

Washington County NEWS



Holmes County ADVERTISER

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WASHINGTONCOUNTY.NEWS AND HOLMESCOUNTY.NEWS | Volume 001 - No. 36

'Elephant in the room'

Washington Co. commissioners openly discuss FBI investigation, select multiple contractors for emergency management services

COLLIN BREAUX
Cbreaux@kentsmith.biz

Rather than one firm, the Washington County Board of County Commissioners selected three contractors to handle emergency management in case of a hurricane or similar disaster. The board separately voted to contract with Wheeler Emergency Management Contractors, Metric Engineering, and True North Emergency Management Services.

Chatter has circulated in the community that Wheeler, the existing contractor, is involved in an FBI investigation—which was referenced numerous times by commissioners and the public during the commission meeting on Thursday, Sept. 21. “Let’s talk about the elephant in the room,” County Attorney Matthew Fuqua said during the workshop on Monday, Sept. 18. “Everybody knows there’s an FBI investigation going on

with Wheeler or some of the people going on with Wheeler.” The *Washington County News* has been told about an alleged investigation by multiple sources over the past year; however, none of those sources have been willing to go on the record with that information. *Washington County News* has reached out intermittently to the FBI in attempts to substantiate the claims with the FBI’s spokesperson from the

Jacksonville Field Office stating they can “neither confirm nor deny” an investigation is underway in Washington County. “I don’t know what the investigation entails,” Commissioner Alan T. Bush said. “I really don’t. I asked where it initiated from. All I was told was it was initiated from a contractor.” Selection of the trio of contractors came after

See **CONTRACTORS**, Page A7

Holmes Co. looks to pull out of 79 Corridor project

NAN THOMPSON
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During the Sept. 19 meeting of the Holmes County Board of County Commissioners, District 1 Commissioner Jeff Good said that Washington County was in agreement with Holmes County relinquishing control of their interest of the 79 Corridor project to the City of Bonifay. At the 79 Corridor budget meeting on Sept. 13, in which Good was a voting member, it was discussed that Holmes County wanted out and the City of Bonifay was interested. Bonifay City Clerk Rickey Callahan asked that members of the city be allowed time to reorganize their

See **HOLMES COUNTY**, Page A5

WCB OCC talks appropriations, recognizes Jackson

DIANE M. MOORE
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The Washington County Board of County Commissioners approved three projects for appropriation requests when they met in regular session on Sept. 21. County Administrator Jeff Massey brought forth the recommendations for the requests to be made during the 2024 legislative session. The first project is a new Washington County Fire Department/EMS station in Sunny Hills to support the growth in the south end of the county. The request totals \$2.5 million. The second project, which was requested last year but not funded, is for drainage mitigation at the county annex. The request is for \$2.2 million to complete the project. The last of the projects is to finish out the Dumajack Road project in phase II at a total of \$1.062 million. Commissioners will make these requests when the Legislative Delegation meeting with Senator Jay Trumbull and State Representative Shane Abbott comes to the county on October 3. The board recognized Danny Jackson for his 30 years of employment



Washington County Commissioners recognized Danny Jackson for his 30 years of service to the county in the public works department. From left: Commissioner David Corbin, Chairman Tray Hawkins, Commissioner Wesley Griffin, Jackson, Commissioner David Pettis and Commissioner Alan T. Bush. [DIANE M. MOORE | The News and Advertiser]

with the public works department, which he is retiring from. “This is a pleasure to do but something we hate to see happen,” said Chairman Tray Hawkins. “This man has given back to his community tirelessly and we cherish him. He is leaving a huge hole for us to fill. He will be greatly missed but is deserving of his retirement.” In other items, commissioners approved the waiver of a two-year resubmission period for a land use change application. The original application was not approved by the board or the Washington County

Planning Commission in August. The land use change is for acreage at Crystal Lake Drive and Highway 77 from residential low to residential medium and neighborhood commercial for one acre of the 40 total acres. Commissioners were not in support of the plans brought before the board and feared the change could lead to unwanted types of domiciles being placed. “We are looking for growth,” said Planning Chairman John Gay. “The proper kind of growth.” With the waiver of the waiting

See **WCB OCC**, Page A5

Esto to revive Two-Toed Tom Festival

COLLIN BREAUX
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A signature event in Esto is gearing up to return next year. The small Holmes County town will hold the Two-Toed Tom Festival again on September 14 in 2024 at John Clark Park. The event recognizes Two-Toed Tom, a legendary alligator in Esto folklore who is said to have terrorized citizens in the Florida Panhandle and surrounding area dating back to the 1900s. The creature is so named because he supposedly lost all but two toes to traps and is claimed—often tongue-in-cheek—to still lurk in the area to this day. The celebration will feature a lumberjack-themed show by Timberworks Lumberjack Show. “They will put on a great show and I am very excited,” Town Clerk Ben

See **TWO-TOED TOM**, Page A5

Pate leaves behind 'legacy of love'

DIANE M. MOORE
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On Labor Day, Melissa Pate’s world was turned upside down when her son, Tyler, was shot and killed. Just one week after his 30th birthday, Tyler Allen Pate, was killed by a gunshot wound to the chest from Matthew Ryan Peoples. While his death is surrounded by much controversy on social media, Pate’s mom, Melissa, wants people to remember the Tyler she knew.

“Tyler made mistakes in his life,” said Pate. “He was never a bad kid. He messed up just like we all do.” Pate says Tyler wanted to do and be better for his children and his family. “He checked himself into rehab in October of 2022 and had just come home in July,” she said. “When he got home, he went straight to work. He started going to church, having Bible study, and he gave his life to the Lord. I hate that people didn’t get to see that person. The people

that mattered did get to see it and that is all that matters.” Tyler was a father of three with another on the way, two daughters and one son ages 10, seven and two. “He loved his kids more than anything,” Pate said. “The way his son’s (Xavier) face would light up when he saw his daddy was the exact same as Tyler’s would when he saw Xavier. The love between them was immeasurable.”

See **PATE**, Page A7



Tyler Pate is pictured with his youngest child, Xavier. [CONTRIBUTED PHOTO]

CHS student killed, 4 others injured in Collins Road crash
Page 2A

Holmes County Blue Devils emerging as Class 1R threat
Page 6A

Northwest Florida Championship Rodeo kicks off next weekend
Page B3

HOLMES COUNTY



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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2023



Washington County NEWS Holmes County ADVERTISER

WASHINGTON COUNTY



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CHS student killed, 4 others injured in Collins Road crash

STAFF REPORT

A Chipley High School junior was fatally injured Saturday in a single-vehicle crash. The driver, confirmed by a Facebook post from CHS to be 17-year-old Tyler Swearingen, lost control of his vehicle while traveling eastbound on Collins Road, according to a report from the Florida Highway Patrol. The single-vehicle wreck occurred on Saturday, Sept. 23, at 8:02 p.m. FHP reports two other 17-year-olds and a 15-year-old sustained serious injuries, while another 15-year-old

sustained critical injuries. Those teens have not yet been officially identified. The crash occurred when the vehicle was said to have overturned after running off the road. Swearingen was ejected from the vehicle while it was overturning, the FHP said. "The loss of anyone is difficult, but the loss of a student is something that feels unthinkable," said the school in the social media post. Look for a tribute to Tyler Swearingen in next week's edition, as well as online at washingtoncounty.news.

Esto declines townwide mosquito spraying services

COLLIN BREAUX
Cbreaux@kentsmith.biz

Florida, including the Panhandle, is a place where trucks sometimes go around spraying mosquito repellent to ward off the buzzing nuisance. The Esto Town Council, however, is saying no to doing that in 2023. Council members declined to go forward with townwide spraying during their monthly meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 19. Council member Gareth Skipper supported not spraying this year and cited financial reasons as a factor, which other council members then unanimously agreed with. Council Vice President Josh Davenport asked for input on the matter from his peers on if

it's better or worse mosquito-wise when it sprays. "I don't have a good gauge on this because of where I live," Davenport said. "I live in a fairly secluded area with woods and so I don't really know exactly how that works." Town Clerk Ben Tew gave his perspective as someone who lives in town—specifically, next to Dollar General "with their drainage pond." "I can certainly say in previous years that there have been less mosquitoes," Tew said. "I really think this mosquito spray does work." Tew further said he believes there are more mosquitoes this year. The estimated cost for Esto to do mosquito spraying is around \$1,000 to \$1,100 a year,

with spraying done about once a week. Mosquito spraying lasts through October. Should mosquito spraying ever be done, people can request to be on a no-spray address list for various reasons, including allergies. In other news from the meeting, Tew said the Holmes County Tourist Development Council planned to eventually shoot a highlight video in Esto and surrounding areas as part of tourism marketing efforts. Davenport said John Clark Park needs upgrades, which would hopefully be done in a month and in time for the TDC's visit. An air conditioning unit at John Clark Park will be repaired to address a leaking air handler at a cost of \$1,330.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED TAX INCREASE

The City of Chipley has tentatively adopted a measure to increase its property tax levy.

Last year's property tax levy:

A. Initially proposed tax levy.....	\$	<u>1,194,925</u>
B. Less tax reductions due to Value Adjustment Board and other assessment changes.....	\$	(1,294)
C. Actual property tax levy.....	\$	<u>1,196,219</u>

This year's proposed tax levy.....\$ 1,280,570

All concerned citizens are invited to attend a public hearing on the tax increase to be held on

Friday, September 29, 2023
5:05 p.m.
at
Chipley City Hall-Council Chambers
1442 Jackson Avenue, Chipley, Florida

A FINAL DECISION on the proposed tax increase and the budget will be made at this hearing.

FWC officials to expand testing for deer disease

JIM TURNER
News Service of Florida

Some deer killed during two popular hunting days in December must be tested for a contagious disease fatal to the animals as the state expands efforts to limit the spread of the disease. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission said on Tuesday, Sept. 19, that deer killed on Dec. 9 and Dec. 10 in most areas of Holmes, Jackson and Washington counties must be tested for chronic wasting disease at one of 21 check stations before being processed for food or going to taxidermists. "These counties comprise the CWD (Chronic Wasting Disease) Enhanced Surveillance Zone, and the FWC (Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission) is prioritizing heightened surveillance and regulations within this zone to reduce the potential spread of CWD both within the zone and throughout the state," Lauren Claerbout, a spokeswoman for the commission's Division of Hunting and Game Management, said. The disease is described as similar to mad cow disease, with deer becoming ema-

ciated and often being found isolated and trembling. While not considered harmful to people, the disease can result in death within four months to deer. The testing details were presented Tuesday during a meeting in Bonifay. Another meeting is scheduled Oct. 10 in Marianna. The commission will try to get as many samples as possible to meet testing goals. "We can get some deer out of season from road kills, but the majority of our samples will come from hunter-harvested deer," commission Deer Management Program Coordinator Cory Morea said in Bonifay. "So, it's really important to get out and hunt and provide samples whenever." The commission is asking people who see sick, abnormally thin deer, or deer dead of unknown causes to report the finds. Claerbout said it also is asking hunters to bring in deer heads for testing outside of the "check station weekend." The commission issued an emergency order after a case of chronic wasting disease was detected in June in a "road-killed"

See DEER, Page 7A

BUDGET SUMMARY

CITY OF CHIPLEY
FISCAL YEAR 2023 - 2024

THE PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF CHIPLEY ARE 8.9% MORE THAN LAST YEAR'S TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES.

Millage Per \$1,000

General Fund 7.0000

GENERAL FUND	DEBT SERVICE FUND	CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND	ENTERPRISE FUNDS	TOTAL BUDGET
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ESTIMATED REVENUES:

Ad Valorem Taxes Millage of 7.0000	\$ 1,216,542.00	\$ 127,228.00	\$ 7,401,279.00	\$ -	\$ 8,745,049.00
Intergovernmental Revenue	2,710,679.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,710,679.00
Sanitation	0.00	7,575.00	280,000.00	1,084,725.00	1,372,300.00
Water	0.00	7,005.00	0.00	870,520.00	877,525.00
Gas	0.00	7,629.00	0.00	621,297.00	628,926.00
Sewer	0.00	133,745.00	856,081.00	1,464,255.00	2,454,081.00

TOTAL REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES

	\$ 3,927,221.00	\$ 283,182.00	\$ 8,537,360.00	\$ 4,040,797.00	\$ 16,788,560.00
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TOTAL REVENUES, TRANSFERS & BALANCES

	\$ 4,414,267.00	\$ 283,182.00	\$ 8,537,360.00	\$ 4,040,797.00	\$ 17,275,606.00
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EXPENDITURES:

General Government	\$ 4,414,267.00	\$ 127,228.00	\$ 7,401,279.00	\$ -	\$ 11,942,774.00
Sanitation	0.00	7,575.00	280,000.00	1,084,725.00	1,372,300.00
Water	0.00	7,005.00	0.00	870,520.00	877,525.00
Gas	0.00	7,629.00	0.00	609,797.00	617,426.00
Sewer	0.00	133,745.00	856,081.00	1,460,505.00	2,450,331.00

TOTAL EXPENDITURES

	\$ 4,414,267.00	\$ 283,182.00	\$ 8,537,360.00	\$ 4,025,547.00	\$ 17,260,356.00
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TOTAL APPROPRIATED EXPENDITURES

TRANSFERS, RESERVES & BALANCES	\$ 4,414,267.00	\$ 283,182.00	\$ 8,537,360.00	\$ 4,040,797.00	\$ 17,275,606.00
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THE TENTATIVE, ADOPTED, AND/OR FINAL BUDGETS ARE ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED TAXING AUTHORITY AS A PUBLIC RECORD.

Washington County Code Enforcement Public Hearing Notice

Special Magistrate for William and April Strickland to be held on October 5, 2023 beginning at 1:30 PM CST at the Washington County Annex Building located at **1331 South Boulevard, Chipley, FL 32428 in the County Commission Room.** September 27, 2023

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Washington County Board of County Commissioners

Washington County Board of County Commissioners is requesting bids for "**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, November 1, 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). September 27, October 4, 2023

Washington Co. Commissioners approve administrator contract

COLLIN BREAUX
Cbreaux@kentsmith.biz

Jeff Massey will continue serving as the Washington County administrator.

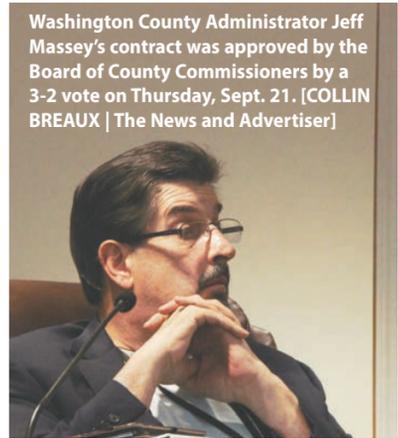
The Washington County Board of County Commissioners approved a contract for Massey by a 3-2 vote during a meeting on Thursday, Sept. 21.

Massey has been in the position since July 2017.

Under the approved agreement, Massey's contract continues through 2025. He will receive a salary of \$99,985.60.

"The Board agrees to employ Mr. Massey as the County Administrator of the County on an 'at will' basis and at the pleasure of the Washington County Board of Com-

missioners, until such time as his employment is terminated by the Board or he resigns as County Administrator," the agreement said.



Washington County Administrator Jeff Massey's contract was approved by the Board of County Commissioners by a 3-2 vote on Thursday, Sept. 21. [COLLIN BREAUX | The News and Advertiser]

Should the board wish to terminate Massey's contract without cause, there would have to be "reasonable prior notice of calling such a vote" provided to Massey.

"Reasonable prior notice for purposes of this agreement only is defined as not less than 72 hours notice before any meeting at which the question of termination will be discussed is called to order," the agreement said.

The termination date would then be "not less than 30 days following the vote."

Massey would receive a severance payment equal to his salary and benefits for five months and lump sum payments for unused leave and sick hours, as well as continuation of health insurance

coverage at county expense for 150 calendar days following termination.

Non-renewal of a contract is not considered employment termination.

Should Massey's contract be terminated with cause—reasons which would include "gross negligence in the handling of County affairs" or "willful violation of the provisions of law"—the board can approve severance pay but is not obligated to the extent as if he were let go without cause.

Massey must provide "not less than 60 days' written notice prior to the effective date of any voluntary resignation, unless the parties agree otherwise" if he wishes to voluntarily resign.

Wausau wraps up budget, honors retiring clerk Margaret Riley

NAN THOMPSON
Nthompson@kentsmith.biz

Wausau Town Council adopted an ordinance on Thursday, Sept. 21, closing the final budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

Throughout the month of September, the council held public hearings regarding the proposed budget where residents could talk about and view the tentative budget amount.

"Final numbers had not changed since they had been published in the newspaper," Town

Clerk Margaret Riley said.

The final 2023-2024 balanced budget number is \$3,231,482.

In other Wausau news, Mayor Roger Dale Hagan announced that Denise Spencer will be taking over as town clerk on Oct. 1. Margaret Riley will retire on Sept. 30 and hand over her duties after 27 years of service to the city.

Animal control and animal registration once again came before the council and will be brought back up at the

October meeting. The city is exploring ways to cut costs and ensure the city still has animal control.

The council will be attending the Legislative Delegation meeting in Chipley on Oct. 3 at the Washington County Annex. The town will present a grant request to finish the Possum Palace.

Also in October, the city will begin offering a non-potable water source for businesses. For more information, contact the city at 850-638-1781.



Margaret Riley will officially retire from her role as town clerk after 27 years of service and hand over her duties to Denise Spencer, who will take over Oct. 1. [CAROL KENT | The News and Advertiser]

WC Council on Aging looking for donations

DIANE M. MOORE
Dmoore@kentsmith.biz

Washington County Council on Aging (COA) is a hub for senior activities with their community center, day center and other monthly activities for seniors. With those, donations sometimes run low and supplies need to be replenished.

The day center provides respite care for those with early onset dementia in order to give their caregivers a needed break. COA provides snacks and drinks for clients but are currently running low on their favorites of each. Their favorites include Hawaiian Punch (any flavor) and sugar free low calorie drink mixes. Coffee, creamer and soft style snacks are also in demand. The

drinks and snacks are shared between the two centers.

Community Outreach Coordinator Geri Cox says COA offers many activities, services and trips.

"We have many exciting things happening here at COA," Cox said. "Aside from our regular monthly activities, we have a five-day trip to Biltmore House coming up in October that

those interested can still sign up for. We also have a Christmas event in December and food trucks that come once a month. Maria's Tacos will be here on October 27, and we are excited to have them."

Monthly activities include bingo, a birthday party, art classes and an exercise class.

Donations can be dropped off at 1348 South Boulevard in Chipley.

Washington County Board of County Commissioners Invitations to Bid No. 2023-18

Washington County Board of County Commissioners is requesting bids for "Deployable Flood Panel Barrier System".

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

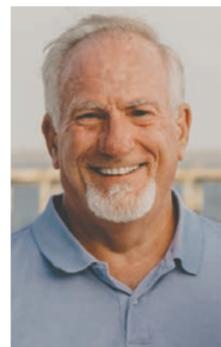
Sealed bids will be received at the County Administration office located at 1331 South Boulevard, Chipley, FL 32428, Attn: Kimberly Birge-Gorman, no later than **3:00 p.m. CST on Tuesday, November 1, 2023**. To be considered, the respondent must submit one (1) manually signed original, three (3) hard 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).

September 27, October 4, 2023

Medicare enrollment options can be confusing. You don't have to navigate them alone.



LES BROWN
Senior Life Specialist

Hey, my name is Les Brown! No, not the "Les Brown and the Band of Renown" guy from many years ago. And after seeing my picture you might have thought you had seen it on the Post Office wall—not me! I am the guy you probably saw sitting in Walmart for the past 7 years helping people find their way through the con-

fusing maze of Medicare. I am taking a different route this year and will be focusing more on appointments at your convenience and in a quiet, more private atmosphere. But I feel like people should know more about the person whom they entrust with their health insurance protection so let me share a little of who I am and what led me to this profession.

I am a native of Panama City, born a Navy brat (which entailed moving every few years) till my dad retired and went to work for Gulf Power at the plant in Southport. I played basketball for Mosley High School and graduated in the 1st graduating class (1975). I went on to a small college in Atlanta where I studied to become a minister in the Christian Church. After serving other congregations, I was called to serve a small congregation in Bayou George (Panama City area). Since

the church could not afford a full time salary, I had to find an additional occupation to make ends meet (plus having 4 boys who expected to be fed every day). I did not want a job just to make money but something that served and ministered to others. In every church I served in, the seniors always complained about the confusion of moving into the Medicare arena so that motivated me into becoming an agent to help seniors get through the Medicare maze! It has definitely been a journey of understanding the process and learning the ins and outs. But an enjoyable journey because I have been able to meet and help so many wonderful people. In fact, I believe it is this senior group that we have to thank for making us the greatest country on earth!

Well, hopefully after all that you are still awake and the mind hasn't zoned out! Over the next 8 weeks I will

be sharing some information each week to give you a better understanding of the Medicare arena and a foundation for walking through it. It is something that can not be fully grasped in one sitting (I've had people with Doctors who were frustrated with understanding it) so hopefully these weekly nuggets will add up to a better grasp of what it is and what works best for you.

We are entering the AEP for Medicare that goes from October 15th - December 7th. After October 1st (due to Medicare rules) I will have some fantastic news to share with any who are on Advantage plans that will be a major boost to their situation. You are free to call me for the info or set up an appointment to discuss this awesome news.

Please be patient if you do not get me on the phone - just leave me a message

and I'll call you back. During the AEP, I hope to be set up in several convenient locations around town to meet with you or to set up an appointment at your convenience. This promises to be a better year for many seniors who are struggling with inflation.

I look forward to meeting you. God bless!

Les Brown is a local resident who is passionate about helping Seniors navigate the often confusing options during Medicare enrollment. Contact him at 850-643-1566 or via email at: lbsackett@gtcom.net

OPINION

Things I've never done



JASE GRAVES
Guest Columnist

A few days ago, my wife and I were taking our evening almost-senior-citizen power stroll, and the subject of Hooters came up. Yes, Hooters.

And I'll tell you why (even if you wish I wouldn't).

We were having a good laugh because someone on Facebook had suggested that our local and recently-shuttered Bed Bath & Beyond store might become a giant Hooters. (Pretend you didn't read those last two words together.)

It was at that point I realized and proudly confessed to my wife that I've never visited a Hooters restaurant. Myself-righteous gloating was soon silenced, though, when my wife announced, "Well, I have. It was a long time ago, and I was on a business trip. It obviously wasn't my choice."

I was stunned, not so much that my wife had been served owl tacos, or whatever it is they have at Hooters, but that she had done this stereotypical "man" thing that I'd never done — and really have no desire to do. (I mean, who eats owls?)

That got me thinking about other things I haven't done in my 50-something-year-old life, so I made a list

(even if you wish I wouldn't).

1. I've never been duck hunting. My father-in-law did take me deer hunting once — back when I was dating his daughter and he was still trying to decide whether or not to let me live. Duck hunting actually sounds kind of fun, except for the getting wet, getting cold and getting up before noon on a Saturday parts.

2. I've never been to an escape room. However, I experience something like it every night when I try to find my way to the bathroom half asleep in the dark.

3. I've never been to a NASCAR, Formula 1, or drag race. I have given all three of my daughters driving lessons, so I'm good.

4. I've never watched "Game of Thrones." (See number 2.)

5. I've never been fly fishing — unless you count those times I've been sitting in a meeting at work and discovered, to my horror, that my pants were unzipped.

6. I've never been axe throwing. I did abuse some pine trees with those ninja throwing stars as a kid, though. (I grew up during the 1970s and '80s when parents still allowed kids to eat highly processed meats and play with sharp objects unattended.)

7. I've never played "Call of Duty." (See number 2.)

8. I've never been to a Taylor Swift concert, and I'd really like to go. I'm actually on a waiting list for tickets to an upcoming concert in New Orleans, but

See **GRAVES, Page 5A**

Recovering From Covid



REDA ROUNTREE
Guest Columnist

Are you struggling after contracting Covid? Have your symptoms worsened weeks or months later? I'm right there with you. I tested positive in December 2020 and have been sick for years. I've seen dozens of doctors before finding solutions and am still learning, with a months-long recovery ahead of me. Although there's no cure for long Covid, there are ways to manage symptoms. Here are some things I've learned through five hospital stays and countless doctor visits.

Improve your diet

Give up beer. Sacrifice coffee you always grabbed before work. Forget fast food. Forget fried food (a hard one, I know). Eat plenty of

vegetables and fresh fruit. Switch up your diet in a major way and see if you notice a difference.

Conserve your energy

It's hard to slow down. Even cutting back on chores such as laundry or cooking can be difficult. But now is the time to count on others so you can get the rest you need. Use a wheelchair for doctor's appointments if necessary. Floor exercises can help you gain strength without worsening symptoms.

Get your allergies under control

Covid causes inflammation. If your body is already fighting inflammation because of allergies, you need to combat allergies as much as possible. Take histamine blockers such as Pepcid, Benadryl or Zyrtec available over the counter but talk to your doctor first.

Wear compression garments

Are you having trouble standing for long periods of time or experiencing dizziness? If you are, you

might be dealing with symptoms connected to POTS (Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome) which is very common with long Covid. Try compression garments — compression socks and runners' tights for leg support will help.

Tackle brain fog

My grandparents did the newspaper crossword puzzle and word jumble every morning. I now realize the importance of mental exercise every day, which will go a long way toward kicking brain fog.

There's a game app developed by scientists to help improve memory and attention called Lumosity, with a free version available. This isn't a paid sponsorship, this is me giving you real advice as a Lumosity user for over five months and it's helped significantly.

Address your hardest symptoms first

Three common symptoms of Long Covid are lung problems, exhaustion and brain fog but you might have less common symptoms and not even

realize those are tied to long Covid. Seizures, hearing loss and digestive issues are also common.

Before you meet with your primary physician, prepare a list of five important questions and write down your three most severe symptoms. What has changed the way you function on a daily basis? Make these three symptoms your biggest priority when talking to your doctor.

Keep searching for the medical professional who will believe you

This leads me to the most important piece of advice I can give you — keep searching for the right doctor to help you. Find that doctor who will listen to you, address your symptoms, and give you hope.

Reda Rountree was born in Dothan, Alabama, and was raised in Cottondale and Chipley. She currently lives in Los Angeles and spends summers with her family in Washington County. She's been a Washington County Newsreader since 1982.

Dressing up for Senate success



TOM PURCELL
Guest Columnist

I suppose it was just a matter of time before casual dress hit the U.S. Senate.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer has told the Senate's sergeant-at-arms to no longer enforce the hallowed chamber's informal dress code, which had required senators and their staffers to wear business attire.

Schumer's directive appears to be tailor-made for Pennsylvania Sen. John Fetterman, who prefers gym shorts and hoodies over the suits and ties male senators have always worn.

When Fetterman first arrived at the Senate, he attempted to wear a suit and tie — but looked as uncomfortable as a kidnap victim constrained by a straitjacket.

After being treated for clinical depression, however, he re-

turned to the Senate in his favorite frump duds.

To paraphrase comedian Dennis Miller, Fetterman's clothes make him look like the kid who taps the keg at fraternity parties.

As someone who prefers slothful wear over formal attire — running pants, a long-sleeved Pitt Panthers shirt and frayed sandals — I'm sympathetic to Fetterman's situation.

On one hand, I think the Senate deserves incredible courtesy and respect. It is a tremendous honor to be among 100 of the most accomplished and powerful people on the planet.

Senators must honor their colleagues through their manner, gestures, words and dress — one man's comfort should never trump one's duty to show respect to his colleagues and the august institution he represents.

On the other hand, our culture sure has gotten sloppy.

I recently found an old photo of my grandfather at a baseball game in the 1920s. He and the other guys at the game were sporting suits and ties and fedora hats.

Pretty much ev-

eryone dressed up in formal clothes when they went to restaurants, movies and Sunday Mass well into the 1970s.

The Atlantic reports that our national shift to casual wear began in the mid-'80s with tech companies in California.

"Restrictive clothing worn for appearances' sake was inefficient, and Silicon Valley was all about efficiency," reports the magazine.

Long work hours writing computer code gave way to tech employees dressing down in khaki pants and button-down collar shirts.

Casual Friday soon loosened corporate dress standards across the country, and that evolved into casual day every day.

Now, thanks to covid, we've become a country of wrinkled slob who look like we just crawled out of bed.

Like it or not, we are living in the heyday of frump, and no public figure symbolizes frumpiness more than Fetterman — whose bold stand for slovenliness surely motivated Schumer to abolish informal dress standards for senators.

Schumer may rue

the day he made this change, however.

It's just a matter of time before Mitt Romney interviews witnesses as he still wears last-night's silk pajama top, Ted Cruz casts votes in cargo shorts, black socks and scuffed wingtips, and Bernie Sanders filibusters in the raggedy white robe given to him as a gift 40 years ago.

Though I'm guilty of frumpism, if I were a senator I'd embrace the old saying "Dress for the job you want."

I'd wear a crisp suit and tie and make sure my shoes were perfectly polished.

I'd do so for the simple reason that dress is a form of expression and communication — and that "dressing like a senator" will make it easier for my colleagues to respect me and collaborate with me than they would with the kid who taps kegs at frat parties.

Tom Purcell, creator of the infotainment site ThurbersTail.com, which features pet advice he's learning from his beloved Labrador, Thurber, is a Pittsburgh Tribune-Review humor columnist. Email him at Tom@TomPurcell.com.

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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

TWO-TOED TOM

From Page 1A

Tew said during an event update to the Town Council during their monthly meet-



Esto is gearing up for the Two-Toed Tom Festival in 2024, which will feature a lumberjack show and live music. [COLLIN BREAUX | The News and Advertiser]

ing on Tuesday, Sept. 19. "That was a big accomplishment that we have our major entertainment locked in."

There will also be live music, bounce houses, and craft vendors.

The Town of Esto has also done work on a Two-Toed Tom paper mache mascot.

Tew and Council Vice President Josh Davenport discussed how to handle parking for the event, including potentially

leasing or renting a nearby area for spaces.

"I spoke to the [Holmes County] Tourism Development Council about [the event] and they are ecstatic about it," Tew said. "They see this as a key benefit for our counties."

There will also be a Two-Toed Tom float in the Bonifay Rodeo

Parade in October.

In other news from the meeting, Davenport suggested a small harvest festival be held in town this fall.

Tew was asked to put up a Facebook post asking if anyone is interested in volunteering for the event, though Davenport said he will personally hold the event if need be.

Rental fees for John Clark Park—particularly when people want to book an event for a year out—was also discussed.

The council ultimately approved requiring a \$50 non-refundable deposit for event rentals after Tew brought the item forth.

"There are some events on the books

that are way out," Tew said.

"As soon as people have their reunion or something, they want to book for the next year but that means I'm putting down a name for a date and not getting any money. If somebody else comes by and actually rent it, I say this family and these people have this date."

HOLMES COUNTY

From Page 1A

board before taking on the responsibilities. Holmes County will still fund the project for the next five to six months until Bonifay takes over.

In other news from the meeting, the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission also tentatively approved the two and a half-acre site at the Holmes County Sanitary Landfill with a 99-year lease on the property. All costs for fencing and surveying will be at no cost to Holmes County. Any permanent improvements to the property will be left on site.

Commissioners approved the submission of a grant of \$23,676 for the Holmes County Public Library to ensure library services continue.

The moving of the Holmes County Sheriff's Office has been delayed until after the Holmes County Rodeo. County Administrator David Corbin said the Bonifay Police Department might be interested in the building. Talks will continue at the next meeting on Oct. 3 at 6 p.m.

Donnie Sellers of Florida Forestry Service gave their annual report for fiscal year 2022-2023, ending Sept. 30. There were 27 wildfires, burning 213.51 acres.

The Holmes County Legislative Delegation meeting will be held Oct. 3 at 10 a.m. at 107 East Virginia Avenue in Bonifay. State Representative Shane Abbott and State Senator Jay Trumbull will be in attendance. The meeting is open to all Holmes County residents.

WCBOCC

From Page 1A

period, the developer, Nick Henderson of Walton County, will start from the beginning of the process and is expected to bring back more in-depth plans for the site.

Commissioner Wes-

ley Griffin brought a recommendation to fill the District 4 seat on the Planning Commission. The board approved the appointment of Carl Owens to fill the position.

The Washington County Board of County Commissioners will meet again in workshop at 9 a.m. on Oct. 12.

BUDGET SUMMARY					
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS					
WASHINGTON COUNTY					
FISCAL YEAR 2023 - 2024					
THE PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET EXPENDITURES OF WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONS ARE 3.5%					
LESS THAN LAST YEAR'S TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES.					
MILLAGE PER \$1,000.00					
GENERAL FUND 8.50					
	GENERAL	TRANSPORT	SPECIAL	DEBT	TOTAL
	FUND	FUND	REVENUE	SERVICE	BUDGET
	FUND	FUND	FUND	FUND	BUDGET
CASH BALANCE FORWARD	925,638.00	1,654,535.00	6,832,101.00	-	9,412,274.00
ESTIMATED REVENUES:					
TAXES:					
AD VALOREM TAX	10,646,845.00		605,709.00		11,252,554.00
NON AD VALOREM TAX					
SALES, USES & GAS TAX	2,707,540.00	2,015,835.00	113,000.00	-	4,836,375.00
BUILDING PERMITS			399,500.00		399,500.00
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	1,811,500.00	-	-		1,811,500.00
INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUE	4,594,926.00	1,093,267.00	104,712,820.00		110,401,013.00
FINES & FORFEITURES	3,000.00		221,500.00		224,500.00
MISCELLANEOUS	318,616.00	20,000.00	123,891.00		462,507.00
TOTAL REVENUES AND OTHER					
FINANCING SOURCES	21,008,065.00	4,783,637.00	113,008,521.00	-	138,800,223.00
LESS 5%	(1,004,122.00)	(156,456.00)	(30,286.00)		(1,190,864.00)
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES AND OTHER	20,003,943.00	4,627,181.00	112,978,235.00	-	137,609,359.00
BALANCES					
TRANSFER INS		-	1,261,213.00	550,000.00	1,811,213.00
RESERVES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
HOSPITAL	96,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	96,000.00
BALANCES	20,099,943.00	4,627,181.00	114,239,448.00	550,000.00	139,516,572.00
EXPENDITURES/EXPENSES					
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	8,478,468.00		611,292.00		9,089,760.00
PUBLIC SAFETY	7,448,849.00		6,155,180.00		13,604,029.00
PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	268,677.00		289,966.00		558,643.00
TRANSPORTATION		4,417,156.00	103,243,786.00		107,660,942.00
ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT	864,118.00		2,323,421.00		3,187,539.00
HUMAN RESERVES	741,910.00		130,017.00		871,927.00
CULTURE/RECREATION	164,686.00		652,791.00		817,477.00
CAPITAL OUTLAY	-	310,025.00	242,405.00		552,430.00
DEBT SERVICE	75,000.00		12,000.00	550,000.00	637,000.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES/EXPENSES	18,041,708.00	4,727,181.00	113,660,858.00	550,000.00	136,979,747.00
CONTINGENCY	249,522.00		476,090.00		725,612.00
TOTAL APPROPRIATED					
EXPENDITURES AND CONTINGENCY	18,291,230.00	4,727,181.00	114,136,948.00	550,000.00	137,705,359.00
TRANSFER OUTS	1,811,213.00				1,811,213.00
RESERVES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	20,102,443.00	4,727,181.00	114,136,948.00	550,000.00	139,516,572.00
THE TENTATIVE ADOPTED, AND/OR FINAL BUDGETS ARE ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED TAXING AUTHORITY AS A PUBLIC RECORD.					

GRAVES

From Page 4A

I think it's more of a "you sad, sad man who will never get tickets and shouldn't want them" list.

9. I've never played pickleball. I'm not exactly sure what it is, but if it involves food eaten with pickles (or food of any kind), I'm in.

10. And speaking of eating, I've never had cauliflower-crust pizza. I've tried to eat raw cauliflower, which reminds me of eating a candle, and I eat my own weight in pizza about once a week. (See number 2.) But I really believe in keeping my food groups separate, so I think I'll pass.

So, there you have it. Now that I've gotten all of this off my chest, I know I'll sleep better – if I can find my way back from the bathroom.

Jase Graves is an award-winning humor columnist from East Texas. Contact Graves at susanjase@sbcglobal.net.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED TAX INCREASE

The Washington County Board of Commissioners has tentatively adopted a measure to increase its property tax levy.

Last year's property tax levy:

- A. Initially proposed tax levy.....\$ 9,353,740
- B. Less tax reductions due to Value Adjustment Board and other assessment changes.....\$ 1,810
- C. Actual property tax levy.....\$ 9,351,930

This year's proposed tax levy.....\$ 10,346,845

All concerned citizens are invited to attend a public hearing on the tax increase to be held on:

October 2, 2023

5:05 p.m.

at

Washington County Annex

1331 South Boulevard

ChIPLEY, Florida 32428

A FINAL DECISION on the proposed tax increase and the budget will be made at this hearing.

SPORTS

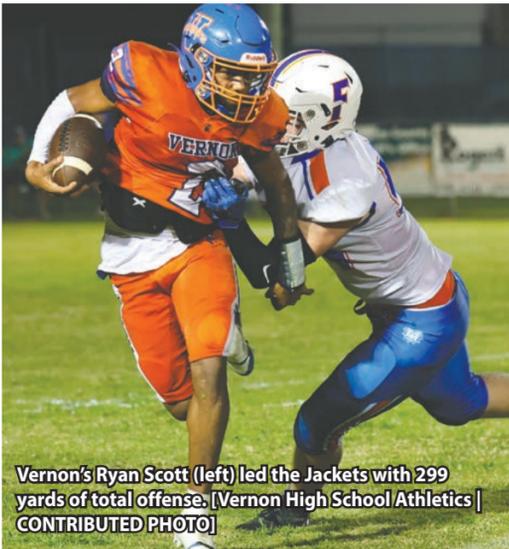
Holmes County emerging as Class 1R threat

WMBB
 The Holmes County football team has emerged as the Panhandle's team to beat in their classification this season, perfect in games against Class 1 Rural opponents.
 "Being able to beat them and playing in that game, knowing that you beat them," Holmes County junior quarterback Colby Powell said. "It feels great."
 The Blue Devils made a statement with the 46-36 win over cross-county rival Chipley, which is something Holmes County hasn't been able to do over the last six years. They followed it up with another win over offensive powerhouse Sneads.
 "I feel like if we put the best Holmes County Blue Devils out there we're going to have a lot better than a good chance in most games that we play," Holmes County head football coach Kevin Womble said.
 Holmes County football has a reputation for building tough players, but this year they have the added bonuses of depth and talent.
 "The big difference is this year we've got a lot of talent to go along with it," Womble said. "It's not that they're tough, but they don't have a lot of speed or they're tough, but they don't have a lot of ability. We've kind of got a little bit of all of it this year."
 As the target is forming on the Blue Devil's back, the team is not letting the newfound attention affect their game.
 "Stay humble and do what we have to do until we get to where

See HCHS, Page 8A

Vernon defeats Freeport 22-19

STAFF REPORT
 The Vernon Yellow Jackets overcame a 19-6 halftime deficit to defeat the Freeport Bulldogs, 22-19.
 Senior Ryan Scott led the Jackets with 299 yards of total offense and #10 sophomore Caden Hammock had a total of 6 tackles (2 for a loss) and a fumble recovery for the defense.
 The win improves Vernon to 2-2 on the season. The Yellow Jackets play at Holmes County (3-1) this Friday at 7 p.m. Look for more photos online at washingtoncounty.news



Vernon's Ryan Scott (left) led the Jackets with 299 yards of total offense. [Vernon High School Athletics | CONTRIBUTED PHOTO]

Tigers storm the Tornadoes



The Chipley High School varsity football team prevailed against Bay High School by 29-21 during a game on Sept. 22. The Tigers improved to 4-1 and will have the week off for a bye week. [OFF MY FRAME PHOTOGRAPHY | Contributed Photo]

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

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

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Our Mission"*

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

CHS Lady Tigers Volleyball host Altha Wildcats

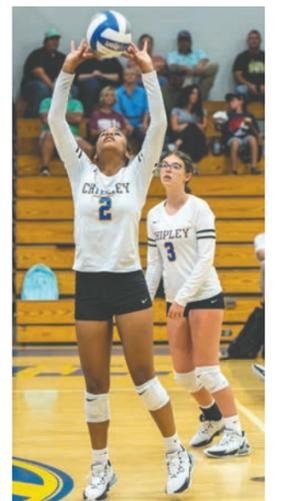
STAFF REPORT
 In an exciting showdown on the volleyball court, the Chipley Lady Tigers played host to the Altha Wildcats on Sept. 21.

Junior Varsity Match
 The junior varsity game began with a dominant performance by the Lady Tigers in the first set, winning convincingly with a score of 25-7.
 The Altha Wildcats, determined to turn the tide, fought hard in the second set but the Lady Tigers maintained their composure and secured the set with a score of 25-17.

Varsity Match
 Moving on to the varsity division, the Chipley Lady Tigers continued their impressive form. In the first set, they demonstrated their superiority with a commanding score of 25-10.
 The Wildcats put up a spirited effort in the second set, but the Lady Tigers maintained their momentum and secured another win at 25-11.

See VOLLEYBALL, Page 8A

See VOLLEYBALL, Page 8A



The Chipley Lady Tigers hosted the Altha Wildcats on Sept. 21. [CONTRIBUTED PHOTO]

DEER

From Page 2A

deer in Holmes County. The positive test was the first known case of a deer in Florida having the disease, which has been found in 30 other states including Alabama and Mississippi.

No additional cases have been detected in close to 200 deer tested since the Holmes County case, but wildlife officials expect an increase in deer deaths from the disease. Directives from the commission will be reevaluated after the upcoming hunting season.

Claerbout said the December weekend - the start of the

second phase of the "general gun" season for deer hunting in the Panhandle region that includes the three counties -- "is very popular for deer hunting."

"We also looked at harvest reporting data from the last few years to determine which weekend would most likely yield the highest number of harvested deer from that area," Claerbout said. "Since these check stations will be fully staffed, we needed to pick the most effective time to do this to ensure that we'll be able to collect as many samples as possible."

Claerbout said the state will also work with taxidermists and processors in the

three-county area and provide drop-off freezers for hunters so samples can be collected.

With no simple treatment or vaccine for chronic wasting disease, deer farmers have expressed concern that a single positive test could require the eradication of entire herds, which in some cases represent millions of dollars in investments.

Florida has monitored the issue since 2002, testing about 17,500 hunter-killed, road-killed and sick deer.

In 2021, the state placed certain limits on importing deer carcasses into Florida. People can bring in deboned meat, finished taxidermy mounts and clean hides and antlers.

PATE

From Page 1A

Music was a passion for Tyler who was always writing lyrics and listening to music. He loved his family and did his best to set a good example for his nieces and nephews.

"He didn't want them to go down the wrong path, so he tried to steer them in the right direction," Pate said. "He wanted them to be successful, just like he did his own children."

Pate said the last couple of weeks have been

very difficult especially with derogatory things people are saying on social media.

"Tyler isn't the person he is being made out to be," Pate said. "He was a good person. We all make mistakes, but he didn't deserve to be shot. Nobody deserves that."

The hardest part for Pate is never again having Tyler kiss her on her cheek before he left.

"He never left without kissing my face," Pate said. "I will never have that again. He was my baby boy, and he forever will be. Tyler left us with a legacy of love."

Holmes County Arrest Reports

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



William Ray Byrd, 38, Titusville- DUI drugs or alcohol first-offense [HCSO]



Amanda G Miller, 27, Graceville- Trespassing, disorderly conduct [HCSO]



Robert Allen Platt, 39, Westville- VOP: possession or use of drug paraphernalia x2 [HCSO]



Brian James Taylor, 37, Bonifay- VOP: battery, criminal mischief less than 200 dollars [HCSO]



Justin Wade Ward, 32, Bonifay- VOP: Possession of methamphetamine [BPD]



Dequario M White, 32, Chipley- VOP: possession of methamphetamine [HCSO]

Washington County Arrest Reports

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



Andrew Fitzgerald Barnes, 34, Chipley- Possession of weapon or ammo by a convicted felon, possession of marijuana with intent to sell manufacture or distribute, trafficking methamphetamine more than 14 grams [WCSO]



Samuel David Bray, 33, Chipley- Producing marijuana schedule I [WCSO]



Demetrius Anthony Brown, 42, Homestead- DWLSR third or subsequent offense, possession of weapon by a convicted felon [WCSO]



Matthew Dewayne Burgett, 32, Chipley- Contempt of court: child support [WCSO]



Patricia Ann Douville, 54, Out of county warrant: Bay County VOP, out of county warrant: Santa Rosa County VOP [WCSO]



Bobby Lee Dukes, 48, DeFuniak Springs- Alter or destroy physical evidence, DWLSR, resist officer: obstruct w/o violence, possession of a controlled substance w/o prescription, resist officer: flee/elude LEF while lights/siren active, possession of cocaine [WCSO]



Christopher William Lewis, 19, Chipley- Smuggle controlled substance into detention facility [WCSO]



Calvin Arthur Long, 55, Chipley- Lewd/lascivious behavior: victim between 12 and 16; offender over 18, sexual assault by custodian: sexual battery victim over 12 but under 18 [WCSO]



Kristopher George Macha, 46, Sunny Hills- Battery [WCSO]



Norissa Lee Mercado, 37, Vernon- Aggravated assault with deadly weapon without intent to kill [WCSO]



Tyler Lamont Oliver, 29, Chipley- No charges listed [WCSO]



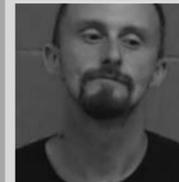
Gavin David Owen, 29, Niceville- DUI drugs or alcohol [WCSO]



Jessica Lynn Parrett, 34, Caryville- Possession or use of drug paraphernalia [WCSO]



Tommy Ray Sullivan, 66, Chipley- Resisting officer: obstructing without violence, DUI: refuse to submit DUI test after license suspended [WCSO]



Brandon Lee Charles Thomas, 30, Caryville- Possession or use of drug paraphernalia [WCSO]



Dequario Mariquise White, 35, Chipley- Resisting officer: obstruct without violence, VOP: Holmes County: possession of meth x2 [WCSO]



Caitlyn Gabriel Williams, 21, Graceville- Sale of methamphetamine within 1000 ft of a specified area [WCSO]



Dallas Wade Williams, 62, Bonifay- DUI: breath alc content 0.08 or more [WCSO]



Javaris Dwayne Works, 38, Caryville- Aggravated assault with a deadly weapon without intent to kill [WCSO]

CONTRACTORS

From Page 1A

several other motions—including selecting just Metric as a back-up—failed due to split votes. Bush recused himself from voting at one point since, as a former Florida Department of Transportation employee, he may still be listed on Metric contracts.

"We just discovered Wheeler's under federal investigation," Commissioner Wesley Griffin said. "I just got my concerns with that."

Having a "bigger roster" is "not a bad thing," Bush said.

Not selecting Wheeler "at the end of their term would be just a shame that they didn't finish it out," Bush said. "They've got all the history. Metric's a great company. True North's a great company. I have no problems with that."

Firms that responded to a request for proposal for emergency management services were ranked. Wheeler was rated the highest with an average score of 79.3, followed by Metric and True North—which both scored 77. Wheeler or any other interested firm cannot be precluded from responding to a request for proposals.

During discussion about a second contract, County Attorney Clay Milton said he was concerned the commission was disregarding Wheeler's proposal "who is the highest-ranking proposer." Commissioner David Pettis said commissioners can legally choose who they want, regardless of scores.

"In my opinion, if you're not going to go with the high score, you need to express—on the record—why you're going with someone that is not the high score," Milton said.

Pettis said the difference between Wheeler and Metric's score was "less than three points difference."

"What puts Metric over the top would be they're our local engineering firm," Pettis said. "That's what we like, to use our local people. They're readily available."

With more than one contract in place, the new contractors could handle work related to new storms, Bush said.

"We want to make sure we don't inundate one person," Commissioner Chair Tray Hawkins said.

Wheeler will continue their previous work, such as from Hurricane Michael.

"There's no way Michael is going to be finished out this year," Hawkins said.

The contractors' work will not overlap.

"I'm not asking for Wheeler's contract to be changed in any way," Pettis said.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS WASHINGTON COUNTY

WASHINGTON COUNTY (Owner) is requesting Bids for the construction of the following Project(s):
• ITB 2023-17: Countywide Miscellaneous Concrete Construction (headwalls, concrete ditches, mitered end sections, etc.)

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, October 31, 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@washingtnfl.com. Questions shall be emailed to Kimberly Birge-Gorman at the email address above. The deadline for questions is **Friday, October 20, 2023, by 10:00 AM local time**. It is the respondent's responsibility to determine if a license is required in accordance with Florida Statutes Chapter 489 and the Florida Department of Business & Professional Regulation to provide services under this contract. 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**
Date: September 27, 2023 & October 4, 2023

WASHINGTON COUNTY, FLORIDA REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

FOR EOC Food and Catering Services During Emergencies RFP No. 2023-01 REBID 2

Washington County plans for and responds to natural disasters and other emergency related crises. The County is accepting proposals from qualified vendors for meal (catering) services in support of an activation at the County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

REQUEST Deadline: Sealed proposals to provide EOC Food and Catering Services will be **received until 3:00 PM CST, November 1, 2023**, at 1331 South Blvd, Chipley, FL 32428.

The complete Request for Proposals information package can be obtained from Kimberly Birge-Gorman by email at kbirge@washingtnfl.com. Washington County Board of County Commissioners accepts no responsibility for any expenses incurred by responders in the preparation of a response to this request.

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

To be considered, the respondent must submit one (1) manually signed original, three (3) hard copies and one (1) digital copy on CD/ USB Flash Drive (in pdf) of the SUBMITTAL in a sealed envelope or package, clearly marked with the respondent's name and address, and the words "RFP 2023-01 REBID 2 Food & Catering Services During Emergencies" addressed to:

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

ADA - Special Accommodations: Any person requiring accommodations by the Authority due to a disability should call Wendy White, Washington County Human Resources Coordinator at (850) 415-5151 at least five (5) days prior to any pre-response conference, response opening, or meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact Wendy White via the Florida Relay Service, which can be reached at 1-800-955-8771 (TDD).
September 27, 2023

CHS makes history, celebrates first baseball state championship with ring ceremony



The 2023 1A State Championship Baseball Team poses with their championship rings [DORI HOWARD | Contributed Photo]

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS AND ADVERTISER

Philip Roundtree Stadium was filled with excitement and joy as history was made before the home football game against the Bay High Tornadoes last Friday evening when the school's baseball team celebrated their first-ever state championship win.

The much-anticipated ring ceremony served as a reminder of the remark-

able year the group of players and coaches had. The state championship ring ceremony completed the 2023 season for the Tigers.

Each member of the team received a personalized state championship ring. The roster of champions comprises players from different grade levels, showcasing the depth and diversity of talent within the team.

The coaching staff, led by head coach Andy Comp-

ton and assistant coaches Jesse Carter, Ty Russ, and Colby Cleveland, played a pivotal role in guiding the team to success.

The collaborative efforts of the baseball staff Bob Booth, Phillip Adams, and Brad Adams were instrumental in achieving this historic championship. A special recognition went out to Bryson Howard who was named Player of the Year, a testament to his outstanding performance

throughout the season.

Additionally, Coach Andy Compton was deservedly named Coach of the Year, recognizing his leadership and ability to mold a group of athletes into a championship-winning team.

The players received their championship rings, each one engraved with their name and position, State Champions, and the championship year of 2023.

VOLLEYBALL

From Page 6A

Determined to maintain their unbeaten streak, the Lady Tigers finished the match in the third set, once again triumphing with a score of 25-11.

HCHS

From Page 6A

we want to get," Holmes County senior running back Jameson Bacon said.

For Coach Womble, coming back for his second stint as the head coach of his alma mater the pressure for success is on, but he gives all the credit to those wearing the jersey on Friday night.

"These guys are the ones out here making goal line stands are the ones punch in from the one-yard line," Womble said. "I don't get to do any of that anymore. I just call the plays."

For the last two years, the Blue Devils have made a second-round playoff exit, but this year with a large senior class, they are hopeful to take it further this season.

Holmes County has Friday, September 22 off but will be back in action, hosting Vernon for homecoming on Friday, September 29.

Washington County Classifieds



LEGAL ADVERTISING LEGAL ADVERTISING

000322
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED Notice Is Hereby Given **FIG 20 LLC**, the holder of the following Tax certificate, has filed said certificate for a Tax Deed to be issued thereon. The Parcel number, Certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate Number **21-00-00775**
Year of Issuance **2021**
Parcel **00000000-00-3738-0001** assessed to **REBECCA HOPE WOODHAM AKA REBECCA HOPE CORBIN MICHAEL SCOTT CORBIN** Description **29 3 14 S 1.1 ORB 731 P 24 AND PRCL DESC IN ORB 802 P 409 AS FOLLOWS: BEG NWC OF NE4 OF NW4, E 440' TO POB, S 300', E TO EXISTING ROW OF OWENS COMMUNIT Y RD, NE ALNG ROW TO INTERSECT ION WITH S ROW LN OF BRUNER DA IRY RD, W ALNG ROW LN OF BRUNER DAIRY RD TO POB.** 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 NOVEMBER 14, 2023 at 10:00 AM

deemed according to law, the property described in such Certificate will be sold to the highest bidder ONLINE AT WASHINGTON.REALTAXDEED.COM on NOVEMBER 14, 2023 at 10:00 AM CT. Lora C. Bell,
Clerk of Court, Washington County Florida By: Kelsey Odom, Deputy Clerk September 13, 20, 27, October 4, 2023

000324
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED Notice Is Hereby Given **FIG 20 LLC**, the holder of the following Tax certificate, has filed said certificate for a Tax Deed to be issued thereon. The Parcel number, Certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate #: **21-00-00668**
Year of Issuance: **2021**
Parcel: **00000000-00-0201-0000**
Assessed to: **MARY E PATRICK**
Description: **16 4 12 32.4 ORB 432 P 357 S2 OF SE4, N2 OF SE4 S. OF H-WAY LESS PRCL DESC IN OR 242 P 2232, ORB 432 P 359, ORB 602 P 53, LESS SOUTH 934' OF S1/2 OF SE1/4 AS DESC IN ORB 677 P 166, ORB 1216 P 920, ORB 1226 P 292**
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 NOVEMBER 14, 2023 at 10:00 AM

CT. Lora C. Bell, Clerk of Court, Washington County Florida By: Kelsey Odom, Deputy Clerk September 13, 20, 27, October 4, 2023

000323
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED Notice Is Hereby Given **FIG 20 LLC**, the holder of the following Tax certificate, has filed said certificate for a Tax Deed to be issued thereon. The Parcel number, Certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate Number **21-00-00805**
Year of Issuance **2021**
Parcel **00000000-00-4063-0000** assessed to **WENDE W DOUGLAS** Description **35 4 14 20 OR 918 P 475 SW4 OF NW4 OF SE4, NW4 OF SW4 OF SE4, & ESMT. All of said property being located in the County of Washington, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be re-**

deemed according to law, the property described in such Certificate will be sold to the highest bidder ONLINE AT WASHINGTON.REALTAXDEED.COM on NOVEMBER 14, 2023 at 10:00 AM CT. Lora C. Bell, Clerk of Court, Washington County Florida By: Kelsey Odom, Deputy Clerk September 13, 20, 27, October 4, 2023

000331
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED Notice Is Hereby Given **BETHEA HUNTER**, the holder of the following Tax certificate, has filed said certificate for a Tax Deed to be issued thereon. The Parcel number, Certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate #: **20-00-03934**
Year of Issuance: **2020**

Parcel: **00000000-19-1081-0011**
Assessed To: **NAOMI W KENNEDY**
Description: **SUNNY HILLS UNIT #19 LOT 11 ORB 239 P 1531 BLK 1081**
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 NOVEMBER 21, 2023 at 10:00 AM CT.

Lora C. Bell Clerk of Court, Washington County Florida By: Kelsey Odom, Deputy Clerk Publication Dates: 09/20/2023, 09/27/2023, 10/04/2023, 10/11/2023

000335
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED Notice Is Hereby Given COUNTY OF WASHINGTON, 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 Number 17-00-00020 Year of Issuance 2017 Parcel 00000000-00-0002-0067 assessed to **ROY BOSWELL GRACE-LYN BOSWELL** Description 5 2 12 2.18 ORB 547 P 400 PARCEL DESC IN ORB 547 P400. 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 NOVEMBER 21, 2023 at 10:00 AM CT. Lora C. Bell, Clerk of Court, Washington County Florida By: Kelsey Odom, Deputy Clerk September 20, 27, October 4, 11, 2023

000333
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED Notice Is Hereby Given COUNTY OF WASHINGTON, 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 Number 17-00-00323 Year of Issuance 2017 Parcel 00000000-00-1324-0000 assessed to **HERRING EARNEST & ETAL KEY**

NATHANIEL % MATTIE KEY
EARNEST HER-RING
NATHANIEL KEY
BERTHA BAGLEY
RODELLA KEY BROWN
DONTAVIOUS JOBE SHACKEL-FORD

September 20, 27, October 4, 11, 2023

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 Number 17-00-00045 Year of Issuance 2023 Parcel 00000000-00-0007-0010 assessed to **ROBERT P FERNANDEZ** Description 8 2 12 1.98 ORB 241 P 1195 BG 431.64' N., 220.26' W OF SEC OF NE1/4 OF NW1/4, RUN

N.396.71', W. 220.42', S.3.94.96', E.220.19' TO POB. 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 NOVEMBER 21, 2023 at 10:00 AM CT. Lora C. Bell, Clerk of Court, Washington County Florida By: Kelsey Odom, Deputy Clerk September 20, 27, October 4, 11, 2023

000338
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED Notice Is Hereby Given COUNTY OF WASHINGTON, 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 Number 17-00-00365 Year of Issuance 2017 Parcel 00000000-00-1324-0000 assessed to **HERRING EARNEST & ETAL KEY**

NATHANIEL % MATTIE KEY
EARNEST HER-RING
NATHANIEL KEY
BERTHA BAGLEY
RODELLA KEY BROWN
DONTAVIOUS JOBE SHACKEL-FORD

September 20, 27, October 4, 11, 2023

Certificate will be sold to the highest bidder ONLINE AT WASHINGTON.REALTAXDEED.COM on NOVEMBER 21, 2023 at 10:00 AM CT. Lora C. Bell, Clerk of Court, Washington County Florida By: Kelsey Odom, Deputy Clerk September 20, 27, October 4, 11, 2023

000339
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED Notice Is Hereby Given COUNTY OF WASHINGTON, 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 Number 17-00-00360 Year of Issuance 2017 Parcel 00000000-00-1307-0000 assessed to **JUANITA NEAL ESTATE %MONICA WHITE**

Description 4 4 13 ORB 176 P 240 LOT 2, N1/2 OF NE1/4 BLK 20. 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 NOVEMBER 21, 2023 at 10:00 AM CT. Lora C. Bell, Clerk of Court, Washington County Florida By: Kelsey Odom, Deputy Clerk September 20, 27, October 4, 11, 2023

000340
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED Notice Is Hereby Given COUNTY OF WASHINGTON, 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 Number 17-00-00323 Year of Issuance 2017 Parcel 00000000-00-1124-0000 assessed to **GERALDINE BLOUNT** Description 3 4 13 ORB 230 P 782 W1/2 OF LOT 75 C/H. 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

September 20, 27, October 4, 11, 2023

Certificate will be sold to the highest bidder ONLINE AT WASHINGTON.REALTAXDEED.COM on NOVEMBER 21, 2023 at 10:00 AM CT. Lora C. Bell, Clerk of Court, Washington County Florida By: Kelsey Odom, Deputy Clerk September 20, 27, October 4, 11, 2023

000344
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED Notice Is Hereby Given **FRANK ZURICA**, 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 Number 18-00-01329 Year of Issuance 2018 Parcel 00000000-00-4905-0000 assessed to **WILLIAM WILLIAM, SR SUESAN WILLIAM** Description 35 3 15 OR 321 P 267 E 80' OF LOT 9, BLK 9 ORB 353 P 423. 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 NOVEMBER 28, 2023 at 10:00 AM CT. Lora C. Bell, Clerk of Court, Washington County Florida By: Kelsey Odom, Deputy Clerk September 20, 27, October 4, 11, 2023

000349
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED Notice Is Hereby Given COUNTY OF WASHINGTON, the holder of the following Tax certificate, has filed said certificate for a Tax Deed to be issued thereon. The Parcel number, Certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate #: 17-00-00549
Year of Issuance: 2017
Parcel: 00000000-00-2823-0000
Assessed To: **TEJAY LLC**
Description: **33 5 13 ORB 909 P 248 LOTS 38,39,40,**

September 20, 27, October 4, 11, 2023

R&L/A BLK A, ORB 1094 P 86
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 NOVEMBER 28, 2023 at 10:00 AM CT.

Lora C. Bell Clerk of Court, Washington County Florida By: Kelsey Odom, Deputy Clerk Publication Dates: 09/27/2023, 10/04/2023, 10/11/2023, 10/18/2023

000350
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED Notice Is Hereby Given COUNTY OF WASHINGTON, 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 Number 17-00-01567 Year of Issuance 2017 Parcel 00000000-00-5958-0001 assessed to **EUGENE D REID ESTATE % SONDR A REID BETTY ANN REID PRICE ESTATE % SONDR A REID SONDR A REID** Description 11 4 16 ORB 198 P 255 LOTS 1-4 INC, BLK 34 S. OF HWY, LOTS 13-20 INC, BLK 34, LOTS 11, 12, BLK 31 S. OF US 90. 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 NOVEMBER 28, 2023 at 10:00 AM CT. Lora C. Bell, Clerk of Court, Washington County Florida By: Kelsey Odom, Deputy Clerk September 27, October 4, 11, 18, 2023

000351
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED Notice Is Hereby Given COUNTY OF WASHINGTON, the holder of the following Tax certificate, has filed said certificate for a Tax Deed to be issued thereon. The Parcel number, Certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate #: 17-00-00549
Year of Issuance: 2017
Parcel: 00000000-00-2823-0000
Assessed To: **TEJAY LLC**
Description: **33 5 13 ORB 909 P 248 LOTS 38,39,40,**

September 20, 27, October 4, 11, 2023

Washington County Tourist Development Council c/o Heather Lopez P.O. Box 450 Chipley, FL 32428

Or dropped off at the Washington County TDC Office at: 672 5 th Street Chipley, FL 32428

The deadline for submittals is 3:00 p.m. on October 13, 2023.

LATE SUBMITTALS RECEIVED AFTER THE FOREMENTIONED DEADLINE DATE, EITHER BY MAIL OR OTHERWISE, WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED AND WILL BE RETURNED UNOPENED. THE TIME OF RECEIPT WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE TIME RECEIVED BY THE WASHINGTON COUNTY TDC OFFICE STAFF. IT IS THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE FIRM OR PERSON SUBMITTING THE RFP FOR ASSURING THAT THE RFP IS RECEIVED AT THE POST OFFICE OR WASHINGTON COUNTY TDC OFFICE BY THE DESIGNATED DATE AND TIME. NO FAXED, ELECTRONIC OR ORAL RFP WILL BE ACCEPTED.

ADA - Special Accommodations: Any person requiring accommodations due to disability should call Heather Lopez, Director of the Washington County TDC at (850) 638-6013 at least five (5) days prior to the bid close date. 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).
September 27, October 4, 2023

LAND/ACREAGE
1-Acre plot and 2-Acre plot in Jacob City Florida (850) 849-9338

CELEBRATE

The search for the greatest scarecrow is over

NAN THOMPSON
Nthompson@kentsmith.biz

Chipley was invaded by scarecrows on a Saturday morning.

Not just any scarecrow but scarecrows made by locals, old and young. They lined the lawn at the Chipley Pavillion on Sept. 23, waiting to be chosen as the greatest.

The event, sponsored by the Chipley Garden Club and Washington County Historical Society, started their challenge and marked the advent of fall last month by placing scarecrows throughout downtown.

Winners were divided into youth, adult, and business/club categories.

Adult 1st Place - In Honor of Military - The Roberts Family

Adult 2nd Place - Crow-Chet Lessons - Joy Crawford

Youth 1st Place - Cawffee Shop - Faelyn Crawford

Youth 2nd Place - Pumpkin Pie - Kinsky Longo and Britton

Hammond

Business 1st Place - Animal Control Officer, Jim Bob - City of Chipley -Patty Tanner

People's Choice and Sweetest Award - Emily the Cheerleader - Kayleigh Longo and Maddelyn Grantham

Garden Club Special - Ms Sun-nee Flower - Andrea Baldwin

Funniest - Crow Bar - Mike Crawford
Recycling - In Honor of the Military - The Roberts Family

Most Unusual - Ms. Sun-nee Flower - Andrea Baldwin

Most Traditional - Tradition with a Twist - Randy Carter

If scarecrows weren't your thing, there were plenty of vendors, food, and even lead archeologist Tray Ernest, who located the Holms' Town earlier this year in Washington County. Joining him was historian and author Dale Cox, who identified the Holms' Town site.



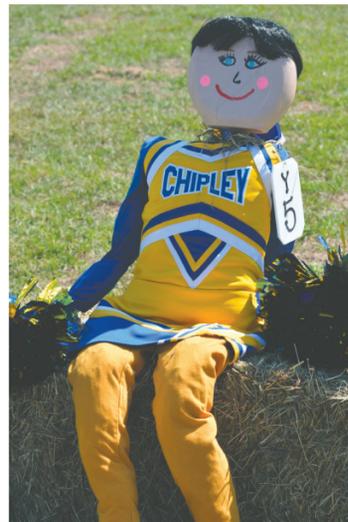
Winner of Adult 1st Place - In Honor of the Military. [NAN THOMPSON]



Youth 1st Place - Cawffee Shop - Faelyn Crawford [NAN THOMPSON]



Business 1st Place - Animal Control Officer, Jim Bob - City of Chipley -Patty Tanner [NAN THOMPSON]



People's Choice and Sweetest Award Emily the Cheerleader - Kayleigh Longo and Maddelyn Grantham [NAN THOMPSON]



Adult 2nd Place - Crow-Chet Lessons - Joy Crawford [NAN THOMPSON]



Most Traditional - Tradition with a Twist - Randy Carter [NAN THOMPSON]



Garden Club Special - Ms Sun-nee Flower - Andrea Baldwin [NAN THOMPSON]



Youth 2nd Place - Pumpkin Pie - Kinsky Longo and Britton Hammond [NAN THOMPSON]



Brooklyn Bush, getting her face painted [NAN THOMPSON]

HCHS Volleyball team raises funds for cancer patient



DIANE M. MOORE
Dmoore@kentsmith.biz

Each season, the Holmes County High School Lady Devils Volleyball team reaches out in the community and helps someone in need. This season, the team chose Dawn Draper who is battling cancer.

Draper, a 1991 graduate of HCHS, was diagnosed with a rare low-grade ovarian cancer and in May underwent open

abdomen surgery to remove the cancer. The first of six treatments began in August with hopes of remission.

The team held a cake auction on Sept. 18, to raise funds to help Draper with expenses. The following day, Coach Walton, Lacie Trout, and Averie Edwards presented Draper with a check for \$1,852 from the cake auction proceeds.

Draper has driven a school bus for Holmes County since

2007 and is said to be a caring soul.

"Our community came together with love and compassion for this beautiful and caring soul," fundraiser participant Rhonda Trout said. "We are so thankful for our small town coming together to help one of our own."

Draper is the mother of two daughters, Cora Stump and Carlee Burrell, and grandmother to Brennen and Caroline.



FOOD

A Stroll Down Peach Cobbler Lane

WHAT SOUTHERN FOLKS EAT

Stephanie Hill-Frazier
Guest Columnist

“An apple is an excellent thing - until you have tried a peach.”
— George DuMaurier

There is something about using my granddaddy's old cast iron skillet to make peach cobbler that makes me happy. It's an old 10" black skillet, shiny with its seasoning. Granddaddy used it well; he was an avid cook and was very good at it. However, his sophisticated palate was sometimes lost on my little sister and me.

At the time, as children, we thought some of the things he made were too odd. The “weirdest” things I remember were his addition of black olives to spaghetti sauce, and his making buckwheat pancakes with real maple syrup instead of white flour pancakes with Log Cabin brand syrup, like we had at my house. Of course, I would love those pancakes now; I still remember exactly what they tasted like, and I'd love to have them straight off his hot skillet today. I really like black olives now, as well. If only I could sit and enjoy one of those meals with him now; I wouldn't complain a bit.

Of course I can't do that, but I do feel a connection with Granddaddy when I use his cast iron skillet now. I make biscuits in it, as well as cornbread. It gives them both the perfect, crusty bottom. I pan fry steaks

in it occasionally, too, with butter and onions. Scrumptious, and perfect when you can't grill outside.

One of my favorite things to make in Granddaddy's iron skillet is peach cobbler. You can make this cobbler with other

making some other delicious food. The edges aren't quite as crusty and wonderful as from the skillet, but I have yet to have anyone turn down a second serving, so I think it's ok.

Here's the recipe, followed by a recipe for my homemade vanilla extract. Now is the time to make it, as the holiday baking season

it's less expensive.

Why? Well, imitation vanilla is made from artificial flavorings, some of which come from wood processing byproducts, and often contain chemicals. And “vanilla flavoring” is usually a combination of imitation vanilla extract and real vanilla extract. Not so great, really, though a

Buy a bottle of bourbon or vodka.

Buy three vanilla beans per 8 oz. of alcohol. Now, it's important to know that buying them in the spice aisle at the grocery store is not at all an economical way to purchase them. I've seen a bottle containing one... just one... vanilla bean in the spice aisle and it was marked \$14. That's ridiculous.

I buy my vanilla

Drop the appropriate number of vanilla beans into your bottle of alcohol, including any seeds that may have fallen out. Remember, about 1 bean per eight ounces of alcohol.

Close bottle tightly, and place in a dark, cool cabinet for two months or so to steep. Every once in a while, give the bottle a good shake, and put it back in the cabinet.

By holiday baking time, you'll have more than enough of the best vanilla extract you can use. You can replenish these bottles, as well; you need not throw away your vanilla beans when the bottle gets low. Just add more alcohol and let it steep. See? Economical!

In addition to improving your own baking, homemade vanilla is a great gift idea for your baking friends. You can divide it up into small mason jars tied up with a ribbon, or find some small bottles to divide it among and make your own labels, etc. Have fun with it!

In just a couple of months, you can make your own pies, cakes, cobblers, cookies and other delicious baked goods with your own homemade vanilla extract. Enjoy!

Stephanie Hill-Frazier is a writer, food blogger and regional television chef, whose on-air nickname is “Mama Steph.” She grew up in Gulf County, on St. Joe Beach, a place she will forever call home. She is married and has three young adult sons who are considerably taller than she is. You can find more of her recipes at what-southernfolkseat.com



Skillet peach cobbler recipe [CONTRIBUTED PHOTO]

fruits, of course, such as blackberries or blueberries. Perhaps even apples! That would be perfect in the fall, with lots of butter and cinnamon.

What I love most about this cobbler recipe is how rustic it looks, and how nice the crust turns out. Of course, this cobbler is also delicious made in a glass baking dish; I sometimes make it in my 8x12-inch dish when granddaddy's skillet is being used for

will be here before you know it.

SECOND RECIPE OF ARTICLE:

Next, I want to share a recipe that you'll be able to use all winter long if you make it now: homemade vanilla extract.

Most of us who bake go through a lot of vanilla extract. It makes our desserts taste fabulous! However, it can get expensive to use the real thing. I choose not to use imitation vanilla extract, even though

slight step up from the completely fake kind.

All of that to say this: if you are going to all the trouble to bake for your family, use the best vanilla! Why add more chemicals to your family's diet, or yours?

Here is the solution to the expense, if that is what is troubling to you: make your own pure vanilla extract! It's so very easy, and it tastes wonderful. I've been using the bottle I made for nearly a year now. Here's how I did it:

beans online (search Amazon or other shopping sites for ‘whole vanilla beans’) or at World Market, where they package them in multiples and sell them at a much lower price.

Once I have alcohol and vanilla beans in hand, here's how I proceed:

Split the vanilla beans with the tip of a sharp knife, leaving the top one inch uncut. Spread the beans open a bit to expose the interior.

Iron Skillet Peach Cobbler

Ingredients:

- 1 stick unsalted butter
- 4 cups peach slices (or other fruit)
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup plain flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- pinch of salt
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 cup milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Method:

Place the butter in the skillet, and put in warm oven to melt, for five minutes or so.
(Don't let butter turn brown; keep an eye on it)

In a mixing bowl, combine flour, baking powder, cinnamon, and salt. Use a wire whisk to combine it well.

Add to flour mixture sugar, milk, and vanilla extract. Mix well.

Remove skillet from oven, and tilt it until all sides are coated with the melted butter.

Pour melted butter into the batter, and stir until well-combined.

Pour batter into hot skillet, and then pour peaches and any juices they've released into the center of the batter.

Place in 350 degree oven, and bake until the top is golden brown, or a cake tester inserted into the center comes out clean. This may take up to an hour, depending upon your oven.

Remove, let cool down a bit, and then serve warm with vanilla ice cream, or homemade whipped cream on top.



Peach cobbler recipe [CONTRIBUTED PHOTO]

COMMUNITY

79th annual Northwest Florida Championship Rodeo is coming to town

STAFF REPORT

The Bonifay Kiwanis Club's 79th annual Northwest Florida Championship Rodeo is set to be held October 5-7 at Veterans Memorial Field in Bonifay. Activities begin each night at 5:30 p.m., with rodeo events beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The three night event is a Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) sanctioned RAM Series Rodeo. Events will include barrel racing, bull riding, calf roping, steer wrestling, and a new event added this year: breakaway roping. The kids can take part in the fun with stick horse racing on Thursday night only, mutton bustin' and also new this year: calf scramble. The latter two will take place all three nights.

The Rodeo Parade is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, October 6 and 7, at 1 p.m.

Thursday night is

kids' night where children 10 and under are admitted free. Children will be able to meet Bucky the Bull, as well as Jesse and Woody from Disney's "Toy Story 2."

The Holmes County High School Drama Department will provide entertainment for the night.

Friday night is military and first responders' night. Will Bannister is headlining the brand new Friday night concert event which will begin at 5:30 p.m. Bannister's song "Find a New Home" was released with the new Clint Eastwood movie "Cry Macho."

Those in attendance are encouraged to wear red, white, and blue on Friday night and will have the opportunity to participate in Fan of the Night for special prizes.

To close out the weekend, Saturday night is the RAM Series Rodeo Dress Your Best night.

Holmes County's own, Gungel, will headline the concert beginning at 5:30 p.m. Chances to win giveaways from the 2023 Rodeo Sponsors and Friends of the Rodeo are scheduled throughout the night.

In their 10th year providing the livestock for competition is 4 L Rodoe.

Entertainment for this year's event includes:

-Bethany Iles and partner Rider Kiesner-trick riders extraordinaire

-Tim "Wild Thang" Leopard and Team Ghost Riders where monkeys riding border collies round up sheep

-Buddy the Bull, a 2000 pound gentle giant waiting for a photo op with everyone.

For more information on the 2023 NWFC Rodeo, visit the Bonifay Kiwanis Club website at www.bonifayrodeo.com



Bethany Iles and partner Rider Kiesner will entertain crowds with their trick riding show. [CONTRIBUTED]

Third annual Eye of Hope Recovery Rally deemed success



Families of those lost walked the memorial lap at Westville Park during the Eye of Hope Recovery Rally. [CONTRIBUTED]



The foam machine was a hit with everyone in attendance, especially the children. [CONTRIBUTED]



Eye of Hope Recovery Advocates have placed Narcan stations all over Holmes and Washington counties. [CONTRIBUTED]

DIANE M. MOORE
Dmoore@kentsmith.biz

Eye of Hope Recovery Advocates hosted a recovery rally on Saturday, Sept. 23, in Westville Park.

The community event is held to help raise awareness and provide resources and support for those currently dealing with or recovering from not only substance or alcohol addiction but also domestic violence and sexual abuse.

The event also helped raise suicide awareness and break the stigma surrounding mental health issues.

Event chair Samantha Peacock and co-founder of Eye of Hope Recovery Advocates said that Eye of Hope was created with the goal of educating youth on the dangers of addiction, as well as

advocating for those struggling with life trauma.

"We advocate and support, whether it's addiction, domestic violence, sexual abuse, suicide or mental health issues," said Peacock. "We also hope to inspire the community to rally together, and let's face this epidemic together."

This year saw several speakers, including Wenonah Sorrell, Steve Webster, Destiny Melton and Tyla Yates who each shared their personal stories. Kalan Miller of Cypress Springs was the headline musical act. 14-year-old Kiera Howell also provided entertainment.

At this year's event Eye of Hope, more than 300 doses of Narcan were given out.

"While we do not advocate the use of

illegal substances, we do know that we cannot change the world in one day," said Peacock. "We do ask you, however, to please have Narcan on hand and never use alone."

A butterfly release to honor those lost from addiction, suicide, domestic violence and impaired driving was a touching and beautiful way to remember them.

"We are releasing recovery into the atmosphere," said Advocate Tina Sloan.

The Holmes County Sheriff's Office grills up burgers and hot dogs at the rally each year and this year was no different.

"As long as there is breath, there is hope," Sheriff John Tate said.

For more information on Eye of Hope, visit their Facebook page at Eye of Hope Recovery Advocates.



The daughter of Michael Spence touches her daddy's face hanging on the wall of remembrance at the Eye of Hope Recovery Rally. [CONTRIBUTED]

BUSINESS

Sip-n-Shop shines for Thursday Night Lights

COLLIN BREAUX
Cbreaux@kentsmith.biz

Generally, Friday Night Lights are a big deal in small towns, where people come together to enjoy high school football.

The night before local games on Sept. 21, though, was billed as Thursday Night Lights as part of

the Downtown Chipley Sip-n-Shop community gathering.

The monthly gathering on Railroad Avenue and Main Street encourages people to come out, enjoy live music, play cornhole, and patronize local businesses while street lights shine bright.



Sip-n-Shop in Downtown Chipley was a chance for the community to come together and have fun on Sept. 21. [OFF MY FRAME PHOTOGRAPHY]



Lonely Paws Club



Scout is looking for his forever home.

[NAN THOMPSON | The News and Advertiser]



I am Scout.

Do you know what Scout means? It means the one to go ahead of others to gather information about the enemies position, strengths, and movement. I am fit for the job!

I'm lean and low, young, and ready to alert you of coming danger. You know, things like the mail-person, USPS driver, and maybe even your neighbor. You can hide in the kitchen while I bark at them to chase them away.

I am a sweet 10-month-old dachshund, boston terrier,

and chihuahua mix.

My dad was a long haired dachshund, my mom was a boston terrier/chihuahua. Even with my crazy mixed up parents. I think I'm adorable, so do the people here at BARRK Rescue.

I might be little, but I am mighty, as my name infers. I love food, toys and of course a soft bed. Your bed will do, I don't take up much space, and I can protect you better.

While I get along with all size dogs, I'm not sure about cats, since the place I live right now doesn't have any...but I sure do love

people. I will require a fenced-in yard so I have a place to run and play and can't run off.

I am up to date on my shots, neutered, and ready for my new home.

If you are interested in me or any of my friends here at BARRK Rescue, contact Kim at 850-768-0157 or their Facebook page at facebook.com/barrkrescueinc.

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



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FAITH

Faith and the football field



CALEB DUNCAN
Guest Columnist

(Editor's note: This is the final part in a six-part series called "Faith and the Football Field.")

In the past six weeks, we've looked at several things that the football field teaches us about Christian life: practice, purpose, preparation, pain, and passion. This week, we come to a sixth and final lesson: priorities.

This is a difficult lesson I learned during my senior year of high school. As I prepared for my final football season, I intended to lay it all out for my senior year. I played tight end on the right side and spent all summer getting ready.

"This is it. The last games I'll ever play."

Yet as I started practicing with the team for a new season, something shifted in me.

In my senior year of high school, God

began to get a hold of my life for the better. My youth pastor was pouring into my life. My Dad was giving me opportunities to serve in our church.

I had fallen in love with serving others and getting my feet wet in ministry, and my passion for football seemed to start falling apart. I realized that football had become an idol in my life.

As we drew closer to the new season, I began praying, and it became clear that my heart wasn't in football anymore. Football took priority over my relationship with God and it started gnawing at me. I felt God calling me to something different.

You'd think I would finish my senior year after spending 7-11th grade playing the game. But I couldn't. I wanted to spend more time with friends, in the word, and with God.

Trust me, I am not trying to sound "holier than thou." You can be committed to Christ Jesus and still play football. Don't get me wrong! Yet for me, the love wasn't there.

Football was an idol, and I wanted to tear it down. And God spoke

to me when I needed to make some decisions.

I called my coach one night on the phone, "I'm in town. Can we meet up? I need to talk to you about something."

When I saw him, he said, "So, Duncan, you're quitting the football team?"

As I explained the reasons why, he said, "Say no more. We will miss you, and you'll always be a part of this team. But I understand that you have to get your priorities right."

There's that word: priorities.

As I explained to friends why I wasn't playing football, some just didn't understand. Some probably thought I was just nervous about my senior year.

However, my closest friends understood that God was doing work in my life, and I wanted to be sold out for Him.

I'm not saying we need to quit everything we commit to but there are certainly times to reevaluate our lives and think am I worshiping my job, my sport, my hobby, or something else other than God?

I missed football

See **DUNCAN, PAGE 6B**

A reason to celebrate getting older – and older



SHERYL BOLDT
Guest Columnist

"Happy birthday!" I said to one of the ladies I cared for when I was a private caregiver.

"What's so happy about it?" Ms. Elaine countered. "I'm an old lady, getting older."

I answered quickly (maybe too quickly) with my positive spin.

"But aren't you glad you've lived such a long life?"

At the time, I couldn't empathize with Ms. Elaine's sentiments. I was a mere spring chicken in my 40s. Now, years later, I understand.

My mirror, in its not-so-subtle way, reveals that another birthday is fast approaching.

I'm sure it means well every time it nags me about applying increasing amounts of anti-wrinkle creams and making another

appointment to cover my graying roots.

If I allowed myself, I could easily dread another birthday. Not only because of the physical part, but also because of the dreams I fear may no longer be possible.

Do you ever feel this way?

Remember when you were a child? How excited you felt about every birthday? You couldn't wait to celebrate your special day with family and friends.

What if we returned to that same celebratory attitude – no matter how many candles we have on our birthday cake?

"Yeah, sure, Sheryl," you say. "Wait until you're looking at 90 candles."

Yet what would your friend who's dying of cancer say about another birthday? I'm sure he or she would gladly celebrate getting older, and older – and older.

I'm not trying to force a Pollyanna attitude. (Believe me, I'm also writing this column for myself.) Perhaps Psalm 25:1

(AMPC) can help us with our perspective: "Unto You, O Lord, do I bring my life."

When we pause to remember who we're living for – who gives us our life – we're able to look at ourselves (and every day God gives us) differently.

When I remember to bring my life to the Lord, I live that day differently. Each time I pray for His direction on how to use the time He gives me, I'm able to look forward to each day.

I can rest in knowing He has a purpose for me which continues... and continues! Rather than mourning lost youthfulness, let's rejoice in each day as we wait in expectation for what God has planned for us.

If you think about it, no matter how old we are, we're going to live forever in eternity. So, we're actually... merely spring chickens.

Sheryl H. Boldt is the author of the blog, www.TodayCanBeDifferent.net. Connect with her at SherylH-Boldt@gmail.com.

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WHY IT MATTERS.

It's simple. Between 40 and 50 percent of Americans who live to age 65 will be diagnosed at least once with either basal cell carcinoma or squamous cell carcinoma, and we want to make sure they have access to treatments.

For our team, it all comes down to identifying the most effective treatment methods to eliminate these cancers, while at the same time, preserving as much of each patient's healthy surrounding skin as possible.



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COMMUNITY EVENTS

GriefShare Weekly Grief Support Group

At First Baptist Bonifay, a weekly support group is available for people finding hope and healing after the death of a loved one and began on September 10. This 13-week support group will support healing by hearing insights from grief recovery experts, meeting others who understand what you are going through, receiving comfort and support, learning personal tips for managing grief, and discovering the six signs of healing. The meetings are held

on Sunday from 2 p.m.- 4 p.m. at First Baptist Bonifay, 311 N Waukesha St., Bonifay, FL, 32425. The last meeting will be held on December 17. Griefshare is free and refreshments will be served.

For more information contact First Baptist Bonifay at 850-547-2420, or office@fbbonifay.com.

Spanish Trail Playhouse presents: John, His Story

Performed Off-Broadway in 1997, around the country, and regularly at A.D. Players, John, His Story brings to life the seven great miracles performed by Jesus in The Gospel of John as seen through the eyes of ordinary people. These moments of

comedy and drama combine for a moving account of the story of Jesus, remembered by his beloved disciple, John. John, His Story brings humor and fresh understanding to such miracles as turning water into wine, feeding the 5,000, and raising Lazarus from the dead.

Come enjoy this show in the Spanish Trail Playhouse's newly remodeled theatre! Show times are

Saturday, October 7, 2023 at 7 PM and Sunday, October 8, 2023 at 2 PM. Tickets are on sale now at spanish-trailplayhouse.com! John, His Story is presented by arrangement with A.D. Players and directed by Mil Cox.

For more information, visit the Spanish Trail website or call 850-638-9113.

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.

Blues and Brews Festival

The Florida Power & Light Blues and Brews Festival is taking place on Saturday, October 14 featuring live performances

by: Johnnie Marshall Blues Band, Skyler Saufley & The 99th Degree, JC and the Backscratcher, and Blues Meet Girl. This event will be from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the old park by the Old Train Station.

Chipley's annual Trunk-or-Treat

On Saturday, October 28, Chipley will be hosting their annual trunk-or-treat event. This is a fun and safe way for children aged newborn to 12 years old the trick or treat experience. If you plan to attend, make sure your child has their favorite trunk-or-treat bag with them. This event will be hosted from 4:30- 6 p.m. and is located at Jim Trawick park in Chipley

Address is 1544 North Railroad Avenue Chipley, Fl. Train Station.

Wausau Community Development Club Fall Festival and Trunk-or-Treat

The Wausau Community Development Club will be hosting a free Fall Festival and Trunk-or-Treat featuring food and drinks, a free haunted house by the Wausau Volunteer Fire Department, hay rides, cake walks, booths, face painting, s'mores, and a costume contest! The event includes free parking, free food, and free entry, and takes place on October 28 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Possum Palace in Wausau.



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Holmes County Classifieds

LEGAL ADVERTISING LEGAL ADVERTISING

000091
NOTICE OF TAX DEED APPLICATION NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That IDE TECHNOLOGIES, INC., the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the name in which it was assessed are as follows: Certificate No.453 Year of Issuance 5/29/2021 Description of Property: 1215.00-000-000-010.800 SEC:15 TWN:06 RGN:16 1 ACRE MORE OR LESS LOCATED IN THE SE1/4 OF NW1/4 RECORDED IN OR 118/480 DES OR 166/671-673 OR DES 181/469 QC-OR362/252 WD-OR442/634 Name in which assessed: BRENDA STILL,Said property being in the County of Holmes, State of Florida.Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the courthouse door on 10/10/2023, at 11:00 A.M. DATED this 7/30/2023. Dates of publication: 9/6/2023,9/13/2023,9/20/2023,9/27/2023 . Sam Bailey,Clerk of the Circuit Court, Holmes County, Florida, By:ACJ,Deputy Clerk
September 6, 13, 20, 27, 2023

certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the courthouse door on 10/10/2023, at 11:00 A.M. DATED this 7/30/2023. Dates of publication: 9/6/2023,9/13/2023,9/20/2023,9/27/2023 . Sam Bailey,Clerk of the Circuit Court, Holmes County, Florida, By:ACJ,Deputy Clerk
September 6, 13, 20, 27, 2023

000093
NOTICE OF TAX DEED APPLICATION NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That IDE TECHNOLOGIES, INC., the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the name in which it was assessed are as follows: Certificate No.170 Year of Issuance 5/31/2016 Description of Property: 0531.03-003-114-004.000 SEC:31 TWN:05 RGN:14 BEG 150 FT E OF NW COR OF BLK 114, S 150 FT, W 50 FT, N 136 FT, W 50 FT, TOPOB OR 243/329 Name in which assessed: JANIE L. JONES, EDDIS JONES. Said property being in the County of Holmes, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the courthouse door on 10/10/2023, at 11:00 A.M. DATED this 7/30/2023. Dates of publication: 9/6/2023, 9/13/2023, 9/20/2023,9/27/2023, Sam Bailey,Clerk of the Circuit Court,Holmes County, Florida By:ACJ,Deputy Clerk
September 6, 13, 20, 27, 2023

No.601 Year of Issuance:5/29/2021 Description of Property: 1409.02-001-040-002.000 SEC:09 TWN:04 RGN:16 A PARCEL LYING IN SW1/4 OF THE NW1/4 AS DES IN OR 113/120 DES IN OR 158/153-154 WD-OR 434/698 WD-OR439/427 Name in which assessed: POZO FAMILY TRUST,Said property being in the County of Holmes, State of Florida.Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the courthouse door on 10/17/2023, at 11:00 A.M. DATED this 7/31/2023. Dates of publication: 9/13/2023, 9/20/2023, 9/27/2023, Sam Bailey,Clerk of the Circuit Court,Holmes County, Florida By:ACJ,Deputy Clerk
September 13, 20, 27, October 4, 2023

000098
NOTICE OF TAX DEED APPLICATION NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That IDE TECHNOLOGIES, INC., the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the name in which it was assessed are as follows:Certificate No.569 Year of Issuance 5/29/2021 Description of Property: 1334.04-000-000-006.000 SEC:34 TWN:05 RGN:16 BEG IN AT THE NE COR OF NW1/4 OF SE1/4 AND RUN W 16 FT TH S 300 FT TH W 84 FT TO THE NW COR OF TRACT THREE TH S 326.9 FT ALG THE W LINE OF SAID TRACT THREE TH W 120 FT TH S 240 FT M/L TO THE N'LY BANK OF CHOCTAWHATCHEE RIVER TH RUN E'LY ALG N'LY RIVER BANK TO A POINT ON THE EAST LINE OF SAID NW1/4 OF SE1/4 TH W1/4 FOR MORE LEGAL REFER TO TAX R . Name in which assessed: INTERNATIONAL TIMBER COMPANY, Said property being in the County of Holmes, State of Florida.Unless such certificate

shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the courthouse door on 10/17/2023, at 11:00 A.M. DATED this 8/1/2023. Sam Bailey,Clerk of the Circuit Court,Holmes County, Florida By: ACJ,Deputy Clerk
September 13, 20, 27, October 4, 2023.

000100
NOTICE OF TAX DEED APPLICATION NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That IDE TECHNOLOGIES, INC., the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the name in which it was assessed are as follows: Certificate No.348 Year of Issuance: 5/29/2021 Description of Property: 0909.03-002-000-044.000 SEC:09 TWN:05 RGN:15 LOT 44 UNIT 17 DWL EST OR-91/59 DES IN OR-132/673 OR-108/9 WD-OR366/709 WD OR569/463 Name in which assessed:JERRY BASS, ANDREW HAMMONDS. Said property being in the County of Holmes, State of Florida.Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the courthouse door on 10/17/2023, at 11:00 A.M. DATED this 8/1/2023. Sam Bailey,Clerk of the Circuit Court,Holmes County, Florida By: ACJ,Deputy Clerk
September 13, 20, 27, October 4, 2023

No.570 Year of Issuance:5/29/2021 Description of Property: 1334.04-001-002-373.000 SEC:34 TWN:05 RGN:16 LOT 373 UNIT 2 CRC OR-206/168 OR-263/990 OR-274/345 OR-259/182 OR-288/214 OR-289/367 WD-OR343/418 OR-343/519 WD-OR359/167 LIFE/EST WD-OR368/111QC-OR478/51 Name in which assessed: CARL L. DELONG, DAVID MESSERSCHMIDT, DAVID RIEHL,DEAN R. HOLBROOK, JAMES F. RIEHL. Said property being in the County of Holmes, State of Florida.Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the courthouse door on 10/17/2023, at 11:00 A.M. DATED this 8/4/2023.. Sam Bailey,Clerk of the Circuit Court,Holmes County, Florida By:ACJ, Deputy Clerk
September 13, 20, 27, October 4, 2023

000122
The following vehicles will be auctioned off on Oct. 10,2023 @ 1600 Pirates Cove Road Ponce de Leon Fl. 2009 Mercury Vin# 4M2CU81749KJ24831 2012 Scion XD Vin# JTKKU4B46C1027375 2022 Ram Vin# ZFBH8FA B5N6W98219 1997 Camry Vin# 1NXB- B02E2V2661259 2007 Camry Vin# 4T1BE46K57U618049 2009 Pontiac Vin# 1G2ZH17N694213861 2012 Kia Vin# KNA- FU4A27C5472352 2013 Altima Vin# 5XXGR4 A65D6140046 2021 Altima Vin# 1N4BL4BV 5MN303323 2011 Fusion Vin# 3FAH- P0HA3BR321826 2023 Camry Vin# 4T1G11AKX- PU1022695
September 27, 2023

000123
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT, IN AND FOR HOLMES COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION IN RE: ESTATE OF NICHOLAS JOSEPH LACAOSTRO, File No. 23-94-CP Deceased.

000124
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT, IN AND FOR HOLMES COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION CASE NO.: 23 PR 100 IN RE: ESTATE OF PAUL A. BAY, JR., Deceased. NOTICE TO CREDITORS The administration of the estate of Paul A. Bey, Jr., deceased, File No. 23 PR 100 , is pending in the Circuit Court for Holmes County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 201 N. Oklahoma Street, Bonifay, Florida 32425. The name and address of the Personal Representative and the Personal Representative's attorney are set forth below. All creditors of the decedent and other persons who have claims or demands against the decedent's Estate, including unmaturing, contingent, or unliquidated claims and who may have been served a copy of this notice must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM. All other creditors of the decedent and other persons who have claims or demands against the decedent's Estate, including unmaturing, contingent, or unliquidated claims must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM. All other creditors of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against the decedent's estate must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIMS FILED TWO YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH ARE BARRED. The date of the first publication of this notice is: September 27, 2023. NINA D. FULLER Petitioner/executor 2616 Hwy. 173 Bonifay, FL 32425 KRISTI MILLER NOVONGLOSKY Florida Bar No. 0182044 Post Office Box 1129 Chipley, FL 32428 Telephone: (850) 6387587 knovonglosky@gmail.com September 27, October 4, 2023

000127
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HOLMES COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO. 2023-232-CC LEE BERTHA

CLARK, Plaintiff, v EDD JOHNSON, HAS-SIE JOHNSON, and others, Defendants.
NOTICE OF ACTION TO: Defendant EDD JOHNSON, if alive, and if dead, his known spouse HAS-SIE JOHNSON (known to be deceased), and any unknown spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees, judgment creditors, and all other parties claiming by, through, under or against them; the unknown spouse, heirs, devisees, and judgment creditors of defendants, deceased, and all other parties claiming by, through, or under, or against defendants; and all unknown natural persons if alive, and if dead or not known to be dead or alive, their several and respective unknown spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees, and judgment creditors, or other parties claiming by, through, or under those unknown natural persons; and the several and respective unknown assigns, successors in interest, trustees, or any other person claiming by, through, under or against any corporation or other legal entity named as a defendant; and all claimants, persons or parties, natural or corporate, or whose exact legal status is unknown, claiming under any of the above named or described defendants or parties or claiming to have any right, title, or interest in the property described in this complaint, with the exception of Pam Taylor, Frederick Taylor, and Mary Ann Taylor.
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that a Complaint to quiet title to real property in Holmes County, Florida, described as:
Lots 1,2,6,9,11,12,13, 14,15, and 16 of Block 8, Lot 5 of Block 11, Lot 4 of Block 14, Lots 2,3, and 4 of Block 16, Lots 4 and 5 of Block 17, and Lot 1 of Block 15, less and except the West 36 feet of Lot 1 and less and except a square measuring 100' by 100' located in the SW corner of the remainder of Lot 1 after the removal of the 36 feet previously stated, of the Town of Noma, Florida as shown on that map on file in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Holmes County, Florida in Section 27, Township 7 North, Range 14 West, Holmes County, Florida
September 27, October 4, 11, 18, 2023

Property Appraiser's ID #0327.04-001-008-001.000 and Lot 6 of Block 17 of the Town of Noma, Florida as shown on that map on file in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Holmes County, Florida in Section 27, Township 7 North, Range 14 West, Holmes County, Florida
Property Appraiser's ID #0327.04-001-017-002.000 has been filed in the County Court for Holmes County, Florida, and that you, as a potential claimant, are entitled to notice as a matter of state law.
You are required to serve a copy of your written defenses to the Complaint, if any, on the plaintiff's attorney, Timothy H. Wells, Post Office Box 155, Bonifay, Florida 32425-0155, and to file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on the attorney or immediately thereafter by October 23, 2023; otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.
Dated on the 21st day of September, 2023. SAM BAILEY, Clerk of Court By: Tara Hicks, Deputy Clerk
September 27, October 4, 11, 18, 2023

HELP WANTED
Doctors Office in Bonifay, Florida is accepting resumes/applications for an Office Managers Position.
Person responsible for, business affairs functions, processing incoming and outgoing mail, reading and responding to emails, preparation of monthly and quarterly reports. Must be able to multitask, be organized, money management, make deposits, reconcile bank and credit card statements. Knowledge of Medical billing and background in accounting.
Must be able to work in cooperation with other employees and clinical director.
Must exercise independence, judgement, competence and dependability in carrying out assigned tasks.
If you have the experience we are looking for please bring your resume or come in and fill out an application. Applications will be taken through October 2023.

OUTDOORS

XBR brings outdoor racing fun to Vortex Springs

STAFF REPORT

Xtreme Bounty Racing (XBR) Motorsports sent mud flying around at The Original Vortex Spring for the weekend.

The dirt drag race event was held Sept. 22 and 33 at the outdoor recreation spot in Ponce de Leon.



CROSSWORD ANSWERS

From page 6B

		S	H	F			M	I	A						
		C	O	A	L	E	S	C	E	N	C	E			
G	O	O	D	F	O	R	N	O	T	H	I	N	G		
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S	E	N	E			A	D	A	R		S	A	C		
		S	K	I		E	A	G	A	N		M	E	D	
		E	S	C		M	E	M	O		A	N	A	S	
M	A	D	M	A	N		R	A	D		S	A	N	A	
U	N		V	I	N								C	T	
R	E	T	R	A	C	E			T	R	O	C	H	E	E
		W	H	O	L	E	N	I	N	E	Y	A	R	D	S
		E	A	R	N	E	S	T	N	E	S	S			
		D	Y	E					O	S	H				

SUDOKU ANSWERS

From page 6B

ANSWER:

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



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