

Washington County NEWS



Holmes County ADVERTISER

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WASHINGTONCOUNTY.NEWS AND HOLMESCOUNTY.NEWS | Volume 001 - No. 29



ABOVE: Members of the Ponce de Leon Fire Department are pictured after a training exercise. The department is in the early stages of building a new fire station, thanks to \$2 million in state funding. INSET (from left): Vance Coley of Melvin Engineering, Holmes County Commissioner Jeff Good, Ponce de Leon Fire Chief Doug Rimmel, and Senator Jay Trumbull discuss funding for the fire station. [CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS]

Ponce de Leon Fire Dept. to build new station with \$2M in state appropriations

CAROL KENT
Ckent@kentsmith.biz

PONCE DE LEON – Ponce de Leon is in the early stages of planning construction for a new fire station with the help of \$2 million in funding from the state.

Ponce de Leon Fire Chief Doug Rimmel says a new station was among his goals when he first took over as chief five years ago.

“This building was built in the late 70s or early 80s, and we just really needed something newer, more up to date,” said Rimmel. “We started working, getting into the process of it, trying to find grants. We were encouraged when we saw that Bonifay Fire Rescue was able to receive some state funding for their updates, so we started look-

ing at that avenue and had meetings with Rep. Brad Drake and Sen. George Gainer when they were in office.”

Chief Rimmel says the much-needed update will not only include a full kitchen and sleeping quarters; it will also make the station a safer homebase for firefighters during emergencies.

“When we rode out Hurricane Michael here, this old building really wasn’t safe,” said Chief Rimmel. “In addition to offering a safer, more sound structure, we will also have a generator that will have the ability to power the station for at least one to two weeks and allow us to better do our jobs, man the station, and serve the community.”

Chief Rimmel’s goals for

the station is in line with a vision for growth in Ponce de Leon, a vision he says is shared by both town and county officials.

“The Town of Ponce de Leon, the Holmes County Commissioners – especially Commissioner Jeff Good – all worked together with state officials and groups like Liberty Partners and Vance Coley, who served as a lobbyist for us,” he said. “With everybody pitching in and going to Tallahassee a few times, it all sort of worked out. We can’t thank Gov. DeSantis enough for ensuring this happened.”

Rep. Shane Abbott and Sen. Jay Trumbull, both elected while efforts to secure the appropriations were already underway, picked up the mission to see the project funded.

“I am very pleased that with the help of Senator Jay Trumbull, we were able to secure \$2 million dollars for the Ponce de Leon Fire Department,” said Rep. Abbott. “This project is important for the community of Ponce de Leon and will provide a much-needed safe facility for the hardworking first responders.”

Chief Rimmel adds that he hopes the new station will also be a step toward establishing a paid department.

“Looking at the growth of this side of the county, I feel we need to ultimately be prepared for a paid station one day,” he said. “I’d like to see a fulltime staff. Volunteers are wonderful; in fact, more than 70 per-

See PDL , Page 3A

Ebro Fire Chief charged with felony battery

DIANE M. MOORE
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An incident at Circle H gas station in Vernon led to the July 21 arrest of Ebro Fire Chief Jackie Wade Moon on felony battery charges.

According to court records, the arrest stems from an EMS trauma call that came into the Washington County Communications Center around 6:20 a.m. on July 20.

The report states a deputy arrived on scene and discovered a male in his early twenties with a towel on his head.

The apparent victim told the deputy Moon had “slammed him on his head at the gas pumps.”

The deputy observed a cut on the top left portion of the victim’s face and asked to view surveillance footage of the incident after photographing the victim’s injuries and having him transported to a local hospital.

According to the report, the victim stated he rode to the gas station with two co-workers. One of those co-workers told law enforcement Moon had been arguing in a work group text that included the victim and that when they arrived at the gas station, Moon began to shout at the victim, “If you have a problem, we can settle it right now.”

The witness went on to say the two men went “chest to chest,” leading to and Moon putting his arm around the victim’s neck and slamming him to the ground.

The arrest affidavit states Marsh’s boss arrived at the gas station and spoke with



Jackie Wade Moon

See MOON, Page A2

Holmes County mourns the loss of former Sheriff John Braxton

DIANE M. MOORE
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Long time law enforcement officer and former Holmes County Sheriff John H. Braxton passed away Friday, July 21, at the age of 86.

Braxton served two terms as Holmes County sheriff - from 1988 to 1997 - after serving as

chief deputy for four years. Braxton also served 21 years for the Florida Highway Patrol.

The Florida Sheriff’s Association honored Braxton with the Distinguished Service award for his contributions to professional law enforcement.

Holmes County Sheriff John Tate called

Braxton was a “people’s sheriff.”

“He was a very hands-on sheriff,” said Tate. “He was much loved by the citizens for his fairness and respect for the law. He had the respect of the men that served with him as well. He was a cop’s cop.”

Tate attributes his upbringing in law enforcement to Braxton,

crediting him as his mentor.

“We are forever grateful for Sheriff Braxton’s lifelong dedication to his community, as well as his guidance and friendship through the years,” said Tate.

Braxton not only leaves a legacy of being the consummate lawman; he also leaves a legacy through his son,

Holmes County Sheriff’s Office Investigator John “Sodie” Braxton Jr. who has been in law enforcement for more than two decades.

Braxton was a lifelong resident of Westville and is survived by his son John H. “Sodie” Braxton Jr.; daughter, Rebecca Dowling; seven grandchildren and many extended family.



Sheriff John Braxton

E.W. Carswell Reference and Research
Library opens to public
Page 2A

Vernon Middle School Beta
shines at National Convention
Page 1B

Holmes County Historical Society
seeks public’s help
Page 3B

HOLMES COUNTY



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WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, 2023



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Washington County Historical Society opens the Judge EW Carswell Reference and Research Library

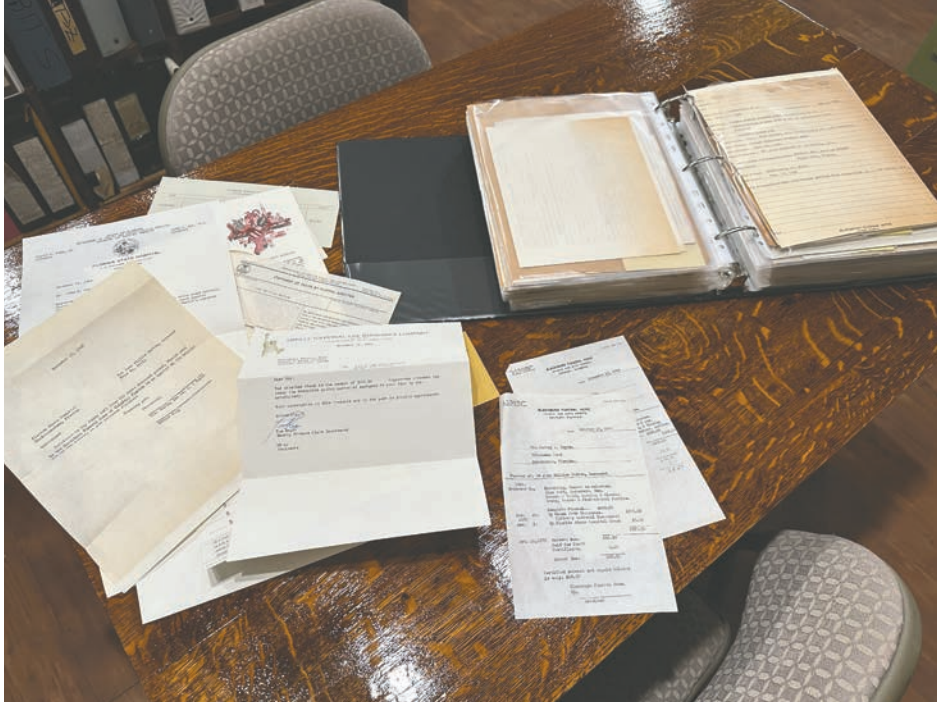
SPECIAL TO THE NEWS AND ADVERTISER

The Washington County Historical Society has recently completed the Judge EW Carswell Reference and Research Library. The organization recently showcased the addition during a Thursday evening “Sip ‘n Shop” event. The reference area contains the Blackburn Funeral Home, Wachob Funeral Home, and some of Brown Funeral Home records from the 1940s to 1995. The records contain insurance policies, death certificates, and some other personal in-

formation on many of the records. Historical society members state the collection is “a genealogist’s dream.” The Museum also has bound newspapers from the Chipley Banner, Washington County News and Street Talk as well. They have yearbooks from many of the schools in Washington County and FSU. The museum also has books by local authors on the history of this area. The museum invites the public to view the records and research area. The museum is currently open from 9 a.m. to 1p.m. on Fridays.



Visitors to the Washington County Historical Society Museum can find a variety of historic documents ranging from newspaper archives to death certificates in the new research area. [CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS]



The Washington County Historical Society Museum offered a glimpse at its new research area, as well as some of the artifacts in its various collections during the Downtown Sip ‘n Shop event held in Chipley last Thursday. [CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS]



ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS WASHINGTON COUNTY

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

- ITB 2023-13: Project 170723 Hurricane Sally Road Zone 3.3 – Reconstruction of 10 roads to pre-disaster condition. Contract Time of 180 days

Sealed Bids for the construction of the Project(s) will be received by the Washington County Board of County Commissioners at 1331 South Blvd, Chipley, Florida 32428 until 3:00 PM local time on Tuesday, August 22, 2023, at which time the Bids received will be “publicly” opened and read. The sealed bid submittal shall include 1 original, 2 copies, and one electronic copy on a USB flash drive. You may obtain electronic Bidding Documents by emailing Kimberly Birge-Gorman at kbirge@washingtonfl.com. Questions shall be emailed to Kimberly Birge-Gorman at the email address above. The deadline for questions is Friday, August 11, 2023, by 3:00 pm local time . The Prime contractor at a minimum shall be FDOT qualified in Flexible Paving. Additionally, the Prime Contractor or Subcontractor shall be qualified in Grading; Grassing, Seeding and Sodding. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from other sources.

This Advertisement is issued by :
Owner: Washington County Board of County Commissioners
Dates: July 19, 26, 2023

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS WASHINGTON COUNTY

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

- ITB 2023-10 Rebid: Jewel Road, Kent Mill Pond Road and Porter Road. Contract Time of 210 days

Sealed Bids for the construction of the Project(s) will be received by the Washington County Board of County Commissioners at 1331 South Blvd, Chipley, Florida 32428 until 3:00 PM local time on Tuesday, August 22, 2023, at which time the Bids received will be “publicly” opened and read. The sealed bid submittal shall include 1 original, 2 copies, and one electronic copy on a USB flash drive. You may obtain electronic Bidding Documents by emailing Kimberly Birge-Gorman at kbirge@washingtonfl.com. Questions shall be emailed to Kimberly Birge-Gorman at the email address above. The deadline for questions is Friday, August 11, 2023, by 3:00 pm local time . The Prime contractor at a minimum shall be FDOT qualified in Flexible Paving and Hot Plant-Mixed Bituminous courses. Additionally, the Prime Contractor or Subcontractor shall be qualified in Grading; Grassing, Seeding and Sodding; Pavement Marking; and Roadway Signing. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from other sources.

This Advertisement is issued by: Owner: Washington County Board of County Commissioners

MOON

From Page 1A

deputies, advising that Moon was at his residence and had them follow him to the location. Moon was located in a truck outside the back of the residence, where he was advised of his Miranda rights and agreed to speak with deputies.

According to the WCSO report, Moon told deputies thought there was a problem between him, the victim, and the two co-workers who were present at the gas station due to previous conversations in the work group chat. Moon stated he confronted the victim at the gas station and

they “went chest to chest” before the victim pushed him. Moon says he then grabbed the other man and took them both to the ground, injuring both of their heads. He then showed deputies a cut with dried blood located on his head.

The deputy returned to Circle H to review the surveillance video, reporting that footage showed Moon and the victim go “chest to chest” as both men stated, as well as Moon wrapping his arm around the victim’s neck and pulling him to the ground.

Moon was arrested and charged with felony battery and is scheduled for arraignment on August 7.



Ponce de Leon Fire Chief Doug Rimmell is hopeful a new station will be the first step toward a paid department. [CONTRIBUTED PHOTO]

PDL

From Page 1A

cent of all firefighters in the United States are volunteers – but the hindrance is that

we all have full time jobs, and we can’t guarantee that we will be immediately available if something happens.”

Regardless of whether Ponce de

Leon can make the transition into having paid staff, Chief Rimmell says the station will be a point of pride for the town.

“It’s going to be a really nice landmark,

something the people here can really be proud of,” he said. “It’s going to be a huge benefit to the town, the department, the county, and the community.”

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

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

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

Sealed Bids for the continuing services contract will be received by the **Washington County Board of County Commissioners** at **1331 South Blvd, Chipley, Florida 32428** until **3:00 PM** local time on **Tuesday, August 22, 2023**, at which time the Bids received will be “publicly” opened and read. The sealed bid submittal shall include 1 original, 2 copies, and one electronic copy on a USB flash drive. You may obtain electronic Bidding Documents by emailing Kimberly Birge-Gorman at kbirge@washingtonfl.com. Questions shall be emailed to Kimberly Birge-Gorman at the email address above. The deadline for questions is **Friday, August 11, 2023, by 3:00 pm local time**. The Prime contractor at a minimum shall be FDOT qualified in Flexible Paving and Hot Plant-Mixed Bituminous courses. Additionally, the Prime Contractor or Subcontractor shall be qualified in Grading; Grassing, Seeding and Sodding; Pavement Marking; and Roadway Signing. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from other sources.

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



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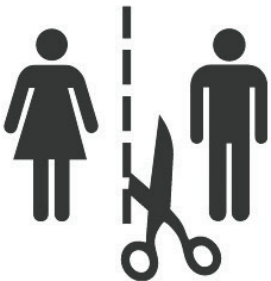
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OPINION

Is the world ready for these random thoughts?



DANNY TYREE
Guest Columnist

Sometimes topics simply demand more research than a deadline allows.

I couldn't do justice to this week's topic, so I'm kicking the can down the road by dishing out another batch of research-free random thoughts.

I'll confess to being impatient with people who pepper conversations with a slavishly recited "They say." You know, like "They say that for everybody in the world, there's a double."

I guess their proclamation means every time you see an obituary, a fertile person somewhere is griping, "I'm not in the mood, but we owe it to the world to crank out a replacement!"

Don't get me started on the classic "They say that deaths always come in threes."

I'd love to retort, "Not any more they don't! THEY died. All three of 'they'! Oh, frabjous day! Callooh! Callay!"

I'm leery of people who declare authoritatively that there is no such thing as coincidences. They get all excited when a church building burns down but a painting of Jesus survives unscathed.

They declare it a miracle and attach a deep (if cryptic) spiritual meaning to it. But the blind guy, the lame guy and the leper in the crowd feel a little miffed. ("Too bad Lot's wife isn't here. Somebody could rub salt in our wounds.")

Speaking of salt, will the Supreme Court ever hear a First Amendment case about someone yelling, "Buttered popcorn!" in a crowded firehouse?

One of the medical offices to which I took my mother had a prominent sign announcing, "Due to federal privacy law, we cannot allow photo or video taking in this office." But that's the only office in which I've seen such a notice. I guess the other providers don't care if some budding cinematographer shouts, "We're on a tight budget for the prison scene, guys. Use those tongue depressors for shivs. What's your motivation???" Your motivation is to finish this scene before you spend too much time around that loser with ringworm!"

I've known naïve people. I've known gullible people. I've known countrified people. Not one of them ever admitted to falling off the turnip truck. I'm starting to think the whole stereotype was started by the rival rutabaga cartel. ("I didn't fall off the turnip truck, but this IS my first rodeo. Do I get a prize if I can stay on the zucchini for

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'Bidenomics': It's All About Spin



RON HART
Guest Columnist

This new push by Biden's minions to coin the phrase "Bidenomics" is just spin, a way to divert the nation's attention from the corrupt family's graft and grifting. It's an attempt to hit a "reset" button on Biden, who is the second most unpopular president since job approval ratings started, hovering around 39%. Only Jimmy Carter had worse numbers.

After two years of Biden-flation and two quarters of negative GDP, the Biden camp knows the economy will do better, as it always has. We have been through fifty-eight recessions in our history, and we have always come out of them. The Dems are trying to claim credit for what the economy always does naturally: recover.

Biden's policies have helped neither the economy nor Americans. Shutting down the Keystone XL Pipeline and curtailing domestic drilling permits ran fuel prices sky high. China sends us the COVID Virus and slaps us around economically like Will Smith did to Chris Rock. The one positive thing you can say about Biden, Inc. and his handling of the

U.S. economy is that his family members are the only ones running a trade surplus with China.

Workers and American companies have been sold out by "the swamp" to China, Ukraine, tech oligarchs and big Pharma for years.

The regulatory onslaught of liberal Democrats has cost the United States jobs and caused inflation. And draconian COVID measures set education and the economy back years.

Thus, we had a recession last year, though the media never admitted it. A recession is traditionally defined as two successive quarters of the GDP falling. In the first and second quarters of last year, we had exactly that. But Biden told his sycophants in the media to call it "an economy in transition." This administration is woke and is all about anything that "transitions."

The economy has shrunk in the last two quarters; last year it was down 1.6% for the whole year. To give some perspective, the average growth per year for the U.S. economy has been 3.2%.

Almost all presidents have at least one year of 4 or 5% growth. But Biden is like his mentor, Barack Obama, who gave us another "historic first" as the first administration that never had a whole year of 3 percent growth. It is hard to grow an economy with the shackles of big government holding you

back.

To justify big government, the leeches have to act like they are doing things.

Modern Dems have glommed onto "climate change" as their virtue-signaling mechanism for grifting. They jam electric cars down our throats as they fly on private jets. As Sen. Rand Paul just found out, Anthony Fauci still has a government-paid driver and big limo – in retirement. John Kerry, the "Climate Czar," is flying around in a huge jet. But they are so hard on us and want us to suffer for their God: carbon reduction. I could totally see them outlawing the Electric Slide.

Inflation has hurt

(Silicon Valley Bank, Signature, and Republic; all were in the top 25) when rates went up and the economy softened. And I am told 70% of downtown L.A. commercial buildings are underwater now. That meltdown is pending.

The economy under Biden has been good for the Bidens. His son took in millions and refused to pay taxes. He also refused to pay child support to his stripper girlfriend for their Arkansas-based love child. Joe Biden has even gotten heat from the left for not acknowledging the baby as a Biden. This is because when the Bidens divide up the grifting booty, they take a page from the

Modern Dems have glommed onto "climate change" as their virtue-signaling mechanism for grifting.

the pocketbooks of all Americans. It is disingenuous for Biden to crow about "his" economy when he inherited a raging economy, a booming stock market and low interest rates. He caused inflation and, now that it is subsiding, he somehow thinks he can take credit for bringing inflation down with his "woke" economic policies.

The only quantifiable area where you can say that the Dems' policies have reduced inflation is that now Bud Light costs about half what it cost six months ago. Three woke U.S. banks went under

Indian tribes divvying up casino money: you have to be considered a member of the tribe to get a cut.

Aside from promoting "Bidenomics," Joe has ballyhooed his "family man" persona to rehabilitate his image, saying no matter what he is doing, he will always take a call from any of his six grandkids. In fine print, his declaration reads "Certain restrictions apply, not valid in Arkansas."

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

Washington County
NEWS & Holmes County
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Periodicals postage paid by Chipley, Florida. Postmaster: Send address change to: Washington County News P.O. Box 627, Chipley, FL 32428
USPS 667-360

In county 1 Year - \$49.50
Out of county 1 Year - \$75.00

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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 ckent@kentsmith.biz.

Questions? Call 850-638-0212

TYREE

From Page 4A

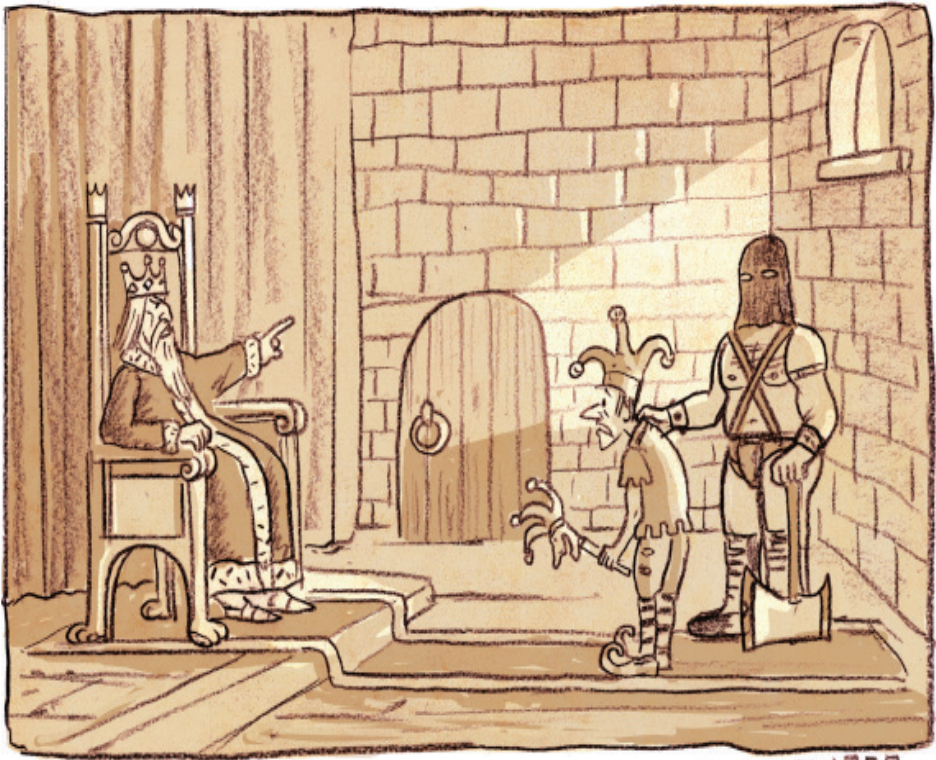
eight seconds?”)

I’m self-conscious about my chest, so I’m not too keen on “shirts and skins” matches to start with. But seriously, if you can’t remember who is on your team and who is on the opposing team without the assistance of hairy nipples, maybe it’s time to become the equipment manager.

On a related note, I’m not really seeing the appeal of “going commando” vis-à-vis undergarments. Is it really empowering to think, “Ha ha...you don’t know that there’s nothing between me and my grimy jeans”? (Granted, it’s a better secret than “Ha ha...you don’t know I stopped to read an old magazine and got too close to the loser with the ringworm.”)

Seriously, is it truly that sexy to be able to get “nekkid” a split-second sooner? Wait until a Paris designer comes up with polyester pants with attached flamethrower! Speaking of going up in flames, don’t feel bad if a few of these jokes died. THEY SAY someone somewhere is about to crank out sufficient replacements...

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



“I've decided on an out-of-court settlement.” KUPER

JOB OPENING – CITY OF BONIFAY

Position Title: Executive Assistant

Department: Administration

Reports to: Mayor **FLSA Status:** Exempt

Application Period: Wednesday, 8:00AM July 26, 2023 to Wednesday, 3:00PM August 2, 2023

Job Summary: The Executive Assistant to the Mayor is responsible for providing highly complex, sensitive, and sometimes confidential administrative support to the Mayor and City Clerk, and also serves as the liaison with internal and external constituencies. This is a highly visible position.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Must be at least 18 years of age.
- Must be a high school graduate or its equivalent.
- Must possess a valid Class E Driver’s License and satisfactory driving history.
- Must have no convictions of felony, perjury, false statements, or domestic violence.
- Any other arrest histories will be subject to review on a case-to-case basis.
- Must have no DUI conviction within the past five years prior to application.
- Must have no pending criminal charges.

Must be a citizen of the United States.
Bachelor’s Degree preferred.

For detailed essential functions of this job, knowledge, skills, and abilities required, and Statement of Other Duties, a copy is available at City Hall. Applications are available at City Hall, and should be completed and returned along with a resume, during the Application Period above.

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Holmes County Arrest Reports

The following arrests were made in Holmes County between July 15 and July 21 as reported by the Holmes County Jail. All subjects are considered innocent until convicted.



Samar Rashad Anderson, 21 - Defuniak Springs- out of county warrant. [HCSO]



Steve A. Boutwell, 55- AL- sell methamphetamine. [HCSO]



Tracy Kay Bucci, 40, Miramar Beach- violation of parole, burglary, grand theft, possession of methamphetamine. [HCSO]



Courtney Lee Hendrix, 23, Vernon- DUI and damage property. [FHP]



William Linn Jungblom II, 57, Stuart- DUI. [FHP]



Jerald Ivan Moore, 32- third degree vehicle grand theft. [HCSO]



Kentrell Parker, 23, Defuniak Springs- marijuana possession with intent to distribute, display firearm during felony. [HCSO]



Jacqueline Luann Paul 34, Chipley- violation of parole: possession of methamphetamine X2. [HCSO]. [HCSO]



Leonard Philips 32, 63, Westville- failure to appear. [HCSO]



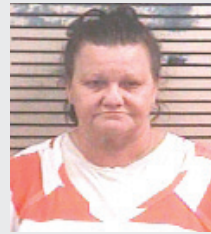
Christopher Mark Schurman, 51- fugitive. [HCSO]



Charles Ray Sibley, 39, LA- FFJ: Felony rape and child abuse. [HCSO]



Thomas Lee Summerlin, 29, AL- out of county warrant. [HCSO]



Nancy Rosetta Thomas 32, Bonifay - 49, Caryville- larceny: retail theft. [BPD]



Kristin Ann Thornton, 36, AL- sell methamphetamine, possession of controlled substance without prescription. [HCSO]

Washington County Arrest Reports

The following arrests were made in Washington County between July 15 and July 21 as reported by the Washington County Jail. All subjects are considered innocent until convicted.



Jonathan David Allen, 38, Chipley- trespassing [WCSC]



Lacey Merene Babb, 29, Bonifay- Out of county warrant: parole violation. [WCSC]



Adina Gayle Barfield, 52, Chipley- battery [WCSC]



Bryon Miguel Bennett, 35, AL- DWLSR [WCSC]



Caleb Luke Brooks, 33, Panama City Beach- child neglect X2, aggravated assault with deadly weapon X3, obstructing justice. [WCSC]



Stephen James Crigger, 32, Chipley- battery [WCSC]



Jamie Dawn Ewing, 32, Caryville- probation violation [WCSC]



Clyde Hudson Harsey, 52, Bristol- trafficking amphetamines over 14 grams, possession of controlled substances without prescription, possession of methamphetamine with intent to sell. [WCSC]



George Ryan Konicoff, 39, Marianna- DWLSR [WCSC]



Lorrie Inez Louketis, 55, Altha- trafficking amphetamines over 14 grams, possession of paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute. [WCSC]



Jamar Ikeem Massaline, 23, Chipley- sending written threat to kill, battery, damage property over 200 dollars less than 1000 dollars, burglary with assault. [WCSC]



Charlie Devon Nettles, 40, Caryville- marijuana possession not more than 20 grams, probation violation, possession of paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute, possession of weapon by convicted felon. [WCSC]



Nicholas Keith Odom, 44, Chipley- contempt of court: child support X2. [WCSC]



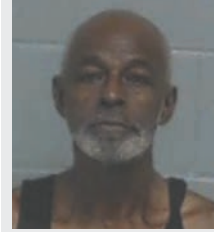
Al'Keem Ju'Wun Roulhac, 30, Chipley- battery [WCSC]



Joseph Aaron Smith, 35, Chipley- felony domestic battery by strangulation [WCSC]



Randall Joseph Stasko, 33, Chipley- probation violation [WCSC]



James Henry White, 72, Pensacola- DWLSR [WCSC]



Brittney Leigh Williams, 31, Graceville- grand theft more than 750 dollars less than 5000 dollars, distribution of schedule I or II drugs [WCSC]

Washington County

Classifieds



Place your classifieds by calling 850.638.0212

LEGAL ADVERTISING

000231
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

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

Certificate #: **21-00-02138**

Year of Issuance: **2021**

Parcel: **00000000-06-0378-0010**

Assessed To:

JOHN J DAVIS

Description:

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

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 **SEPTEMBER 12, 2023 at 10:00 AM CT.**

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

000233
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

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

Certificate #: **21-00-01074**

Year of Issuance: **2021**

Parcel: **00000000-00-5049-0005**

Assessed To:

AMBER N COOPER, AMBER N RILEY

Description:

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

LEGAL ADVERTISING

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 **SEPTEMBER 12, 2023 at 10:00 AM CT.**

000234
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice Is Hereby Given **IDE TECHNOLOGIES INC.**, the holder

LEGAL ADVERTISING

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

Certificate #: **21-00-00081**

Year of Issuance: **2021**

Parcel: **00000000-00-0310-0106**

Assessed To:

ELAINE L HENDRICK

Description:

LOT 6 CANYON SPRINGS RESORT II ORB 268 P 1582

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

LEGAL ADVERTISING

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 **SEPTEMBER 12, 2023 at 10:00 AM CT.**

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

000259

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to a writ of execution heretofore issued out of the County Court, **WASHINGTON COUNTY, Florida**, Case No 2015-CC-43 on 05 January 2016 in the matter of **DODGE**

LEGAL ADVERTISING

ENTERPRISES, INC. v BERNICE IRA FINCH, I, KEVIN CREWS, as Sheriff of **WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE** County, Florida, have levied upon all the right, title and interest of, **BERNICE IRA FINCH**, the defendant(s) to-wit: 54001 property as follows: 2014 DODGE RAM 1500 LARAMIE VIN# 1C6RR6FGIES247115 BLACK And on July 31, 2023 at 71 1 3rd Street, Chipley, Florida, at 10:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter as circumstances permit, I will offer the above described property for sale at public outcry and sell the same, subject to all prior liens, if any, and to the highest and best bidder for (CASH IN HAND or CREDIT BID), (exact change) plus

LEGAL ADVERTISING

Florida State Sales Tax, if applicable, the proceeds to be applied as far as may be to the payment of costs and satisfaction of the above described execution. The above-described property may be viewed up to 30 minutes prior to the scheduled sale time. All items purchased must be removed by the respective bidder after the sale is concluded. Photo identification is mandatory. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding shall contact the individual or agency sending notice not later than seven days prior to the proceeding. Telephone (904) 257-6097; 1-800-955-8771

LEGAL ADVERTISING

(+TDD) or 1-800-955-8770 (V), via Florida Relay Service.

Dated at **CHIPLEY, WASHINGTON County, FL** this 29th day of June 2023.

KEVIN CREWS **WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Printed On:6/29/2023 9:34 AM

By: Deputy Sheriff July 5, 12,19, 26, 2023

000265
The Washington County School District has declared the following items as surplus and will be selling them at auction:

Stainless Steel Kitchen Equipment, Tractor, Box truck, mowers and other miscellaneous

CELEBRATE



Vernon Middle School Jr. Beta Club members show off their awards after the National Convention. [CONTRIBUTED PHOTO]

VMS Jr. Beta Club excels at nationals

KRISTIN MARTIN
Kmartin@kentsmith.biz

Vernon Middle School's Jr. Beta Club rocked the National Beta Convention in June, placing nine times in the competition, while club member Kayson Hawkins ranked in the top three candidates running for National Vice President.

Hawkins, whose campaign was promoted by his fellow students at VMS, also found support from the neighboring Bonifay K-8 and Roulhac Middle School Jr. Beta Clubs. Students from all three schools could be found at the convention wearing campaign shirts featuring the "Rockin' with Hawkins" logo.

"It was a great honor to ad-

vance to top three candidates for national Vice President," said Hawkins. "I am so proud of our hometown of Vernon for placing in nine categories at the national level. I am so excited to serve as your Jr. Beta Vice President at the state level this year. Although I did not win [the national election], I built new relationships that will last a lifetime with what I view as my family because I view Beta as a big family, not just a club."

Jr. Beta Sponsor Kathleen Coleman said the group excelled in many areas of competition, bringing home awards in the following categories:

- Apparel Design - 1st Place (Club)
- On-Site Painting - 2nd place

- (Nylah Brown)
- Portfolio - 3rd (Club)
- Two-Dimensional Design - 3rd (Club)
- Painting - 3rd (Nylah Brown)
- Songfest - 4th (Club)
- Solo/Duo/Trio - 6th (Christian Burger)
- Pottery - 8th place (Kyley Harrison)
- Service Learning - 8th (Club)
- Jr Beta Vice Presidential Candidate - Top 3 Candidate (Kayson Hawkins)

"We are extremely proud of their accomplishments," said Coleman. "They worked very hard but had a lot of fun together."

VMS is now preparing to compete at the state convention in January 2024.



Christian Burger is captured in a behind-the-scenes shot just before earning 6th place for her violin solo during the 2023 National Beta Convention. [CONTRIBUTED PHOTO]



VMS Jr. Beta Club member Kayson Hawkins ranked as one of the top three candidates for the 2023 National Beta Vice President. [CONTRIBUTED PHOTO]



VMS Jr. Beta Club members participated in performing arts at the 2023 National Beta Convention. [CONTRIBUTED PHOTO]



ABOVE: Jr. Beta Club members performed while supporting Vice President candidate Kayson Hawkins in a campaign branded "Rockin' with Hawkins" shirt. RIGHT: Nylah Brown (left) and Autumn Strausbaugh celebrate receiving awards for On-Site Painting and Songfest during the 2023 National Beta Convention. [CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS]



Beta peers at neighboring schools showed support for VMS National Beta Vice President candidate Kayson Hawkins during the national convention. Above, students from the Bonifay K-8 Beta Club (pictured at left) and the Roulhac Middle School Jr. Beta Club show off t-shirts declaring they're "Rockin' with Hawkins." [CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS]

CELEBRATE COMMUNITY

West Florida Electric
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Doctors Memorial Hospital
"Caring Hands, Caring Heart"

NFCH
Northwest Florida Community Hospital

DERMATOLOGY SPECIALISTS of Florida

KENT SMITH GROUP
Washington County NEWS Holmes County ADVERTISER

SCHOOLS & EDUCATION

SCHOOL BRIEF

Troy University recognizes new students

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

Send school news to: news@washington-county.news or news@holmescounty.news

Conservative content approved for schools

NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA

State education officials have approved content from the conservative nonprofit PragerU to be shown in Florida schools, a spokeswoman for the Department of Education confirmed Monday.

A news release sent Monday on behalf of PragerU, which produces video content featuring prominent conservative figures, said that its PragerU Kids content would be introduced “in schools across America” as an educational resource.

“Florida was the first state to officially approve PragerU’s new K-12 curriculum,” an initial version of the release said. A revised version of the release issued later said that Florida approved PragerU “as an educational vendor.” Cassandra Palelis, deputy director of communications for the state education department, told The News Service of Florida that the PragerU content has been approved for use as supplemental teaching materials.

“The Florida Department of Education reviewed PragerU Kids and determined the material aligns to Florida’s revised civics and government standards. PragerU Kids is no different than many other resources, which can be used as supplemental materials in Florida schools at district discretion,” Palelis said in an email. However, she added that PragerU Kids “did not submit a bid to be included in the 2022-23 instructional materials adoption for social studies.”

PragerU was founded in 2011 by conservative radio host Dennis Prager. The PragerU Kids content features videos that cover topics such as historical events and figures, religious and Biblical stories, and America’s system of government.

See CONTENT , Page 3B

Local Special Olympian to represent Florida at ‘Dream Ride Experience’

DIANE M. MOORE
Dmoore@kentsmith.biz

Safeara Toole isn’t just the average run-of-the-mill athlete. She is a Special Olympian, one who was hand-picked for a special honor.

Toole is one of only five Special Olympians selected from the entire state to participate in the annual “Dream Ride Experience,” set to take place in Farmington, Connecticut. She was selected after being deemed an “inspirational leader” in the Special Olympics for the Northwest Florida region. Toole and her coach will travel to the event next month in an all expenses paid trip.

Toole has been a Special Olympics athlete for around six years, bringing home ribbons in basketball, bicycling, and track. She is known for cheering on her teammates and other athletes - and, in one instance, giving up a win to help her teammate.

Her mother, Kera Toole, says that act of kindness simply underscores her daughter’s selfless personality.

“At one meet in particular, Safeara was almost to the finish line to take first place when she looked back and saw her teammate falling behind,” said Kera. “She fell back in order to help her friend cross the finish line, together. She is always thinking of others and wants to see everyone succeed.”

Safeara attends WAVE School in Chipley, where she will start ninth grade in August. The family calls this a “once in a lifetime trip” for the 14-year-old, who says she is excited to attend.

“I can’t wait,” she said. “It is going to be so much fun. I am scared to fly but other than that, I am so excited!”

The Dream Ride Experience is a three day event that organizers say “celebrates the achievements of our Dream Riders, the true heart and soul of our event.”

“Our Dream Riders are Special Olympics athletes and individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities from over 25 different states and three



Safeara Toole

countries,” states the Dreamride.org website. “The experience honors these men, women, and children living with intellectual disabilities in our communities.”

The event will feature the “Dream Cruise” during which Safeara and other Dream Riders will choose the classic or exotic car of their dreams to take a 12-mile-long cruise in, complete with a police escort. Toole has selected a 1970 Dodge Charger R/T because she says it’s just like the one Vin Diesel drove in the Fast and Furious movie franchise.

While Toole and her coach’s expenses are covered, her parents fear they will not be able to attend with her due to the high costs



WAVE School Special Olympics Coach Amos Spires presents Toole with one of several first-place ribbons she has earned over the years. [CONTRIBUTED PHOTO]



Safeara also competes in basketball, bicycling, and track. [CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS]



associated with it. One ticket to the event is \$500, not including airfare or accommodations. The Tooles are working to raise money to cover the estimated \$3,500 total cost so they can share

the experience with their daughter.

Those wanting to help can send donations to: Cash App: \$Keratoole, PayPal: @keratoole, Venmo: @Kera-Toole or on Facebook: Kera Joel Toole.

Unions again target dues deduction ban

JIM SAUNDERS
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE—Saying unions are starting to get hit financially, teachers unions are again asking a federal judge to block part of a new state law that prevents dues from being deducted from workers’ paychecks.

Unions that represent public-school employees and university faculty members filed a motion Wednesday seeking a preliminary injunction against the dues-deduction ban, which took effect July 1. Chief U.S. District Judge Mark Walker last month declined to issue an injunction, but the unions revised the lawsuit and the injunction request.

“Plaintiffs are already suffering from a reduction in irreplaceable revenue that is about to get much worse,” the unions argued in a legal memorandum that accompanied Wednesday’s motion.

The unions contend the dues-deduction ban unconstitutionally violates contracts that require payroll dues deductions. Those contracts were reached before the new law took effect.

“The core function of the (U.S. Constitution’s) Contracts Clause is to guard against an especially pernicious type

of retroactive legislation: that which destroys citizens’ ability to rely on the protection of contractual commitments to plan their affairs, including in particular their financial affairs,” the memorandum said.

The dues-deduction change was part of a law that the Republican-controlled Legislature and Gov. Ron DeSantis approved this spring to place additional restrictions on public-employee unions. Among other things, the law requires union members to fill out new government-worded membership forms and will require unions to be re-certified as bargaining agents if fewer than 60 percent of eligible employees are members.

The law exempted unions that represent law-enforcement officers, firefighters and correctional officers, which have politically supported DeSantis and other Republicans. DeSantis and teachers unions have repeatedly clashed about education policies, and the Florida Education Association was a key supporter last year of DeSantis’ election opponent, Democrat Charlie Crist.

Republican supporters said the law (SB 256) would bring greater transparency to public-employee unions, but

critics described it as “union busting.”

Among the plaintiffs in the revised version of the lawsuit, filed July 14, are the Florida Education Association, the United Faculty of Florida, the Alachua County Education Association, the Pinellas Classroom Teachers Association and Hernando United School Workers. Defendants include members of the Florida Public Employees Relations Commission, members of the University of Florida Board of Trustees and the school boards in Alachua, Pinellas and Hernando counties.

An initial version of the case was filed in May against the Public Employees Relations Commission, which is responsible for carrying out the law. But in a June 26 decision, Walker wrote that issuing an injunction against the dues-deduction ban would “offer no redress for plaintiffs’ injuries.”

Walker said that even if he issued an injunction against the members of the Public Employees Relations Commission, government agencies would comply with the law and stop deducting dues from paychecks.

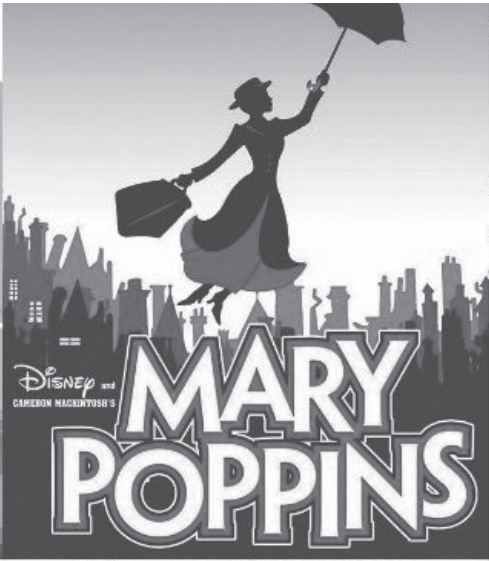
“Employers who are party to plaintiffs’ collective bargaining agreements

See DUES , Page 3B

Chipola Theatre announces 2023-24 season



October 13-15, 2023



February 22-25, 2024



May 9-10, 2024

Holmes County Historical Society in need of new heating and cooling unit

HAZEL TISON
Contributing Writer

According to Bill Lee, Chairman of the Holmes County Historical Society, the Air Conditioning unit has “bit the dust.” Actually, there is a remote possibility of repair with a new condenser or whatever that part is, but at a cost of over 600 dollars (which the society doesn’t have). With a thirty or thirty-five or older unit, spending any amount on it is not feasible. If a used unit were available, that could possibly solve the problem. Has anyone replaced a used unit due to building modifications that might be donated or sold at a reasonable price? If not, we are left with the need to invest in a new unit.

The wood frame building with the wide front porch, located on West Tracy Street, was donated to the Society by the Bud Owens family in January of 1999 and was delivered to its present location by Cecil Ray Jones and Jacky Jones. The house, typical of homes of that day, was built in 1901 of pine lumber and is not painted. It houses the part of the museum that depicts how homes of that era were equipped. It shows a fireplace for cooking, though a wood burning stove would be typical of that time period. It sits on property owned by the Holmes County School Board where the two-story McKinnon house was

moved at one time. (That whole property including the old Middle School/High School site contained the McKinnon dairy.)

A mobile home was then attached to the back porch of the house and a side porch on the east of the building is used as a main entrance to the building. An exhibit on the turpentine or naval stores industry donated and maintained by the family occupies most of that enclosed attached area which I assume was the back porch of the Owens home. That area also contains a fairly good display of farm implements of the 1920’s.

The first room of the attached building has a train exhibit donated and maintained by the Roberts family. Memorabilia from Dr. Paul’s Hospital occupies a part of that building. Other cases contain objects of interest from Downtown Bonifay Businesses such as the Eureka Hotel.

There are many things that have been donated which can be displayed more favorably. A lot of organization needs to be done. For example, dividing the adequate space into sections of the county for displays of that area. (Bethlehem, New Hope, Leonia, Ponce de Leon, Poplar Springs, Sweet Gum Head, Etc.)

A genealogy section is also needed. Vernon and Chipley’s museums have genealogy files. Vernon’s is quite complete, thanks to

Steve Simmons, a late Vernon High School teacher who collected and compiled many family records as he taught in the system.

One of the greatest things Holmes County Historical Society has done is the publication of The Heritage History of Holmes County released in 2006 and now out of print. Why was a copy not retained for the museum? Well perhaps it was, but has disappeared. That is a good history of families in the county, but only those families who took the time to submit their family’s story. Copies of the Cemetery Census completed in 1990 by James Williams and Lonnie Segers are available for sale at the museum as are copies of Heart and History of Holmes County by Anna Padgett Wells and some of E.W. Carswell’s smaller publications. There is no copy of his Homesteading, however, the most complete published history of the county. It is not a book of genealogy.

But back to my original topic: the need for a new air conditioning unit. We have had one offer of a generous donation. I just purchased a new unit last year, and it will take about 28 donors at \$500 apiece to pay for one the size of mine. We will accept all donations. Bill Lee’s email address is Billlee53@gmail.com. Mine is Jetison@embarqmail.com. Klaus Dittus vol-

unteers at the museum frequently and will gladly accept your donation. Dan Smith is feeling much better following his recent serious illness and he will also accept your donation and any of us will gladly deposit your donation into the Holmes County Historical Society account at First Federal Bank of Bonifay. Or you may deposit it there yourself.

Someone suggested a fundraiser and that is a good suggestion. Come forward with your ideas and your list of volunteers that will help. It is a good method of raising money. Remember Relay For Life. The operative word for Fund Raisers is Volunteers so we must have your help if we raise the kind of money required to replace the aging (or aged) item. Contact any of the above named people if you are willing to help with this daunting task.



The Chipley Garden Club’s annual scarecrow contest is set to return in September. [CONTRIBUTED PHOTO]

Scarecrow contest to return

GWENETH COLLINS
Special to the News and Advertiser

It’s almost that time of year! It’s another hot summer, but folks are thinking about fall, and some leaves are beginning to turn. All that means the scarecrows will soon start showing up in downtown Chipley in anticipation of “Archeologists at the Museum History Fest & Scarecrow Building Contest.” Both events are scheduled for Saturday, September 23, at the Washington County Historical Society in downtown Chipley.

See SCARECROWS , Page 4B

NOTICE TO CITY VOTERS

The City of Chipley General Election will be held on Tuesday, August 1, 2023, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. The voting machine for this election will be tested and sealed at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, July 31, 2023, in the City Hall Council Chambers, located at 1442 Jackson Avenue, Chipley, Florida. All interested individuals are encouraged to attend.

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

Washington County Board of County Commissioners

Invitations to Bid No. 2023-14, 2023-15

Washington County Board of County Commissioners is requesting bids for:

- ITB 2023-14 Installation of Generators at Five Critical Facilities
- ITB 2023-15 Hardening of EMS Building

Bid specifications may be obtained by contacting Kimberly Birge-Gorman at kbirge@washingtonfl.com.

Sealed bids will be received at the County Administration office located at 1331 South Boulevard, Chipley, FL 32428, Attn: Kimberly Birge-Gorman, no later than 3:00 p.m. CST on Tuesday, August 22, 2023. 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, address, and correct corresponding bid number and name.

Washington County Board of County Commissioners accepts no responsibility for any expenses incurred by bidders in the preparation of a response to this bid.

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).

NOTICE OF ELECTION CITY OF CHIPLEY

The City of Chipley General Election for Council Member Ward 2 will be held at the City Hall, 1442 Jackson Avenue on Tuesday, August 1, 2023. The poll will open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m., CST.

All city residents within the city limits of Chipley, who were 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 the Chipley City Administrator or Assistant City Administrator/City Clerk at (850) 638-6350 should you have any questions or need other information regarding the upcoming city election.

The following will appear on the ballot:

City Council Ward No. 2
Vote for one

- ☐ Cheryl Gainer McCall
- ☐ John T. (Tommy) Sasser

PLEASE VOTE

DUES

From Page 2B

will still be prohibited by law from deducting membership dues from their employees’ salaries, regardless of whether this court enjoins defendants (Public Employees Relations Commission members) from enforcing the prohibition against employers,” Walker wrote.

To try to address that issue, lawyers for the unions this week said the University of Florida and the Hernando County School Board — two new defendants — stopped deducting and sending dues to unions on July 1. Some union members at the university and Hernando district get paid year-round, while many teachers across the state are paid over 10 months. Those paychecks will resume in August.

“Once K-12 teachers return to work and

begin to draw salary, plaintiff unions will face the full brunt of the loss of membership dues that had been paid via payroll deduction — exactly at the time when union resources are most in need,” the memorandum of law said.

The motion focuses on an alleged breach of existing contracts, with the unions acknowledging they would not be able to have payroll dues deductions after the contracts expire.

“Plaintiffs, after all, are not seeking in this motion to forever forestall the state’s planned prohibition of payroll deduction,” the union lawyers wrote. “All the plaintiffs seek is a reasonable period of the time — the remainder of their unexpired contracts — to adjust to a sea change in the way public-employee unions are financed in Florida.”

The lawsuit is one of at least three filed

by unions challenging the new law. A union representing government workers in Duval County filed a federal lawsuit last week, while three municipal unions in South Florida have filed a challenge in Leon County circuit court.

CONTENT

From Page 2B

Descriptions of the content on the PragerU website bill it as “the leading network with educational, entertaining, pro-American kids shows for every grade.” The site has a link asking people to sign a petition to get PragerU content into the country’s schools. “PragerU is trying to help America’s students — but the left (which has hijacked and controlled the education system, including teachers unions) is doing everything in its power to label us as ‘far right,’ deplatform us, and keep PragerU out of schools,” the website said.

BUSINESS

Retailers look for lift from tax ‘holiday’

JIM TURNER
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE - Florida retailers hope for a boost to summer sales with the start Monday of a back-to-school sales tax “holiday.”

The tax holiday, which will last through Aug. 6, will allow shoppers to avoid paying sales taxes on clothes, shoes, school supplies and personal computers. Lawmakers and Gov. Ron DeSantis also approved a second similar holiday that will be held during the first two weeks of January, providing a chance to replenish supplies at the start of the spring semester.

Florida Retail Federation President and CEO Scott Shalley expressed cautious optimism for the upcoming discount period, as “some of our stores have been down a little bit.”

“Hopefully, the back-to-school sales tax holiday will incentivize folks to get out and about and patronize a local retailer,” Shalley said.

Deloitte Consulting has warned that strained household budgets and continued high prices after two years of inflation could dampen the back-to-school season.

“Parents are likely to be strategic about their spending to help ensure children are set up for success at the start of the school year by renewing school supplies but perhaps holding off on new clothing until needed,” Nick Handrinos, Deloitte vice chairman and U.S. retail, wholesale and distribution and consumer products leader, said in a prepared statement.

Deloitte Consulting projects consumers will spend an average

of \$597 a student in grades kindergarten through 12th grade as they prepare for school.

The two back-to-school holidays were included in a broad tax package (HB 7063) approved in May. They are expected to make up \$160.6 million of the \$965.6 million in tax savings in the package.

Back-to-school tax holidays have been held almost every year since 1998 and have typically lasted three to nine days.

Here is a look at what lawmakers included in the back-to-school holiday:

Shoppers won’t have to pay sales taxes on clothes, wallets, bags, backpacks, fanny packs, footwear and diaper bags that cost \$100 or less. Not included are briefcases, suitcases, garment bags, skis, swim fins, roller blades and skates.

Shoppers won’t have to pay sales taxes on pens, pencils, erasers, crayons, notebooks, notebook filler paper, legal pads, binders, lunch boxes, construction paper, markers, folders, poster board, composition books, poster paper, scissors, cellophane tape, glue, paste, rulers, computer disks, staplers, staples, protractors, compasses and calculators that cost \$50 or less.

Shoppers won’t have to pay sales taxes on learning aids and puzzles, ranging from flashcards and memory games to puzzle books and toys intended to teach reading or math skills, that cost \$30 or less.

Shoppers won’t have to pay sales taxes on personal computers and related accessories — such as keyboards and monitors — that cost \$1,500 or less. Not included are cell phones, video game consoles and digital media receivers.

4 Utility Services celebrates ribbon cutting



The Washington County Chamber of Commerce held an official ribbon cutting for 4 Utility Services on July 20. The business, owned by Joel and Brittany Carter, installs underground utilities including telecom, water, sewer and power. 4 Utility Services is located at 2932 Highway 77 in Chipley. [DIANE M. MOORE | The News and Advertiser]

Bixby retires from USPS

CAROL KENT
Ckent@kentsmith.biz



Raymond Bixby drove his USPS route for the last time on July 22, 2023. [CAROL KENT | The News and Advertiser]

United States Postal Service employee Raymond Bixby made one last round on his Chipley route last week before retiring as a letter carrier after 25 years.

Bixby, a military veteran, began his USPS career in August 1998 as a part time employee in Dothan, Alabama, earning a full-time spot – and his own route – two years later.

“City Route 13 was the first route I had as a carrier,” recalls Bixby. “It was 15 miles of riding and 7 miles of walking in the azalea trail part of Dothan on the north side of town. There were 427 stops, including 2 business – an elementary school and a middle school.”

Just a year after he began his fulltime route, Bixby’s postal career was put on hold when the events of 9/11 called on him to return to serving his nation as a soldier.

“I remember when 9/11 happened,” he said. “I was at work at Northside Station, listening to my radio when a news flash came on about one of the towers being hit by a plane. And at first, we didn’t know it was terrorists. We thought it was an accident – and then the next one was hit.”

Bixby says he couldn’t ignore the pull to reenlist.

“My daughter was in basic training, and after all that transpired, I went back in,” he said. “I had been out of the military for about 15 years at that time, but I had to go back in and serve. Our nation

needed us.”

Bixby would go on to become commissioned as an officer in the Alabama National Guard and join a military police company out of Prattville, Alabama and serve in Iraq before returning to USPS and his route in Dothan. He continued to work that route, marking more than 12 years before transferring to Chipley following a hiring freeze and surplus of full time unassigned regular carriers.

“The people in Chipley received me like I had been there my whole life,” he said. “That was awesome to see, and I didn’t meet a stranger. It made it easier to transition.”

Fellow Chipley carrier Jennifer Gardner says Bixby “fit right in” with the Chipley staff.

“Ray and I have shared a lot of laughs, a few tears, and even prayers on several occasions,” said Gardner. “I am truly going to miss him. I’ll miss how he always wears shorts no matter the temperature, because we are “all whimps,” according to him. I probably won’t miss how he would tease the rural carriers about having ‘puddin’ routes’ and how we could ‘always apply at waste management.’ We all love to carry on and pick at one another. We laugh every single day. Raymond will be missed.”

Bixby says a lot of customers have become friends over the years.

“I’ve met a lot of good friends, whether business customers or residents,” he said. “I’ve made a lot of good friends and even was able to go on three mission trips to the Ukraine while I was working in Chipley.”

Bixby’s next adventure will take him to Tampa, where he has a scholarship to River University to study ministry.

“My next chapter in my life will be serving the Lord and working for Him because He made all this happen,” he said. “I’m very excited to see what happens next.”



Raymond Bixby’s USPS co-workers held a retirement reception for him at the Chipley Post Office Friday, July 21. [CAROL KENT | The News and Advertiser]

SCARECROWS

From Page 3B

This year, the Historical Society will host archeologists from Troy University who will be able to look at “things” passed down through your family or “stuff” you’ve found – arrowheads, artifacts, and such. On display in the museum will be the 3-D prints of some of the artifacts discovered at the 2023 Holmes Town Dig in southern Washington County.

Chipley Garden Club’s collection of more than 30 scarecrows has been “out of town” since last November. During August, club members will “fluff” them up, add some new outfits, replace a few broken “body parts,” and the scarecrows will be ready to burst onto the scene.

It’s never too early to get to work on your own scarecrow to enter in the contest. It won’t be long before the scarecrow visitors start showing up downtown. The Garden Club encourages the public to add their own creations to the downtown display. For more information on the Scarecrow Building Contest, contact Garden Club President Gweneth Collins at 850-260-4049.

If you are interested in being a craft, food or informational vendor at “Archeologists at the Museum” event, contact Museum Director Dorothy Odom at 840-638-0358.

YOUTH BANKING

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Genealogy fascinates much of the general public. The number of people learning more about their families and heritage through genealogy increases year to year. According to FamilyTree.com, genealogy is the second only to gardening as the most popular hobby in the United States. People explore genealogy for many reasons, including learning about their ancestry. A rundown of the basics of genealogy can make such pursuits more enjoyable.

Genealogy is a line of descent traced continuously from an ancestor, while family history is defined as the history or narrative of a family. They are intertwined but not synonymous.

Vital records are key

Genealogists explore vital records to obtain information about their ancestors. Vital records include documentation of ancestors' life events, including births, deaths, marriages, and more. Civil registration began at different times

around the world, and even across North America, so it's often challenging, though entirely possible, to develop an accurate history.

Cities change
Discovering records of ancestors can be even more challenging because of shifting borders or municipalities, which change over time. The Family Tree Factbook provides European maps from throughout history and a timeline of European border changes that can help with research.

BONIFAY, FL 32425

A DECISION on the proposed **CAPITAL OUTLAY TAXES** will be made at this hearing.

Total	5.218
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ESTIMATED REVENUES	General	Special Revenue	Debt Service	Capital Projects	Internal Svc. Fund	Total All Funds
Federal	83,479	6,895,606	0	0	0	6,979,085
State Sources	26,394,710	31,044	0	112,059	0	26,537,813
Local Sources	2,790,817	25,694	0	971,952	10,000	3,798,463
TOTAL SOURCES	29,269,006	6,952,344	0	1,084,011	10,000	37,315,361
Transfers In	1,344,033	0	0	0	0	1,344,033
Fund Balances-July 1, 2023	1,203,031	162,000	0	755,451	1,556,844	3,677,326
TOTAL REVENUES, TRANSFERS, AND FUND BALANCES/NET POSITION	31,816,070	7,114,344	0	1,839,462	1,566,844	42,336,720
APPROPRIATIONS/EXPENDITURES						
Instruction	16,302,731	2,324,475	0	0	0	18,627,206
Pupil Personnel Services	1,023,984	53,796	0	0	0	1,077,780
Instructional Media Services	646,660	0	0	0	0	646,660
Instructional Curriculum Services	882,366	241,380	0	0	0	1,123,746
Instructional Staff Training	243,492	176,634	0	0	0	420,126
Instructional Technology	234,125	167,165	0	0	0	401,290
Board of Education	308,166	0	0	0	0	308,166
General Administration	275,236	242,616	0	0	0	517,852
School Administration	2,313,687	23,218	0	0	0	2,336,905
Facilities Acquisition and Construction	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fiscal Services	397,956	0	0	0	0	397,956
Food Services	500	2,233,709	0	0	0	2,234,209
Central Services	471,523	8,934	0	0	0	480,457
Pupil Transportation Services	1,657,616	55,295	0	0	0	1,712,911
Operation of Plant	4,013,584	58,070	0	0	0	4,071,654
Maintenance of Plant	1,567,566	1,367,052	0	0	0	2,934,618
Administrative Technology Services	35,500	0	0	0	0	35,500
Community Services	2,991	0	0	0	0	2,991
Debt Service	231,328	0	0	0	0	231,328
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS / EXPENDITURES:	30,609,011	6,952,344	0	0	0	37,561,355
Transfers Out	0	0	0	1,344,033	0	1,344,033
Fund Balances-June 30, 2024	1,207,059	162,000	0	495,429	1,566,844	3,431,332
TOTAL TRANSFERS AND FUND BALANCES/ NET POSITION	31,816,070	7,114,344	0	1,839,462	1,566,844	42,336,720

The tentative, adopted, and final budgets are on file in the office of the above referenced taxing authority as a public record.

FAITH

On God and unanswered prayers



CALEB DUNCAN
Guest Columnist

Several years ago, Brad Paisley wrote a simple song called, “No.” The song was written with a straightforward message about prayer. In the song, Paisley says that God answers every prayer, but sometimes, his answer is no.

Years before that, Garth Brooks wrote a song in 1990 about “Unanswered Prayers,” thanking God that his old high school flame didn’t eventually become his wife. He sings, “Just because he doesn’t answer, doesn’t mean he doesn’t care, ‘cause some of God’s greatest

gifts are unanswered prayers.”

A 5-year old’s birthday party and an old high school flame may sound a bit humorous, but these songs are sung with a well-intended meaning. It’s an attempt to answer a dilemma that many Christians have as they are praying: why won’t God answer my prayer?

Let me give you a more serious example. In Acts 12, we read an amazing story of God’s providence after Peter was arrested. The early church gathered in a house together to pray.

Meanwhile, God answered their prayer by sending an angel to free the chains from Peter, and led him past the guards and into the street. Peter went to the house where they were praying, and knocked on the door while they were still in prayer. Talk about an answered prayer! However, in the same chapter of the Bible, Herod execut-

ed a key leader in the same church: James the Great. There is no doubt that the church was also praying for James. James was in the inner circle of Jesus and was very close to him.

James became a prominent figure in the early church. The church devoted themselves to the teaching and to prayer.

While we cannot pull back the curtain of God’s sovereignty and know everything about his plan, there are a few things that we do know for certain.

They were definitely praying for James!

So why did God rescue Peter, and not James? Have you ever prayed, and felt like God didn’t hear you? Or that your prayers didn’t get past the roof of your house?

Many people can relate to this feeling. While we cannot pull back the curtain of God’s sovereignty and know everything about his

plan, there are a few things that we do know for certain.

Number one, God’s ways are higher than our ways. Isaiah 55:9 teaches us that God’s ways and thoughts are much higher than our own. God simply has a plan that we cannot fully understand on this side of heaven. Secondly,

even when pain exists we still know that God is in control. The Bible overwhelmingly speaks of his sovereignty, his control, and his authority.

Third, we know that death and decay exists in this broken world. Death and disease is a normal part of human life. When sin came into the world, it brought brokenness in every

area of life.

That’s why the Bible says that creation is waiting in eager anticipation for Christ’s coming.

We also know that suffering is temporary, and that prayer still works. Instead of being angry at God or trying to deconstruct your faith after an unanswered prayer, do what the early church did in Acts 12. The death of James emboldened them to pray, even more. That’s when they saw the rescue of Peter. Don’t be discouraged when you have an unanswered prayer. Instead, keep praying. Leave the results up to God.

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 EVENT

New Bethany Assembly Community Fun Day

New Bethany Assembly of God will host Community Fun Day Saturday, July 29, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. The event will have free food, music, games, prizes, and more. A free raffle drawing will be held to give away a painting by local artist Ellen Morris. The church is located at 2338 Shakey Joe Road in Vernon.

First Presbyterian 5th Sunday Sing

First Presbyterian Church in Chipley will hold a 5th Sunday Sing at 11 a.m. on July 30 featuring Christian musical artist Bruce Hedrick, along with Chipley’s own Sarah Watts. Dinner will be served afterwards in the Myers Fellowship Hall. The church is located at 658 N 5th Street.

OBITUARY

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

- Cassandra Clare

Joe Earl Collins II,

Joe Earl Collins II, age 55, passed away Tuesday, July 18, 2023 in Tampa, Florida. He was born December 3, 1967 in Marianna, Florida to Joe Earl and Eileen (Pipkin) Collins. Joe worked for Lykes Bros. Inc. for 32 years as



of Bonifay, FL; Sons – Benjamin Walker Collins of Eustis, FL; Eli Tucker Collins of Sebring, FL; Pate Matthew Collins of Sebring, FL; Sister – Debbie Rieck (Vince) of Matthews, NC; Jo Ann Everett (Dennis) of Marianna, FL;

Nieces – Shelby Harvey (Ariel) and Katie Everett; Nephews – David C. Bean and Mitchell Rieck (Leslie); Grand Nieces and Grand Nephews – Gavin, Caleb, Reagan, and Warren.

He was preceded in death by his Mother – Eileen Pipkin Collins.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, July 22, 2023 at 11:00am at First Baptist Church Sebring with family receiving friends beginning at 9:30am. Graveside services will be held Sunday, July 30, 2023 at 3:00pm in Bethel Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery in Caryville, FL. Memorial contributions may be made to the Joe Collins II Memorial Fund c/o Heartland National Bank.

Brown Funeral Home & Blue Lake Crematory of Chipley, FL is in charge of arrangements.

Family and friends may sign the online register at www.brownfhn.net



Loving your neighbor as yourself



CAROL ROUND
Guest Columnist

“Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ‘Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?’”

Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments”— Matthew 22:34-40 (NIV).

Walking my dog through the neighborhood where I’ve lived for almost three years, I often stop to visit with those I’ve friended. Other times when a neighbor I’ve not met happens to be outside, I wave as I

pass by. Other times, I find a reason to strike up a conversation with those I’ve not yet met.

Recently, on one of my walks, I started a conversation with a neighbor who was adding a pergola to the back of his house. Since I’ve been considering doing the same, I asked about the individual constructing his. I also wanted to know if he was satisfied with their work.

Eventually, and I can’t recall how, our conversation led to sharing our faith. While we don’t attend the same church, I believe our faith opened the door for future conversations.

Conversations with neighbors

The neighborhood I live in is a blend of young and old, families with small children, and singles, like me. I’m blessed to live in this community of neighbors, even though I don’t personally know each one.

At least three of the families who live on my street have become close friends. My next-door neighbors—a couple the same age as I am—share my faith in God.

The wife, Susie, and I, often walk together and stop to visit

with neighbors. If we don’t know them by name, we introduce ourselves.

Our conversations can include discussions about the weather, our lawns, our pets, or other ordinary topics. We seldom get into deep discussions, unless we find common ground, like our faith.

Finding common ground

Sometimes it’s difficult to meet and get to know a neighbor. Some work odd hours or work from home, sitting at their computer all day. Others ignore overtures of friendliness. Some are seldom seen outside, preferring instead to remain inside behind closed curtains and doors.

I might see a neighbor in passing, leaving for work, putting the trash out to be picked up on Fridays, or mowing the lawn. But so far, it’s been challenging to connect with those who, for some reason, prefer their anonymity.

I grew up in the 50s and 60s. It was a time when neighbors interacted daily. Children played games together outside. Stay-at-home moms met at each other’s homes to share coffee and recipes. Even the fathers in the

neighborhood bonded over their likes—a new car, lawn care equipment, or the latest world news.

Times have changed

Times have changed. The world is in constant flux. People aren’t as friendly. Some are fearful and distrustful. They don’t always look out for their neighbors. And I must confess there are some neighbors who are hard to love.

Some of us take pride in taking care of our property. Others don’t, making it frustrating for the rest of us. But Jesus has commanded us to love our neighbor as ourselves. It is the second greatest commandment after loving “the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”

I must remind myself I am not perfect. So, with that reminder, I often ask Jesus to help me see my unlovable neighbors through His eyes.

Each time I do, I come one step closer to loving them.

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

What seniors can do to help safeguard their mental health

STAFF REPORT

No one is immune to issues that can adversely affect their mental health, including men and women nearing retirement age and those who are already retired. Though the term “golden years” suggests life in retirement is one sunny day after another, many individuals 60 and older are dealing with mental health issues.

According to the World Health Organization, approximately 15 percent of the world’s adults aged 60 and over suffer from a mental disorder. What makes that statistic even more troubling is that the WHO acknowledges it likely doesn’t paint the most accurate picture of seniors and mental health, as depression is often undiagnosed among older men and women and untreated because it co-occurs with other issues affecting seniors.

In the past, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has acknowledged that late-life anxiety was not readily understood. However, much progress has been made in recent years thanks to a heightened awareness of the problem of seniors and mental health. That means seniors now have ample resources they can look to as they seek to learn what they can do to safeguard their mental health.

Recognizing warning signs

The National Institute of Mental Health notes that recognizing the signs of mental health issues is the first step to getting treatment.

Mental health issues vary, and individuals with anxiety will likely experience different symptoms than those with depression. But the NIMH notes that the following are some of the warning signs of mental health issues.

- Noticeable changes in mood, energy level, or appetite
- Feeling flat or having trouble feeling positive emotions
- Difficulty sleeping or sleeping too much
- Difficulty concentrating, feeling restless, or on edge
- Increased worry or feeling stressed
- Anger, irritability, or aggressiveness
- Ongoing headaches, digestive issues, or pain
- Misuse of alcohol or drugs
- Sadness or hopelessness
- Suicidal thoughts
- Engaging in high-risk activities
- Obsessive thinking or compulsive behavior
- Thoughts or behaviors that interfere with work, family, or social life
- Engaging in thinking or behavior that is concerning to others
- Seeing, hearing, and feeling things that other people do not see, hear, or feel

Seeking help

As noted, a growing awareness of mental health issues and how they affect seniors has translated to more available resources for aging men and women who need help. Within the United States, seniors can visit the NIMH Help for Mental



Illnesses webpage (<https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/find-help>) to access contact information for various groups that help people in times of mental health crises. In Canada, individuals can visit the Canadian Mental Health Association at <https://cmha.ca/find-help/find-cmha-in-your-area/> for contact information for various groups across the country.

Behaviors that can be beneficial

The National Institute on Aging notes that most cases of depression cannot be prevented. However, the NIA also notes that healthy lifestyle changes can have long-term benefits of seniors’ mental health. Such changes include:

- Being physically active
 - Eating a healthy diet that can reduce risk for diseases that can bring on disability and depression
 - Getting adequate sleep, which for seniors is between seven to nine hours per night
 - Remaining socially active, including regular contact with friends and family
 - Participating in activities you enjoy
 - Sharing mental issues or concerns with friends, family members and your physician
- Research indicates that seniors are vulnerable to mental health issues. More information about how to combat and overcome such issues is available at [nimh.nih.gov](https://www.nimh.nih.gov).

Holmes County

Classifieds

Place your classifieds by calling 850.638.0212

LEGAL ADVERTISING	LEGAL ADVERTISING	LEGAL ADVERTISING	LEGAL ADVERTISING	LEGAL ADVERTISING	LEGAL ADVERTISING	LEGAL ADVERTISING	LEGAL ADVERTISING
<p>000079</p> <p>IN THE CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR HOLMES COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION</p> <p>IN RE: ESTATE OF File No. 2023-CP-44</p> <p>Betty Jo Lefebvre Division D Deceased.</p> <p>NOTICE TO CREDITORS</p> <p>TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS OR DEMANDS AGAINST THE ABOVE ESTATE:</p> <p>You are hereby notified than an Order of Summary Administration has been entered in the estate of, Betty Jo Lefebvre deceased, File Number 2023-CP-44; by the Circuit Court for Holmes County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 201 N Oklahoma Street, Bonifay, Florida 32425; that the decedent's date of death was May 15, 2022; that the total value of the estate is \$800.00 and that the names and addresses of those to whom it has been assigned by such order are:</p> <p>Name Address Angela Lefebvre-Nallick 5412 Covered Bridge Lane Pace, FL 32571</p> <p>ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT:</p> <p>All creditors of the estate of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent other than those for whom provision for full payment was made in the Order of Summary Administration must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE. ALL CLAIMS AND DEMANDS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING</p>	<p>ANY OTHER APPLICABLE TIME PERIOD, 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 July 19, 2023.</p> <p>Attorney for Person Giving Notice:</p> <p>Angela J. Jones Attorney for Petitioner E-Mail Address: ajjones@ljslawfirm.com Florida Bar No. 096441 Locklin, Saba, Locklin & Jones, P.A. 4557 Chumuckla Highway Pace, Florida 32571 Telephone: (850) 995-1102</p> <p>Person Giving Notice:</p> <p>Angela Lefebvre-Nallick July 19, 26, 2023</p> <p>000082</p> <p>IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR HOLMES COUNTY, FLORIDA</p> <p>IN RE: 2007 Lincoln MKZ Sedan, Vin #3LNHM-28T57R612198 JAMIE ALLEN HUTTO Case No.: 23-214-CA</p> <p>NOTICE OF FORFEITURE PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>TO ALL PERSONS WHO CLAIM AN INTEREST IN THE ABOVE-DESCRIBED PROPERTY, WHICH WAS SEIZED ON OR ABOUT JUNE 29, 2023, IN HOLMES COUNTY, FLORIDA.</p> <p>Said property is in the custody of the Holmes County Sheriff's Department. Any owner entity, bona fide lienholder or person in possession of the property when seized has the right to contest the</p>	<p>Forfeiture Complaint by filing a Response with the Circuit Court within 20 days of the publication of this notice, with a copy of the Response sent to David F. Holmes, Attorney for the Holmes County Sheriff's Department, 136 East Lawrence Harris Highway, Slocomb, Alabama 36375. A Petition for Final Order of Forfeiture has been filed with the above styled cause.</p> <p>/s/ David F. Holmes David F. Holmes 136 East Lawrence Harris Highway Post Office Box 1180 Slocomb, Alabama 36375 334-886-3123 334-886-2331 (fax) FL BAR NO.: 261602</p> <p>Attorney for the Petitioner July 26, 2023</p> <p>000083</p> <p>IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR HOLMES COUNTY, FLORIDA</p> <p>IN RE: ESTATE OF</p> <p>COREY AARON REYNOLDS PROBATE DIVISION File No. 2023-000010-CP Deceased.</p> <p>NOTICE TO CREDITORS</p> <p>The administration of the estate of Corey Aaron Reynolds, deceased, whose date of death was June 3, 2022, is pending in the Circuit Court for Holmes County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 201 N. Oklahoma St., Bonifay, FL 32425. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.</p> <p>All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or de-</p>	<p>mands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.</p> <p>All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.</p> <p>Attorney for Personal Representative:</p> <p>Personal Representative:</p> <p>Todd C. Brister Attorney Florida Bar Number: 24522 P.O. Box 1759 Panama City, FL 32402 Telephone: (850) 215-7885 Fax: (850) 215-0379 E-Mail: tbristerlaw@gmail.com Secondary E-Mail: tbrister@knology.net</p> <p>Michael S. Kriser 1218 Piney Grove Rd. Chipley, Florida 32428 July 26, 2023 August 2, 2023</p> <p>000084</p> <p>IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR HOLMES COUNTY, FLORIDA</p> <p>IN RE: ESTATE OF</p>	<p>JOHN ARTHUR GUNNARSON PROBATE DIVISION File No. 2023-000070-CP Deceased.</p> <p>NOTICE TO CREDITORS</p> <p>The administration of the estate of John Arthur Gunnarson, deceased, whose date of death was December 18, 2022, is pending in the Circuit Court for Holmes County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 201 N Oklahoma St, Bonifay, FL 32425. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.</p> <p>All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.</p> <p>Attorney for Personal Representative:</p> <p>Personal Representative:</p> <p>Todd C. Brister Attorney Florida Bar Number: 24522 P.O. Box 1759 Panama City, FL 32402 Telephone: (850) 215-7885 Fax: (850) 215-0379 E-Mail: tbristerlaw@gmail.com Secondary E-Mail: tbrister@knology.net</p> <p>Nancy Gene Brown Kanne Strayer 110 Scissortail Trail Georgetown, Texas 78633 July 26, 2023 August 2, 2023</p> <p>000085</p> <p>NOTICE TO BIDDERS</p> <p>OBSTRUCTION REMOVAL at TRI-COUNTY AIRPORT BONIFAY, FLORIDA</p> <p>Notice is hereby given that the Tri-County Airport Authority will receive sealed bids at the Tri-County Airport Terminal Building, 1983 Tri-County Airport Road, Bonifay, Florida 32425 until 2:30 PM local (central) time on Friday, September 1, 2023, for the Obstruction Removal project at Tri-County Airport. All bids will be publicly opened and read aloud on Friday, September 1, 2023, at 2:30 PM. Bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked "BID ENCLOSED: OBSTRUCTION REMOVAL, TRI-COUNTY AIRPORT." The project generally includes, but is not necessarily limited to the following tasks:</p> <p>Tree Removal within the areas identified in the Bid Documents.</p> <p>Beginning on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, bidding documents will be</p>	<p>2023.</p> <p>Attorney for Personal Representative:</p> <p>Personal Representative:</p> <p>Todd C. Brister Attorney Florida Bar Number: 24522 P.O. Box 1759 Panama City, FL 32402 Telephone: (850) 215-7885 Fax: (850) 215-0379 E-Mail: tbristerlaw@gmail.com Secondary E-Mail: tbrister@knology.net</p> <p>Nancy Gene Brown Kanne Strayer 110 Scissortail Trail Georgetown, Texas 78633 July 26, 2023 August 2, 2023</p> <p>000086</p> <p>Pursuant to FL ST. 713.78, Eastern Diesel & Auto Wrecker Service, Inc. will sell at public sale at the following: 2005 S. WAUKESHA BONIFAY FL 32425 Time 8:00 A.M. Sale 08/02/2023 2016 bmw x5 SUXKR0C57G0P26033 July 26, 2023</p> <p>The successful bidder shall begin execution of this contract within five (5) calendar days following the date of the Notice to Proceed. The Tri-County Airport Authority has established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal for this project and DBE participation is encouraged.</p> <p>A Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be conducted at the Airport Terminal conference room at 1983 Tri-County Airport Road, Bonifay, Florida 32425 on Tuesday, August 8, 2023, at 2:00 pm central time. Questions related to the Bid Documents will be answered at that time. Attendance by prime contractors is encouraged but not required.</p> <p>ENGINEER'S CONTACT: Calvin Palmer, P.E., Project Manager AVCON, INC. 320 Bayshore Drive, Suite "A" Niceville, Florida 32578 Tel: 850-678-0050</p> <p>All bids shall be sealed and shall be addressed as follows: Tri-County Airport Authority 1983 Tri-County Airport Road Bonifay, Florida</p>	<p>32425 BID ENCLOSED: "OBSTRUCTION REMOVAL, TRI-COUNTY AIRPORT"</p> <p>Funding for this project is being provided by the Florida Department of Transportation. The Tri-County Airport Authority reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any technical or legal deficiencies and to accept any bid that it may deem to be in the best interest of the Authority. July 26, 2023</p> <p>000086 Pursuant to FL ST. 713.78, Eastern Diesel & Auto Wrecker Service, Inc. will sell at public sale at the following: 2005 S. WAUKESHA BONIFAY FL 32425 Time 8:00 A.M. Sale 08/02/2023 2016 bmw x5 SUXKR0C57G0P26033 July 26, 2023</p> <p>000087 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR HOLMES COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION</p> <p>File No. 23000065PRAXMX</p> <p>IN RE: ESTATE OF PENNY J. WOODHAM, Deceased</p> <p>NOTICE TO CREDITORS</p> <p>The administration of the estate of Penny J. Woodham, deceased, whose date of death was March 10, 2023, is pending in the Circuit Court for Holmes County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is P.O. Box 397, Bonifay, Florida 32425. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.</p> <p>All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against de-</p>	<p>cedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.</p> <p>All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.</p> <p>ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN 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 July 26, 2023.</p> <p>Personal Representative:</p> <p>Rustin Keith Woodham 1152 Highway 173 Graceville, FL 32440</p> <p>Attorney for Personal Representative:</p> <p>Laura C. Payne, Esq. Florida Bar No. 62517 Pyne Law Group, P.A. 2309 Frankford Avenue, Suite A Panama City, Florida 32405 Telephone (850) 215-9090 July 26, 2003 August 2, 2023</p>

Animal Lives Matter: *The hidden cruelty of animal testing*



DESTRA MOSES
Guest Columnist

Imagine right now, millions of mice, rats, rabbits, primates, cats, dogs, and other animals are locked inside barren cages in laboratories across the country. They languish in pain, suffer from extreme frustration, ache with loneliness, and long to be free. They sit and wait in fear of the next terrifying and painful procedure that will be performed on them. The complete lack of environmental enrichment and the stress of their living situation

cause some animals to develop neurotic types of behavior such as incessantly spinning in circles, rocking back and forth, pulling out their own fur, and even biting themselves. After enduring a life of pain, loneliness, and terror, almost all of them will be killed.

I am you, only different: Human beings create temporary and arbitrary boundaries to exclude existences who are not like them. Human beings have justified wars, slavery, sexual violence, and military conquests through the mistaken belief that those who are “different” do not experience suffering and are not worthy of moral consideration. “Animals are not ours to experiment on, eat, wear, use for entertainment or abuse in any other way.” PETA

There are many non-animal test methods that can be used in place

of animal testing. Not only are these non-animal tests more humane, they also have the potential to be cheaper, faster, and more relevant to humans. While some of the experimentation conducted on animals today is required by law, most of it is not. Several countries have implemented bans on the testing of certain

types of consumer goods on animals, such as the cosmetics-testing bans in the European Union, India, Israel, New Zealand, Norway, and elsewhere.

More than 100 million animals suffer and die in the U.S. every year in cruel chemical, drug, food, and cosmetic tests as well as in medical training exercises and

curiosity-driven medical experiments at universities. Animals also suffer and die in classroom biology experiments and dissection, even though modern non-animal tests have repeatedly been shown to have more educational value, save teachers time, and save schools money. Examples of animal tests include forcing mice and rats to inhale toxic fumes, force-feeding dogs pesticides, and dripping corrosive chemicals into rabbits’ sensitive eyes. Even if a product harms animals, it can still be marketed to consumers. Just because a product was shown to be safe in animals does not guarantee that it will be safe to use in humans.

Animals are also used in toxicity tests conducted as part of massive regulatory testing programs that are often funded by U.S. taxpayers’ money.

The Environmental Protection Agency, the Food and Drug Administration, the National Toxicology Program, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture are just a few of the government agencies that subject animals to crude, painful tests. Each of us can help prevent animal suffering and deaths by buying cruelty-free products and donating only to charities that do not experiment on animals.

Remember we speak for them! We are the voices to end the cruel testing and experimentation on animals. Let us demand the immediate implementation of humane effective non-animal tests by government agencies and corporations.

Destra Moses is a Holmes County resident and animal advocate. Contact her at destramoses@yahoo.com



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Hometown Haircuts offering free back-to-school haircuts

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

Tiny Art Show and Fundraiser Auction

The Chipley Branch of the Washington County Library is hosting a Tiny Art Show and Fundraiser Auction. The library invites you to show off your creative talents in this event. Pick up a 4x4” canvas at the library for a \$1 donation and create a mini masterpiece at home in your choice of medium. Return your completed canvas no later than Thursday, August 31.

Tiny Art submissions will be

displayed throughout the library September 4 -14 and included in the library’s fundraiser auction on Thursday, September 14.

Auction proceeds will be used to purchase Experience Kits and Memory Care Kits for adult patrons. Canvases are available now for pick up (1 per patron - while supplies last). Voting will take place from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, September 14. Submissions should be family friendly. Ages 18+ and all skill levels are welcome to participate.

Andrew Elton Williams Family Reunion

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

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

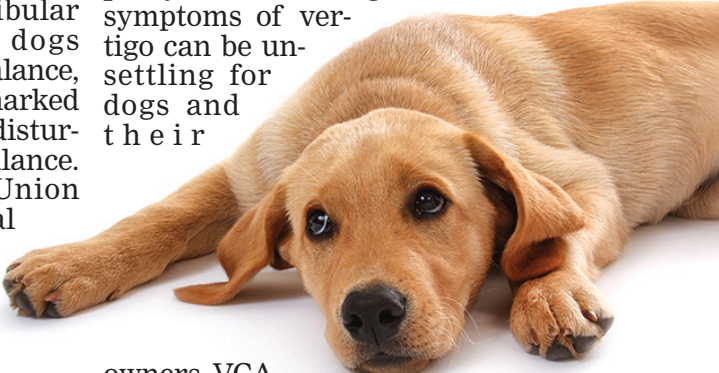
Vertigo and your pet

STAFF REPORT

Though it might be most instantly associated with a popular film directed by famed director Alfred Hitchcock, vertigo is a serious condition that can affect anyone in a household, including the family dog. Also known as vestibular disease, vertigo primarily affects older dogs. The vestibular system helps dogs maintain their balance, and vertigo is marked by the sudden disturbance of that balance. According to Union Animal Hospital in Spokane, Washington, dogs afflicted with vertigo usually stagger, but some may be unable to stand and, in

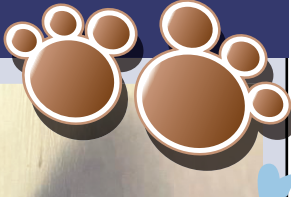
rare cases, dogs may roll over and over. VCA Animal Hospitals notes that head tilt and an irregular jerking eye movements known as nystagmus are additional symptoms of vertigo in dogs. Various factors can cause vertigo in dogs, including inner ear infections, drugs that are toxic to the ear, trauma or injury, tumors, and hypothyroidism. Though symptoms of vertigo can be unsettling for dogs and their

owners, VCA Animal Hospitals notes many pets begin to improve within 72 hours, and most fully recover within two to three weeks. Treatment for vertigo can be discussed with a veterinarian, and the persistence of symptoms for more than two to three weeks may indicate the presence of another underlying disorder.



owners, VCA Animal Hospitals notes many

Lonely Paws Club



Princess is looking for her purr-fect subjects • [NAN THOMPSON | The News and Advertiser]

Cats have subjects. Dogs have owners. Just so we get that straight from the beginning.

Hi there. I am a sweet little princess looking for royal servants to love forever.

I am a beautiful, short-haired gray and white tabby with perfectly placed gray spots. My extra tall ears help me keep my crown in place.

I am approximately a year old. I am a very affectionate little girl,

but I don’t have a name yet, and this makes me very sad. Of course, I will need a royal name, but you can do that for me, once you adopt me.

I will come with some royal requests: I will have to be spayed and have my shots, but that can be arranged during my adoption. Now to the fun things I will request of my new family: My favorite food, lots of toys, a warm lap, and lots of love.

I have been at the Chipley Animal Shelter for nearly a month, and the accommodations just aren’t what a princess like me should be accustomed to.

If you would like to give me a kingdom, call Stephanie at 850-326-6417.

Lonely Paws Club is a weekly feature to help shelter animals find a loving home, brought to you by Paw Barn Pet Resort and Kent Smith Group.

EST 2021

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