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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 2024 | WASHINGTONCOUNTY.NEWS | VOLUME 2 No. 25

Gov. DeSantis signs Dozier compensation bill

NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA

Gov. Ron DeSantis on Friday signed a bill that will steer \$20 million to survivors of abuse at the notorious Arthur G. Dozier School for Boys in Marianna and another state reform school.

The bill (HB 21), approved by the Legislature this spring, will establish the "Dozier School for Boys and Okeechobee School Victim Compensation Program."

The program will compensate people who were at Dozier or the Okeechobee reform school between 1940 and 1975 and "who were subjected to mental, physical or sexual abuse perpetrated by school personnel."

The plan requires Attorney General Ashley Moody's office to set up a process to "accept, review, and approve or deny applications for the payment of compensation." Applicants must provide "reasonable proof" — including sworn statements — that they were at the schools during the period and were victims of abuse.

For at least a decade, former Dozier students, known as the "White House Boys," traveled to the Capitol and shared intimate details of the abuse they suffered as children. The Dozier school was shuttered in 2011 after 111 years of operation. Researchers have found remains of dozens of students buried at

the site, and other former students have never been located.

Lawmakers in 2017 provided \$1.2 million to cover the costs of reburials and memorials for victims. Also that year, the Legislature issued an apology to victims. But legislative efforts to compensate the men failed until this year. Sen. Darryl Rouson, a St. Petersburg Democrat who was the Senate sponsor of the bill, accompanied several survivors when DeSantis signed the bill Friday morning.

In a phone interview with The News Service of Florida, Rouson thanked Senate President Kathleen Passidomo, R-Naples, and House Speaker Paul Renner, R-Palm Coast, for supporting

the measure.

"I have personally fought for seven years, since 2017, to get this done. These men who were once boys and witnessed and suffered the atrocities have been coming here for more than a decade to tell their story, to give testimony, and while this will not fully compensate them for the injuries they suffered, it will go a long way towards giving them justice," Rouson said.

About 300 to 400 former students of the schools who are still alive could be eligible for the compensation, according to Troy Rafferty, an attorney with the Levin, Papantonio, Rafferty firm who represents the men.

Sweet summertime!

Thousands drawn to the music and melons of the 68th annual Panhandle Watermelon Fest



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Thousands of festival-goers converged at Jim Trawick Park, the Washington County Agricultural Center, and surrounding areas over the weekend to attend the 68th annual Panhandle Watermelon this past weekend. The event featured the traditional Friday night concert headlined by Clay Walker, followed by Saturday's events, which included a 5K, a parade, car show, watermelon auction, music by Jeff Bates and Grace and Grit, vendors, and - of course - watermelon. Above, River Ross enjoys a slice of fresh watermelon during Friday's kickoff to the festival. For more photos, see Page 8A.

Vernon residents raise concerns over residential property's commercial use

GARETT VALCOURT
Gvalcourt@kentsmith.biz

Vernon residents expressed significant concerns during last week's city council meeting regarding a residentially zoned property applying for a business license. The residents highlighted that the property - located in a residential zone on Traverse Drive and used by outdoor adventure business Stay and Play the Cypress - is causing traffic congestion and raising environmental issues. Neighbors reported to council members that heavy machinery was being used in a nearby creek, and the property lacked adequate sewage facilities to accommodate the number of visitors it was attracting.

Vernon City Attorney Michelle Blankenship presented a cease and desist order to

property owners Frederick and Elizabeth Schmitz on June 18. The order addressed unauthorized commercial use of residential property and called for the rescission of their business license.

The Schmitzes told the Washington County News in a phone interview that they had previously consulted with Washington County officials about using their land for commercial purposes, specifically to operate an Airbnb. According to the Schmitzes, they were informed a business license was "not necessary since Airbnb is regulated by the state." The couple also mentioned multiple unsuccessful attempts to obtain a business license for renting canoes and kayaks for river activities, despite a similar business operating just two

See **VERNON**, Page 2A



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Some Vernon residents are expressing concern regarding operations of Stay and Play the Cypress, an outdoor adventure company located on Traverse Drive. Complaints allege the business is using a residential property to run a commercial service.

Chipley man arrested in Bay County homicide

STAFF REPORT

The Washington County Sheriff's Office reports the arrest of a local man for a murder that took place in Panama City.

WCSCO deputies ar-

rested Kyle Michael Porter, 24, of Chipley, in connection with the death of Randy Joseph Lynn of Panama City.

According to law enforcement reports, WCSCO received a call

Saturday, April 27, in reference to a shooting that had occurred on Diamond Head Lake.

Investigators stated that according to the evidence and statements given, three coworkers

and social acquaintances were together at Porter's house for a day of fishing and socializing when they became intoxicated, and an altercation erupted. "Porter produced a

firearm during the altercation and fired, striking Lynn who succumbed to his injuries," reported WCSCO in a press release Friday, June 21. "Porter's wife stated

See **HOMICIDE**, Page 3A



Kyle Michael Porter

Sheriff Crews makes history with consecutive unopposed re-elections

NATALIE HOLTON
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Washington County Sheriff Kevin Crews has made history as being the county's first sheriff to go two consecutive elections without a challenger.

"I am honored and excited to announce

that I will be remaining in office as your sheriff, unopposed," said Crews. "I look forward to this next chapter together."

Sheriff Crews was first elected in 2017, making this upcoming term his third in office.

"I take this job very seriously, and I consider it a great privilege to

continue serving Washington County," he said, going on to thank the community and other agencies for their supportive and collaborative efforts. "I would also like to thank the citizens of Washington County for all your trust and unwavering support. To the amazing staff here

at Washington County Sheriff's Office, jail, and EMS, it has been a blessing to join together with each one of you, and I feel we have made great strides in Washington County's public safety."

In addition to Crews, two other offices are also without challengers this term: Renea

Peters is unopposed in her bid to fill the office of Washington County Property Appraiser. The current property appraiser, Gill Carter, is retiring this year. Washington County Tax Collector Ken Naker is also unopposed and will continue serving in his post for another term.



Sheriff Kevin Crews

One killed in Hwy 79 crash

STAFF REPORT

The Florida Highway Patrol has reported a vehicle wreck on State Road 79 around 10:25 pm on June 18.

According to FHP reports, the vehicle was traveling in the inside northbound lane of State Road 79 when it veered to the left, traveling into the grass, median on State Road 79.

The driver counter-steered to the right, re-entering the northbound lanes of State Road 79 where FHP states the vehicle rotated in a counterclockwise manner, traveling in a northeasterly direction onto the east shoulder of State Road 79.

The vehicle subsequently overturned and rolled over onto its right side, rolling over several times. The vehicle came to final rest in the grassy area on the east side of State Road 79, facing south. The driver, a 42-year-old female Vernon resident, succumbed to her injuries and was pronounced deceased on scene.

Governor signs bear bill, vetoes left-lane crackdown

JIM TURNER
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE --- Gov. Ron DeSantis on Friday signed a controversial measure that will bolster self-defense arguments for people who kill bears on their property, while vetoing a bill that would have prevented motorists from cruising in the left lanes of highways.

DeSantis' office announced Friday night that he had signed 14 bills from this year's legislative session and vetoed three. Among the other bills he signed was a measure (SB 7014) that revamped ethics laws.

The bill about bears (HB 87) provides a sort of stand-your-ground defense for people who shoot bears to defend themselves or property. But with bear hunting long a controversial issue in Florida, opponents of the bill said it would lead to increased deaths of the once-threatened

animals. Opponents said they will consider legal action to try to halt the law, which is scheduled to take effect July 1.

Under the bill, shooters will have to notify the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission within 24 hours of bears being killed. They also will be prohibited from possessing or selling bear carcasses.

Legal immunity will not be available to people who provoke or lure bears.

Similar bills were filed in past years but did not pass the Legislature. This year, however, the proposal sponsored by Rep. Jason Shoaf, R-Port St. Joe, and Sen. Corey Simon, R-Tallahassee, gained traction in September after Franklin County Sheriff A.J. Smith said his rural community was "being inundated and overrun by the bear population."

Shoaf and Simon represent Franklin County as part of sprawling, largely rural districts.

But animal-rights activists argued the bill will create an "open season" on bears.

"Increasing the killing of Florida's iconic black bears under the

guise of self-defense --- poses serious public safety risks and undermines responsible wildlife management," Kate MacFall, Florida state director at the Humane Society of the United States, said in a prepared statement.

MacFall said the bill conflicts with regulations of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, which has the constitutional authority to manage wildlife. She added her organization "will continue to explore our options moving forward to ensure Florida's bears are protected."

Opponents of the bill said the state and communities should focus on securing garbage so bears will not be attracted to homes. The commission's BearWise program outlines steps such as telling people not to feed bears, to clear grills, to make trash less accessible, to remove bird feeders when bears are active and to not leave pet food outside.

Sierra Club Florida, which has also argued the bill usurps the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's constitutional author-

ity, said it is "a dangerous solution to an imaginary problem."

Under current law, people are prohibited from possessing, injuring or shooting bears but can use non-lethal means to scare away bears that may be on the people's property or rifling through trash.

As the state's number of residents has grown, human-bear conflicts have increased. The commission euthanized an average of 38 bears annually between 2009 and 2018 because of public-safety risks, mostly as bears sought out unsecured garbage or other food.

The Senate voted 24-12 to approve the bill, while the House passed it in an 83-28 vote. Rep. Allison Tant, D-Tallahassee, said bears threaten farmers' livestock in her district, which includes rural Madison and Jefferson counties.

"We do have bear-proof garbage cans," Tant said in March. "And you know what, oftentimes, after the garbage is picked up, the tops are not secured again. So, the bears come back and come

See **BILLS**, Page 2A

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SR 20 PD&E State Road (S.R.) 20 PD&E Study

From S.R. 79 to U.S. 231 in Washington and Bay Counties

Financial Project Identification Numbers: 220635-5-22-01 & 220635-6-22-01

FDOT ETDM #14459

HYBRID PUBLIC HEARING

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Open House: 5:30 - 6 p.m. (CDT)

Presentation & Comment Period: 6 p.m. (CDT)

HEARING DETAILS

Virtual (online): Access via computer, tablet, and smartphone. Register using the link: www.nwflroads.com/calendar

In-person: Those who are unable to participate virtually may attend the hearing in-person at: Sand Hills Assembly of God, 14032 Highway 77, Southport, FL

PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) will hold a hybrid public hearing concerning the S.R. 20 Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study. This hearing is being held both virtually and in-person to provide interested persons an opportunity to express their views concerning the proposed improvements. Citizens are encouraged to attend the virtual hearing online at www.nwflroads.com/calendar. Those who are unable to participate virtually may attend the hearing in-person.

Maps, drawings, and other related project information is available for review online beginning 12 p.m. (CDT) Tuesday, June 25, 2024, at www.nwflroads.com/calendar and on-location from Tuesday, June 25, 2024, through Friday, August 2, 2024, at the Ebro Town Hall located at 6629 Dog Track Road, Ebro, FL, Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. (CDT), or the Gulf Coast State College North Bay Campus located at 637 Highway 2300, Southport, FL, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (CDT). Project materials will also be available at the in-person hearing. The materials may also be viewed by contacting the FDOT Project Manager.

The hearing will begin with an informal open house from 5:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. (CDT). This will be followed by a formal presentation, then a public comment period.

PROJECT INFORMATION

The FDOT is conducting a PD&E Study to consider reconstructing portions of S.R. 20 from S.R. 79 to U.S. 231 in Washington and Bay counties to enhance safety, add capacity, and address flooding issues. These proposed improvements consist of widening S.R. 20 from two to four lanes and elevating low-lying segments of the roadway prone to flooding. The total distance of this study is 27.2 miles. Design is partially funded. Right of way and construction are not funded at this time.

SECTION 4(F)

As part of the project development process and in accordance with Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966, FDOT is seeking comments from the public concerning the potential effects on the activities, features, and attributes of the Econfina Creek Wildlife Management Area due to impacts resulting from the widening of S.R. 20 along both sides of the roadway. FDOT intends to make a *de minimis* impact determination on the resource.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Should you have questions regarding this project or this hearing, please contact:

Contact Information

Nikole Arrant, P.E.
FDOT Project Manager
(850) 415-9017
narrant@hntb.com
1282 Office Park Drive
ChIPLEY, FL 32428

Ian Satter
FDOT District Three Public Information Director
(888) 638-0250, ext. 1205
ian.satter@dot.state.fl.us
1074 Highway 90
ChIPLEY, FL 32428

Persons wishing to submit written or verbal comments may do so at the hearing or may contact the FDOT Project Manager. All comments provided or postmarked on or before Friday, August 2, 2024, will become part of the official record.

Additional Project Information: www.nwflroads.com

Stay Connected @MyFDOT_NWFL MyFDOTNWFL

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, or family status. For questions or concerns regarding Title VI, contact Alicia Bringer, FDOT District Three Title VI Coordinator, 1074 Highway 90, Chipley, FL 32428, toll-free at (888) 638-0250, ext. 1502 or via email at alicia.bringer@dot.state.fl.us. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact the FDOT Project Manager, at the information listed above, at least seven days prior to the hearing.

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by FDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. § 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated May 26, 2022, and executed by the Federal Highway Administration and FDOT.

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

On Tuesday, September 3, 2024, a General Election will be held for the City of Chipley at Chipley City Hall, 1442 Jackson Avenue. Term of office expires on September 30, 2024 for the following positions: Council Member Ward 1, Council Member Ward 3 and Council Member-At-Large. These offices will be opened to qualified candidates. Qualifying for these offices will begin at 8:00 a.m., Monday, July 8, 2024, and end at 4:00 p.m., Friday, July 12, 2024. The qualifying fee for each office is \$252.00. Those wishing to qualify may do so with the City Clerk at Chipley City Hall during the above stated time period.

The Voter Registration books will close on August 5, 2024. All city residents within the city limits of Chipley, who are registered to vote by August 5, 2024, are eligible to vote in this election regardless of where you live in the city.

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

Please contact Sherry Snell, City Clerk at (850) 638-6350 should you have any questions or need other information regarding the upcoming city election.

June 26, 2024

VERNON

From Page 1A

houses away.

The Schmitzes also refuted allegations about heavy machinery being used near the creek, stating the complaints are unfounded and stemmed from their neighbors, David Musholt and Al Porteus, both of which spoke up about the issue to the City Council, stating they have seen up to 40 or 50 cars parked on Traverse Drive. The Schmitzes argued the claim is a misrepresentation, admitted to hosting a family gathering to celebrate their daughter's college graduation but denying the gathering involved commercial activity or that the number of cars was as high as reported.

The Schmitzes also reported frequent police calls from their neighbors over noise complaints and a recent incident on Father's Day where a neighbor allegedly pushed Frederick Schmitz over a property dispute.

"This all comes down to who you know, not what you know," said Frederick Schmitz.

Meanwhile, the City states they are only asking the couple follow policies and ordinances regarding their business.

"Our city is not opposed to business nor granting licenses," said Vernon City Clerk Candice Hodges. "We just request it be done correctly and through proper procedures."

COURTS & CRIME

Washington County Arrest Reports

The following arrests were made in Washington County between June 14 and June 20, as reported by the Washington County Jail. All subjects are considered innocent until convicted.



Casey Jo Jeter Atkinson



Adam Matthew Bigler



Kody Arron Daugherty



Vanessa Lynn Hernandez



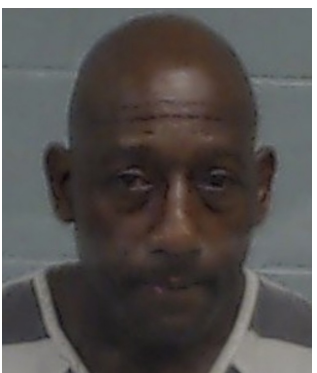
Ashley Janay Hill



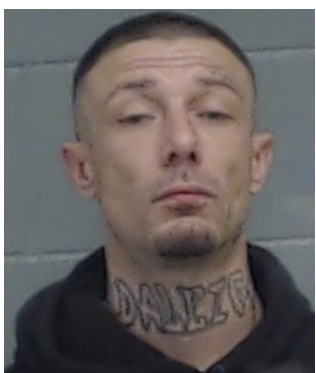
Jack Robert Hogue



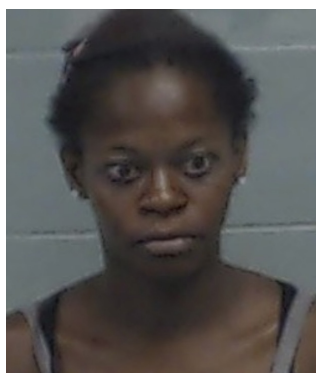
John Demmichael Johnson



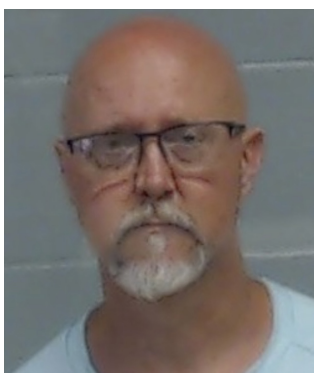
Bobby Earl Lee



Christian Anthony Momberg



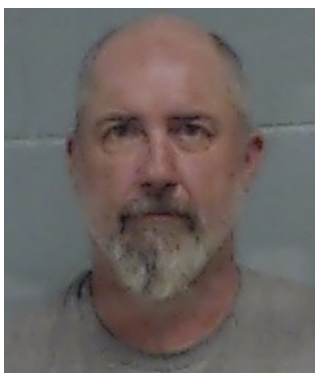
Brea Nicole Newman



Billy Earl Price



Elton Lee Sapp



Frederick John Schmitz



Latoya Leasette Sheffield



Amber Lynn Webb



Nathan Scott Williams

Amber Lynn Webb, 39, Chipley- Probation violation [WCSO]

Bobby Earl Lee, 57, Chipley- Possession or use of drug paraphernalia, larceny: petit theft second-degree third subsequent offense [WCSO]

Jack Robert Hogue, 33, Chipley- Domestic battery by strangulation, resist officer without violence [WCSO]

Frederick John Schmitz, 48, Chipley- Fraud: illegal use of credit card more than 100 dollars [WCSO]

Kody Arron Daugherty, 31, Caryville- Possession of a controlled substance [WCSO]

Latoya Leasette Sheffield, 36, Cottondale- Battery, damage property: criminal mischief more than 200 dollars but less than 1000 dollars [WCSO]

Ashley Janay Hill, 42, Chipley- Battery second or subsequent offense x2 [WCSO]

Elton Lee Sapp, 38, Chipley- Possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, trespassing [WCSO]

Christian Anthony Momberg, 33, Youngstown- Aggravated assault with a deadly weapon without intent to kill [WCSO]

John Demmichael Johnson, 34, Vernon- Nonsupport of children or spouse [WCSO]

Billy Earl Price, 51, No address listed- Child abuse without great bodily harm [WCSO]

Casey Jo Jeter Atkinson, 32, Panama City Beach- FTA: Possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of a controlled substance, DWLSR, smuggle contraband into detention facility [WCSO]

Vanessa Lynn Hernandez, 36, Chipley- Battery on officer, firefighter, EMT [WCSO]

Nathan Scott Williams, 33, Cottondale- Nonsupport of children or spouse [WCSO]

Brea Nicole Newman, 29, Chipley- Possession of drug paraphernalia [WCSO]

Adam Matthew Bigler, 45, Chipley- Possession of drug paraphernalia [WCSO]

K9 Hannibal gifted with body armor

GARETT VALCOURT
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In what is being called a significant boost to law enforcement safety,

a Washington County Sheriff's Office K9 unit has received a new addition to their protective gear. K9 Hannibal, is now equipped with a

bullet and stab protective vest, donated by the non-profit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc.

The vest, custom-fitted and certified by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), was sponsored by Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. and carries the inscription: "This gift of protection provided by Vested Interest in K9s, Inc." Established in 2009, the organization is a 501(c) (3) charity dedicated to providing life-saving body armor and other assistance to K9 units in law enforcement agencies across the United States.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Washington County Sheriff's Office K9 Hannibal is now equipped with a bullet and stab protective vest

BILLS

From Page 2A

back."

Meanwhile Friday, DeSantis vetoed a bill (HB 317) that would have prevented drivers from cruising in left lanes of highways with at least two lanes and speed limits of at least 65 mph. The bill included exemptions for drivers passing other motorists, preparing to exit, turning from left lanes or being directed to left lanes by officers or traffic-control devices.

In a veto letter, DeSantis said the bill was "too broad" and

that it could result in motorists "being pulled over, ticketed, and fined for driving in the furthest left lane even if they are not impeding the flow of traffic of if there are few or no other cars in the immediate area."

DeSantis added that the measure, which was unanimously approved by the Senate and drew only three dissenting votes in the House, could "potentially increase congestion in Florida's urban areas as drivers may decide to not utilize the furthest left-hand lane at all for fear of being ticketed."

HOMICIDE

From Page 1A

her husband called her from their dock and asked her to call law enforcement and an ambulance because he had just shot someone. When WCSO deputies arrived, all parties involved were still present."

After an extensive investigation, WCSO investigators concluded their investigation with Porter being charged with one count of manslaughter for the death of Mr. Lynn.

Porter was booked into the Washington County Jail where he is currently awaiting bond.

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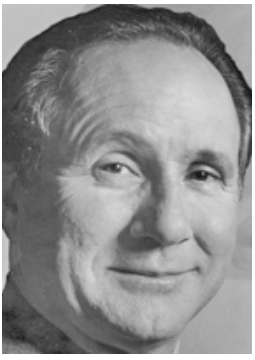
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OPINION

Maddow and Behar want four more years - for Trump



MICHAEL REAGAN
Guest Columnist

Who do the liberal ladies of “The View” think they’re kidding?

This week Joy Behar and her ragged troop of pretend political pundits were again acting terrified by the specter of Donald Trump – aka, Adolf Hitler 2.0 – returning to power this fall.

Behar, who used to be a comedian, was as serious as an insurrection.

She and her Tuesday show’s special guest, none other than MSNBC’s insufferable St. Rachel Maddow, worried that if Trump is elected again he would take revenge on them and take their shows off the air.

Or sic the IRS on them. Or worse. Make them watch “Hannity” every night.

Maddow, who has done more to degrade the value of a Rhodes scholarship to Oxford than any American since Bill Clinton, really let her sloppy journalism hang out when she made up this quote from Trump.

She said, “I think it’s bad to have somebody saying, ‘Give me as much power as you can in this country so I can use it to go after other Americans, so I can use it to go after these subhuman internal enemies and I will destroy them.’”

“That’s just not a good system for anybody, and I don’t think anybody is safe if that’s the sort of basis on which he wants to get more power.”

Maddow, Behar and the other victims of Trump derangement

syndrome in charge of the liberal media sphere constantly slime Trump as a wannabe dictator.

Too blind to see that Biden has actually been doing all the tyrannical things she imagines Trump will do, Maddow recently said to CNN’s Oliver Darcy that she was worried Trump would send people like her to “a massive” camp.

You wish, Rachel. So do the suits at MSNBC. I’ve come to the conclusion that Maddow and fake journalists like her are secretly praying for a return to power of Donald Trump.

I think she secretly hopes he will do the same banana-republic-type things Democrats presidents like to do, whether it’s using the IRS, the FBI and the CIA as political weapons or finding new ways to put their Republican opponents in jail.

Even Maddow and Behar have come to realize by now that the more the Biden administration and the liberal media go after Trump in underhanded and partisan ways, the higher his polls go.

Trump has been charged with crimes invented by corrupt local Democrat district attorneys and judges who’ve dragged him into kangaroo courts, slapped him with gag orders, forced him to post a \$175 million bail and convicted him of three dozen low-level felonies.

But he hasn’t been hurt with voters. In fact, it’s the reverse.

The more Trump’s political enemies go after him, the more they try to prevent him even from campaigning, the more popular he’s gotten with his MAGA base, independents and minorities.

Maddow, Behar and their ilk on MSNBC and CNN desperately need Trump to be elected.

See **REAGAN**, Page 6A

How A/C changed politics and the world



TOM PURCELL
Guest Columnist

shade of trees or a refreshing dip in a lake or river.

On the hottest nights, whole families brought their blankets and pillows to riverbanks, where it was cool.

In the evening, neighbors sat on their large front porches, enjoying a cool breeze as they sipped lemonade and told stories.

Even in the 1970s, when I was a kid in the suburbs of Pittsburgh, few homes had air conditioning. Our windows were always open.

At night you could hear neighbors talking, a distant baby crying and Pirates’ announcer Bob Prince calling a game on somebody’s porch radio: “... he missed it by a gnat’s eyelash!”

In the mornings, I’d wake early to the sound of chirping birds. I could smell the cool dew outside my window and the scent of toast and scrambled eggs my father was cooking up in the kitchen.

Air conditioning has certainly changed many things for the better — I’m nice and cool as I write

this column — but it has brought with it some downsides.

Most neighborhoods are sealed shut now. Rather than the voices of children playing, all you hear is the hum of air conditioning motors.

My Uncle Jack’s 1920s home was designed with high ceilings, cross ventilation and large hallways to dissipate heat — magnificent features that are no longer necessary in today’s low-ceilinged suburban houses that put the porch in the back and the garage in the front. No lemonade for you!

Commercial buildings used to have windows that opened, but that isn’t necessary anymore.

Today’s glass-plated buildings are designed to keep the light and air out, making us oblivious to whatever season it may be.

Before Congress got air conditioning in the 1920s, hot, humid Washington was empty from mid-June to September.

Now the Congress can spend lots more time working on — as the great New York Times columnist Russell Baker once put it — “... the promulgation of more laws, the depredations of lobbyists, the hatching of new schemes for Federal expansion and, of course, the cost of maintaining a government running at full blast.”

Sure, air conditioning has dramatically improved life for the elderly and others with respiratory problems. It’s saved a lot of lives. And our productivity has been

vastly improved by the cool air.

I’m just saying that sometimes it’s good to be hot, sweaty and uncomfortable.

When I lived in the D.C. area in 2004, a group of us sat next to the Capitol Building in 102 degree heat during a Fourth of July ceremony.

Thousands of people were jammed together dripping with sweat, but nobody really minded.

We sang the National Anthem together and it was a moving event.

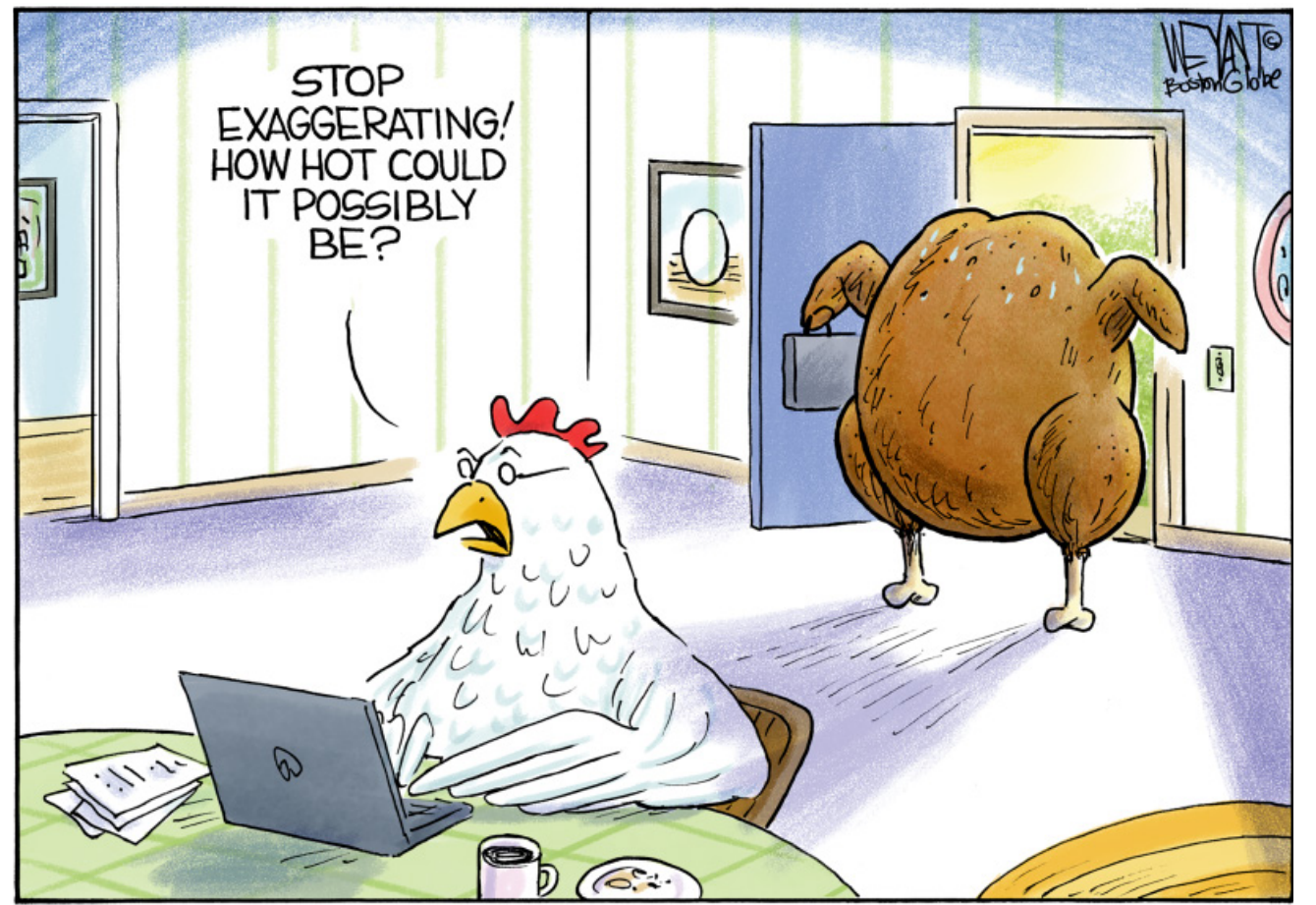
We watched the fireworks go off above the Washington Monument. It was a spectacular experience to be together in the heat with so many others.

But as soon as the last of the fireworks exploded, most people fled to their air-conditioned cars and homes and went quickly back into isolation.

I didn’t. I put my car windows down. We drove slowly through the streets of Washington, listening to the occasional firecracker and people talking as children played with sparklers.

Of course, as soon as I got to my Virginia condo, I cranked the AC as high as it would go — happily enjoying the incredible upside of Willis Carrier’s cool invention.

See Tom Purcell’s syndicated column, humor books and funny videos featuring his dog, Thurber, at TomPurcell.com. Email him at Tom@TomPurcell.com.



Are you hopelessly confused about telephone etiquette?



DANNY TYREE
Guest Columnist

“I’ve been everywhere, man/I’ve been everywhere, man...” – as sung by Hank Snow.

I was overjoyed to hear that one of my high school classmates and his wife recently completed their bucket-list project of visiting all 50 states.

(Alas, one of the less-studious members of our class stopped agonizingly short of that milestone, declaring, “You can’t fool me! There are only 49 states, ever since scientists decided Pluto isn’t really a state.”)

As I researched the 50-state accomplishment, I discovered that there is no universal standard for what constitutes a “visit” to a state.

For instance, the Fifty State Club (founded in 2006 to celebrate and encourage travelers on their journey) sets a fairly low bar: put your feet on the ground and breathe the air. (In other words, no points for driving straight across a state without even a bathroom break or simply changing planes at the airport.)

Individuals establish their own parameters for a “real” visit to a state: snap a picture at the state line, eat local cuisine, spend the night, sing Woody Guthrie’s “This Land Is Your Land,” honor O.J. Simpson by following at least one lead for tracking down “the real killer,” and so on.

An increasingly popular benchmark is “Speak truth to power” in each state. (“Mr. Dog Catcher, you have some @%^&\$ ugly mutts in this state.”)

People embark on a 50-state trek for myriad reasons: patriotism, meeting new people, the desire for fresh experiences, the chance to file a personal-injury lawsuit after tumbling down the front steps of each state capitol building...

Many retirees see their golden years as the perfect opportunity to check those states off their list. My mother has gone the opposite way.

Before she got married, she made memorable excursions from rural Tennessee to New York City and Hershey, Pennsylvania (and she and Dad honeymooned in Florida); but she grew more and more dismissive of travel. More recently, if you tried to tell her about the sights and sounds you experienced, she would be satisfied to see an Excel spreadsheet of what time you got HOME from each trip.

More power to the people who can pull off a 50-state project, just as long as they appreciate how privileged they are to have the necessary health, time, finances and workarounds for obligations. A lot of people would have to cobble together a strategy such as “Okay, if we pull the plug on Mom, list the kennel as one of our creditors on the bankruptcy application, remove your frisbee-size cataracts and convince my boss that I won’t fall asleep in the mop room so often if I get twice as much paid time off, I think we can swing it.” Me? Travel enthusiasts celebrate themselves for having an “adventurous spirit.” I have an adventurous spirit, but I’d like to keep it inside my body for a few more years instead of plunging into a ravine while snapping a selfie...

I enjoyed adding Missouri to the list of states I have visited (my wife had a convention in St. Louis in May), but I don’t have a burning passion for visiting every single state. If it happens, it happens.

(But it’ll happen faster if some enterprising state gets a Gateway Arch that erupts every 60 to 110 minutes or a Gateway Arch perched atop a rock-carved head of Theodore Roosevelt or...)

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

Washington County
NEWS



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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 1367 B South Railroad Ave., Chipley, FL 32428 or emailed to Editor Collin Breaux at: cbreaux@kentsmith.biz. Questions? Call 850-638-0212

FAITH

Hard Labor Church installs historic site marker

NATALIE HOLTON
Nholton@kentsmith.biz

A Florida Heritage Site Marker has been installed at Hard Labor Church in Vernon.

The project was spearheaded by Vernon Historical Society member Linda Waller.

"This has been a very long time coming," said Waller.

The Primitive Baptist Church was built in 1848 and stayed active until the mid to late 1980s. The original building was located across the road from its current location but had to be moved due to the congregation not owning the original lot in 1950.

Since the location change, many updates have been made to the building due to the aftermath of Hurricane

Michael. The storm caused two large pines to fall onto the church, leaving the roof collapsed and the building shifted off its foundation. The windows were also severely damaged, but were re-built by the Castle family who are Washington County locals.

The funding for the marker was donated by a dear friend of the Historical Society, Jane Gota, when she passed two years ago.

"She was very passionate about this church, and this goes above and beyond what we ever expected for this site," said Waller.

The Vernon Historical Society also expressed their appreciation to Bob Wells and Junior Weeks, who helped install the site marker.



[NATALIE HOLTON | The News]
From left: Bob Wells, Linda Waller, and Junior Weeks worked to install the Hard Labor Church historical marker on June 20.

Has your faith been shaken?



CAROL ROUND
Guest Columnist

"All of creation will be shaken and removed so that only unshakable things will remain"—Hebrews 12:27 (NLT).

It was 1987 when I learned Oklahoma has a series of fault lines running through our state. When I heard this, I laughed in disbelief at the agent who was promoting earthquake insurance. I associated earthquakes with California, not Oklahoma.

Twenty-two years later, I wasn't laughing when our state experienced its first noticeable earthquake, at least in my lifetime. Late one evening, while I was reading a book, my bed began to vibrate. "Nah," I thought, "I'm just imagining things."

Then, it happened again. This time the shaking was stronger. What was going on? I turned on the TV to a news station reporting we were experiencing an earthquake

in parts of the state. Since that time, our state has experienced significantly stronger earthquakes. **When our world is shaken**

Natural disasters—from earthquakes and floods to storms and droughts—affect millions of people every year and threaten our planet. Our faith can be shaken if we experience one of these events. However, it's not just nature that can cause us to question our faith.

Recently, a mother and her young daughter visited our free clothes closet where I volunteer. As they shopped, the mother shared her story of being homeless for two months. I didn't want to pry about their circumstances, but she revealed her husband was starting a new job that day. They'd also had help locating a permanent place to live. She was grateful for the assistance we, as well as other resources in our community, were providing for their family of four to get back on their feet.

While her faith had been shaken, her attitude of gratitude was an example to us and other shoppers that if we have Christ in us, we can have unshakable faith. Through

the generosity of others, she'd learned we can have confident faith in knowing Jesus, our rock and mighty fortress, will never leave us nor forsake us. And that's a promise.

The promise of eternal life

We can't escape the trials in life. It doesn't matter if it's on an international level or in our personal lives. None of us is immune.

In her book titled, Unshakable, Christine Caine writes, "The Bible assures us it doesn't matter what happens politically, morally, socially, or economically in the world around us if we have Jesus Christ in us—if we have the kingdom of God within us—because with Christ and in Christ, we can have unshakable faith."

With Christ in us, we grow in our faith—an unshakable faith. Overcoming the roadblocks of despair when our loved ones choose the wrong path, when we lose our job, or when our finances won't stretch until the end of the month requires us to believe there is something better ahead. That unshakable belief is the promise of eternal life through a loving God.

FAITH BRIEFS

The Whisnants In Concert at Mt. Zion Independent Baptist Church

Southern Gospel recording artists The Whisnants will be in concert on Friday night, June 28 at 7 p.m. at Mt. Zion Independent Baptist Church located at 3205 Hwy 2 in Bonifay (Esto Community). Songs like "Even in The Valley," "God is Good," "Nail it to the Cross," "Thank God for Grace," and many other anointed songs were made popular by The Whisnants. This is a free concert event, and everyone is invited. The doors will open at 5 p.m., and the sing will start at 7 p.m.

First Presbyterian Fifth Sunday Sing

First Presbyterian Church in Chipley will be having a Fifth Sunday

Sing Sunday, June 30, at 11 a.m. The special guests will be Randall Franks, Kevin Russell, Sarah Watts, and Hunter Williams. Everyone is invited to attend, the address is 658 5th Street in Chipley.

Pianist needed for Holmes Creek Baptist

Holmes Creek Baptist Church is in search of a pianist. It is a paid position. For more information, text or call Dr. Bill Knowles, Minister of Music, at 850-272-3874, or Joy K. Vermillion, Search Committee Chairperson, at 850-892-7654.

Damascus Baptist Church Graceville VBS

This will be held July 29-Aug. 2 from 5-8 p.m. for ages completed pre-kindergarten through fifth grade.

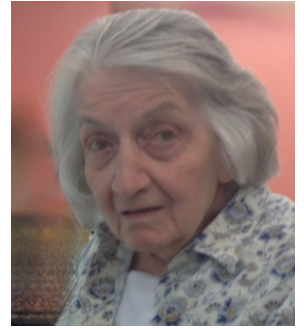
Send faith events or faith news to: news@kentsmith.biz

OBITUARY

DOROTHY ADELE MURRAY

Dorothy Adele Murray, age 94, of Chipley, Florida, passed away Thursday morning, June 20, 2024. She was born

Washington, Crystal Whiddon, Jennifer Murray, Katriana Wilson, and Terry Blaylock; 17 great-grandchildren;



sisters, Grace Perusini and Jane Nelson; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

August 10, 1929, in Bergenfield, New Jersey, to Charles George Murray and Ruth Hudson Murray. Dorothy is preceded in death by her parents; and her sisters, Lily Corr and Ruth Corr.

She is survived by her children, Gail Washington, Don Whiddon and wife Laura, and Michelle Whiddon; grandchildren, Suzanne Sapp, Brandy Washington, Brady Washington, Krista Washington, Lonnie

Graveside services will be held Wednesday, June 26, 2024, beginning at 11:00 a.m., at Glenwood Cemetery in Chipley, Florida, with Minister Joel Davis officiating.

Arrangements and services are under the direction of Davis-Watkins Funeral Home of Bonifay.

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Before we speak today, remember God's words.
"He who is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone..." (John 8:7)
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Weekly Bible Trivia
What were Peter & Andrew doing when Jesus called them? (answer found in this week's scripture reading)

Sunday Mark 1:1-5	Monday Mark 1:6-12	Tuesday Mark 1:13-15	Wed. Mark 1:16-21	Thurs. Mark 1:22-28	Friday Mark 1:29-38	Saturday Mark 1:39-45
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WCPL children's program receives national award

NATALIE HOLTON
Nholton@kentsmith.biz

The Washington County Public Library (WCPL) received a national award from the National Association of Counties for the library's "1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program," an initiative geared to promoting early childhood literacy in the community.

"We believe in encouraging children to develop

a love of reading at an early age so that they can be successful later in life," said Library Director Renae Rountree.

This recognition is awarded yearly to applicants from around the nation to the National Association of Counties.

To qualify, organizations must meet specific qualifications, such as being "innovative and having to not rely on techniques or procedures

that are common practice in most counties of similar population or size," according to the organization's website.

"Kids earn a free book each time they read one hundred books," explained WCPL Youth Services Director Rachel Darling.

"By the time they have finished the program, they will have ten new books to add to their personal library."



[CONTRIBUTED]

ABOVE: These books and more are included in the WCPL "1000 Books Before Kindergarten Program," some of which children can receive free through reading. **RIGHT:** The library also has a display to inform the public on the program, and for families take pictures to document their child's journey in the program.



REAGAN

From Page 4A

They know the future of their shows is threatened far more by the decline of their ratings than four more years of President Trump.

To survive, they need to become victims of Trump – to become political martyrs. They yearn for it. They want mugshots of their own. Their careers and their wallets depend on it.

In fact, I bet Mad-dow has already started daydreaming about doing her show from inside an American gulag while her distraught fans protest at the gate in their "Free Rachel" t-shirts.

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

COMMUNITY EVENTS

NFCH Back to School drive

Northwest Florida Community Hospital is hosting an event to collect school supplies for Washington County students. Refreshments will be provided. The drive will take place Friday, July 19 from 1-4 p.m. at the NFCH Specialty Center. For more information, contact Jordan Biddle at jbiddle@nfch.org.

121 annual Andrew Elton Williams Family Reunion

The reunion will be on Saturday, October 5, 2024, at Galilee United Methodist Church, Galilee Road, Graceville, Florida. Registration is 9 a.m., and the program begins at 10:30 a.m. For more information contact: Lamar Faircloth at 850-547-2275 or 850-326-3045 cell.

ChIPLEY High School Homecoming Search

The Chipley High School Class of '64 is searching for any member of their class, whether a graduate or not, to contact Carthell Harden at (850) 326-9112 for an event in planning to allow graduates to renew past friendships. The class asks to share this information with other known classmates, and other classes as well.



Scott Gerber, Client Experience Manager



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Get Ready for Storm Season with FPL's Hurricane Preparedness Checklist

At Florida Power & Light Company (FPL), safety is the cornerstone of our commitment to customers and employees. It is not a matter of if, but when the next hurricane will hit our state, which is why it's important to be proactive in planning for the six-month-long hurricane season. FPL urges Floridians to be prepared this storm season and to be aware of potential safety hazards at all times. Below is a checklist for what to do before, during and after a storm. For more tips, visit FPL.com/storm.



Create an emergency plan with your family

- Determine if your home or business is in a flood and/or evacuation zone and review evacuation routes.
- Determine your backup power source or make arrangements to relocate if a storm warning is issued.
- The Division of Emergency Management recommends keeping gas tanks at least half full during hurricane season. For electric vehicles (EV), make sure to maintain a 50%-80% charge at all times.
- Contact your local emergency management office if you or anyone you know has special needs, in case of evacuations. Apply for our Medically Essential Service if someone in your home is dependent on electric-powered, life-sustaining medical equipment.

Build an emergency kit

- Stock up on non-perishable food, bottled water, medications, flashlights, batteries and a first-aid kit.
- Don't forget phone chargers,

power banks and important documents in a waterproof container – including insurance policies, health cards, birth certificates, Social Security cards, a list of important phone numbers and medications and a copy of your FPL bill.

Prepare your home

- Install an approved hurricane shutter system over windows and doors or have alternate coverings such as plywood.
- Store outside objects inside, fasten doors and windows, cover valuables and furniture with plastic and move away from windows.
- Turn off and unplug any unnecessary electrical equipment, including pool equipment.
- Set your refrigerator and freezer to their coldest settings ahead of time to keep food fresh longer in the event of a power outage.
- DO NOT attempt to trim any vegetation growing on or near any overhead power lines. Only hire qualified professionals to trim trees and other vegetation near power lines. Visit FPL.com/trees for more information on our tree trimming policies
- Look up and note the location of power lines before you begin working on a ladder. Be sure that ladders or scaf-

olds are far enough away so that you – and the ends of the tools you're using – don't come within 10 feet of power lines.

Stay safe and informed

- If you use a portable generator, read and follow all the manufacturer's instructions. Be sure to set it up outside – not in your home or garage – and connect appliances directly to it. Do not wire your generator directly to your breaker or fuse box, because the power you generate may flow back into power lines and cause injuries.
- Bookmark FPL.com and save 1-800-4-OUTAGE (1-800-468-8243) to your cell phone to report and check the status of your restoration.
- Stay far away from and do not touch any downed power lines or flooded and debris-laden areas that may be hiding downed power lines.
- Follow local news and @insideFPL for updates on storm conditions and heed warnings.



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1086 P 518, ORB 1089
P 983, ORB 1248 P 94,
ORB 1248 P 98, ORB
1248 P 103

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ORB 1086 P 518,
ORB 1089 P 983,
ORB 1248 P 94, ORB
1248 P 98, ORB 1248
P 103

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01-0096-0005
Assessed To:
DOCKERY PROPER-
TIES, LLC

Description:
SUNNY HILLS UNIT
#1 LOT 5 ORB 826
P 223 BLK 0096,
ORB 1086 P 518,
ORB 1089 P 983,
ORB 1248 P 94, ORB
1248 P 98, ORB 1248
P 103
All of said property
being located in
the County of
Washington, State
of Florida.

Unless such certifi-
cate 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 AUGUST 20, 2024
at 10:00 AM CT.

Lora C. Bell Clerk of
Court, Washington
County Florida
By: Ashley Corbin,
Deputy Clerk

June 19, 26, July 3,
10, 2024

000605
NOTICE OF APPLI-
CATION FOR TAX
DEED

Notice Is Hereby
Given COUNTY OF
WASHINGTON , the
holder of the fol-
lowing Tax certifi-
cate, 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 #: 17-00-02047

Year of Issuance:
2017

Parcel: 00000000-02-0251-0044

Assessed To:
CHARLES S YA-
MANAKA

Description:
SUNNY HILLS UNIT
#2 LOT 44 ORB 238
P 2437 BLK 0251

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

Unless such certifi-
cate 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 AUGUST 20, 2024
at 10:00 AM CT.

Lora C. Bell Clerk of
Court, Washington
County Florida
By: Ashley Corbin,
Deputy Clerk
June 19, 26, July 3,
10, 2024

000606
NOTICE OF APPLI-
CATION FOR TAX
DEED

Notice Is Hereby
Given COUNTY OF
WASHINGTON , the
holder of the fol-
lowing Tax certifi-
cate, 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 #: 17-00-02046

Year of Issuance:
2017

Parcel: 00000000-02-0251-0043

Assessed To:
CHARLES S YA-
MANAKA

Description:
SUNNY HILLS UNIT
#2 LOT 43 ORB 238
P 2437 BLK 0251
All of said property
being located in
the County of
Washington, State
of Florida.

Unless such certifi-
cate shall be re-
deemed according
to law, the property
described in such
Certificate will be
sold to the highest
bidder ON-
LINE AT WASHING-
TON.REALTAXDEED.
COM on AUGUST
20, 2024 at 10:00
AM CT.

Lora C. Bell Clerk of
Court, Washington
County Florida
By: Ashley Corbin,
Deputy Clerk
June 19, 26, July 3,
10, 2024

000607
NOTICE OF APPLI-
CATION FOR TAX
DEED

Notice Is Hereby

LEGAL ADVERTISING

Given MARK H
FINK , 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 #: 17-00-05013

Year of Issuance:
2017

Parcel: 00000000-19-1103-0003

Assessed To:
AMBARTSUM MAY-
TESYAN, ELENA
KAPUSTINA

Description:
SUNNY HILLS UNIT
#19 LOT 3 BLK 1103
ORB 702 P 579
All of said property
being located in
the County of
Washington, State
of Florida.

Unless such certifi-
cate 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 AUGUST 20, 2024
at 10:00 AM CT.

Lora C. Bell Clerk of
Court, Washington
County Florida
By: Ashley Corbin,
Deputy Clerk
June 19, 26,
July 3, 10, 2024

000611
NOTICE OF APPLI-
CATION FOR TAX
DEED

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

Certificate #: 18-00-02078

Year of Issuance:
2018

Parcel: 00000000-03-0290-0017

Assessed To:
IRYNA KOMAR,
IRYNA KOMAR C/O
DELTONA CORP

Description:
SUNNY HILLS UNIT
#3 LOT 17 ORB 667
P 472 BLK 290

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

Unless such certifi-
cate 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 AUGUST 27, 2024
at 10:00 AM CT.

Lora C. Bell Clerk of
Court, Washington
County Florida
By: Ashley Corbin,
Deputy Clerk
June 26, July 3, 10,
17, 2024

000620
NOTICE OF APPLI-
CATION FOR TAX
DEED

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

Certificate #: 18-00-02079

Year of Issuance:
2018

Parcel: 00000000-03-0290-0018

Assessed To:
LEONID KOMAR,
LEONID KOMAR C/O
DELTONA CORP

Description:
SUNNY HILLS UNIT
#3 LOT 18 ORB 667
P 476 BLK 290

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

Unless such certifi-
cate 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 AUGUST 27, 2024
at 10:00 AM CT.

LEGAL ADVERTISING

Lora C. Bell Clerk of
Court, Washington
County Florida
By: Ashley Corbin,
Deputy Clerk
June 26, July 3, 10,
17, 2024

000637
IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT IN AND
FOR WASHINGTON
COUNTY, FLORIDA

MISTY I. CARTER
f/k/a
MISTY I. LEE,

Plaintiff,
Case No. 23-CA-114
vs.
RIVER JORDAN;
SHEILA GOODE;
The unknown heirs,
devises,
grantees, and
assignees of
BERTHA LEA
REGISTER THAMES,
deceased,
and all other per-
sons claiming
by, through, under,
or against
any of the un-
known parties ;
AND
JOHN MALKO,
Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION
TO: RIVER JORDAN,
The Unknown Heirs,
Devises, Grantees
and Assignees of
BERTHA LEA
REGISTER THAMES,
deceased, and
all other persons
claiming by,
through, under or
against any of the
unknown parties
AND ALL OTHER
INTERESTED PAR-
TIES :
YOU ARE NOTIFIED
that an action to
determine the
heirs at law of
Bertha Lea Register
Thames, deceased,
and reform a war-
ranty deed and quit
claim to certain
real property locat-
ed in Washington
County, Florida,
has been filed
against you:

Commence at
an existing iron
pipe marking the
Southwest Corner
of Government
Lot 6, of Section
16, Township 2
North, Range 16
West, Washington
County, Florida,
thence S87°59'05"E
along the North
line Holmes River
Campsites (Unre-
corded plat) 525.20
feet to an iron rod
and cap "LB 7006"
being the point of
beginning; thence
S88°46'09"E, 627.78
feet more or less
to the Westerly
water's edge of
Holmes Creek;
thence Southwesterly
695 feet more
or less along said
Westerly waters
edge of Holmes
Creek; thence
N87°59'05"W, 452
feet more or less
to a set iron rod
and cap "SSMC
LB 2108"; thence
N01°57'45"E along
the East line of the
aforesaid Holmes
River Campsites,
664.37 feet to the
point of beginning,
containing 8.28
acres, more or less.

Together with a 20
foot ingress/egress
easement more
particularly de-
scribed as follows:

Commence at
an existing iron
pipe marking the
Southwest corner
of Government
Lot 6, of Section
16, Township 2
North, Range 16
West, Washington
County, Florida,
thence N02°00'38"E
along the West line
of said Govern-
ment Lot 6 at a
distance of 236.70
feet; thence de-
parting said West
line S87°47'35"E,
543.15 feet; thence
N01°53'50"E, 152.00
feet to an iron
rod and cap "FLA
DOT 5/8-T" on the
Southwesterly
Right of Way line
of County Road
No. 284 (Millers
Ferry Road) (Right
of Way varies);
thence S59°03'02"E
along said Right
of Way line 259.78
feet to the point
of beginning of a
centerline of a 20
foot wide ingress/
egress easement
described (10
foot left and right
thereof); thence
departing said
Right of Way line
S30°56'58"W,
40.34 feet; thence
S42°18'48"E, 45.71
feet; thence
S51°56'19"E, 192.93
feet; thence
S50°27'22"E for
119.37 feet, more
or less to reach to
the North line of
the above described
parcel being the
point of terminus.

You are required
to serve a copy of
your written
defenses, if any,
to it on Megan F.
Fry, the Plaintiff's
attorney, whose
address is 125 E.
Pensacola St.,
Pensacola, FL
32502, within 30
days after the first

LEGAL ADVERTISING

publication of this
Notice in Washing-
ton County News,
and file the original
with the Clerk of
this Court either
before service on
Plaintiff's attorney
or immediately
thereafter; other-
wise a default will
be entered against
you for the relief
demanded in the
complaint.
DATED on May 17,
2024.
LORA C. BELL
Clerk of the Court

[SEAL]
By: Ashley Corbin
As Deputy Clerk

Conformed copies
to:
Megan F. Fry, Esq.
Clark Partington
P. O. Box 13010
Pensacola, FL
32591-3010
(850) 434-9200
Attorney for
Plaintiff
June 5, 12, 19, 26,
2024

000651
IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF THE
FOURTEENTH JUDI-
CIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR WASH-
INGTON COUNTY,
FLORIDA
Freedom Mortgage
Corporation
Plaintiff,
vs.
Nicolette Koleen
Bergmann a/k/a
Nicolette Koleen
Odom; et al
Defendants.

GENERAL JURISDIC-
TION DIVISION

Case No. 24-CA-24

AMENDED NOTICE
OF ACTION -
CONSTRUCTIVE
SERVICE

TO: The Unknown
Heirs, Devises,
Grantees, Assign-
ees, Lienors, Credi-
tors, Trustees, and
all other parties
claiming interest
by, through, under
or against the
Estate of Todd John
Bergmann a/k/a
Todd J. Bergmann,
Deceased,
Last Known Ad-
dress: Unknown

YOU ARE HEREBY
NOTIFIED that an
action to foreclose
a mortgage on the
following property
in Washington
County, Florida:
ALL THAT CERTAIN
LAND SITUATE
IN WASHINGTON
COUNTY, FLOR-
IDA, TO-WIT:
COMMENCE AT
THE NORTHWEST
CORNER OF LOT
NO. 390, ON CY-
PRESS AND FIFTH
STREETS IN THE
NORTH HALF OF
THE SOUTHEAST
QUARTER OF SEC-
TION 4, TOWNSHIP
4 NORTH, RANGE
13 WEST, ON THE
WEST SIDE OF
MAIN STREET (STATE
ROAD 77) AND
RUNNING THENCE
S 08°32'28"E, ALONG
SAID WEST SIDE
OF MAIN STREET
FOR 134.00 FEET;
THENCE S 86°26'42"
W ALONG THE
NORTH LOT LINE
HEREIN IDENTIFIED
IN BOOK 839, PAGE
539, A DISTANCE
OF 43.20 FEET
TO THE POINT
OF BEGINNING;
THENCE DEPART-
ING SAID LOT LINE
S 79°56'43"W FOR
50.35 FEET; THENCE
N 8°25'20"W FOR
5.72 FEET BACK
TO THE LOT LINE;
THENCE N 86°26'42"
E 50.51 FEET ALONG
THE LOT LINE TO
THE POINT OF
BEGINNING. SAID
LANDS BEING
MORE PARTICULARLY
DESCRIBED
AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCE AT AN
IRON ROD AT THE
NORTHEAST COR-
NER OF BLOCK 5 IN
THE NORTHWEST
1/4, OF THE NORTH-
EAST 1/4, OF SEC-
TION 4, TOWNSHIP
4 NORTH RANGE
13 WEST, WASH-
INGTON COUNTY,
FLORIDA ON THE
WEST RIGHT OF
WAY LINE OF MAIN
STREET(STATE
ROAD 77); THENCE
SOUTH 03°56'25"

otherwise a default
will be entered
against you for the
relief demanded in
the complaint or
petition.
DATED on
Lora Bell
As Clerk of the
Court
By
As Deputy Clerk

THIS NOTICE SHALL
BE PUBLISHED
ONCE A WEEK FOR
TWO (2) CONSECU-
TIVE WEEKS
June 19, 26, 2024

000654
IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF THE
14TH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT, IN AND
FOR WASHINGTON
COUNTY, FLORIDA

LEGAL ADVERTISING

CIVIL DIVISION:
CASE NO.:
24000021CAAX

LAKEVIEW LOAN
SERVICING, LL-
C,Plaintiff,
vs.
SKYLER CLAYTON
A/K/A SKYLER
DAWN CLAYTON;
FLORIDA HOUS-
ING FINANCE
CORPORATION;
SKYLER MEADOWS
A/K/A SKYLER
ZANE MEADOWS;
UNKNOWN TENANT
IN POSSESSION
OF THE SUBJECT
PROPERTY,Defen-
dants.
NOTICE OF FORE-

OUTDOORS

68th annual PWF 'largest fest yet'

STAFF REPORT

A The 68th annual Panhandle Watermelon Festival was held Friday and Saturday, June 21 and 22, and was received by what festival Chairman Judge Colby Peel declared the largest festival yet.

Final numbers were not in as of press time, but Friday night's concert featuring Grace & Grit, Exile, and Clay Walker drew a crowd of at least 7,000 to Jim Trawick Park in Chipley.

Judge Peel states the festival committee is already in the process of planning next year's event, set to take place June 28 and 29, 2025.



[OFF MY FRAME PHOTOGRAPHY]

Headliner Clay Walker sang many of his own hits, as well as covers of other classics.



[OFF MY FRAME PHOTOGRAPHY]

AT LEFT AND ABOVE: Thousands of festival-goers enjoyed free entertainment and free watermelon during the two-day event.



[OFF MY FRAME PHOTOGRAPHY]

The PWF Car Show continues to grow and draw crowds on the Saturday of the festival. Hosted by Cars and Coffee Kings, this year's show featured more than 150 registered vehicles.

Pet of the Week

Jenny is a sweet, golden girl and she is 11 years old. She is young at heart and would love a loving home.

Even if that's a retirement home, she's okay with that. She is house trained, good with other dogs, and good with kids.

She is heartworm positive right now but, if requested, she can be retested. She is currently being treated. But don't worry - heartworms are not contagious. At the rescue, they use a safe, slow treatment method as directed by their supervising veterinarian. Heartgard preventative stops any new worms from growing. After six to 18 months, she will be heartworm free. As of now, she probably is.

Jenny is available at The Lucky Puppy Rescue, a rescue based



Pet of the week: Jenny

in Bonifay and Panama City. The adoption fee includes spay/neuter surgery, up to date with: age appropriate vaccinations, deworming, flea and tick prevention, heartworm prevention (if old enough) and martingale safety collar.

Applications must be submitted through the website: theluckypuppy.org

For more information contact The Lucky Puppy Rescue at lucky-puppyrescue@aol.com by email.

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

EST 2021

PAW BARN PET RESORT

982 Hwy 90 Chipley, FL 32428
850-676-4143

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Orange Hill Express, Inc.

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JUNE 29, 2024

ENTER TO WIN EXCLUSIVE PRIZES!

24

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

Legal Notices and Classifieds

(CONTINUED)

<p>LEGAL ADVERTISING</p> <p>June 26, July 3, 2024</p> <p>000657 CITY OF CHIPLEY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING</p> <p>The Chipley City Council will conduct a PUBLIC HEARING regarding adoption of the following ordinance on Tuesday, July 9, 2024 at 5:00 p.m., at the City Hall Council Chambers,</p>	<p>LEGAL ADVERTISING</p> <p>1442 Jackson Ave., Chipley, Florida and via Zoom Webinar.</p> <p>ORDINANCE NO. 985 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHIPLEY PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CITY CHARTER CHANGING THE ELECTION CYCLES FROM YEARLY TO EVERY TWO YEARS AND THE TERMS OF OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS FROM TWO (2) YEARS TO</p>	<p>LEGAL ADVERTISING</p> <p>FOUR (4) YEARS; EXTENDING THE TERMS OF THOSE COUNCIL MEMBERS WHOSE TERMS ARE DUE TO EXPIRE SEPTEMBER 2025 BY ONE ADDITIONAL YEAR; PROVIDING FOR SUBMISSION OF THE PROPOSED CITY CHARTER AMENDMENT TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY AT THE REGULAR ELECTION IN SEPTEMBER 2024; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY;</p>	<p>LEGAL ADVERTISING</p> <p>PROVIDING FOR REPEAL; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.</p> <p>This Ordinance, if approved, will amend the City Charter changing the election cycles from two (2) years to every two (2) years and the terms of office of the City Council members from two (2) years to four (4) years.</p>	<p>LEGAL ADVERTISING</p> <p>All citizens and interested parties are encouraged to attend the public hearing and to provide written and/or verbal comments on the matter under consideration. Any person requiring a special accommodation at this hearing because of disability or physical impairments should contact the City at (850) 638-6350, at</p>	<p>LEGAL ADVERTISING</p> <p>least 48 hours prior to the hearing.</p> <p>Zoom webinar information:</p> <p>When: July 9, 2024 at 5:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)</p> <p>Topic: Regular City Council Meeting</p> <p>Please click the link below to join the webinar: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88126327646 Or One tap mobile :</p>	<p>LEGAL ADVERTISING</p> <p>+13052241968,, 88126327646# US, +16469313860,, 88126327646# US Or Telephone:</p> <p>Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):</p> <p>+1 305 224 1968 US +1 646 931 3860 US +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC) +1 309 205 3325 US +1 312 626 6799 US</p>	<p>LEGAL ADVERTISING</p> <p>(Chicago) +1 646 558 8656 US (New York) +1 564 217 2000 US +1 669 444 9171 US +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose) +1 689 278 1000 US +1 719 359 4580 US +1 253 215 0488 US +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma) +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston) +1 360 209 5623 US +1 386 347 5053 US +1 507 473 4847 US</p> <p>Webinar ID: 881 2632 7646 For further</p>	<p>LEGAL ADVERTISING</p> <p>information pertaining to the proposed ordinance, contact Patrice Tanner, City Administrator, June 26, 2024</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">WANTED</div> <p>Looking to rent cow pasture and farmland 50-500 acres in the surrounding areas for the year of 2024 Will pay top dollar 850-718-1859</p>
--	---	--	---	--	---	---	--	--