want a marriage that inspires others?



SHERYL BOLDT
Guest Columnist

In a recent column, I shared Bert’s and my goal to pray together every day. Some of you may be thinking, “It must be nice to have a marriage like that!”

Truth is, you probably do. Bert and I struggle with many of the same issues most couples wrestle with, including our spiritual journey. It took many years before we finally made praying together a priority. Even now, we still miss some days, but we’re much more consistent than before. Yet, I can’t ignore those of you who hate this week’s column (and similar messages) because of the long, painful disappointment you’ve experi-

enced while waiting for God to give you “a marriage like that.” If reading this makes you chafe with frustration because it doesn’t seem likely it’ll happen for you, I understand. I’ve been there. Actually, I’m “there” in several areas of my marriage as I continue to wait on God. I wish I could redo the earlier years of our marriage. I wonder if Bert and I would’ve prayed together sooner if I’d handled myself better. Not to mention the strife we could have

avoided. Worst of all, I’m ashamed of how poorly I represented God while berating Bert for not wanting to spend time with Him — in the way I thought he should. It’s easy to resort to nagging or browbeating when our spouses resist our good intentions. But how often does this really work? Satan would love to take something that’s meant to bring us closer to each other (and to God) and use it instead as a tool to harass and divide us.

What would happen if we practiced Ephesians 4:1-2 instead? “Walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love” (ESV). I want to practice every line of this verse in my marriage. Don’t you? Think what it would mean to our spouses if we loved them in this way. Let’s see how different our marriages would be if we bore

with each other humbly and gently in the areas in which we each fall short – and allowed the Holy Spirit (rather than ourselves) to change our spouses. Perhaps the changes in our marriages will inspire others to work toward a marriage like ours! Sheryl H. Boldt, a Franklin County resident, is the author of the blog, www.Today-CanBeDifferent.net. Connect with her at SherylHBoldt@gmail.com.

A bug in my Bible



CALEB DUNCAN
Guest Columnist

While we were in Liberia, I was preaching one night in a church building with a generator that powered two light bulbs. Windows open, humid heat and a crowded room. Africans in Liberia have authentic worship. They didn’t care about com-

modities, comfort or appeal. Their worship was a set of bent and broken drums, their clapping hands and their bold, strong voices. They had a hunger and craving for God’s word that was personally convicting. The Holy Spirit led me to share about the realities of suffering in this world. These Africans were well acquainted with hardships that most Americans are unfamiliar with. This includes extreme poverty, government corruption, theft, hunger and a very high mortality rate due to malaria and other diseases. While we were there, we witnessed suffering in an eye-opening way. So what

could I share with them that would teach them what the Bible says about suffering? My main text was 1 Peter 4:19, “Therefore let those who suffer according to God’s will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.” While preaching, I was fighting bugs the entire time. Of course, one of the lightbulbs was directly above the pulpit. Every variety of swarming insect was on my ears, neck and face while I was trying to stay concentrated on God’s word. As I was ending, I came to Revelation where I encouraged them that even though we suffer in this life, we will one day be in the presence of God where we will never suffer again. As I began to pray, I placed my hand on the Bible and

began to close it not knowing I squished a bug in the process. Later that night, I opened that same scripture before bed and began to laugh as I saw the bug in my Bible. I was overcome with emotion as I recognized how grateful I was to be there and how humbled to spend just a little bit of time with them. But God was not finished teaching me a lesson. The following day, I saw some members of our team joking with the kids. They were cooking something over the fire in a pot that happened to be some of the kid’s favorite snacks: salted termites. You read that right. Salted termites. I tried the salted termites. They tasted like a sunflower seed with a small squirt of something. This was the same type

bug I had squished in my Bible the previous night. And that’s when God taught me a precious, humbling lesson: what I saw as an annoyance was someone else’s snack. Suffering is temporary, so be grateful for what you have. This life is short, and as Christians, we have something incredible to look forward to. And the next time you get aggravated by the small things, remember how much we have to be grateful for. I’ll never remove the bug in my Bible. Caleb Duncan is the director for the West Florida Baptist Association in Chipley, and holds an M.A. in ethics, theology and culture from Southeastern Seminary. Email him at WfbaDom@outlook.com or follow his twitter @calebtduncan.

FAITH BRIEF

Please join us for our 1 day VBS preview sponsored by Shiloh Baptist Church.
“Stellar - Shine Jesus Light”
Date & Time:
Saturday, June 3
9am-11am
Locations:
Chipley - Shivers Park
Vernon - Community Center,
Yellow Jacket Drive
Wausau - Possum Palace

Romans 5:10

For if, while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

OUTDOORS

How to make summer travel more affordable

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS & ADVERTISER

Summer is peak travel season. Whether vacationers plan to travel internationally or domestically, they can expect to pay top dollar as they head off for parts unknown.

Much has been made of inflation over the last year-plus, as the cost of seemingly everything has risen considerably since early 2022. And the cost of travel has seemingly increased by an even greater percentage than the cost of groceries. Data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index indicates the cost of airfare increased by more than 25 percent between January 2022 to January 2023.

Though travel has never been inexpensive, the rising costs noted in the Consumer Price Index have scared many consumers into staying home. However, consumers who want to travel but don't want to break the bank can try various strategies as they seek to get out of the house this summer.

- **Travel domestically.** With airfare costs skyrocketing, now might not be the most budget-friendly time to travel overseas. Thankfully, would-be vacationers can still get away. Average gas prices in early spring 2023 hovered around \$3.43 per gallon, which is nearly \$1 less per gallon than the year prior. By driving to their destina-

tions, vacationers can save substantial sums of money and also maintain greater control of their trips, something that isn't always so easy in an era marked by routine flight delays and cancellations.



- **Change your timeline.** If a faraway dream destination beckons, travelers might still be able to make it work if they have the flexibility to alter their timelines. Rather than taking a Monday through Friday off from work, consider starting and ending a vacation in mid-week. It's generally less expensive, and sometimes significantly so, to fly mid-week compared to flying Friday-Monday.
 - **Cash in your credit card points.** Another way to ensure summer travel doesn't put a big dent in your savings is to utilize cash back rewards or airline miles linked to your credit card account. If you have a lot of cash and/or miles saved up, the coming summer of expensive travel could be the ideal time to use them.
 - **Consider a homestay over a hotel.** Homestays, which includes bookings through sites such as Airbnb and VRBO, are typically much less expensive to book than hotel rooms. But homestays also save travelers money on food, as many listings feature fully operational kitchens that can help travelers avoid dining out three times per day over the duration of their trips.
- Travel is a significant expense as consumers continue to confront sharp increases in prices on various goods and services. However, it's still possible to vacation without breaking the bank.

DOH-Holmes and Washington promotes water safety month

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS & ADVERTISER

Holmes and Washington County, Fla. – The Florida Department of Health in Holmes and Washington Counties (DOH Holmes and Washington) encourages communities to participate in National Water Safety Month in May. Take precautions to prevent drownings.

With pools, lakes, and other surrounding bodies of water in Florida, water safety is critical to prevent drownings. Children ages 1-4 years are more likely to drown in a home swimming pool than children ages 5-19 years, who are more likely to drown in natural bodies of water. Whether you are a parent or a community group member, everyone plays a role in drowning prevention. The goal is to keep water activities fun and safe for all as we move into the summer months.

Tips on Water Safety:

- Always keep your eyes on children in and around water, including pools and open bodies of water. Actively supervising and giving children your undivided attention

when they are in or around water can help prevent drownings.

- Never leave a child alone around water.
- If your child is missing, check

young children from wandering into bodies of water, including lakes, pools, ponds, and more. Have a phone nearby in case you need to call 911 in an emergency.



- at the beach or lake:
- **Swim It:** Always swim with a buddy, and when safety flags and signs give it the all-clear to do so.
 - **Shore It:** If you have a weakened immune system, a cut on your skin, or don't have a buddy to swim with, stay on dry land.
- 5.26.2023 Water Safety Month 2
- **Dodge it:** If you encounter animals that live near or in the water, stay away. Also, algal blooms like red tide and blue-green algae, which cause skin irritation, burning eyes and throat, and breathing irritations.

For current information on red tide or blue-green algae, please visit <https://protectingfloridatogether.gov/>.

For more information on water safety, visit <https://www.florida-health.gov/programs-and-services/prevention/drowning-prevention/index.html>.

For more information or questions, please contact DOH-Holmes County at 850-547-8500 or DOH-Washington at 850-638-6240.

Holmes County

Classifieds

Place your classifieds by calling 850.638.0212

<p>LEGAL ADVERTISING</p> <p>000046 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT, IN AND FOR HOLMES COUNTY, FLORIDA</p> <p>PROBATE DIVISION CASE NO.: 22 PR 39</p> <p>IN RE: ESTATE OF JOHN GARLAND ROBERTS,</p> <p>Deceased. /</p> <p>NOTICE TO CREDITORS</p> <p>The administration of the estate of John Garland Roberts, deceased, File No. 22 CP 39, is pending in the Circuit Court for Holmes County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 201 N. Oklahoma Street, Bonifay, Florida 32425. The name and address of the Personal Representative and the Personal Representative's attorney are set forth below.</p>	<p>LEGAL ADVERTISING</p> <p>All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is served within three (3) months after the date of the first publication of this notice must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.</p> <p>All other creditors of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against the decedent's estate must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.</p> <p>ALL CLAIMS DEMANDS AND OBJECTIONS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.</p> <p>The date of the first Publication</p>	<p>LEGAL ADVERTISING</p> <p>of this notice is : Virginia Marie Holbrook Personal Representative 37520 Harper Avenue Clinton Township, Michigan 48036</p> <p>Dennis L. Pratt Florida Bar No. 814954 770 Baldwin Avenue DeFuniak Springs, Florida 32435 (850) 951-2244 May 24, 31, 2023</p> <p>000048 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR HOLMES COUNTY, FLORIDA</p> <p>IN RE: ESTATE OF JEFFERSON WELSCH SWINDLE, Deceased.</p> <p>File No. 23-60 PR Division PROBATE</p> <p>NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS</p> <p>The Administration of the estate of JEFFERSON WELSCH SWINDLE, deceased, whose date of death was Decem-</p>	<p>LEGAL ADVERTISING</p> <p>ber 14, 2022, and whose social security number is XXX-XX-0397, is pending in the Circuit Court for Holmes County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 201 N. Oklahoma Street, Bonifay, FL 32425. The estate is testate and the date of the decedent's Will is October 10, 2022. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.</p> <p>Any interested person on whom a copy of the notice of administration is served must object to the validity of the will (or any codicil), qualifications of the personal representative, venue, or jurisdiction of the court, by filing a petition or other pleading requesting relief in accordance with the Florida Probate Rules, WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THE NOTICE ON THE OBJECTING PERSON,</p>	<p>LEGAL ADVERTISING</p> <p>OR THOSE OBJECTIONS ARE FOREVER BARRED.</p> <p>Any person entitled to exempt property is required to file a petition for determination of exempt property WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW OR THE RIGHT TO EXEMPT PROPERTY IS DEEMED WAIVED. Any person entitled to elective share is required to file an election to take elective share WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW.</p> <p>All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.</p> <p>All other credi-</p>	<p>LEGAL ADVERTISING</p> <p>tors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.</p> <p>ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.</p> <p>NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.</p> <p>The date of first publication of this notice is May 24, 2023.</p> <p>JOSHUA G. WHITE Attorney for Personal Representative Florida Bar Number: 655791</p>	<p>LEGAL ADVERTISING</p> <p>P.O. Box 760 Bonifay, FL 32425 Telephone: (850) 270-1918 E-Mail: joshua.white@jgwhitelaw.com</p> <p>Personal Representative: Virginia Eileen Werkheiser Swindle 1910 N Highway 79 Bonifay, FL 32425 May 24, 31, 2023</p> <p>000049 Pursuant to FL ST. 713.78, Eastern Diesel & Auto Wrecker Service, Inc. will sell at public sale</p>	<p>LEGAL ADVERTISING</p> <p>at the following: 2005 S. WAUKESHA BONIFAY FL 32425 Time 8:00 A.M. Sale 06/07/2023 2019 great dane trailer 1GRAP0621KT139652 Toyota 2004 toyota tundra 5TB8T44164S442893 2004 chevrolet malibu 1G1ZT52814F138494 2007 hyundai accent KMHCM36CX7U038578 1996 toyota camry JT2BG12K0T0400839 2017 ford fusion 3FA6P0HD5HR262000 2001 ford f-150 1FTRW07L1KC16259 May 31, 2023</p> <p>000050</p>	<p>LEGAL ADVERTISING</p> <p>Pursuant to FL ST. 713.78, MOONLIGHT AUTO AND DIESEL REPAIR INC, WILL SELL AT A PUBLIC SALE AT THE FOLLOWING 606 W HWY 90 BONIFAY FL 32425 TIME: 9:00AM DATE 06/30/2023 2001 dodge ram 1500 3B7HC13Z71G182464 1996 INTERNATIONAL 9000SERIES 2HSFMATR4TC047681 2018 KENWORTH TB80 1XKYD49X7JJ131568 1996 PETERBILT 379 CATERPILLAR 1XP5DB9X0T0386744 May 31, June 7, 2023</p>
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SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

Sun damage from ultraviolet radiation can occur in the eyes. Various eye disease and conditions are linked to UV exposure from being outdoors in the sun or even the use of indoor tanning beds. A condition called “surfer’s eye” can occur from UV exposure. According to the National Eye Institute,

pterygium (“surfer’s eye”) is a growth of fleshy tissue that extends from the sclera (white of the eye) to the clear tissue called the cornea, which covers the iris and pupil. It may feel irritating and, if it grows large enough, can cover part of the cornea and affect vision. Pterygium sometimes start as a pinguecula. This is a yellowish,

raised growth on the conjunctiva. It usually occurs on the side of the eye nearest the nose. A pinguecula may contain deposits of protein, fat or calcium, says the American Optometric Association. Both pterygium and pinguecula are believed to be caused by a combination of exposure to UV light, wind and dust.





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