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Weekend Weather

Friday
Rain
70°/54°

Saturday
Rain
59°/44°

Sunday
AM Showers
59°/42°

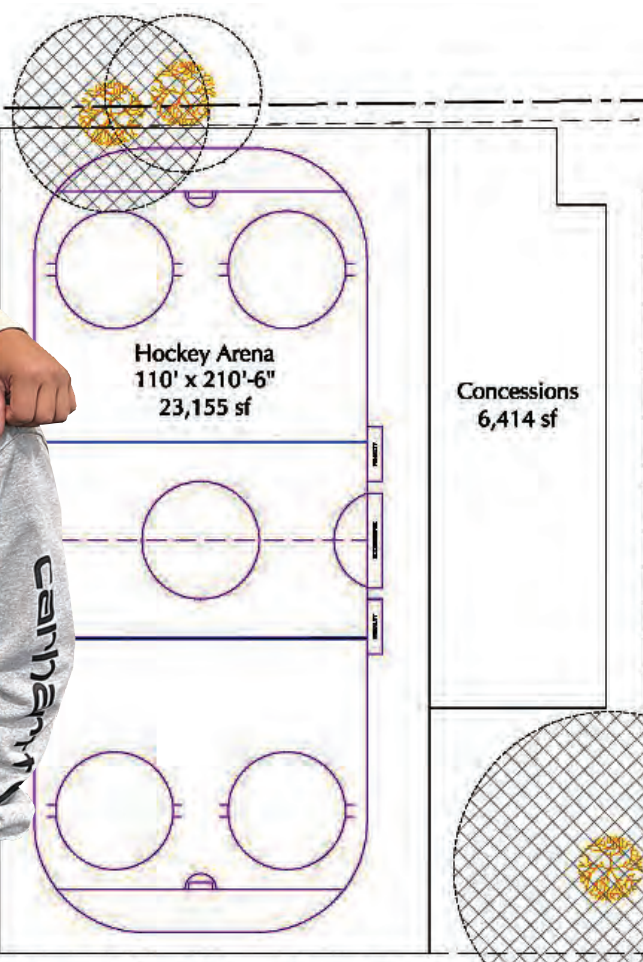
SANTA ROSA'S
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DECEMBER 4-10, 2025

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NEWS & INFORMATION
WEEKLY IN PRINT DAILY ONLINE

Possibility for ice hockey rink skates into Santa Rosa County



Photos submitted by Jennifer Burkhart.
Left: Jennifer Burkhart and her son, who plays for the Pensacola Junior Ice Flyers.
Above: Preliminary plans for the rink submitted to SRC Planning & Zoning.

By **Madison DeVito**
news@srpressgazette.com

Jenny Burkhart and her family didn't start out as an ice hockey family. Around three years ago, Jenny and her husband took their son to a Pensacola Ice Flyers game. By the time they left the game, their son told them that he was going to play ice hockey.

Burkhart didn't know where or if you could play hockey in Pensacola, but a Google search revealed the Pensacola Junior Ice Flyers (PJIF) and Burkhart was able to put her son in a learn to play program. Fast forward three years and she's a member of the Pensacola Junior Ice Flyers board of directors and a team manager for the program and she and her husband are trying to bring a 31,000 square foot year-round ice rink to Pace in Santa Rosa County.

Opportunity

Burkhart said that the idea of a year-round rink came from her own life experience. When her son and the other PJIF teams travel and go to games, they're just shy of the right skill level to compete with other programs that have access to ice all the time because they get maybe two to three reliable days of practice per week during the season.

See **ICE RINK 2A**

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Milton completes sprayfield review, seeks bids for land clearing

By **Madison DeVito**
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At a special meeting of the Milton City Council on Nov. 20, council members voted unanimously on four different items to move forward with the sprayfield for the city's wastewater treatment plant.

Land acquisition

The first item on the agenda was the land acquisition. Baskerville Donovan, Inc. had completed its due-diligence review of the property and determined the site is suitable for spray irrigation and recommended 260 acres of a 320-acre parcel.

There were a few minor issues were identified with the site. Certain soil areas cannot support rapid infiltration basins (RIBS,) which rely on natural soil filtration. In addition, the property has been identified as



Photo courtesy of the City of Milton.
Milton's current wastewater treatment plant.

possible gopher tortoise habitat.

Regarding the former issue, the areas of soil that are not sufficient for RIBS are not consistent throughout the area, so the due diligence evaluation suggested that one could be constructed as a test to determine whether there was potential for more RIBS on the site.

See **SPRAYFIELD 2A**

Milton Police make arrest after Lucille Johnson Park shooting

By **Madison DeVito**
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The Milton Police Department responded to a report of multiple gunshots fired around Lucille Johnson Park on Mary Street around 4:30 p.m. on November 24. At the scene, officers found 31-year-old Milton resident Tervon Jackson, who had sustained multiple gunshot wounds and was pronounced deceased at the scene.



Wright

Officers spoke to witnesses who stated that they had seen three males fleeing the area shortly after the shooting, and two of those men were wearing

See **PARK SHOOTING 4A**



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LOCAL HAPPENINGS

Dec. 5&6

St. Mary's Episcopal Church annual Winter Arts and Crafts Fair is Dec. 5 and 6. This event will be held at the historic church's parish hall located at 6850 Oak Street in Milton.

Hours are Friday, Dec. 5 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 6 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Browse one-of-a-kind custom jewelry, art, woodcrafts, candles and other creative handiwork. Retail sales vendors also will showcase their products and food trucks. The Episcopal Church Women will be selling baked goods and homemade turkey gumbo and the Men's Group will be grilling hamburgers. For more information contact the church at (850)623-2905 or stmarysmiltonflorida@gmail.com

The Road to Bethlehem, a Walk-Through Experience will be at Woodbine Baptist Church 4912 Woodbine Rd, Pace from 6-8 p.m. Dec. 5-7. This is an immersive event.

Light up Milton will take place at 5158 Willing St, Milton from 5-9 p.m. Spread holiday cheer and enjoy free fun for the whole family at the City's Annual Light Up Milton Event. At 5 p.m., Santa arrives at the Riverwalk Pavilion. At 5:30 p.m., there will be a Tree Lighting Ceremony. At 6 p.m., the Blackwater Pirates Lighted Boat Parade begins. At 7 p.m., fireworks will be over the Blackwater River.

Dec. 6

The Milton Christmas Parade will be held from 6-7 p.m. This year's theme is National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation. Parade Lineup: 5 p.m. James Street. Parade route James Street, South on Stewart, Ends on Elva Street.

Christmas Family Fun Day will take place at Pace Community Center 5976 Chumuckla Hwy, Milton from 8-10 a.m. The event will have free, professionally taken photos with Santa, hot cocoa bar and coffee, giveaways for kids, and Christmas music.

Dec. 13

The Holiday Market will be at 5158 Willing Street in Milton from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Check out photos with Santa, holiday shopping, food trucks, live music and bounce houses.

Saturday with Santa (Jay) will take place at the Jay Library 5259 Booker Ln, Jay from 10-11:30 p.m. Santa will take a break from his preparations at the North Pole to visit Santa Rosa County Libraries. You'll be treated to a Christmas story and a gift from Santa. Bring a camera to take a picture with Santa. All ages are welcome. Area Friends of the Library are sponsoring this visit.

Wreaths Across America will be held at Milton Historic Cemetery 5641 US-90, Milton at noon. Each year, the event is held to place wreaths on the graves of service members, so their sacrifice, service and memory are never forgotten.

One Day: A Christmas Production will be performed at Pine Terrace Baptist Church 6212 Pine Blossom Rd, Milton. Performances will be on Saturday, December 13 at 6:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 14 at 6:00 p.m. This production will tell the story of Jesus' birth through music and storytelling.

Dec. 20

Saturday with Santa (Milton) will take place at the Milton Library 5541 Alabama St, Milton from 10-11:30 p.m. Santa will take a break from his preparations at the North Pole to visit Santa Rosa County Libraries. Attendees will hear a Christmas story and receive a gift from Santa. Bring a camera to take a picture with Santa. All ages are welcome. Area Friends of the Library are sponsoring this visit.

Dec. 23

As the Page Turns Book Club will be at Jay Library 5259 Booker Ln, Jay from 4-5 p.m.

Visit the Jay Library on the 4th Tuesday each month for As the Page Turns, an adult book club where patrons choose what to read. January's selection is historical fiction novel "The Underground Library" by Jennifer Ryan. The rest of the year is reader's choice within a specific genre. This meeting's genre is Holiday Favorites, and the suggested title is "The Christmas Cottage" by T. Davis Bunn. Holiday-favorite movie "It's a Wonderful Life" (rated PG) will be shown.

Jan. 17

Send Weekend is taking place at Pine Terrace Baptist Church 6212 Pine Blossom, Milton at 9:30 a.m. The student ministry will head out to visit and encourage homebound church members, as well as spend time at local nursing homes.

Jan. 31

The Milton Mardi Gras Parade will take place at 5629 Byrom St, Milton at 3 p.m.

This year we have a new route. The parade will start at James St and Stewart St and roll down Stewart Street and end at the Burger King at Hwy 90 (the parade will not turn on Berryhill).

Three former Emerald Coast Lawns employees to be deported following convictions

Staff report

news@spressgazette.com

Crescencio Diaz-Diaz, 36, Marcelo Perez-Santiz, 33, and Roman Gomez-Diaz, 32, all from Mexico, pleaded guilty and were sentenced by a federal judge.

Diaz-Diaz and Perez-Santiz pleaded guilty to illegal reentry by a removed alien, and all three defendants pleaded guilty to possession and use of fraudulent employment documents. The pleas and sentences were announced by John P. Heekin, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Florida.

"These criminal aliens tried to lie, cheat, and steal their way into this country by illegally crossing our borders and presenting false documentation," Heekin said. "I deeply appreciate the close collaboration between our state and federal law enforcement partners that enabled these successful prosecutions, which continue to deliver

on the promise made by President Donald J. Trump and Attorney General Pam Bondi to Take Back America by robustly enforcing our national immigration laws."

Various court documents reflect that Diaz-Diaz, Perez-Santiz, and Gomez-Diaz were arrested following the execution of federal criminal search warrants at a Navarre business, Emerald Coast Lawns, and an adjacent residence in July 2025.

During the search, law enforcement found employment records showing that each defendant presented a Social Security card and a permanent resident card (sometimes referred to as a "green card") bearing their names and/or photographs that were all determined to be fraudulent.

Immigration files showed that none of the defendants had record of legal entry into the country, and that both Diaz-Diaz and Perez-Santiz had been previously deported.

told the council before they voted to approve the land acquisition.

Sprayfield

Continued from page 1A

In the situation of the gopher tortoise, the recommendation for the city is to consult with a Authorized Gopher Tortoise Agent early in the design process for the site to make sure their permitting requirements are met and incorporated into the plans for the site, as well as conducting a gopher tortoise survey before any development of the property to ensure that there's no harm to any threatened or endangered species that might be on the land.

"We have exhausted all possibilities for trying to get land from the Forestry Department and the Navy outlying fields for this. So, there is just nothing. We've exhausted two pairs of shoes trying to find this piece [of land] and get it under contract," Public Works Director Joe Cook

Task orders

The second and third items on the agenda were task orders. The first task order was to authorize BDI to begin designing the sprayfield, which includes designing, design reviews, conducting a typographic survey and submitting permit modification applications to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The cost for this is listed in the order as \$337,974.

The second task order involved the effluent pipeline that runs along Peter Prince Airport and through the Santa Rosa Industrial Park. The city worked with BDI to find a way to reroute the pipeline so that the proposed path would continue north on Airport Road and east on Stagecoach Road, so that the effluent from the exist-

All three defendants were sentenced to time served and will be deported.

"These convictions underscore our commitment to protecting the integrity of our nation's employment systems," said Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Assistant Special Agent in Charge Nicholas G. Ingegno. "Using fraudulent work not only undermines lawful hiring practices but also exposes our communities to significant risks. The successful prosecution of these three illegal aliens reflects the diligent work of HSI and our partners. We will continue to enforce federal law and hold accountable those who engage in document fraud."

The case involved a joint investigation by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations and Enforcement and Removal Operations with assistance from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Flor-

ing wastewater plant will be transported to East Milton for land application instead of being discharged directly into Blackwater River. Per the task order, BDI will conduct a survey along the new effluent route, design the modified pipeline and work on the permitting for the project. The remaining costs listed in the task order amount to \$159,959.

Clearing

The fourth and final item on the agenda was the approval of a request for proposals to clear the land the city purchased. The request for proposals, or RFP, would be sent out in December and the proposals would need to be submitted by early January for consideration. According to the agenda item, the resulting low bid from the RFP would be presented to the council as early as possible in the first quarter of 2026, and should the sit-

ida Highway Patrol, United States Marshals Service and the Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office.

"This case highlights our ongoing efforts to identify, arrest and remove people who violate federal immigration laws," said FBI Jacksonville Special Agent in Charge Jason Carley. "FBI Jacksonville will continue to work with our law enforcement partners to pursue those who undermine lawful immigration and ensure the security of our borders and communities."

The cases were prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Alicia H. Forbes.

This case is part of Operation Take Back America, a nationwide initiative that marshals the full resources of the Department of Justice to stop illegal immigration, achieve the total elimination of cartels and transnational criminal organizations (TCOs), and protect American communities from the perpetrators of violent crime.

uation change, the council is not obligated to accept a bid or move forward with the project.

"Council's decision is a milestone for the City of Milton and the health of the Blackwater River," City Manager Ed Spears said. "By securing this final acreage, we are taking a definitive step toward eliminating river discharge and improving our environmental footprint. This is progress our residents, environmental agencies and regional partner have asked for, and we're proud to move this forward responsibly."

As stated previously, each item was approved by unanimous vote. Cook received a round of applause from the council as the meeting was adjourned.

Site preparation for the project is expected to take approximately a year, and the sprayfield system is scheduled for completion in 2027.

Ice rink

Continued from page 1A

Those days are sometimes based on other events. For example, if Pensacola Bay Center was hosting a concert, the ice could be closed for five days, and that's if it's the only event during that time period. If there's multiple, the PJIF travel teams could be traveling for hours to go to games they haven't practiced for. Burkhart doesn't blame the Bay Center, because they're just doing their jobs; she just wishes they had more ice time.

Misconceptions

Burkhart has seen the word "arena" thrown around when people talk about the plans, but what she's planning is not an arena.

"If it were up to me, I would erase that word from all of this conversation, right, because it is in no way an arena," Burkhart clarified. "It is a rink, and they function very differently. I see a community rink with hopefully year-round ice. My dream, if it were a perfect world, would be to see daytime

programs like home school skating, figure skating, adaptive skating for people with disabilities, maybe some adult league if you have adults available during the day, those kinds of things."

Burkart also said she'd love to see skating for little ones like two or three-year-olds, game times for kids, ice rental for large groups to skate, birthday parties, some kid-free skate times for adults and community skates. She wants it to be like Weber's Skateworld but with ice.

Growth

The growth of ice hockey in the panhandle contributes to the idea of the rink too. According to Burkhart, the sport is very popular in central and south Florida, which is likely due to the NHL teams in those areas, the Tampa Bay Lightning and the Florida Panthers. Four out of the last six Stanley Cup Championships have brought the cup back to Florida, with the Lightning winning back-to-back in 2020 and 2021 and the Panthers the back-to-back champs of 2024 and 2025. Not only that,

but participation in hockey for those 18 and under has decreased in Canada by 20% over the last 15 years while participation in the U.S. during that same period saw a 14.2% increase, according to the Associated Press.

Burkhart says that the NHL does the best they can to nurture their lower levels, whether that be junior hockey or down to the learn to play programs for younger children, but since the growth of hockey where they have their Florida teams, their outreach hasn't been able to make it to the panhandle. Northwest Florida sits in a dead zone, too far to participate in outreach programs or reap the benefits of other franchises in Nashville, Dallas or the Carolinas. Even so, ice hockey in the panhandle is growing with or without the help of the NHL, with PJIF routinely having to close their waitlist when it reaches 200+ people, all without advertising their program.

Military

Maintenance costs for ice in the south are high—one rink in Mississippi told

Burkhart and her husband their monthly maintenance could range from \$18,000-\$20,000—but the family believes the return is there as well, not just with locals but those in the military as well.

Burkhart says PJIF frequently receives emails from Navy members inquiring about ice time, not wanting to bring their kids to a place where they can't play the sport their parents have invested time and money in. According to her, one parent with a kid in the PJIF program is from the State Department and chose the area specifically for hockey and hockey alumni, which she says is not at all uncommon, and something that people should consider when thinking about the rink.

Plans

Burkhart and her husband are in the due diligence process for a piece of land at 4551 Woodbine Road and plan to work with the county before the deal is closed to make sure they approve of the project. If all goes well, a we will have an ice rink in Santa Rosa County.

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hands down to his sons one day and then to his sons' sons. They want to become a large company with home-grown values and a hometown perspective. Mr. Hunter Bodie's favorite part of his job is providing people with a quality product that can give them peace of mind about their home being safe and the integrity of the home being sustainable. It's a long time to come. "Roofs are a luxury item, they are a necessity," Bodie said. "Customers don't think about the quality of the roof on their home until they have a problem. And when a problem arises, it's a headache to help with the option to replace at a fair price. Are you in the market for a new roof or need a repair to your existing roof? Call H.E. Roberts Roofing and request a free estimate. You won't be disappointed that you did."

take care of the needs of the people that are requesting jobs. We try to look after them and make sure they're satisfied with the work we do," Roberts said.

The team at H.E. Roberts Roofing are experts in all types of roofs – asphalt, metal and even flat roofing.

They service roofs all over Northwest Florida and South Alabama and their average roof turnaround time is one to two days.

What sets H.E. Roberts

Roofing apart from the other roofing companies is their commitment to customer satisfaction. Their crews are local, and they aren't going anywhere. They don't chase storms. They live, work and play in Northwest Florida, and they care about their community. "We're here," operations manager Cheyenne Bodie said. "We actually live in the community. We're invested

in the community. We're here, and we're going to be able to meet those warranty needs – those workmanship warranty issues that come up after the fact – because we're not going anywhere."

Owner Hunter Roberts grew up in Milton, Florida and started roofing in 2001 when his friend's dad taught him the skill. He enjoyed the trade and decided to make a career out of it. He

worked for the state and learned roofing inside and out. In 2017, Hunter started H.E. Roberts Roofing with an emphasis on quality work, affordability, integrity and giving back to the community.

Some of the charitable causes they have given to are Life Option Clinic, My Father's Arrows and the cold weather shelter for the

homeless and The Living Room, a nonprofit that helps homeless families find a place to live.

Roberts wants this business to be a multi-generational operation that he

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UF/IFAS extension holds year 15 of farm to city food distribution

By Madison DeVito
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University of Florida's IFAS West Florida Research and Education Center held their fifteenth annual Farm to City Food Distribution on Nov. 25 at the Clyde L. Gracey Community Center in Milton, handing out turkeys, greens and other Thanksgiving food items to 500 families in Santa Rosa County.

Farm to City was started in 2010 as a way to promote agriculture in Santa Rosa and Escambia counties, and the idea of partnering with organizations like Feeding the Gulf Coast and Waterfront Rescue Mission came up in the process. In the beginning, the event was feeding around 100 families and now, fifteen years later, it feeds over 1,000 with the purpose of giving back to the community and



Volunteers load up greens, bread, a turkey and other Thanksgiving staples into a car.

Photos by Madison DeVito

educating people about agriculture.

The lineup for cars started at eight on the morning of the event, but according to event organizer Robin Vickers, cars had started lining up the night before. Families slept all night in their cars to be at the front of the line when the distribution

began at 9 a.m.

"We had cars in line at 8 p.m. last night that stayed and slept in their vehicles all night," Vickers said, "and were here when I got here at four this morning. It just lets me know that there's a huge need in our community, and I just feel really good about our partnering agencies

and our volunteers, that we're making a difference to help feed these people that really need it for Thanksgiving."

Two days before Thanksgiving, attendees all received the exact same thing: a turkey, apple pies, collards, turnips, sweet potatoes, cucumbers and bell pepper. They'll also get

canned corn, canned green beans, mashed potatoes and gravy, peanut butter and pastries. The turnips were grown at Double D farms, the other greens at the Santa Rosa County Correctional Institute, the sweet potatoes came from Sirmon Farms and the cucumbers and bell peppers came from a local farm. Tate High School Agriculture students helped harvest some of the produce and bring it back to the UF/IFAS center.

The event served a

combined total of 1,000 families across Santa Rosa and Escambia counties. Waterfront Rescue Mission and Feeding the Gulf Coast were there to help distribute the food, and many of the sponsors for the event, including Santa Rosa Young Professionals, United Bank, Farm Credit of Northwest Florida, Farm Bureau Insurance and many others had employees or representatives from their companies there to pitch in as well.



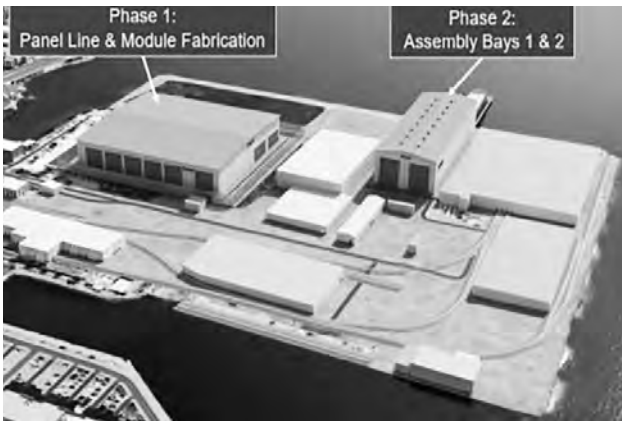
Boy Scout volunteers package cucumbers and bell peppers.

Imposter disseminates fake city documents

By Madison DeVito
news@srpressgazette.com

In October, the City of Pensacola legitimately applied for a Triumph Gulf Coast grant. The request of \$86 million, if approved, would go toward funding something the city calls "Project Maeve."

The name Maeve might refer to the Irish mythological figure Queen Maeve of Connacht, who in some versions of her myth is described as a warrior queen and represents sovereignty. According to the application, Project Maeve is the alias for a "premier U.S.-based designer and shipbuilder, who is proposing to develop a Tier 2 advanced ship manufacturing facility at the Port of Pensacola." Per the U.S. Naval Institute, a Tier 1 shipyard build surface combatant and amphibious assault ships, while



A preliminary design for the Project Maeve ship manufacturing facility, submitted within the City of Pensacola's Triumph Gulf Coast pre-application.

a Tier 2 shipyard would manufacture smaller vessels, and a Tier 3 shipyard would make even smaller watercraft designed for special uses.

The application itself was not a cause for concern. The manila envelope that Santa Rosa Press Gazette and other northwest Florida media outlets received recently was. In the top left corner, signifying the return address, was the following:

City of Pensacola, Amy

Miller, 222 W Main St., Pensacola, FL 32502.

Amy Miller is the City of Pensacola Deputy Administrator of Administration and Enterprises and according to her profile on the City of Pensacola website, she oversees all of the city's business enterprise units including Port of Pensacola, Pensacola International Airport, Pensacola Energy, Park Pensacola parking management, Sanitation Services & Fleet Management and

the Saenger Theatre.

The envelope being sent through the mail was a clue to discerning journalists that something was amiss. Why would the administrator not send an email, instead of paying for the stamps to mail 14 pages of information to multiple news outlets?

Inside the envelope was a letter to Triumph Gulf Coast that said a "preliminary due diligence assessment" of the Project Maeve application was also enclosed, and that it should be forwarded to a list of Triumph Gulf Coast board members. The alleged due diligence report was seven pages long and followed by a (legitimate) copy of Pensacola's pre-application to Triumph for Project Maeve.

The fake due diligence report was a scathing assessment of the idea and the unnamed organiza-

tion behind the program.

The anonymous writer stated that, "the use of an alias in this context is a significant red flag" and that "concealing one's identity suggests a need for heightened scrutiny." The writer drew conclusions on who "Project Maeve" was and named a specific company, saying that the company lacked experience when it came to shipbuilding and listing "Advance Questions for the Applicant" in the assessment, which inquired about the company's plan, financial statements, as whether the U.S. Navy or Naval Sea Systems Command would attest that the organization's ambitions were credible.

According to Pensacola Mayor D.C. Reeves, the "due diligence" report isn't credible.

"I'm aware of a misleading document that has been anonymously

distributed within our community under the false pretense of being an official report authored by a city employee," Reeves said in a statement to the Gazette. "This report is rife with errors and speculation, and it has been disseminated with the sole intent of causing confusion in protest of Project Maeve. The city relies exclusively on accurate, verified information provided by our dedicated staff and official departments."

"I want to be clear," the mayor added. "This circulated document is not a legitimate report from the city. Factual data and official reports are available through recognized city channels. We are excited about the transformational potential this project holds for our community and look forward to hearing from the Triumph Board soon."

Park shooting

Continued from page 1A

masks that partially obscured their faces. MPD, with assistance from local surveillance cameras and photographs obtained from witnesses, distributed images of the suspects to the responding law enforcement officers, who secured the area and conducted a search in the surrounding region for the suspects and any other additional witnesses.

A K-9 unit from Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office assisted with the search, and the K-9 successfully tracked the suspects from the area of the shooting to a wooded swamp area adjacent to Pine Street in the City of Milton. Three males who matched the descriptions from witnesses were found hiding in the water, and additional clothing

mentioned by witnesses in their reports were recovered nearby, along with two semi-automatic handguns. Law enforcement pulled the suspects out of the water and placed them in handcuffs.

According to the arrest report the Press Gazette obtained of suspect Jayden Wright, who has been charged with Jackson's murder, two firearms were located in the water near the subjects: a Glock 17 with no rounds in it and a Taurus with a 12-round magazine with three rounds left in it. When recovered, the Taurus had a stove-pipe jam, which is a malfunction of the firearm when a fired case has not been properly ejected and gets stuck when the slide of the gun tries to close.

All three of the men who were apprehended were separated and transport-

ed to the Milton Police Department. After being read his Miranda Rights, Jerrell Wright said that his ex-girlfriend and mother of his child called Jacari Wright and told him her boyfriend Trevon Jackson had hit her in front of her child. Jerrell stated that Jacari told him that he needed to do something about the alleged hit.

Jerrell said he and the others had seen Jackson go into Lucille Johnson Park and Jayden and Jacari then went through the gate on the Jasmine Street side of the park while Jerrell and another man approached the park from the Mary Street side. Jackson was supposedly "sitting at a picnic table under the pavilion rolling a blunt," according to Jerrell. Jerrell also said that at that time, Jacari and Jayden were armed with

two handguns when they approached Jackson. Jerrell told his brothers to put the guns away and called his child's mother to ask if Jackson had hit her, to which Jerrell said she had confirmed that Jackson had. At that point shots were fired at Jackson.

Jayden Wright, according to Jerrell, was standing on the sitting portion of the picnic table looking down at Jackson, and when Jerrell heard the gunshots, he turned and ran. Law enforcement would later discover Jackson lying on his back next to a picnic table deceased and with a pistol tucked into the waistband of his pants.

During Jacari Wright's interview after being read his Miranda Rights, he stated he and his two brothers along with an unknown cousin and another individual were at the park,

and that he and Jayden were armed with pistols. Jacari said that his pistol was a Taurus but that he'd never fired his gun during the incident and Jayden had.

During his interview, Jayden stated that he alone fired his gun, shooting at least 10 rounds and emptying his magazine at Jackson.

At a Nov. 26 press conference, Milton Chief of Police Jennifer Frank said, "This is an incredibly safe community, where sometimes we have individuals who come back to our community to do harm. We want to make it clear if you are here to do harm, you will be held accountable."

Jackson's father and some of his family members were present and understandably emotional at the press conference, and

Jackson's father spoke to his son's character, stating Jackson was not a violent man, and he was reaching out and helping the community, including handing out food to the community. Jackson's father also said that he himself grew up on Mary Street in Milton, where the shooting occurred, and that it was a safe place.

"That is a good community," he said. "The people in that community are good people in that community. We have nothing to fear from that community. You can't help the bad things that people do. It can happen anywhere, and it just so happened to happen there."

Jackson's father also said that his son was a loving father to two children, a caring person and that he was a talented musician whose life was cut too short.



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RACE START
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COURSE
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For God's sake

By Rev. Michael Bannon
Compass Community Church

I have shamelessly whined in this column about not liking to do yardwork. Well, I have decided to refine my whine.

The cooler temperatures visiting the Florida panhandle triggered the maple tree in our front yard to drop its leaves. A deep layer of leaves blanketed my front yard and part of my neighbor's; I felt obligated to do something about it. I put on my work clothes, stepped outside and realized that it was a very pleasant day, and I was happy to be outside.

No northern transplant would feel any nostalgic, autumnal stirrings watching me work. The tools I used were a blower and a mower with a bagging attachment. Like a Basque shepherd rounding up sheep, I used the blower to herd the leaves from my neighbor's yards back into mine. With my mower deck raised to its highest setting, I attacked the blanket of leaves. The blades chopped up the leaves and blew them into the bag. I could go only about six feet before I had to stop and empty the bag, but slowly the leaf pile was diminished.

There is something satisfying about doing a task where the progress is measurable. A few hours later, I was looking with pleasure at a clean lawn. In that moment, I realized that it is not yardwork that I do not like, it is sweating in the summer heat. I thanked God for the cooler temperatures and for the tools that made the job easier.

Thanksgiving Day is a week behind us. It is a day designated for giving thanks and I hope that many of you thanked God for his providential care. The psalmist who wrote Psalm 100 designated it as "a psalm for giving thanks." Why should we give thanks to God?

The psalmist calls out, "Make a joyful noise to the LORD all the earth." The LORD deserves all the earth's praise because, the psalmist explains, "it is He who made us, and we are His." The LORD providentially provides the essentials of life to all the earth, even to those who do not believe in Him, or see fit to worship Him. He deserves our thanks. Giving thanks is to our benefit.

When we neglect to give thanks, we are prone to taking exacting inventory of all that we do not have and think we deserve. Where the psalmist claims, "the LORD is good," we answer back, "No He's not! If He was, I'd have what I want." Our hearts become bitter, and we become blind to just how blessed we are. It is telling that the day after Thanksgiving is a day of rabid shopping.

I can easily succumb to being bitter about what I do not have, but I have learned instead to rehearse in my mind all that I do have. When I do, I am always amazed at my blindness, and my heart swells with thanksgiving to God. A thankful heart is a contented heart, a very desirable possession.

FAITH

IBC to hold annual Mission Christmas community event



Photos submitted by Immanuel Baptist Church

Volunteers at Mission Christmas 2024 wrap gifts for attendees.

By Madison DeVito
news@srpressgazette.com

On Saturday, Dec. 6, Immanuel Baptist Church (IBC) in Pace will hold Mission Christmas to help those in need in the community. The event will take place from 9 a.m. to noon.

Mission Christmas is an opportunity for families in the community to go to IBC to pick out presents and coats for their children for free. It's one coat and one toy per child per household, and the church will wrap the gifts that families pick out while they're at the event. As of time of writing, 506 children are registered for the event.

"It's the Christmas version of Backpacks for Hope," IBC Pastor Jeremy Holley told the Gazette, referring to IBC's back to school event where they distribute backpacks, shoes, school supplies and snacks. "We're meeting a physical and material need, but it's in order to earn the right to be heard on a greater need, which is a spiritual need."

Holley, who's been with the church for nearly six years, explained how the event works: parents register



The wrapping table volunteers for last year's Mission Christmas.

their children online, and in order to pick out their coats and toys, attendees will hear the story of Jesus's birth, which will bridge into a conversation on the gospel. Holley explained that this is the "invite" part of IBC's mission statement of "invite, believe, celebrate."

"[Our mission statement] talks about us being hospitable and intentional, going out the doors of our church to reach out to people outside of the church and bring

them in," Holley added. "The 'celebrate' piece of that mission statement, we're going to celebrate what God has done, is doing and will do. This is a celebration. You will find that when you come in and you see the feel of the environment and the smiles on people's faces, I mean, you truly feel the spirit of Christmas."

Cody Sowell, who's been with the church for nearly three years, is the missions leader for IBC. Sowell explained to the Gazette

that the church recommends people register online to speed up the process of them getting to pick out their items. However, the option to register when you arrive at the event will also be available.

"We ask that everybody [register online] just so we know how many people to account for," Sowell said. "Try to do it online, because it is a first come, first serve project, so as people come in, they get first opportunity, but registration

just helps everything go quicker."

When asked about how the church secures the supplies for the event, Sowell answered that it was through both donation and discretionary funding. He expressed that the congregation at IBC is very giving, and that the church assigns different age levels to different groups, and churchgoers donate coats and toys. They do also have discretionary funds set aside for the event if needed, as well as monetary donations from their congregation.

"We're thankful for our community and we're thankful for those that are going to spend their Saturday morning with us, and we always try to make that as seamless as possible," Holley said. He concluded with the statement that the church members and volunteers will be gracious and forgiving towards the attendees if they are upset about the logistical challenges of having so many people on the IBC campus, and that in return the attendees do the same for them as the volunteers do the best they can to serve their community and love them well.

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BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Advent (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. What was the innkeeper's name who turned away the pregnant Mary as there was not room? Eliada, Jesimiel, Phlegon, Bible does not say
3. According to the

Gospel of Matthew, the wise men saw the star in the ...? North, East, South, West

4. Jesus was born in Bethlehem of _____ in the days of Herod the king. Nazarene, Jerusalem, Judaea, Capernaum

5. In what type of clothes did Mary wrap the newborn Jesus? Admonishing, Resurrecting, Swaddling, Casting

6. How many times is "swaddling clothes" mentioned in the Bible? 1, 2, 3, 4

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Bible does not say, 3) East, 4) Judaea, 5) Swaddling, 6) 2

Find expanded trivia online with Wilson Casey at www.patreon.com/triviaguy. FREE TRIAL!
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SANTA ROSA
**HOME &
 GARDEN**

5 tips to get your home ready for holiday hosting



Photo courtesy of Shutterstock

Family Features

Whether you're planning a cozy dinner with friends or a full-blown holiday gathering, preparing your home for guests doesn't have to be stressful. With a little organization and a few simple steps, you can create a space that feels warm and welcoming, allowing you to focus on what really matters:

spending time together.

Declutter and deep clean

Start by refreshing high-traffic areas, including the living room, kitchen and bathrooms. Clear off counters and coffee tables, dust surfaces, vacuum carpet, mop tile or hardwood and wipe down glass or mirrors.

Tidy up the kitchen

The kitchen is the heart of many gatherings, meaning it's important to clear both refrigerator and counter space to make room for food, drinks and serving dishes. Before guests arrive, ensure your oven, microwave, dishwasher, garbage disposal, coffee maker and other appliances are working properly. Don't forget to stock

essentials like paper plates, silverware, napkins, ice and paper towels so you're not scrambling later.

Refresh guest spaces

If visitors will be staying overnight, prep sleeping areas by changing the sheets, fluffing the pillows and stocking extra blankets. Thoughtful touches like fresh towels, water bottles and a charging

station can make guests feel at home.

Create a functional flow

Think about how guests will move through your home. Designate areas for food, drinks, games and mingling, arranging furniture to encourage conversation. If you're expecting a large crowd, add extra seating options.

Add seasonal touches

For seasonal warmth, swap out throw pillows, add greenery and candles or hang a wreath or other decorations. Scattering cozy blankets and simmering a pot of cinnamon and citrus on the stove can also help create a warm, inviting atmosphere.

Visit eLivingtoday.com for more tips and guidance to get your home ready to welcome guests.

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VETERANS ★ POST ★

by Freddy Groves

Involuntary discharge for vax refusal?

If you stood your ground and did what you thought was right in refusing the COVID vaccine, you might have thought your veterans benefits were lost forever when you were involuntarily discharged. There's been a change.

It's been a long five years. If you were bounced out of the service for your refusal, you weren't alone. Over 8,000 service members were in that group, and half were saddled with a less than honorable discharge label.

There went the benefits -- and there were legal challenges, of course; one being that the Defense Secretary didn't have the authority to make the demand for vaccination, that the mandate hadn't come from an executive order.

In 2023 that mandate was rescinded. Too late for many already separated from the service. The rescinded mandate didn't have much to offer -- it didn't include back pay or a restoration of benefits. In January of this year an executive order called for reinstatement in the service, along with back pay and benefits to be paid.

In April there was a change in policy (courtesy of another executive order) that saw the DoD having to send out apologies to all those discharged under that mandate, as well as giving information on how to get the back pay and possibly return to service. Their "welcome back" campaign included phone calls, emails and notes on social media that all indicated that they would be delighted to have you back -- as well as give you the money you would have received had you not been involuntarily discharged.

If you were discharged for refusing the COVID vaccine and if your file still shows a less than honorable discharge because of it, you can ask for a review from a Discharge Review Board or Board for Correction of Military or Naval Records. You have until April 2026 to get that done.

If you need more information, go online to www.milreviewbds.mil.

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MILITARY

Sharpening the Edge: Airmen refine their skills for readiness



U.S. Air Force Photos by Airman 1st Class Isabel Tanner
U.S. Airmen assigned to the 1st Special Operations Wing participate in Mission Ready Airmen Training at Hurlburt Field, Florida, Sept. 9. MRAT included airfield repair exercises using small-scale models to simulate damage repair in a deployed environment.

By Airman 1st Class
Isabel Tanner
1st Special
Operations Wing

Airmen assigned to the 1st Special Operations Wing participated in Mission Ready Airmen Training this month, an exercise aimed at equipping them with the knowledge and capability to operate in diverse environments.

MRAT is a hands-on exercise that is designed to prepare Airmen with the multi-capable skills and mindset needed for deployment and reinforce a warrior ethos while preparing service members to carry out missions both at home and overseas.

"The purpose behind the training is to get different air force specialty codes across the mission support group to train together," said a 1 SOW



A U.S. Airman assigned to the 1st Special Operations Wing inspects a chain during Mission Ready Airmen Training at Hurlburt Field, Florida, Sept. 9, 2025. MRAT imparts the ability to properly load, secure and transport equipment, a skill critical to logistics readiness in deployed environments.

unit deployment manager. "We learn how everybody operates and how to integrate with different jobs in an efficient manner."

Subject matter experts from various squadrons within the group instruct Airmen on foundational skills from each job, supporting agile combat employment, a concept that calls for multi-capable Airmen downrange.

"Our training makes us more rapidly deploy-

able," said a 1 SOW prime base engineer emergency force manager. "We're able to effectively bed down a small team with a limited number of personnel." Regardless of their primary specialty, Airmen receive basic training in a number of additional capabilities including explosive ordnance disposal, airfield repair, power production and logistics.

This approach reflects the Air Force's shift to-

ward ACE, which emphasizes operating in smaller, agile teams that can rapidly deploy and sustain missions in dispersed or contested environments. By training Airmen to take on duties outside their primary specialty, MRAT builds the flexibility needed to support ACE concepts.

"It gives Airmen an understanding of how they might be utilized in an austere environment

or contingency location," said the 1 SOW UDM. "They're not expected to do just their job and their job alone; they can be augmented to different squadrons to help with anything."

According to instructors, a mission ready Airman is defined by resourcefulness and flexibility, traits that become critical in dynamic and unpredictable operations. The training is designed not only to sharpen technical expertise but also to instill confidence, teamwork and resilience.

"The desired outcome is for these Airmen to have a go-getter attitude," said the 1 SOW UDM. "It's important to understand that this really is one team, one fight and we're not here to just do our own jobs. It's a team effort to get the mission executed perfectly."

APEX: Munitions specialists, aircrew enhance combat munitions capabilities

By Staff Sgt. Jason
Huddleston

U.S. Air Force munitions systems specialists assigned to the 1st Special Operations Wing assemble a bomb during an Ammo Advanced Performance Experience at Eglin Range, Florida, Nov. 5, 2025. APEX is the culmination of a two-week long combat munitions training program which redefines how ammo postures for combat and handles many different types of munitions to bolster mission readiness.



U.S. Air Force Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Huddleston
This iteration of APEX trained ammo troops and aircrew on full-spectrum munitions generation for the AC-130J Ghost rider gunship and other weapons employment platforms, preparing teams to operate in austere locations and implement agile combat employment operations.

Drug reduction team wins back-to-back AF awards

By 2nd Lt. Jose Garcia

The 96th Test Wing's Drug Demand Reduction team won the 35th Annual Secretary of Defense Community Drug Awareness Award for the second year in a row.

The program earned the award spotlighting its efforts supporting lo-

cal communities, partners and service members.

"Eglin's DDR team consistently committed its effort to enhancing military readiness by placing a focus on debunking public misinformation and leveraging multimedia platforms to bring

awareness to the program," said Michael McClellan, Eglin's DDR program manager.

The program protects health and readiness by preventing drug abuse through education, proactive outreach, and community awareness initiatives. These efforts inform about the dan-

gers of illicit and misuse of drugs and banned substances.

"Leveraging local partnerships were key in our ability to target a 25% reduction in drug and banned substance related incidents," McClellan said.

The DDR team plans to continue creating lo-

cal community partnerships and improve campaigns leveraging social platforms to combat substance abuse trends.

"The goal of Eglin DDR surpasses winning awards. Our goal is to remain the premier resource for our service and community partners," said McClellan.

EDUCATION

Jay high school teacher focuses on communication and collaboration

By Madison DeVito
news@srpressgazette.com

Jay High School Teacher of the Year Nominee Bayleigh Upton's love of teaching started with her grandmother.

Passion

Upton's grandmother was a teacher's aide at Jay Elementary for 33 years. Every day after school, she would go to her grandmother's office and help her, decorating bulletin boards and making copies. She loved staying after school with her. Sometimes, when she stayed late, she'd go into her teachers' rooms and write on the whiteboard, pretending to be a teacher.

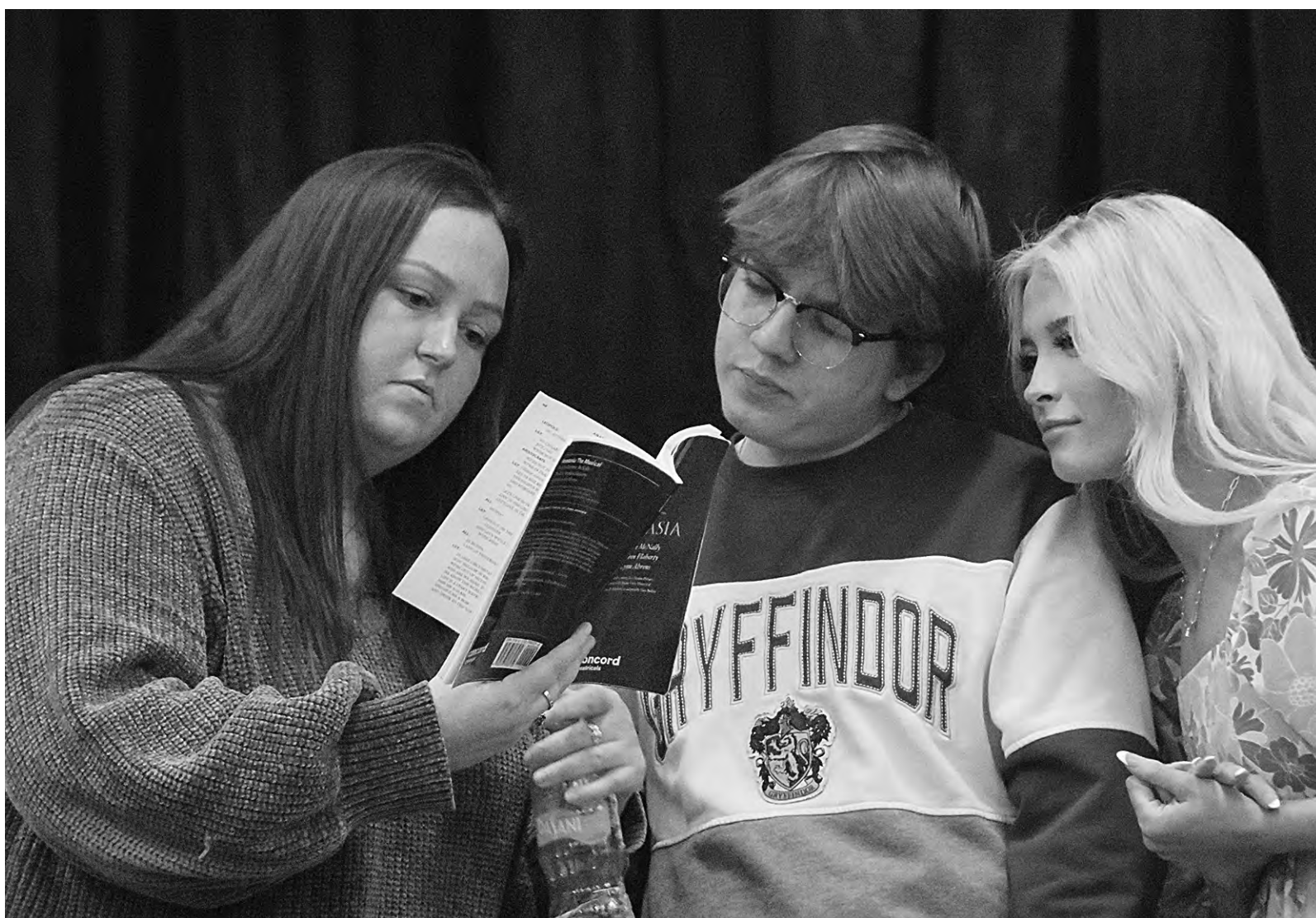
"I just always acted like a teacher," Upton said with a laugh. "I just loved school."

Upton said she wasn't the best at school because of her ADHD. She grew up not being able to focus and understanding that was a challenge for her. Now, as a teacher, she gets to help students that are similar to her. She says that a lot of kids with ADHD are misunderstood and don't think their teachers understand them.

"I [get to be] the one who's like, 'OK, I get you...' So that's fun to kind of create those connections," Upton explained.

Teaming up

While Upton used to teach fifth grade at Jay Elementary, a little over four years ago she moved to the high school. Now, she teaches English to eighth graders and theater to 7-12 graders, while also heading up the theater department, meaning she works with the students on their productions throughout the year. The Gazette had the opportunity to observe a part of her English class, where the group read "The Diary of Anne Frank" and answered questions. They did this in a Socratic seminar format, where students lead the conversations



Bayleigh Upton works with her students as they go through the high school's production of the musical "Anastasia."

Photos by Madison DeVito



Upton asks questions during the class's Socratic seminar.

and analyze what they're reading. The children sit in a circle to answer the open-ended questions that are asked and speak without raising their hands, building off of each other's answers. Upton said that she loves to use this method, along with the student-led academic teaming (SLAT) method.

"A lot of times if I'm giving them an assignment or something, they'll be in their SLAT groups, so they lead each other. If they're not in SLAT, [they'll be in]

something like this, Socratic seminar, so they can all feed off each other. I really believe that students learn from each other just as much, if not more, than they learn from us," Upton praised. "A lot of small group work, a lot of working together, trying to get them to learn from each other and communicate. It's really important. I feel like these days, students don't really know how to communicate with each other, or just don't have the opportunity as much as we did growing up, so

I'm trying to kind of put that back in there."

If Upton couldn't be a teacher, she wasn't sure what she'd do. She would need something with social interaction, she joked, because she couldn't sit in a cubicle and no talk to people. She said she's creative, so maybe it would be something involving creativity but working with people, like a team lead at some type of firm. She also said that in her first semester of college, she majored in athletic training, because she played three sports growing up. She wanted to stay around sports but also work with kids. Things went awry when she was told she had to get a certain GPA in her anatomy classes throughout college, and Upton switched gears, getting her degree in elementary education—Upton, of course, told the Gazette all of this with a laugh.

Nominations

Upton has been nominated every year at JHS, but this is the first year she's won the award for

Jay and has been nominated for the county award.

"It's just an honor. It's just been fun. I'm surprised to be nominated every single time I'm nominated, because I still feel like I'm such a little rookie teacher, even though this is my eighth year," Upton admitted. "I'm very thankful that people see what I do even though they're not

in the classroom every day, [who] see what I do in and out of the classroom, and think that I'm deserving of an award over everybody else here, who are phenomenal. It's surprising; it's a blessing. I work at the best school ever, so I feel like everyone here could be Teacher of the Year and should be Teacher of the Year, but, yeah, it's exciting."



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Chick-fil-A THE RIDGE Presents **PHS Student of the Week**

Cara Draper

Age: 17
Class: Class of 2026
Parents: Brian and Julie Draper

Favorites
School subject: History
Extracurricular activity: Mock trial
Hobbies: marching band, reading, art, video games
Car: Mazda Miata
Store: TJ Maxx
Musical Artist: Hozier
Movie: "The Princess Bride"
TV show: "The Good Place"

Fast Facts
Cafeteria food must-have: BBQ Chicken
Last book read that wasn't required: "Curious Tides" by Puaale Lalele
Pet peeve: Topping
Person most admired: Mr. Chism
Person I'd like to meet: Hozier
First job: Publix produce associate
Top accomplishment: Most effective awards for witnesses and attorneys (mock trial)

Future
After-graduation plans: Attending FSU in the fall for psychology
Career goal: Lawyer/law professor



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Chick-fil-A THE RIDGE Presents **MHS Student of the Week**

Sarah Torres Harrell

Age: 17
Class: Class of 2026
Parents: Victor Torres & Jennifer Harrell

Favorites
School subject: English
Extracurricular activity: Theatre
Hobbies: reading, lacrosse, the gym, baking
Car: White Jeep Wrangler
Store: TJ Maxx
Musical Artist: MICO
Movie: "Ten Things I Hate About You"
TV Show: "Kipo and The Age of The Wonderbeasts"

Fast Facts
Cafeteria food must have: Spicy chicken sandwich
Last book read that wasn't required: "The liad"
Pet peeve: When people talk over me
Person most admired: Frida Kahlo
Person I'd like to meet: Sonia Sotomayor
First job: Babysitter
Top accomplishment: Playing a lead role my junior year

Future
After graduation plans: College, majoring in pre-law or women & gender studies
Career goal: Lawyer



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EDITORIAL

In Our Opinion

Local arrests show why illegal immigration must be stopped

The recent federal convictions of three former Emerald Coast Lawns employees should concern every resident of the Gulf Coast. Crescencio Diaz-Diaz, Marcelo Perez-Santiz, and Roman Gomez-Diaz—all Mexican nationals with no legal right to be in the United States—were found using fraudulent documents to work in Navarre. Two had already been deported before, only to return illegally. Their case is not an outlier; it is a symptom of a national failure to enforce immigration law.

Let's be clear from the start: **we strongly support legal immigration.** America is a nation built by people who followed the rules, embraced our laws, assimilated, and joined our society through a lawful process. But **illegal immigration is different.** It bypasses the system entirely, erodes public safety, destabilizes our economy, and diminishes respect for those who followed the rules the right way.

This case illustrates exactly why the distinction matters.

Federal authorities executed criminal search warrants at Emerald Coast Lawns in July 2025. What they found was troubling but unsurprising: counterfeit Social Security cards, forged green cards, and no record of lawful entry for any of the three defendants. Court documents revealed that Diaz-Diaz and Perez-Santiz had already been deported and had illegally reentered the country—an offense that carries criminal penalties and demonstrates deliberate disregard for U.S. law.

They were only discovered because of a joint operation involving Homeland Security Investigations, Enforcement and Removal Operations, the FBI, ATF, the Florida Highway Patrol, U.S. Marshals, and the Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office. It took a multi-agency federal task force to uncover individuals who had been living and working openly in our community.

Officials involved in the case did not mince words. U.S. Attorney John Heekin described the men as "criminal aliens" who tried to "lie, cheat, and steal their way into this country" through illegal entry and fraudulent documents. Homeland Security investigators stressed that document fraud undermines lawful hiring practices and poses risks to communities. The FBI

emphasized that enforcement is essential to protect the integrity of immigration law.

They are right. When people enter the country illegally, or return after being lawfully removed, it is not a victimless offense. It creates an underground economy where fraudulent documents become a gateway to employment, benefits, and identification systems designed for lawful residents. It also places honest employers—who follow the rules—at a competitive disadvantage. And it reduces opportunities for legal immigrants and American workers alike.

Illegal immigration also erodes public trust. Communities expect that immigration laws will be enforced. They expect that deportation orders will mean something. They expect that individuals who continually violate federal law will not be allowed to simply disappear into neighborhoods until a major investigation happens to uncover them. Cases like this reveal the cracks in that system.

This is why deportation exists—and why it must be carried out consistently. A country cannot maintain a credible immigration system if deportation is treated as a symbolic gesture. If someone can be removed, illegally reenter the country, forge documents, and resume life undetected, then our system is failing on every level.

We welcome immigrants who come here legally, follow the law, and pursue the American dream the right way. But we must not tolerate illegal entry, fraudulent documents, or repeated violations of deportation orders. Supporting legal immigration requires us to oppose illegal immigration decisively. The two positions are not in conflict—they are inseparable.

The Navarre case proves that ignoring illegal immigration does not make it go away. It only buries the problem deeper, making it harder and more expensive to resolve later. It shouldn't require a multi-agency federal operation to uncover three individuals who were already on record for removal. Yet this is where we are.

This case is not just a news story. It is a reminder of what happens when the rule of law is treated as optional. For the sake of our communities and the integrity of our immigration system, illegal immigration must be addressed head-on—not tolerated, ignored, or excused.

Out and
About

By Sandi Kemp



I decided a few months ago to fast for Thanksgiving. I mentioned it for about two months, but my husband kind of avoided the subject. However, the day of he agreed, and he ended up fasting for more than 30 hours. I lasted 22 hours because we were watching a movie on TV and I had to have my favorite food group, popcorn, with the movie. Turns out, I didn't invent fasting on Thanksgiving. Originally, Thanksgiving was a regional observance in colonial New England. It began as a solemn affair and was a day for fasting and quiet reflection, rather than a day of feasting.

We started the day by watching YouTube videos on the health benefits of fasting because my husband had not watched the videos that I've been sending him via messenger for the past two months. We also watched videos regarding biblical fasting. Later in the day we started a Bible Study on Ezekial, prayed together, and raked pine needles in the front yard while listening to Podcasts. My brother sent me an album of about 100 photos of Thanksgiving feasts, because he was being super supportive. All of our children were with their in-laws for Thanksgiving, and it was the perfect time to fast and have this very special day together. And there was no hustle and bustle in the kitchen for five hours, and 30 minutes of eating, and two more hours of cleaning up. I really enjoy all the cooking, and eating, and usually the guys clean up afterward. The rule is those who cook don't have to clean. We will be preparing our "Roast Beast" for Christmas for about 14 people, and we are looking forward!

Back to the history of Thanksgiving – after New England celebrated Thanksgiving with fasting and reflections, eventually the states and the federal government proclaimed days of thanksgiving at irregular intervals. It wasn't until the mid-19th century, after decades of lobbying by magazine (Godey's Lady's Book) editor Sarah Josepha Hale, a national Thanksgiving holiday began to be established.

The federal Thanksgiving holiday we know today has its roots in the Civil War. On Oct. 3, 1863, though not the first president to issue a Thanksgiving proclamation, President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation to help unite a war-weary nation. His order set a precedent to "observe the last Thursday of November as a day of Thanksgiving.

In 1939, the last Thursday in November fell on the last day of the month and the economy came into consideration. Concerned that the shortened holiday shopping season might dampen the nation's economic recovery from the Great Depression, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued a Presidential Proclamation moving Thanksgiving to the second to last Thursday of November. Sixteen states refused to accept the change, and for the next two years Thanksgiving was celebrated on two different days. To end the confusion, Congress passed a law in 1941 establishing the fourth Thursday in November as the federal Thanksgiving Day holiday.

I hope everyone had a Thanksgiving to remember in 2025. I know we did, and I wouldn't change a thing! However, I'm already planning next year's and I do not plan on fasting.

Quote of the Week: "The more you practice the art of thankfulness, the more you have to be thankful for." Norman Vincent Peale (1898 – 1993) *An American Protestant clergyman, and an author best known for popularizing the concept of positive thinking, especially through his best-selling book The Power of Positive Thinking*

Santa Rosa County Meetings

Dec. 4
Blackwater Soil & Water Conservation District Board
Jay Service Center
3927 Highway 4, Suite 102, Jay at 7:30 a.m.

Dec. 8
Commission Committee
Santa Rosa County Administrative Complex boardroom
6495 Caroline St., Milton at 8:30 a.m.

Dec. 9
Milton City Work Session (Agenda Review)
6738 Dixon St., Milton from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Milton City Council
6738 Dixon St., Milton from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 11
Regular Commission
Santa Rosa County Administrative Complex boardroom
6495 Caroline St., Milton at 8:30 a.m.

Commission Special Rezoning Board
Santa Rosa County Administrative Complex boardroom
6495 Caroline St., Milton at 5 p.m.

Dec. 24 & 25
City closed

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Fine Print

Santa Rosa Press Gazette

Volume 4 • Issue 49

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EYE ON GOVERNMENT

STATE NEWS

Judge Backs Tossing Pot Petitions

By Dara Kam
News Service of Florida

Siding with Gov. Ron DeSantis' administration, a Leon County circuit judge on Friday ruled that state officials did not err when ordering supervisors of elections to scrap more than 200,000 petition signatures supporting a proposed constitutional amendment to allow recreational marijuana.

Circuit Judge John Cooper's ruling wiped out roughly a third of the signatures submitted by the Smart & Safe Florida political committee, which is backing the proposal. The committee, which faces a Feb. 1 deadline to submit more than 880,000 verified signatures for placement on the 2026 ballot, quickly vowed to appeal the decision.

Lawyers for Smart & Safe Florida filed the lawsuit to challenge an Oct. 3 directive by state Division of Elections Director Maria Matthews requiring supervisors that did not include the full text of the proposed constitutional amendment. The committee sent the petitions to voters, and the state alleged signatures were "not obtained legally."

The lawsuit argued that nothing in Florida law requires that "the full text" of a proposal be provided or displayed to voters before they sign petitions.

State elections officials also argued the flagged petitions needed to be invalidated because Smart & Safe Florida made changes to the format of the petition form approved by Secretary of State Cord Byrd's office.



Glenn Burhans, an attorney with the firm representing the Smart & Safe Florida political committee, and Leon County Circuit Judge John Cooper during a hearing Friday, Nov. 21.

The state alleged the format was changed without permission in violation of Florida law.

The front of the disputed form was identical to the petition that was approved, which had a blank back page. The back of the forms deemed to be invalid by Matthews included a link to Smart & Safe Florida's website, where the full text of the proposed amendment can be found.

"This is not something that the secretary just came up with out of whole cloth," Ben Gibson, an attorney for Byrd, said during a hearing Friday.

Florida law says that "signatures obtained on an unapproved form cannot be counted," Gibson, who works for the Shutts & Bowen LLP firm, argued.

"That is not an interpretation. That is the black letter law of the statute," he added.

But Glenn Burhans, who represents Smart & Safe Florida, told Cooper the committee did not seek sign-off on the form mailed to voters because the pe-

tion was identical to the one approved by the state.

"We didn't request a change because there was no change to the layout," Burhans, an attorney with the Stearns Weaver Miller firm, argued. "Anybody ... would say these are identical. There's no change within the border of the document"

Noting that state election laws and regulations "should be strictly construed," Cooper said he "wavered back and forth" on how to rule.

"I think Mr. Gibson has pointed out to my satisfaction the statutory provision that says if one is not using the forms prescribed by the secretary of state, then they are not valid," the judge said.

Smart & Safe Florida appeared to engage in a procedure "in good faith to comply with the law and get to the requisite number of petitions they need to get on the ballot," Cooper observed.

The crux of the case was whether the form that was approved by Byrd's office "was changed and whether

that change was material," Cooper said.

"I think there was a change made to the approved petition because it has the language on the back," he said. "I define layout as what happened here. ... What happened on the back of that first form, that's a change of layout. Therefore it's a material change that was not approved by the secretary of state, therefore I must find that petitions that were at issue here ... with that change, are not enforceable."

Smart and Safe Florida officials said they intend to appeal Cooper's decision.

"We fervently but respectfully disagree with this ruling and fully intend to appeal it as voters deserve and overwhelmingly want to have their voices heard on this important matter," the committee said in a text message.

While Smart & Safe Florida is required to submit 880,062 valid signatures by Feb. 1, Burhans told Cooper that the deadline is functionally a month earlier because supervisors of

elections need 30 days to process petitions. According to the state Division of Elections website, the committee had submitted 675,307 valid signatures as of Friday — including the disputed 200,000 petitions. The number of valid signatures appeared to be dropping this week: The website showed 675,334 valid signatures on Tuesday.

Byrd's office sent a cease-and-desist letter to the committee about the disputed petitions in March. A new law that went into effect in July requires that the full text of the amendment be included on the petition.

The new law also required county supervisors of elections to stop processing petition signatures for a 90-day period, which ended Sept. 30 — days before Matthews' missive.

Gov. Ron DeSantis in 2024 led efforts to defeat a proposed recreational-marijuana amendment sponsored by Smart & Safe Florida. With the committee taking another run at the issue in 2026, it has clashed with Byrd on a

number of fronts.

Byrd's office on Monday took initial steps to trigger Florida Supreme Court review of the measure, a crucial step in ballot placement.

That move came on the last day of a deadline set by justices for the DeSantis administration to respond to a lawsuit filed by Smart & Safe Florida accusing elections officials of improperly holding up the ballot measure.

During arguments Friday, Gibson reminded Cooper of problems with the 2000 presidential election, which spawned a protracted legal battle over a recount in Florida.

"In a state as large and diverse as Florida," with 67 county supervisors of elections, "it is vitally important that we have uniformity in the interpretation of the election code," Gibson argued.

Burhans disputed some of the state's arguments by pointing to a classic scene from a Marx Brothers movie.

"Who are you going to believe, the secretary or your own eyes?" Burhans asked Cooper.

"I think the phrase goes, your lyin' eyes," Cooper quipped.

Gibson referred to the exchange later in the day, after arguments that included numerous references to the movie, "My Cousin Vinny."

"It is very clear that (in) the original form approved, the layout was blank on the back. The petition form that was provided in the mail ... has words on the back," Gibson said. "I'm not good at movie quotes ... but you can see with your own eyes."

Part of redistricting fight gets go-ahead

By Jim Saunders
News Service of Florida

A panel of federal judges Friday said a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of three Florida House districts and one congressional district can move forward — while rejecting challenges to four other House districts.

The 20-page ruling came in a request by the House for summary judgment to end the lawsuit, which alleged seven Miami-Dade County state House districts and one congressional district that crosses South Florida were gerrymandered based on race.

The three-judge panel granted the request for summary judgment on House Districts 112, 113, 114 and 116 but denied it on House Districts 115, 118 and 119

and Congressional District 26. That effectively could lead to a trial on the constitutionality of the remaining disputed districts.

"In sum, plaintiffs have offered district-specific statements of key actors and district-specific circumstantial evidence that is sufficient to create a genuine dispute of material fact as to whether race predominated in the drawing of House Districts 115, 118 and 119 and Congressional District 26," said the ruling, written by U.S. District Judge Jacqueline Becerra and joined by 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Britt Grant and U.S. District Judge Rodolfo Ruiz. "Accordingly, summary judgment is not appropriate with respect to these districts."

But the ruling also said, "The House argues that

plaintiffs fail to provide either direct or circumstantial evidence that the Legislature was motivated predominantly by racial considerations when drawing House Districts 112, 113, 114 and 116. As to these districts, the court agrees.

Unlike in regular federal lawsuits, three-judge panels handle redistricting cases.

The lawsuit, filed last year in federal court in Miami, has been one of a series of legal battles stemming from the state's 2022 redistricting process. The plaintiffs are the groups Cubanos Palante, Engage Miami and the FIU ACLU Club and individuals.

The plaintiffs' lawyers have contended the Legislature violated equal-protection rights in the way it drew districts that would elect

Hispanic candidates.

House Districts 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 118 and 119, have been held, respectively, by Miami-Dade County Republicans Alex Rizo, Vicki Lopez, Demi Busatta, Omar Blanco, House Speaker Daniel Perez, Mike Redondo and Juan Carlos Porras. Congressional District 26, which stretches from Miami-Dade to Collier counties, is represented by Republican Mario Diaz-Balart. Lopez resigned her House seat last week after being appointed to the Miami-Dade County Commission.

As an example of the districts that remain in dispute after Friday's ruling, the panel said the plaintiffs argued that House District 15 is not "visually or mathematically compact" because

of a northern section described as an "appendage."

"In particular, plaintiffs rely upon the northern extension of House District 115, which they contend is 'an irregular appendage,'" the ruling said. "Plaintiffs also point to evidence that House District 115 forms an unusual 'long and skinny' shape because it 'runs over 15.5 miles north-south but is only 1.8 miles at its narrowest point.'"

In contrast, in granting summary judgment to the House on District 112, the panel rejected arguments that the district was part of splitting up the city of Miami more than necessary.

"Even assuming that plaintiffs are correct, they do not cite any evidence that shows the Legislature decided to

split the city of Miami for racial reasons," the ruling said. "The same infirmity exists with respect to plaintiffs' other complaint, that the Legislature could have added the southeast corner of House District 112 to a neighboring district. Again, plaintiffs do not offer any evidence that inclusion of the disputed corner in House District 112 was racially motivated."

Friday's ruling came three months after a separate three-judge panel upheld a 2022 Senate redistricting plan, rejecting arguments that a Tampa Bay-area district was racially gerrymandered. Also, in July, the Florida Supreme Court upheld an overhaul of a North Florida congressional district that was pushed through by Gov. Ron DeSantis.

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WASTE TIRE AMNESTY DAYS

AT CENTRAL LANDFILL & JAY TRANSFER STATION

The Santa Rosa County Environmental Department is partnering with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to hold Waste Tire Amnesty Days at the Central Landfill and Jay Transfer Station.

CENTRAL LANDFILL

6337 Da Lisa Road
Milton, FL 32583
7 a.m. - 5 p.m.

- Saturday, Nov. 8, 2025
- Saturday, Dec. 13, 2025
- Saturday, Jan. 10, 2026

JAY TRANSFER STATION

3786 Transfer Station Rd
Jay, FL 32565
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

- Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2026
- Thursday, Jan. 8, 2026
- Saturday, Jan. 10, 2026

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SPORTS

Central made history during 2025 football season



Photos by Brian Lester
Carson Baxley makes a throw in an FIT game against Port St. Joe on Nov. 20.



Carson Ellison runs with the ball in a postseason game against the Sharks.



Central's defense makes a play in the Jaguars' game against the Sharks.

By Brian Lester
sports@srpressgazette.com

Joe Surratt gathered his Central football team together on the field at Port St. Joe after a 37-0 loss to the Sharks in the second round of the Florida Invitational Tournament on Nov. 20.

The head coach of the Jaguars talked to the players about the season they've had, and how proud he is of what they accomplished in only the second year of varsity football.

The Jaguars won four games in 2025, three more than the previous year, and made the postseason for the first time.

"I told the boys they might not understand or see it right now, but at the end of the day, when they get older, this (experience) will be something to hang their hats on," Surratt said.

Junior Cade Scott said it wasn't easy having the season end, but he is happy with how far he and his teammates have come in a short time.

"It's a tough loss, but this team has improved immensely," Scott said. "It's been insane to watch. I'm so proud of everyone, and so happy to be a part of it. I can't thank my coaches and teammates enough."

Central trailed 23-0 after the first quarter and 37-0 at halftime against the Sharks, who have a tradition of success.



Joe Surratt talks with his team after its FIT loss to Port St. Joe on the road.

"Port St. Joe has a good football team. "They've got five state championships. Playing them is an honor," Surratt said.

There was a time when the postseason was only a dream for the Jaguars, who are young but growing as a team.

And while they were over-matched against the Sharks, they never stopped playing hard.

"We came out and tried our hardest," Scott said. "It's all about pride."

This is a season the Jaguars won't forget, and the excitement created by it should carry over to 2026.

"As a coach, a player, a competitor, you want to be successful. You want to win at the end of the day," Surratt said. "For us, as a new program, I couldn't ask for anything more. It's an opportunity a lot of teams don't get. We got the opportunity plus another game."

"I couldn't be more proud of where we are at and the direction we are going in," Surratt added.



Griffin Barnes dives for the ball on a foggy night in Port St. Joe.



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Brian Out Loud!

By Brian Lester

sports@srpressgazette.com

In a sports world where athletes are so quick to rush to the next step in their lives, Mason West took a step back and enjoyed the moment in front of him.

West, for those who don't know, is a 2025 first-round pick of the NHL's Chicago Blackhawks. So clearly, his future is already set.

But he still stuck around for his senior year because he wanted to play his final season of high school football. He made that known to teams before they drafted him.

And his decision proved to be worthwhile. He led his team to a state championship in Minnesota two weeks ago, throwing two touchdown passes in the victory.

He ended up throwing for more than 2,000 yards during his senior year and nearly 30 touchdowns.

That memory of a state championship is going to live with him forever. Because had he given that opportunity up, it's something he can never get back.

There is no rewind the clock option on your high school athletic career. Once it's over, it's over.

West understood as much when he made his decision to play his senior year of football. He wanted one more year with his teammates. One more chance to wear the uniform of his high school. One more opportunity to win a state championship.

He can walk away from his high school career with no regrets. He can walk away not saying, 'I wish I had done this or that instead.'

We live in a sports world now where enrolling early for college is a thing for athletes. We live in a sports world where athletes with potential to play at the pro level enter the draft early rather than stick it out all four years. We have athletes who opt out of bowl games because they want to get in work ahead of the draft.

Look, there is nothing wrong with any of it. If you feel enrolling in college a semester early is the best thing for you, go for it. If you feel putting your name in the draft pool a year or two early, or straight out of high school if we are talking baseball, is the right thing for you to do, don't let anyone stop you.

It's not my job to say what the best move for an athlete is. Every situation is different. I've always been that person to believe you do what is best for you.

But I think it's cool what West opted to do. Rather than give up a high school season he will never get back, he chose to cherish it and make the most of it.

It's a reminder that sometimes rushing to get to the next step isn't always the most important thing. Sometimes you just have to slow down and enjoy the moment in front of you.

WFBA conquers Lighthouse Baptist, 56-21



Photos by Mac Knefely

Presten Flynn finds teammate Gabe Hazewinkel in the Conquerors' win.

By Mac Knefely
sports@srpressgazette.com

In its opening game of its own invitational, West Florida Baptist's boys basketball team dominated Lighthouse Baptist out of Alabama by a 56-21 score.

Led by senior guards Camden Flynn's 18 points and Shepard Brown's 13, the Conquerors went up by as many as 43 points early in the second half for the big win.

Head coach Austin Lewis was especially impressed with his team's full-court play from the start. The Conquerors built a 45-8 lead at the break and never looked back.

"We executed well and the effort and energy was high," Lewis said. "We did well in the first half to main-



Jackson Thomas looks for a teammate against Lighthouse.

tain a big lead. I challenged them to play our style. It doesn't matter if we're playing the best

team or the worst team, we're going to stick to that."

He and his players have high expectations for the season. The team has a nice balance with seven seniors as well as juniors and sophomores mixed in.

"I think this group has the potential to win our conference and go back-to-back, but it's not going to be easy. It's going to be a challenge," Lewis said. "We have a lot of new faces, so the challenge is getting them to gel, and right now they're doing that. The sky's the limit, really."

The win was the third of the season for the Conquerors.

"We've worked well together, and this is a big confidence builder for us," Camden Flynn said. "The energy in the locker room and the friendships that we've built in just a few months has been great."

Brown has been pleased with the overall effort so far. He believes this year's squad has a strong chance to repeat last season's success.

"I thought we played really well and got downhill really easily, and finished at the rim pretty well," Brown said.

"We've started with high energy, but I feel we haven't really been tested yet. We started off well in the press, which led to easy buckets. Hopefully we'll win the conference championship again. That's our expectation."

Team trust and camaraderie is what players say has been key to the early season success.

"We've got to stay focused," senior Gabe Hazewinkel said. He finished with eight points in the win. "We really want to go back-to-back. We've really started to mesh well now that the season's started."



Matty Weaver and company played lights-out defense for the Conquerors.



Presents

MHS Athlete of the Week



Sergio Robinson

Sports: Basketball and track

Class: 2026

Parents: Nancy Robinson

Plans after graduation: College

Favorite activity outside of sports: Tik Tok

Favorite TV Show: "One Tree Hill"

Favorite Movie: "Let it Shine"

Favorite Store: Dollar General

What is the best part about being an athlete? The fans

Favorite Sports Memory: Winning districts

What is your biggest strength as an athlete? Athleticism

If you could be a pro athlete for a day, who would you be? Jordan Poole



Sergio Robinson

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West Florida Baptist's girls basketball team puts defense on display



Cambri Goins attempts a jumper in traffic.

Photos by Mac Knefely

By Mac Knefely
sports@srpressgazette.com

One of the goals for the West Florida Baptist girls basketball team this season is to increase defensive tenacity.

The Conquerors certainly achieved it against Lighthouse Baptist out of Alabama, winning 51-1 in its own invitational on Nov. 20.

"I really think that it's clicking for them, and they're starting to execute their roles," head coach Mabel Alvarez said. "We put in a lot of hard work on the defensive end. I honestly didn't know what to expect, we just came ready to play. We're just a group that works hard, and I love that about this team."

Led by Olivia Pearce's 19 points and Lyla Luu's 11, the Conquerors took full advantage of the Lighthouse lineup all game with a swarming defense and clutch offense.

Cailie Byrd, one of West Florida Baptist's three seniors, was proud of her team's strong performance.

"It was fun. I love my team. Every game we have, we come out and just play for each other," Byrd said. "Our defense and with Olivia (Pearce) being down low and being able to block them was key, and our fast-break layups."

Despite losing several key players from last year's squad, this year's version of Lady Conqueror basketball has proven quite tough as well.

"We didn't expect to win that big, but it's definitely a great feeling," Pearce said. "We ran our 2-3 defense much better tonight, and we had less turnovers. Our offensive set, which we had been struggling with, was also much better. This is what we've been training for all summer."

Luu, a seventh grader, didn't let the moment be too big. She impressed her teammates with her inside and outside shooting and overall game.

"I'm definitely thankful for people helping me work this hard, but there are some little things I can most definitely do better," Luu said. "I think that we're going to win the championship again this year because we have a lot of chemistry."

Coach Valdez likes the direction her team is heading in.

"One of my seniors (Callie Byrd) has grown a lot in this sport, and she's a multi-athlete. I feel like this year, she's a completely leveled-up player," Valdez said. "My seniors are a little more passive, and for the first few weeks I've really been pushing them. They've started coming out of their shells."



Stella Moore (10) and Ruby Gifford (33) fight for a loose ball.



Olivia Pearce hits a layup against Lighthouse.

TEAM BRUCE BAKER, MBA
RE/MAX INFINITY

Presents

PHS Athlete of the Week

AJ Bon-Jorno

Sports: Soccer
Class: 2026
Parents: Tony Bon-Jorno and Rose Brown

Plans after graduation: Attend Locklin to get certified in HVAC

Favorite activity outside of sports: Hanging out with my friends

Favorite TV Show: "Squid Games"

Favorite Movie: "Cars 2" or "Fury"

Favorite Store: Target

What is the best part about being an athlete? Ability to play with teammates and be a part of a beautifully run organization

Favorite Sports Memory: Senior night my junior year when we were losing 3-0 and came back and won 4-3. I scored a hat trick.

What is your biggest strength as an athlete? Ability to be a leader for my teammates

If you could be a pro athlete for a day, who would you be? Bukayo Saka

AJ Bon-Jorno

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Two is better than one when it comes to Milton's Robinson twins



Photos by Brian Lester

Sergio Robinson is one of the top returning players for the Panthers this season, alongside his twin brother, Mateo.



Mateo Robinson is looking forward to one final season of high school basketball with his twin brother, Sergio.

By Brian Lester
sports@srpressgazette.com

As twins, Sergio and Mateo Robinson naturally share a close connection.

On the court, that connection shows in a lot of ways, especially when it comes to producing highlight reel worthy plays for the Milton Panthers.

"We have a lot of fun. We play with energy and love being on the court together," Sergio said.

"It's definitely fun being together on the court," Mateo added.

The two are leaders for Milton's boys basketball team and new head coach Matt Anderson expects a lot from them.

"I always tell people without great players, you don't win many games, and those two are great ones," Anderson said. "They are great leaders, great young men and great basketball players."

The Robinson twins have been a part of back-to-back district championships and regional final appearances at Milton.

They understand as

seniors they have to be leaders.

"It's fun. We've got a lot of experience, and we know the younger guys look up to us," Sergio said. "We're taking on responsibility we didn't have last year."

They also look to continue building the success they've already had as high school basketball players.

Mateo averaged 12.0 points per game last season. Sergio put up 10.8.

They can both get to the rim and throw down dunks that entertain the crowd. But they are

also capable of knocking down shots from the outside. And they get after it defensively, with Sergio leading the team with 62 steals last year. Mateo finished with 38 steals.

And they push each other, putting their competitiveness on display in everything they do.

"We compete in everything, even grades (in school)," Sergio said.

Mateo points out he has the edge when it comes to ability on the court.

"On the court, I got him,"

Mateo said with a laugh.

Both have always been basketball players, with Sergio noting he got into hoops because of his twin brother.

"I played because he did. It's always been basketball for us," Sergio said.

Both have seen their games grow as well.

"My skill and shooting have gotten better, and I've improved as a leader," Mateo said.

"I've worked a lot on my consistency and I'm still working to get better as a player," Sergio added.

They love the excitement that comes with playing the game, the hype and energy that envelopes the gym on game night.

And they have high expectations for themselves and the team.

"We can't let the city down," Sergio said.

There's added motivation being their last year of high school hoops.

"It's senior year. We want to get back to the playoffs. It's going to take everyone buying in and working as a team," Mateo said.

Roundup: Check out news and notes from the area sports scene



Photo by Brian Lester

Breckyn Greenfield is tied for the team lead in goals this season.

By Brian Lester
sports@srpressgazette.com

The first month of winter sports is complete and here's a look at some of the notable items.

Soccer

■ AJ Bon Jorno is having a stellar year on the field, already tallying 12 goals. Ziad Benrkia is second on the team with five goals. Pace is 4-4-1 heading

into December.

■ Milton's girls team is 3-4 through seven games and team captain Breckyn Greenfield as well as Ceanna McLaughlin lead the squad with five goals apiece. Paityn Settlemires has come through with 84 saves in goal.

■ Pace's girls soccer team pitched its first shutout of the year on Nov. 21, beating Fort Walton Beach 3-0. Syd-

ney Steele scored a pair of goals. Steele has three goals in all this season.

Basketball

■ Lily Mathews knocked down a clutch shot for the Milton Panthers in a 25-24 win over Gulf Breeze on Nov. 21. The Panthers are 3-1 heading into December after topping Cottage Hill 53-27 on Nov. 25.

■ Jay's girls basketball team improved to



Ceanna McLaughlin has come through with five goals in the first part of the season.

2-1 with a 56-50 win over L.E.A.D. Academy last Tuesday. The Royals led 20-7 after one quarter and then hung on despite being outscored 21-6 in the fourth.

■ Stephani Perritt won her debut as the head coach of Central's girls basketball team. The Jaguars topped Flo-maton 67-32 on Nov. 18 behind 23 points from Grace Jarrett. Jarrett knocked down five

3-pointers.

Makena Enfinger added 14 points and Jaci Perritt scored 11.

■ Pace's girls basketball team won its first game of the year on Nov. 24, topping Central 62-50. The Patriots improved to 1-3 with the win.

■ Milton's boys basketball team has gotten off to a good start under the direction of new head coach Matt Ander-

son. The Panthers won their first two games by 18 or more, beating Pensacola 64-46 and rolling over Gulf Breeze 68-45.

■ It's been an impressive start for Central's boys basketball team, which is 4-1. The Jaguars have won two close games in that stretch, beating Ponce de Leon 58-56 and edging Graceville 63-61. Cohen Hoodless is averaging 14.5 points per game.

Pace Patriots fought until the very end in postseason loss



Makael Williams looks for room to run in Pace's playoff game against Mandarin.

By Brian Lester
sports@srpressgazette.com

On a Monday morning in late November, Pace head football coach Vance Smith said he hadn't gotten around to watching the game film from the Patriots' heartbreaking 42-35 Region 1-6A semifinal loss to Mandarin.

"I haven't been able to make myself watch it yet, but I'll sit down and do that today," Smith said in a phone interview last week. "You hate it for the seniors. We felt like we could have made a run."

The Patriots rallied from a two-score deficit twice against the Mustangs on the road in Jacksonville on Nov. 21 and were within touchdown with just over eight minutes to play after Makael Williams found the end zone.

Pace was hoping to get the ball back and win it. But the Mustangs ate up the remaining time on the clock as another successful year for the Patriots ended.

"We talked all week about scoring late, be it in overtime or regulation, and going for two to try to get out of there. It almost worked. We hoped to get a stop. We weren't able to do it."

Still, it was a special year for Pace, which finished 10-2 in Smith's first season as the head coach of his alma mater.

"I'm so proud of the kids. They fought until the very end," Smith said.

Mandarin led 21-7



Photos by Edy Stallworth

The Pace Patriots suffered a 42-35 loss to Mandarin in the second round of the playoffs.



Tagg Strickenburger picks up yards for Pace in its playoff game on Nov. 21 in Jacksonville.

before Pace rallied to tie the game late in the second quarter. The Patriots trailed 28-21 at half-

time and were down 42-28 with 11 minutes left in the game.

Pace cut the lead to

seven in the fourth and almost pulled off a win.

"We had a shot. We just came up a little

short. It hurts," Smith said.

Pace is losing a talented senior class but will

have key players back, including Williams, who rushed for more than 1,500 yards this past season.

"We have a lot of skill coming back and there is a lot of promise. Once we get back from break, we'll turn the page and work towards next year," Smith said.

Smith is thankful for the seniors who have set a good example for the players coming back.

"I'm appreciative of the seniors. They are winners. And they are leaving a great legacy and setting the foundation for years to come," Smith said.

FOR THE RECORD

SRC BUSINESS LICENSES

■ 11/20/2025, Harrison G Parsons, Coastal Fix & Finish LLC, Service, 1976 America Ave, Gulf Breeze, FL 32563
 ■ 11/20/2025, Madison L Ward, Glitter & Grime LLC, Service, 3019 S Highway 29, Cantonment, FL 32533
 ■ 11/20/2025, Rutledge Kim, Kim Rutledge LLC, Retail Sales, 4250 N Cambridge Way, Pace, FL 32571
 ■ 11/20/2025, Titye Denault DbA Commendable Cleaners & Maintenance, Titye Denault DbA Commendable Cleaners & Maintenance, Service, 22843 8th Ave, Florida, AL 36442
 ■ 11/21/2025, Daniel John Daly Jr, Daniel John Daly Jr, Retail Sales, 4007 Bay Pointe Dr, Gulf Breeze, FL 32563
 ■ 11/21/2025, Reese Randal Parker, Deep Roots Landscaping LLC, Service, 6355 Frank Reeder Rd, Pensacola, FL 32526
 ■ 11/21/2025, Richard Hammac, Richard Hammac Flooring, Sub Contractor, 3370 Atlas Dr, Milton, FL 32583
 ■ 11/21/2025, Sunny Speech Therapy, LLC, Sunny Speech Therapy, LLC, Professional, 4273 DANA ST, PACE, FL 32571
 ■ 11/24/2025, Nguyen, Thuy Thi Bich, 99 Nails LLC, Service, 5941 Berryhill Rd Suite L, Milton, FL 32570
 ■ 11/24/2025, Kenneth W Sims, Cotton Top Painting LLC, Service, 12329 Highway 90 W, Holt, FL 32564
 ■ 11/24/2025, Thuy Thi Bich Nguyen, Thuy Thi Bich Nguyen, Professional, 6257 Dry Creek Rd, Molino, FL 32577
 ■ 11/25/2025, Stephanie Morales, Beach City Life LLC, Service, 7319 Emily Magnolia Ct, Navarre, FL 32566
 ■ 11/25/2025, Brothers of Milton Inc Omar Faruk, Royal Vape Cloud, Retail Sales, 5941 Berryhill Rd Suite J, Milton, FL 32570
 ■ 11/26/2025, Emma Becnel, Bay to Beach Junk Solutions LLC, Service, 4364 White Birch Court, Pace, FL 32571
 ■ 11/26/2025, James Reddoch, Garbage +, Service, 5044 Community Cir, Milton, FL 32583

MARRIAGES

■ Frances Marie Parr to Alfred Thomas Muscutt
 ■ Helena Michelle Fatolitis to Benjamin Robert McElroy Cunningham
 ■ Jonathan Miles Abbott to Jennifer Ashley Huffaker
 ■ Jennifer Joanne Krause to John Jeremy Carter
 ■ Jessica Dianne Patterson to Christopher Lyle Perry
 ■ Terry Lyn Bufkin Jr to Melissa Lynn Nasca
 ■ Ebony Tyler Hicks to Justin Ryan Jennings
 ■ Thomas Eugene Hodge Jr to April Jean Angeles
 ■ Catrina Celeste Pierce to Cody James Burnham
 ■ Sandra Kay Barrette to Dylan Andrew Orinick
 ■ Darryl James Stimson to Pamela Dawn Sibole
 ■ William Joshua Lee Childree to Ronald Lane Richman
 ■ Danielle Ruth Coleman to Nolan Blake Hawthorne
 ■ Lewis Patrick Gray to Alexandra Victoria Kalin
 ■ Skylet Cynthia McDaniel to Deyton Ty Powell
 ■ Madeline Elizabeth Chambers-Weber to Alexander David Hannah
 ■ Leanna Elizabeth Miller to Brandon James Jones
 ■ Heath Westley Barrett to Morgan Julianna James
 ■ Kimberly Denise Apperson to Justin Daniel Wise
 ■ Timothy Scott Evans to Felicia Elaine McDole
 ■ Dennis Gerald Ballek to Frances Lynn Helm
 ■ William Marshall Keiffer to Nicole Adrianna Burns
 ■ Curtis John Holder to Alexis Briann Cole
 ■ Madison Blair Gearing to Nicholas Michael Tamberella
 ■ Kayla Sky Anthony to Grayson Douglas Graham
 ■ Kimi Dorene Smith to Billy Bryan Burch

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Roughly
- 5 Texter's "Wow!"
- 8 Nero's 1300
- 12 Stead
- 13 Museum-funding org.
- 14 Vicinity
- 15 In — (miffed)
- 16 Deception
- 18 Fawcett of '70s TV
- 20 Goodies
- 21 Skater's leap
- 23 "Delicious!"
- 24 Tobago's island neighbor
- 28 Salon request
- 31 A billion years
- 32 Whiskey drinks
- 34 Fish eggs
- 35 Privation
- 37 Three-paneled artwork
- 39 "Friendly skies" co.

- 41 Chevy sub-compact
- 42 Pulpit delivery
- 45 Painter Hopper
- 49 Homages
- 51 Always
- 52 Forearm bone
- 53 Depot (Abbr.)
- 54 Sultry Horne
- 55 Pleads
- 56 Wager
- 57 Highlander

- 17 Sob
- 19 Pivot line
- 22 "Kinsey" actress Linney
- 24 — Aviv
- 25 Aussie hopper
- 26 Making certain
- 27 Tries to convey
- 29 Sinbad's bird
- 30 "Whatever"
- 33 Raced
- 36 Brazilian dances
- 38 Hair dryers
- 40 Baseball's Gehrig
- 42 Ticket half
- 43 — Stanley Gardner
- 44 Fed. accident investigator
- 46 Opposite of "sans"
- 47 Gambling mecca
- 48 "Phooey!"
- 50 Summer in Paris

DOWN

- 1 "Frozen" snowman
- 2 TV host Kelly
- 3 Crystal gazer
- 4 Defeated in a footrace
- 5 Promptly
- 6 Mal de —
- 7 Pace
- 8 Cosmetics
- 9 Butter producer
- 10 Birth doc.
- 11 Low isles

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Recent changes to TASA law will allow FTRI to distribute FREE tablets and cellphones loaded with telecommunications apps.

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Weekly SUDOKU

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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
 ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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SCRAMBLERS
 Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Grit

ARLOV

Kind

AHMENU

Vague

ROCUBES

Prompt

LIMPE

TODAY'S WORD

Bob Schuster

"The vet says he's a very _____ cat."

ARRESTS OF NORTH SANTA ROSA COUNTY RESIDENTS

Arrest and incident reports are taken from the information released from law enforcement agencies. Charges or citations reported in the Santa Rosa Press Gazette do not imply guilt. Guilt is determined by the courts. Information on this page is public information. Names on arrest records will not be withheld by request for any reason. Every effort is made to provide accurate information. If an error in the named charge occurs, Santa Rosa Press Gazette will correct the named charge in a future publication when it is brought to our attention. Juveniles are named only if the arrest involved a felony offense.

<p>November 20</p>  <p>Anthony Clinton Lovitt, 45, 4300 Block of Fifth Avenue, Pace, Charge: Condit release violation</p>	<p>November 21</p>  <p>Marcus Dean Bell, 40, 4600 Block of Pine Lane, Pace, Charges: Condit release violation, withhold support – nonsupport of children or spouse</p>	<p>November 21</p>  <p>Star Nichole Gibson, 29, 5100 Block of Ridgeway Drive, Milton, Charges: Moving traffic violation – drive while license suspended revocation equivalent status, marijuana-possession, making false report – knowingly give false information to law enforcement officer about alleged crime, drug equipment-possession and or use</p>	<p>November 23</p>  <p>Luis Ronaldo Franco, 28, 4200 Block of Island Road, Pace, Charges: Nonmoving traffic violation – fail to register motor vehicle, moving traffic violation – operate vehicle without valid license</p>	<p>November 23</p>  <p>Cassidy Marie Taylor, 28, 5700 Block of Windrun Place, Pace, Charge: Aggravated assault – domestic violence – with deadly weapon without intent to kill</p>	<p>November 24</p>  <p>Alyssa Paige Burkholder, 24, 4900 Block of Hirsch St, Milton, Charge: DUI</p>	<p>November 24</p>  <p>William Earnest Murray, 54, 3000 Block of Jesse Whitfield Rd, Milton, Charge: Battery domestic violence</p>	<p>November 25</p>  <p>Jade Aliah Wilson, 30, 4800 Block of Aleff Rd, Pace, Charge: Conditional release violation</p>
 <p>Brandi Suzanne Weekly, 35, 3900 Block of Tuscany Way, Pace, Charges: Flee/elude police with lights siren active, neglect child without great bodily harm</p>	 <p>Eric Austin Mantz, 49, 7400 Block of Deck Street, Milton, Charge: Battery – domestic violence – cause bodily harm</p>	<p>November 22</p>  <p>Jonathan Paul Jones, 49, 6500 Block of Park Avenue, Milton, Charge: Probation violation</p>	 <p>Jacob John Smith, 41, Smith Fish Camp Highway 90, Milton, Charge: Moving traffic violation – drive with suspended/revoked license</p>	 <p>Marissa Xuan Phillips, 31, 4900 Block of Lambert Lane, Milton, Charge: Larceny – other theft</p>	 <p>Christopher James Gregory, 46, 5400 Block of Borden Rd, Milton, Charge: Drug equipment possession</p>	<p>November 25</p>  <p>Douglas Keith Cannon, 58, 4300 Block of Curt Ln, Jay, Charge: Aggravated assault</p>	 <p>Robert James Walker, 35, 4200 Block of Winners Gait Cir, Pace, Charge: Resisting officer</p>
 <p>Judith Lynn Miller, 49, 5800 Block of Admiral Road, Milton, Charges: Simple assault – assault on specified personnel, resist officer – obstruct without violence</p>	 <p>Jonathan Ukiah Turtle, 37, 5800 Block of Hermitage Circle, Milton, Charge: DUI 0.15 or higher or with person under 18 in vehicle</p>	 <p>Dorian Lynn Herron, 24, 5700 Block of Drug equipment-possession, drugs-possession – controlled substance without prescription</p>	 <p>Dennis Dean Davies, 45, 9500 Block of American Farm Road, Milton, Charge: Moving traffic violation – Driving with license suspended/revoked/ equivalent status</p>	 <p>Kevin Michael Collins, 42, 5100 Block of Chumuckla Highway, Pace, Charge: Moving traffic violation – drive while license suspended habitual offender</p>	 <p>Sherie Lorraine Butt, 48, 9400 Block of Redland Rd, Milton, Charge: Withholding support</p>	 <p>River Clifford Tyler, 27, 5200 Block of Peacock Dr, Milton, Charge: Failure to appear</p>	<p>November 26</p>  <p>Aaron Christopher Southard, 53, 4200 Block of Hwy 90, Pace, Charge: Probation violation</p>
<p>November 21</p>  <p>Ryker Derek Quackenbush, 33, 6300 Block of Shady Lane, Milton, Charges: Contempt of court- violated domestic violence injunction (x4), aggravated stalking – follow harass cyberstalk after injunction, domestic violence – aggravated stalking – follow harass cyberstalk after injunction, probation violation</p>	 <p>Christopher Shawn Nelson, 49, 7200 Block of Bogey Lane, Milton, Charge: Out-of-county warrant</p>	<p>November 23</p>  <p>Jesse Daniel Pare, 36, 6500 Block of Colonial Drive, Milton, Charge: Withhold support – non support of children or spouse</p>	 <p>Lovely Jean Viray, 33, 6400 Block of Highway 90, Milton, Charge: Battery – domestic violence - touch or strike</p>	 <p>Emanuel Placios Bello, 21, Paver Lane, Pace, Charge: Failure to appear</p>	 <p>Daniel Lee Liedtka, 41, 9900 Block of Charlois Rd, Milton, Charge: Criminal registration violation</p>	 <p>Dustin Michael Henderson, 44, 5300 Block of Cathy St, Milton, Charge: Withhold support</p>	

INVITATION TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS FOR ARCHITECTURAL PROFESSIONAL DESIGN SERVICES FOR CENTRAL SCHOOL
(To Include Building Demolition, Classroom/Ancillary Spaces, and Sports Facilities)

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the School District of Santa Rosa County, Florida, herein referred to as the "Board," pursuant to Florida law, is soliciting letters of interest from qualified Florida registered architectural firms to provide design and construction supervision services for the following project: **Central School Building(s) Demolition and New Construction and/or Renovation of Classroom/Ancillary Spaces, and Sports Facilities.**

The main office for all interested firms MUST be within a 25-mile radius of Milton, Florida. A firm's capability to produce construction documents ready to bid within 180-days of notice-to-proceed will be a factor in the selection process. Depending on funding, this project may be broken into multiple phases. In such case, the design firm initially selected will be permitted to continue design under this award for up to two (2) subsequent phases.

All qualified architects interested in submitting a letter of interest may examine current contract documents available in the office of the Assistant Superintendent for Administration, 6544 Firehouse Road, Milton, Florida 32570, Phone (850) 983-5123. Do not survey site without permission of the Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services. To be considered, letters of interest accompanied with one (1) original and four (4) copies of your proposal must be received on or before **Friday, December 5, 2025 @ 3:00 pm**, local time at the above address, and be clearly labeled in the lower left-hand corner of the envelope, "Letter of Interest – Architectural Services for Central School". Proof of Professional liability insurance should be included in your proposal. Competitive selection and negotiation will be made in accordance with the Florida law F.S. 287.055. All proposing firms are to make a 20-minute presentation on **Tuesday, December 9, 2025**, and will proceed in the order that the proposals are received.


The School District of Santa Rosa County, Florida, reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals completely or in part, to waive all informalities, and to cancel unfunded projects.

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY: Dr. Karen R. Barber, Superintendent of Schools
Run ad on November 20, 27 and December 4

ML4151

FLORIDA PACE FUNDING AGENCY
NOTICE OF INTENT TO USE UNIFORM METHOD OF COLLECTING NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENTS

The Board of Directors (the "Board") of the Florida PACE Funding Agency, a public body corporate and politic, (the "Agency"), hereby provides notice, pursuant to Sections 163.08, 163.081, 163.082 and 197.3632(3)(a), Florida Statutes, each as amended from time to time, of its intent to use the uniform method of collecting non-ad valorem assessments for more than one year to be levied within the area encompassed by the boundaries of every county in Florida, or any of the municipalities therein, served by the Agency's state-wide provision of funding and financing to assist property owners who wish to construct, install or otherwise obtain qualifying improvements identified by the Legislature including, but not limited to, energy conservation and efficiency improvements, renewable energy improvements, and wind resistance improvements, in accordance with Section 163.08, et seq., Florida Statutes, as amended (collectively, the "Qualifying Improvements"). By law and resolution of the Agency, a property owner may apply to the Agency for funding and financing of Qualifying Improvements. The non-ad valorem assessments contemplated by this notice are voluntary and are only imposed by the Agency with the prior written consent authorized by or on behalf of affected property owners who determine to obtain financing for Qualifying Improvements from the Agency. The Agency is authorized by state law to fund and finance Qualifying Improvements and is required to annually collect repayment by non-ad valorem assessments to be collected by the Tax Collector in each County. The Board will consider the adoption of a resolution electing to use the uniform method of collecting such assessments as authorized by Section 197.3632, Florida Statutes, after a public hearing to be held at Kissimmee Gateway Airport-Executive Conference room located at 401 Dyer Blvd Kissimmee FL on December 9, 2025, at 1pm. In the event of a local or national emergency, a hurricane, or any other interfering circumstance, if necessary, the meeting may be continued to a time, date, and place certain, and notice thereof, along with appropriate means for public attendance and participation, if other than in-person, will be posted on the Agency's website. Such resolution electing to use such uniform method will state the need for the levy and will contain a legal description of the boundaries of the real property that may be subject to the levy – which is the entirety of the State of Florida. A copy of the proposed form of resolution and other information may be viewed at the Agency's website: www.FloridaPACE.Gov. All affected property owners have the right to be heard on the matter via advance written objection or by appearing in person at the public hearing. Advance written communication will be given equal weight to comments or objections made in person, and may be submitted to the Board via email to Info@FloridaPACE.Gov; and should be received by the Agency on or before December 8, 2025, at 9am so that copies can be distributed to Board members for advance review and hearing preparation purposes. Any person desiring to speak in person may appear at the public hearing. If any person decides to appeal any decision made with respect to any matter considered at this public hearing, such person will need a record of proceedings and for such purpose such person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made at their own expense and which record includes the testimony and evidence on which the appeal is based. Any person requiring special accommodation at this meeting due to disability or physical impairment or needing an interpreter to participate in this proceeding should contact the Agency at 850-400-PACE at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. If hearing impaired, Florida Relay Service numbers for assistance are (800) 955-8771 (tdd) or (800) 955-8770 (voice).



Publish on 11/13/25, 11/20/25, 11/27/25, 12/04/2025 by Order of the Board of Directors of the Florida PACE Funding Agency.

Assessments to be levied pursuant to written consent on various parcels within the State of Florida

ML4138

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OBITUARY

Colin Clarke Manning Butts

1950 - 2025



Colin Clarke Manning Butts made his final flight on July 23, 2025. He was born November 15, 1950, at Sewart Air Force Base, Smyrna, Tennessee, to Col. Earl Adolphus Butts of Cloud Chief, Oklahoma and Ellen Manning Butts of Camden, South Carolina. He passed away peacefully in his sleep due to complications from Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). During his three-year struggle with ALS, he was always cheerful and never unhappy with his lot in life, always saying that he "has had a good run." While growing up in an Air Force family, he lived in many different countries around the world and enjoyed them all, but his favorite was the four years he spent in Japan. Graduating from South Kent School, Connecticut, in 1970, Colin followed his father and two older brothers into aviation as a pilot. He was also a certified Airframe and Power Plant mechanic, working both as an instructor pilot and as a mechanic at the airport in Milton, Florida that his father ran after retiring from the Air Force. After a number of years there, he moved up to fly as a commercial airline pilot. In 1987, when he was between airline jobs, his father asked him to come home to help care for his mother who was partially paralyzed and unable to speak due to a stroke. For 15 years until her death, Colin and his father were her devoted caregivers. Afterwards, as his elderly father was beginning to need assistance, Colin spent 12 more years as his father's caregiver. During those 27 years, he was a blessing to both parents and made their lives more comfortable and pleasant for their remaining years in the house they had built 50 years before. After his father's death, Colin moved to Wilmington to be near family. A member of MENSA, Colin was extraordinarily bright. His natural curiosity made the Internet his playground, spending many hours looking up interesting facts - the quirrier the better. He loved to surprise friends, family, and especially any new people he happened to meet, with the latest interesting factoid he had found. Colin also enjoyed astronomy and astrophysics and built several large telescopes to gaze at the stars. A sweet and warm-hearted guy, he made friends with everyone he met. Colin's constant companion for the last 25 years was his beloved feral cat, Tutankhamen, whom he called "Tut." Colin was preceded in death by his parents, and his middle brother, Noel Radford Butts. He is survived by his oldest brother, David Rogerson Williams Butts, (wife Susan) of Wilmington; and his three nephews: James Chestnut Butts (wife Margie) of Wilmington, John Nicholas Kane Butts (wife Christi) of Asheville, Dr. David Butts Rion (wife Christine) of Raleigh; 8 grandnephews and grandnieces; 4 great-grandnephews and great-grandnieces. And to quote a friend: "he is the nicest person I have ever known . . . and also the wackiest." Colin happily marched to a different drummer throughout his life and his bright and cheerful personality is greatly missed. A graveside service will be held later at the family plot in the Quaker Cemetery, Camden, South Carolina. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to ALS United North Carolina, 4 N Blount St. #200, Raleigh, North Carolina 27501 in Colin's honor.

HO, HO WHO A!

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HEALTHY LIVING

Wellness beyond the bowl

Exploring a holistic approach to happy, healthy pets

Family Features

When you think about your pet's wellness, it's easy to focus solely on the food you're placing in their bowl. However, true wellness encompasses a much broader spectrum, inclusive of nutrition, preventative care, oral health, exercise, mental stimulation and more.

This National Pet Wellness Month serves as an ideal reminder to examine your pet's health. Consult with your veterinarian to customize a wellness plan to improve the longevity and overall quality of your pet's life and consider these ideas from the experts at Swedencare, a leading pet health company, to play an active role in providing a happier, healthier life for your furry friend.

Focus on prevention and early intervention

While many think of preventative care as an annual vet visit, that is only the beginning. Those yearly checkups should include a thorough physical examination as well as necessary vaccinations, screening for potential parasites and age-related diseases and updated prescription medications – giving your veterinarian a chance to spot any potential problems early.

Based on the findings of the exam, you can work with your vet to create a prevention plan tailored to your pet's health and risk factors, including recom-



mendations for spaying or neutering, maintaining good oral health and adjusting their diet to ensure proper nutrition and a healthy weight.

Emphasize nutrition as a building block for health

A balanced diet complete with the necessary nutrients is the cornerstone of pet wellness. Work with your vet to provide a combination of protein, carbohydrates, fats, vitamins and minerals tailored to your four-legged family member's species and life stage. Remember to review labels and certifications, choosing natural ingredients while avoiding artificial additives, fillers and preservatives.

Sometimes, even the best diets can leave nutritional gaps, however, and supple-

ments can help fill voids and provide additional support for joint health, skin and coat condition, digestive function and dental health. Start small, swapping a regular treat for a functional dental bite, such as ProDen PlaqueOff Crunchy Dental Bites, which are formulated with clinically proven kelp to help support dental health and offer a Veterinary Oral Health Council stamp of approval for the dog version – offering owners an easy, reward-style supplement to fold into everyday routines.

Make daily movement a priority

Daily movement, whether through walks, playing, agility training or even using puzzle feeders, is critical for weight control and joint

health. Regular activity also improves mood and helps prevent boredom-related behaviors – such as excessive meowing or barking, digging, clawing or chewing on furniture and more – according to the Foundation for Animal Care and Education.

The amount of exercise your pet needs can vary by species, breed and age. Some larger dog breeds may need multiple hours of activity per day, including walks or hikes and fetch sessions, while smaller dogs and cats may benefit from short, active play sessions throughout the day.

Don't overlook the importance of oral health

Proper dental care is an important aspect of overall pet care and helps prevent

plaque buildup, tartar accumulation and gum disease, all of which can affect your pet's energy levels and organ health. Use National Pet Wellness Month to refresh their oral care routine with an option like ProDen PlaqueOff Crunchy Dental Bites.

Easy to incorporate into any routine, these low-calorie bites can be given daily alongside a pet's regular dental care regimen. They contain the unique, natural and clinically proven kelp ingredient A.N ProDen to help reduce plaque and tartar buildup while keeping breath fresh all in a bite-sized, crunchy form with a tasty veggie flavor.

Explore mental enrichment to keep pets sharp

Mental stimulation

is just as important as physical exercise for your pet. Engaging in training games, using interactive toys, conducting scent work and organizing social outings can boost cognitive function and help reduce stress.

Mental enrichment complements physical exercise and is particularly beneficial for older pets or during inclement weather when activities can be taken indoors. Introducing a new walking route or adding a 5-minute training game to indoor playtime can make a difference in your pet's happiness and overall well-being.

Find more advice and products to help your pet live a long, healthy life at us.swedencare.com.



Breaking down the difference between a cold and influenza

Dear Dr. Roach: What is the difference between a cold and the flu? -- A.T.R.

Answer: Both colds and influenza (the "flu") are respiratory illnesses that are caused by viruses. Influenza is caused specifically by the influenza viruses, which come in two main types (A and B). Influenza A is further broken down into different subtypes based on hemagglutinin (H) and neuraminidase (N). H1N1 and H3N2 are currently the most-common circulating influenza A viruses. Even within these subclasses, there is strong variability among flu viruses, which is one reason why we need a new flu vaccine each year.

Many viruses cause colds. Rhinoviruses ("rhino" is the Greek word for nose) are the

most common, but corona-, parainfluenza- and enteroviruses, as well as respiratory syncytial viruses, are all well-known causes of respiratory illnesses, which can be difficult or impossible to tell apart from any other type of cold.

Unfortunately, there are so many of these viruses, some of which change quickly and others that escape our immune system, so it is (so far) impossible to get immunity by an infection or a vaccine to all the cold viruses. Viruses are generally less severe than influenza.

It isn't always easy to tell flu from a cold, especially in young people. Both can cause a fever, cough, runny nose and sore throat. However, the flu often causes muscle aches, which can be severe. The flu tends to cause higher fevers, more cough and worse headaches, and it often comes along suddenly. ("I got hit by the flu truck.") Runny nose and nasal congestion tends to be worse with a cold.

Since there is specific antiviral treatments for influenza, clinicians will sometimes make deci-

sions on whether to treat a person based on their symptoms, or they may get a lab test to look for the flu specifically. (Some tests will also check for COVID-19, a special type of coronavirus, at the same time.)

People who are at a high risk for severe flu may be recommended antiviral treatment, whereas there is not a specific antiviral treatment for colds. It's particularly important for people over 65 and those with any heart, lung or immune system issues to get the influenza vaccine. The optimum time to get it was from October through the end of November.

Dear Dr. Roach: What do we now call what was once referred to as a "nervous breakdown" in the 20th century? -- A.M.

Answer: I asked this question to my psychiatry professor way back in the late 20th century when I was a first-year medical student. My professor replied that the term didn't have a meaning anymore. There is no formal medical or psychiatric diagnosis of a "nervous breakdown."

The term is used by laypeople to describe when a person has severe impairment of their day-to-day function as a result of a psychiatric diagnosis, especially mood disorders like generalized anxiety disorder or major depressive disorder.

An adjustment disorder may resemble a major depressive disorder, but it occurs within a few months of a traumatic life event. A severe case might also be termed a "nervous breakdown." It is not usually used to describe a person with acute psychosis (a term meaning a grossly distorted sense of reality), such as a person with schizophrenia or bipolar affective disorder in their acute and uncontrolled state.

All these conditions have effective treatments. Treatment starts by talking to someone, who might be your own regular doctor or a mental health professional. For people who are in acute distress with thoughts of hurting themselves, the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is an option in the United States and Canada.

Dr. Roach regrets that

he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email

questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu. (c) 2025 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA DANIEL HECHT and MELISSA HECHT Plaintiff vs. MICHAEL MABIRE CONSTRUCTION CO. INC., MICHAEL E. MABIRE AND JESSE E. CASEY INDIVIDUALLY AND D/B/A MICHAEL MABIRE CONSTRUCTION CO. INC Defendant
CASE NO: 2024- CA-000294
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY given that pursuant to a Writ of Execution issued in the Circuit Court of Escambia County, Florida, on the 7th day of April, 2025, in the cause wherein Daniel Hecht and Melissa Hecht, Plaintiff, and Michael Mabire Construction Co. Inc, Michael E. Mabire and Jesse E. Casey individually and d/b/a Michael Mabire Construction Co. Inc, Defendant, being case number 2024-CA-000294, in said Court, I; Bob Johnson as Sheriff of Santa Rosa County, Florida, have levied upon all the right, title and interest of the Defendant, Michael Mabire Construction Co. Inc, Michael E. Mabire and Jesse E. Casey individually and d/b/a Michael Mabire Construction Co. Inc, in and to the following described personal property, to wit: 2022 Ford Super Duty Model F250 VIN# 1FT8W2BT-9NEF51445 I shall offer this property for sale at the East front door of the Santa Rosa Criminal Justice Facility, 5755 East Milton Rd, Milton, Florida, Santa Rosa County, Florida, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. on the 16th day of December, 2025, or as soon thereafter as possible. I will offer for sale all of the said Defendant's Michael Mabire Construction Co. Inc, Michael E. Mabire and Jesse E. Casey individually and d/b/a Michael Mabire Construction Co. Inc, right, title, and interest in the aforesaid personal property, at public auction and will sell the same, subject to taxes, all prior liens, encumbrances and judgments, if any, to the highest and best bidder for CASH IN HAND. The proceeds to be applied as far as may be to the payment of costs and the satisfaction of the above described execution. Dated at Milton, Santa Rosa County, Florida, this 5th day of November 2025.
Bob Johnson, As Sheriff of Santa Rosa County, Florida By: /s/ Regan Gunter #1463/157 Regan Gunter, Deputy Sheriff
In accordance with the American with Disabilities Act, person needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding shall contact the Civil Unit no later

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than seven days prior to the proceeding at (850) 981-2164.
Dates of Publication: Thursday 11-20-25 Thursday 11-27-25 Thursday 12-04-25 Thursday 12-11-25 ML4142
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA IN THE INTEREST OF: B.C. (DOB: 06/22/2012) Minor Child Case No.: 2025 DP 050 NOTICE OF ACTION (TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS)
TO: Catherine McNally, mother Address Unknown YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the State of Florida, Department of Children and Families, has filed a Petition to terminate your parental rights and permanently commit the following child for adoption: B.C. (DOB: 06/22/2012). A copy of the Petition is on file with the Clerk of the Court. You are hereby commanded to appear on December 16, at 9:00 a.m., before the Honorable Steven C. Warrick, Juvenile Division, at the Santa Rosa County Courthouse, 4025 Avalon Blvd, Courtroom 2D, Milton, FL 32583, for an ADVISORY HEARING.
FAILURE TO PERSONALLY APPEAR AT THIS ADVISORY HEARING CONSTITUTES CONSENT TO THE TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS OF THIS CHILD. IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR ON THE DATE AND TIME SPECIFIED, YOU MAY LOSE ALL LEGAL RIGHTS AS A PARENT TO THE CHILD NAMED IN THIS NOTICE.
If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact: Court Administration, ADA Liaison; Santa Rosa County; 4025, Milton, FL 32583; Phone (850) 623-3159; Fax (850) 982-0602; ADA.Santa.Rosa@courts1.gov, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.
WITNESS my hand as Clerk of said Court and the Seal thereof, this 10 day of November 2025. JASON D. ENGLISH, as Clerk of Court By: /s/ Charlyn Gould As Deputy Clerk ML4153
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 2025CA000469 LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVING, LLC, Plaintiff, vs. CARSON L. JARVIS;DREA-

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MA BYRD; et al., Defendant(s). NOTICE OF ACTION
TO: Carson L. Jarvis Last Known Residence: 4798 Patriot Drive Pace, FL 32571 YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in SANTA ROSA County, Florida: COMMENCE AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 26, TOWNSHIP 1 NORTH RANGE 29 WEST THENCE RUN SOUTH 89 DEGREES 14 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 425.00 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 01 DEGREES 36 MINUTES 00 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 727.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE SAME COURSE A DISTANCE OF 102.00 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 89 DEGREES 14 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 161.95 FEET; THENCE RUN NORTH 01 DEGREES 36 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 102.00 FEET; THENCE RUN NORTH 89 DEGREES 14 MINUTES 00 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 161.95 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, SAID PROPERTY LYING AND BEING ALL IN SECTION 26, TOWNSHIP 1 NORTH, RANGE 29 WEST, SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA. has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on ALDRIDGE PITE, LLP, Plaintiffs attorney, at 401 W. Linton Blvd. Suite 202-B Delray Beach, FL 33444, on or before within 30 days of publication, and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on Plaintiffs attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition. Dated on November 13, 2025
JASON D ENGLISH ESQ As Clerk of the Court By: Tammy Jo Brown As Deputy Clerk ML4164
Notice of Self Storage Sale Please take notice Spare-Box Storage - 50024 Hammersmith located at 4240 Berryhill Rd. Pace FL 32571 intends to hold a sale to sell the property stored at the Facility by the below list of Occupants who are in default at an Auction. The sale will occur via www.storageauctions.com on 12/17/2025 at 12:00 PM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods, furnishings and garage essentials. Trevor Brown unit #A016; Clinton Couie unit #G154; Phillip Martin unit #J201; Sonja J Bragg unit #J222. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager

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for details. ML4165
Notice of sale: Dogwood storage pursuant to the Florida self storage Act (F.S. 83.801-83.809) hereby gives notice of sale under said act to wit: On December 22, 2025 at 2:00 pm on storageauctions.com. Dogwood Storage will conduct the sale by select bid on the contents of the following units:
A094 Susan Heck 5x10 HHG
D239 Bret Smith 10x30 HHG
D269 Richard M Tranum 10x15 HHG
D332 Donald Graham 15x15 HHG
1033 Hannah Whaley 10x20 HHG
A25 Haley Williams 10x10 HHG ML4166
NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: The following storage unit contents containing the household and other goods will be for sale by Avid Storage - Pace, 4550 Pace Ln., Pace, FL 32571 to satisfy a lien on December 12, 2025 at appx. 11:00 AM on www.storageauctions.com Steven Clark, 3080: Blankets, Furniture, Office supplies. ML4167
NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: The following storage unit contents containing household and other goods will be for sale by Avid Storage - Surfside, 8202 Navarre Parkway the Navarre, FL 32566 to satisfy a lien on December 12, 2025 at approx. 11:00 AM on www.storageauctions.com: Conrado Velazquez, 3356: Tools, fitness equipment, massage chair. ML4169
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 1ST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION: CASE NO.: 25000572CA AURORA FINANCIAL GROUP, INC, Plaintiff, vs. CHERYL LOSTON-WILLIAMS A/K/A CHERYL ANN LOSTON-WILLIAMS, et al., Defendants. NOTICE OF ACTION UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF CHERYL LOSTON-WILLIAMS A/K/A CHERYL ANN LOSTON-WILLIAMS 1830 SOUND HAVEN CT NAVARRE, FL 32566 LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: STATED, CURRENT ADDRESS: UNKNOWN YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose Mortgage covering the following real and personal property described as follows, to wit: LOT 14, BUILDING 3, SOUND HAVEN PHASE 1, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT HEREOF, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 11, PAGE 54, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA. has been filed against

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you and you are required to file a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Orlando DeLuca, Deluca Law Group, PLLC, 2101 NE 26th Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33305 and file the original with the Clerk of the above-styled Court on or before XXXX 30 days from the first publication, otherwise a Judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. WITNESS my hand and seal of said Court on the 20th day of November, 2025.
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT As Clerk of the Court BY: /s/ Beverly Dowler Deputy Clerk ML4170
Saver Self Storage at 6588 Caroline St, Milton FL is holding a public auction on www.storageauctions.com ending on December 19th at 10am. The following units will be sold:
1204: Tomas Peek, Household Items 1401: Madison Frazier, Household Items ML4171
File #: 2025188 NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT CANAL TAX SB MUNI CUST FOR CANAL TAX , holder of the following Tax Sale Certificate has filed said Tax Certificate for the Tax Deed to be issued thereon. The Certificate Number and year of Issuance, the Description of the property, and Name(s) in which it is assessed is as follows: Certificate Number: 2304083 Year of Issuance: 2023 Description of Property: MILTON HEIGHTS LOTS 4 5 6 & W 30 FT & N 15 FT OF LOT 3 BLK 16 & E 20 FT OF LOT 7 BLK 16 AS DES IN OR 2530 PG 1487 Parcel ID: 34-2N-28-2470-01600-0040 Name in which Assessed: LONNIE A JOINER All of the above property is located in Santa Rosa County, In the state of Florida. Unless such certificate(s) shall be redeemed according to the law the property described in such certificate(s) will be sold to the highest bidder online at www.santarosa.realtaxdeed.com on the 01/12/2026 at 12:00 noon CT, by Jason D. English, ESQ, Santa Rosa County Clerk of Courts & Comptroller. ML4172
File #: 2025189 NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT CANAL TAX SB MUNI CUST FOR CANAL TAX , holder of the following Tax Sale Certificate has filed said Tax Certificate for the Tax Deed to be issued thereon. The Certificate Number and year of Issuance, the De-

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scription of the property, and Name(s) in which it is assessed is as follows: Certificate Number: 2304211 Year of Issuance: 2023 Description of Property: COM NW COR TH S 06*00'00"W 311 0.58 FT TO SLY R/W LI OF RR TH N 64*02'0"E 26.50 FT TH S 1 9*24'00"E 1120 FT TH N 65*33'00" E 1595 FT TO WLY R/W OF COUN TY LN TH S 48*00'00"E 633.21 FT TO NLY R/W OF HUDSON BEND R D TH S 42*00'00"W 677.79 FT TO NLY & ELY R/W OF HUDSON BEN D RD FOR POB TH N 48*00'00" W 180 FT TH N 42*13'18"E 192 F T TH S 48*00'00"E 180 FT TO NLY R/W LI OF HUDSON BEND R D TH S 42*13'18" W 192 FT TO POB BEING LOTS 30-35 OF UNREC SUB AVALON VILLAS AS DES IN OR 2558 PG 1673 & AS DES IN ODH IN OR 4289 PG 2042 Parcel ID: 36-1N-29-0000-00220-0000 Name in which Assessed: JEREMY JAMES HUGHES, JONI SUZANNE HUGHES All of the above property is located in Santa Rosa County, In the state of Florida. Unless such certificate(s) shall be redeemed according to the law the property described in such certificate(s) will be sold to the highest bidder online at www.santarosa.realtaxdeed.com on the 01/12/2026 at 12:00 noon CT, by Jason D. English, ESQ, Santa Rosa County Clerk of Courts & Comptroller. ML4173
File #: 2025192 NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT CANAL TAX SB MUNI CUST FOR CANAL TAX , holder of the following Tax Sale Certificate has filed said Tax Certificate for the Tax Deed to be issued thereon. The Certificate Number and year of Issuance, the Description of the property, and Name(s) in which it is assessed is as follows: Certificate Number: 2302205 Year of Issuance: 2023 Description of Property: TWIN LAKE ESTATES LOT 11 BLK B AS DES IN OR 3249 PG 1256 LESS ALL MINERAL RIGHTS Parcel ID: 1 8 - 1 N - 2 7 - 5 3 0 - 00800-0110 Name in which Assessed: CYNTHIA K STRAUSSER, TERRY G STRAUSSER All of the above property is located in Santa Rosa County, In the state of Florida. Unless such certificate(s) shall be redeemed according to the law the property described in such certificate(s) will be sold to the highest bidder online at www.santarosa.realtaxdeed.com on the 01/12/2026 at 12:00 noon CT, by Jason D. English, ESQ, Santa Rosa County Clerk of Courts & Comptroller. ML4176
File #: 2025199 NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT CANAL TAX SB MUNI CUST FOR CANAL TAX , holder of the following Tax Sale Certificate has

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online at www.santarosa.realtaxdeed.com on the 01/12/2026 at 12:00 noon CT, by Jason D. English, ESQ, Santa Rosa County Clerk of Courts & Comptroller. ML4174
File #: 2025194 NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT CANAL TAX SB MUNI CUST FOR CANAL TAX , holder of the following Tax Sale Certificate has filed said Tax Certificate for the Tax Deed to be issued thereon. The Certificate Number and year of Issuance, the Description of the property, and Name(s) in which it is assessed is as follows: Certificate Number: 2303887 Year of Issuance: 2023 Description of Property: HEATHER OAKS LOT 1 AS DES IN OR 3816 PG 1296 Parcel ID: 32-2N-29-1695-00000-0010 Name in which Assessed: ROBERT MATTHEW MILEY All of the above property is located in Santa Rosa County, In the state of Florida. Unless such certificate(s) shall be redeemed according to the law the property described in such certificate(s) will be sold to the highest bidder online at www.santarosa.realtaxdeed.com on the 01/12/2026 at 12:00 noon CT, by Jason D. English, ESQ, Santa Rosa County Clerk of Courts & Comptroller. ML4175
File #: 2025197 NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT CANAL TAX SB MUNI CUST FOR CANAL TAX , holder of the following Tax Sale Certificate has filed said Tax Certificate for the Tax Deed to be issued thereon. The Certificate Number and year of Issuance, the Description of the property, and Name(s) in which it is assessed is as follows: Certificate Number: 2302205 Year of Issuance: 2023 Description of Property: TWIN LAKE ESTATES LOT 11 BLK B AS DES IN OR 3249 PG 1256 LESS ALL MINERAL RIGHTS Parcel ID: 1 8 - 1 N - 2 7 - 5 3 0 - 00800-0110 Name in which Assessed: CYNTHIA K STRAUSSER, TERRY G STRAUSSER All of the above property is located in Santa Rosa County, In the state of Florida. Unless such certificate(s) shall be redeemed according to the law the property described in such certificate(s) will be sold to the highest bidder online at www.santarosa.realtaxdeed.com on the 01/12/2026 at 12:00 noon CT, by Jason D. English, ESQ, Santa Rosa County Clerk of Courts & Comptroller. ML4176
File #: 2025199 NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT CANAL TAX SB MUNI CUST FOR CANAL TAX , holder of the following Tax Sale Certificate has

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filed said Tax Certificate for the Tax Deed to be issued thereon. The Certificate Number and year of Issuance, the Description of the property, and Name(s) in which it is assessed is as follows: Certificate Number: 2302152 Year of Issuance: 2023 Description of Property: *DESCRIPTION UPDATED FOR 2025* 17-25-27W: COMMENCING AT THE NW CORN OF THE NE4 OF THE SE 4 OF SEC 17 THN N 89°09'55"E 36.45 FT TO POB; THN N 89°09'55"E 130.00 FT ; THN S26°50'00"E 465.24 FT ; THN S38°42'00"W 121.00 FT ; THN N27°30'49"W 572.38 FT POB; CONTAINS 1.35 AC +/- ; DES IN OR 1157 PG 526 & OR 2581 PG 1385 Parcel ID: 17-25-27-0000-00138-0000 Name in which Assessed: D E HUTCHINSON EST, RICHARD HUTCHINSON All of the above property is located in Santa Rosa County, In the state of Florida. Unless such certificate(s) shall be redeemed according to the law the property described in such certificate(s) will be sold to the highest bidder online at www.santarosa.realtaxdeed.com on the 01/12/2026 at 12:00 noon CT, by Jason D. English, ESQ, Santa Rosa County Clerk of Courts & Comptroller. ML4177
File #: 2025200 NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT MHF RETIREMENT TRUST , holder of the following Tax Sale Certificate has filed said Tax Certificate for the Tax Deed to be issued thereon. The Certificate Number and year of Issuance, the Description of the property, and Name(s) in which it is assessed is as follows: Certificate Number: 1901760 Year of Issuance: 2019 Description of Property: AVALON BEACH LOT 4 BLK 640 AS DES IN OR 672 PG 63 & OR 2020 PG 1875 & OR 2123 PG 1196 & OR 3931 PG 1123 Parcel ID: 40-1N-28-0090-64000-0040 Name in which Assessed: DOLORES COX AS TRUSTEE ET AL, FRANK E PERICOLA JR TRUST, PAULA DIANE PERICOLA All of the above property is located in Santa Rosa County, In the state of Florida. Unless such certificate(s) shall be redeemed according to the law the property described in such certificate(s) will be sold to the highest bidder online at www.santarosa.realtaxdeed.com on the 01/12/2026 at 12:00 noon CT, by Jason D. English, ESQ, Santa Rosa County Clerk of Courts & Comptroller. ML4180
File #: 2025203 NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT MHF RETIREMENT TRUST , holder of the following Tax Sale Certificate has filed said Tax Certificate for the Tax Deed to be issued thereon. The Certificate Number and year of Issuance, the Description of the property, and Name(s) in which it is assessed is as follows: Certificate Number: 1901746 Year of Issuance: 2019 Description of Property: AVALON BEACH LOTS 15 & 16 BLK 596 Parcel ID: 40-1N-28-0090-59600-0150 Name in which Assessed:

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LEGALS

the Description of the property, and Name(s) in which it is assessed is as follows: Certificate Number: 1901745 Year of Issuance: 2019 Description of Property: AVALON BEACH LOTS 9 & 10 BLK 593 Parcel ID: 40-1N-28-0090-59300-0090 Name in which Assessed: NICK DUROS All of the above property is located in Santa Rosa County, In the state of Florida. Unless such certificate(s) shall be redeemed according to the law the property described in such certificate(s) will be sold to the highest bidder online at www.santarosa.realtaxdeed.com on the 01/12/2026 at 12:00 noon CT, by Jason D. English, ESQ, Santa Rosa County Clerk of Courts & Comptroller. ML4179
File #: 2025202 NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT MHF RETIREMENT TRUST , holder of the following Tax Sale Certificate has filed said Tax Certificate for the Tax Deed to be issued thereon. The Certificate Number and year of Issuance, the Description of the property, and Name(s) in which it is assessed is as follows: Certificate Number: 1901760 Year of Issuance: 2019 Description of Property: AVALON BEACH LOT 4 BLK 640 AS DES IN OR 672 PG 63 & OR 2020 PG 1875 & OR 2123 PG 1196 & OR 3931 PG 1123 Parcel ID: 40-1N-28-0090-64000-0040 Name in which Assessed: DOLORES COX AS TRUSTEE ET AL, FRANK E PERICOLA JR TRUST, PAULA DIANE PERICOLA All of the above property is located in Santa Rosa County, In the state of Florida. Unless such certificate(s) shall be redeemed according to the law the property described in such certificate(s) will be sold to the highest bidder online at www.santarosa.realtaxdeed.com on the 01/12/2026 at 12:00 noon CT, by Jason D. English, ESQ, Santa Rosa County Clerk of Courts & Comptroller. ML4180
File #: 2025203 NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT MHF RETIREMENT TRUST , holder of the following Tax Sale Certificate has filed said Tax Certificate for the Tax Deed to be issued thereon. The Certificate Number and year of Issuance, the Description of the property, and Name(s) in which it is assessed is as follows: Certificate Number: 1901746 Year of Issuance: 2019 Description of Property: AVALON BEACH LOTS 15 & 16 BLK 596 Parcel ID: 40-1N-28-0090-59600-0150 Name in which Assessed:

King Cross Answers

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

Sudoku solution

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

SCRAMBLERS

solution

- Valor;
- Humane;
- Obscure;
- Impel

Today's Word

NERVOUS

LEGALS cont.

-1- LEGALS

MARVIN R FIELDS
All of the above property is located in Santa Rosa County, in the state of Florida.
Unless such certificate(s) shall be redeemed according to the law the property described in such certificate(s) will be sold to the highest bidder online at www.santarosa.realtaxdeed.com on the 01/12/2026 at 12:00 noon CT, by Jason D. English, ESQ, Santa Rosa County Clerk of Courts & Comptroller.
ML4181

-1- LEGALS

vision of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida, Dated at Navarre, Florida, this 4th day of December 2025. Jennifer Welner-Hooven, owner, or Corporation full name. ML4183

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of Eva's Cleaning Services, at 4628 Maley Cir, in the County of Santa Rosa, in the city of Milton, Florida, 32571,

-1- LEGALS

intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida, Dated at Milton, Florida, this 4th day of December 2025. Eva Gabriela Leany, owner, or Corporation full name. ML4184

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of Happy Book Merch, at 6655 Ridge Crest Drive, in the

-800- MISCELLANEOUS

County of Santa Rosa, in the city of Florida, intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida. Dated at, Florida, this 4th day of December 2025. Ashley O'Dell, owner, or Corporation full name. ML4187

-800- MISCELLANEOUS

STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADS
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Service **PROTECT YOUR HOME** from pests safely and affordably. Roaches, Bed Bugs, Rodent, Termite, Spiders and other pests. Locally owned and affordable. Call for a quote or inspection today 1-833-542-1732 Have zip code of property ready when calling!
2. Miscellaneous Donate your vehicle to help find missing children and prevent abduction. Fast free pickup, running or not, 24 hr response. No emission test

-800- MISCELLANEOUS

required, maximum tax deduction. Support Find the Children, call: 1-833-546-7050.
3. Medical **ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS!** Discover Oxygen Therapy That Moves with You with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. FREE information kit. Call 1-833-661-3729
4. Medical **Attention: VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS!** A cheaper alternative to high drug-store prices! 50 Pill Special - Only \$99! 100% guaranteed. CALL NOW:

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1-877-349-1243
5. Medical **STOP OVERPAYING FOR HEALTH INSURANCE!** Reduce premiums and out-of-pocket costs while getting the coverage you need! Call now for a competitive free quote. 1-877-351-3442. Plus... Income based government subsidies are available for those that qualify!
6. Home Improvement/Service **BATH & SHOWER UPDATES** in as little as **ONE DAY!** Affordable prices - No payments

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for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 1-833-754-2465
7. Wanted to Buy **CASH PAID FOR HIGH-END MEN'S SPORT WATCHES.** Rolex, Breitling, Omega, Patek Philippe, Heuer, Daytona, GMT, Submariner and Speedmaster. These brands only! Call for a quote: 1-833-641-0211
8. Wanted to Buy **We Buy Vintage Guitar's!** Looking for 1920-1980 Gibson, Martin, Fender, Gretsch, Epiphone, Guild,

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Mosrite, Rickenbacker, Prairie State, D'Angelico, Stromberg. And Gibson Mandolins / Banjos. These brands only! Call for a quote: 1-833-641-6789
9. Wanted to Buy **We Buy Houses for Cash AS-IS!** No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Call today for your fair cash offer: 1-321-603-2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

File No. 25000646CP-MXAX

PROBATE DIVISION IN RE: ESTATE OF MARIA P. HINARIS

Division Deceased. **NOTICE TO CREDITORS (Summary Administration)**

TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS OR DEMANDS AGAINST THE ABOVE ESTATE:

You are hereby notified that an Order of Summary Administration may be entered in the estate of MARIA P. HINARIS, deceased, File Number 25000646CPMXAX, by the Circuit Court for SANTA ROSA County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 4025 Avalon Blvd., Milton, FL 32583; that the decedent's date of death was February 24, 2025; that the total value of the estate is \$0 and that the names and addresses of those to whom it has been assigned by such order are:

- Name Address
- JEANNIE STEVENSON 8000 N. Lincoln Ave, Apt. 1003 Skokie, IL 60077
- BESSIE AYALA 653 Andrew Lane Carol Stream, IL 60188
- DEBBIE RASMASON 13210 Vicarage Drive Plainfield, IL 60585

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT:

All creditors of the estate of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent other than those for whom provision for full payment was made in the Order of Summary Administration must file their claims with this court **WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702. ALL CLAIMS AND DEMANDS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER APPLICABLE TIME PERIOD, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.**

The date of first publication of this Notice is December 4th, 2025.

Attorney for Person Giving Notice **JACQUELINE R. BOWDEN GOLD**

Attorney Florida Bar Number: 109399

RARICK & BOWDEN GOLD, PA

6500 Cow Pen Road, Suite 204 Miami Lakes, FL 33014 Telephone: (305) 556-5209

Fax: (305) 362-9525 E-Mail: jbowden@rarick-law.com

Secondary E-Mail: service@raricklaw.com

Person Giving Notice: **JEANNIE STEVENSON** 8000 N. Lincoln Ave Apt. 1003 Skokie, Illinois 60077 ML4182

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of Tiny Lantern Books, at 1407 Sound Retreat Drive, in the County of Santa Rosa, in the city of Navarre, Florida, 32566, intends to register the said name with the Di-

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