



Forgotten Coast *Living!*

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL

Local Postal Customer

THE OYSTER COMEBACK: HOPE RETURNS TO APALACHICOLA BAY

For generations, Apalachicola Bay has been the heart of Florida's seafood story — a place where oysters weren't just food, but a way of life. Families built their futures on these waters. Restaurants across the South bragged about serving "Apalachicola oysters." The bay was once responsible for nearly 90% of Florida's oyster harvest. And then it all collapsed.

Years of environmental stress, overharvesting, river flow reductions, and habitat loss sent the bay into crisis. By 2020, the state issued a full harvesting shutdown, leaving boats tied to docks and families wondering if the legacy of Apalachicola oysters had ended for good.

But today, cautiously and quietly, a comeback is underway.

Scientists, restoration teams, and local oyster workers have spent the past few years rebuilding what was lost. Acres of reefs have been restored with fresh shell, limestone, and rock. The aim is simple: give oysters the hard bottom they need to grow, reproduce, and



rebuild the ecosystem around them. These reefs don't just create seafood — they clean the water, stabilize shorelines, and support the entire food chain.

Local fishermen, many of whom inherited their skills and tools from their fathers and grandfathers, have become an unlikely backbone of the restoration effort. Instead of har-

vesting, they're helping rebuild — monitoring salinity, placing shell, and working alongside biologists to track progress. It's a strange shift for people who once pulled thousands of pounds of oysters a day, but most say they're grateful to be part of the bay's healing.

Signs of improvement are beginning to appear. Juvenile oysters are showing up in high-

er numbers in some test areas. Spat — young oysters — are attaching to restored reefs at encouraging rates. While the bay is still fragile, the slow return of life on the bottom has sparked something locals haven't felt in years: hope.

No one expects Apalachicola Bay to bounce back overnight. Some experts say it may be several years before har-

vesting can safely resume. But the people who love this place — the folks whose hands know the weight of oyster tongs and whose boats know every inch of the river — are betting on its future.

They say the bay always finds a way. It just needs a little help. For now, Apalachicola waits, watches, and works — believing that one day soon, the world will once again taste the oysters that made this small town famous.

And across Apalachicola, small signs of anticipation are already taking root. Restaurants that once relied on local oysters are keeping spots on their menus reserved, hopeful for the day they can bring back the flavors that defined the bay. Seafood markets still tell stories of the old harvests to newcomers, reminding them why these waters matter. Locals say that when the first legal sack of oysters is finally hauled up again — whenever that day comes — it won't just mark the return of a fishery. It will mark the return of a community's heartbeat.



LARGEST SELECTION OF GOLF CARTS

Join the
Neighborhood
Fun

ELECTRIC CART
WATERSOUND

(850) 233 0020

www.ElectricCartWatersound.com



SHOP BY
BRANDS

- ✔ Club Car
- ✔ Denago EV
- ✔ Atlas
- ✔ Star EV
- ✔ EVolution
- ✔ GEM Car
- ✔ Epic

Looking for beautiful kitchen or
bathroom cabinets?

Come see or call us today.
Our designers can help you create your dream space.

850.785.2216

1310 W 15th Street | Panama City, FL 32401 | flooringdepotofpanama.com



YOUR LEADING
Source for Real Estate Sales




1564 E Gulf Beach Dr | St. George Island, FL
 Gulf Front | 8 Bed | 8.5 Bath | \$3,250,000
 Lacey Martina | Realtor® | 334-723-6799



268 Pruet Road | Eastpoint, FL
 2.5 Acres | 4 Bed | 2.5 Bath | \$1,499,999
 Chantel Burdette | Realtor® | 850-933-9277



327 A Gander Street | St. George Island, FL
 Bay Front | 3 Bed | 3 Bath | \$1,395,000
 Nancy Campagna | Realtor® | 850-653-7616



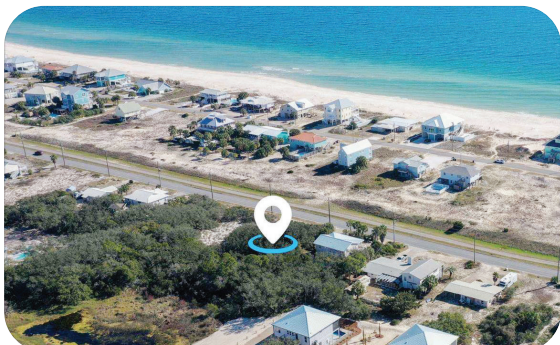
617 E Gorrie Dr | St. George Island, FL
 1st Tier Gulf | 4 Bed | 2 Bath | \$1,149,000
 Deb Robertson | Realtor® | 678-488-0005



160 Avenue C | Apalachicola, FL
 Historic District | 2 Bed | 2 Bath | \$889,000
 Chantel Burdette | Realtor® | 850-933-9277



151 7th Street | Apalachicola, FL
 Historic N Side | 3 Bed | 2.5 Bath | \$649,000
 Shannon Lease | Realtor® | 850-653-5183



449 W Gulf Beach Dr | St. George Island, FL
 0.40 Acre Lot | Gulf Beaches | \$355,000
 Jason Naumann | Broker | 850-933-0328



1804 E Gulf Beach Dr | St. George Island, FL
 Townhome | 1 Bed | 1 Bath | \$350,000
 Kara Landiss | Realtor® | 850-653-7753



589 Hwy 98 | Eastpoint, FL
 Bayfront Lot | 0.48 Acres | \$145,000
 Cameron White | Realtor® | 850-273-3543



Shannon Lease
 Realtor®
 850-653-5183



Pandora Schlitt
 Realtor®
 850-653-6690



Kara Landiss
 Realtor®
 850-653-7753



Chantel Burdette
 Realtor®
 850-933-9277



Deb Robertson
 Realtor®
 678-488-0005



Lacey Martina
 Realtor®
 334-723-6799



Nancy Campagna
 Realtor®
 850-653-7616



Michael Reavis
 Realtor®
 850-509-7426



Cameron White
 Realtor®
 850-273-3543

NAUMANNCOASTAL.COM | 850-799-1230

Call us today!

139 W. GULF BEACH DRIVE | ST. GEORGE ISLAND, FL 32328



HOLIDAY ARTS BRING WINTER BUSINESS TO PORT ST. JOE



By CARA GOODMAN

When the temperatures dip and the beach crowds thin, many coastal towns ease into a quieter rhythm — but in Port St. Joe, the holiday arts season at The Joe Center for the Arts is becoming a welcome spark during the winter slowdown. Each year, The Joe’s festive mix of exhibitions, ornament workshops, artist demos, and community events brings life back to downtown, offering both cultural enrichment and an economic lift for local businesses navigating the off-peak months.



The impact can be felt up and down Reid Avenue. A steady flow of families, winter visitors, and weekend travelers make their way to The Joe’s holiday events, and many of them linger downtown afterward. Restaurant owners say they now look forward to December weekends, which used to be unpredictable but have become noticeably more consistent thanks to the crowds that art events draw. Visitors stop in for brunch before strolling through the gallery or return in the evening for dinner after participating in a winter workshop. It’s not just a bump — it’s become part of the rhythm of

the season.

Retail shops benefit as well. Boutique owners note that guests who attend events at The Joe often wander into nearby stores, searching for coastal gifts, décor, or handmade keepsakes. Many are surprised to discover how vibrant and walkable downtown Port St. Joe is during the holidays, leading to meaningful purchases that would not otherwise happen in the slow season. For businesses that rely on holiday sales to carry them through the winter, this foot traffic is more than welcome — it’s essential.

The influence extends to local tourism, too. The Joe’s

holiday programming gives visitors a reason to book a winter getaway, an increasingly valuable trend as the Forgotten Coast positions itself as a year-round destination. Short-term rental owners and boutique inns report that December and January guests often mention The Joe’s events as part of their travel plans. These visitors aren’t chasing beach days; they’re seeking experiences — something authentic, local, and community-driven.

For The Joe Center for the Arts, supporting the regional economy is a natural extension of its mission. The center was founded to uplift artists

and enrich the community, but over time its programming has become a catalyst for broader growth. By giving both locals and visitors a reason to gather, celebrate, and create, The Joe helps strengthen the cultural heart of Port St. Joe — and that heartbeat carries over into the shops, restaurants, and small businesses that define the town’s character.

As the Forgotten Coast heads into another holiday season, the message is clear: creativity doesn’t just inspire — it sustains. And in Port St. Joe, the arts are proving to be one of winter’s brightest economic lights.



Scan the QR code to view our House Plans!

YOUR COASTAL HOME BUILDER

Custom Built On Your Land Since 1972





Port Saint Joe Building Center
 3052 W Highway 98, Port Saint Joe, FL 32456
 (850) 899-9028 | AmericasHomePlace.com



FL # CR-C1330787

Forgotten Coast Living!

Published Monthly
 Mailed FREE to the
 Communities of 32457, 32456,
 32346, 32328, 32322, and
 32320

Circulation: 8,000 households
 and 3,000 extra copies for
 tourists.
 301 Turtle Cove
 Panama City Beach, FL
 32413

Publisher
 Jack Smith
 jacksmith12328@comcast.net
 804.307.8780

Layout & Ad Designer
 Cara Goodman
 carab1203@gmail.com
 256.698.1203

The Forgotten Coast assumes no financial liability for errors or omissions in printed advertising and reserves the right to reject/edit advertising or editorial submissions.

©Copyright 2025
 Forgotten Coast Living

Community

Mexico Beach: The Gulf Coast Town That Refuses to Quit

Mexico Beach, perched along Florida's shimmering Gulf shoreline, is a community defined by its spirit as much as its scenery. Known for its sugar-white sand, clear emerald water, and small-town warmth, the town has long been a quiet escape for families, fishermen, and travelers looking to trade crowds and high-rises for something simpler. But beyond its postcard beauty lies a story of resilience that continues to shape its identity today.

Nearly seven years after Hurricane Michael reshaped the landscape, Mexico Beach still carries the memory of that day—but it also carries an unmistakable determination to rebuild. Empty lots have slowly given way to colorful new homes, revitalized businesses, and a fresh vision for the future. Locals often say that Mexico Beach isn't just being rebuilt; it's being re-imagined. That spirit is visible everywhere, from the small shops reopening along Highway 98 to the families returning to the shoreline that holds genera-



tions of memories.

What makes Mexico Beach so beloved is its simplicity. This is a town where mornings start with quiet walks on uncrowded beaches, dolphins are a common sight from the pier, and strangers greet each other like old friends. There are no towering hotels or bustling boardwalks—just an easygoing rhythm that reminds visitors of what Florida used to feel like. Many who come here say it's the kind of place you instantly relax in, and the kind of place

you think about long after you leave.

Local businesses play a big part in that charm. From seafood spots serving fresh Gulf catch to family-run boutiques filled with coastal art and handmade goods, the town supports a small economy fueled by community pride. Fishing charters, kayak rentals, and beach services help visitors enjoy the natural beauty without overwhelming it. The city has also made steady progress on infrastructure, parks, and pub-

lic beach access points, signaling a thoughtful approach to growth.

Nature remains Mexico Beach's crown jewel. Pristine stretches of shoreline, nearby canals, and access to the Gulf make it a paradise for outdoor lovers. Sunsets here are nothing short of breathtaking, painting the sky with deep pinks and oranges that reflect off calm water. It's the kind of beauty that stops people in their tracks and has inspired countless artists, photographers, and longtime

residents.

But perhaps the greatest strength of Mexico Beach is its people. Despite hardships, the community continues to move forward with grit, compassion, and a shared belief in keeping the town's character alive. Volunteers, civic groups, and everyday neighbors have played enormous roles in cleanup efforts, rebuilding projects, and events that bring locals together. It's this relentless optimism—quiet, steady, and unwavering—that defines the town more than anything else. Mexico Beach may still be writing its comeback story, but one thing is certain: it remains one of Florida's most treasured coastal gems. For those who love authenticity, natural beauty, and the feeling of a tight-knit community, this little stretch of shoreline offers something rare. In Mexico Beach, the horizon is always bright, and the welcome is always warm.

Sometimes Mother Nature
Can be a Real Mother...



We aren't just fairweather friends, you
can count on us 24/7/365

**Experience AC and Heating Comfort Like Never Before
with Deeson Residential & Commercial Services**

At Deeson AC and Heating, we've provided on-time and reliable HVAC services for over 20 years. We put your satisfaction first.

Our HVAC experts are professionally trained and certified to provide you with the best service each time.

***We're dedicated to providing reliable
HVAC services that you can trust.***



- ➔ After-Hours Emergency Service
- ➔ Air Conditioner Service
- ➔ Heat Pump Services
- ➔ Preventative Maintenance



Whether it's a repair or installation job, our team is here to work with you every step of the way.

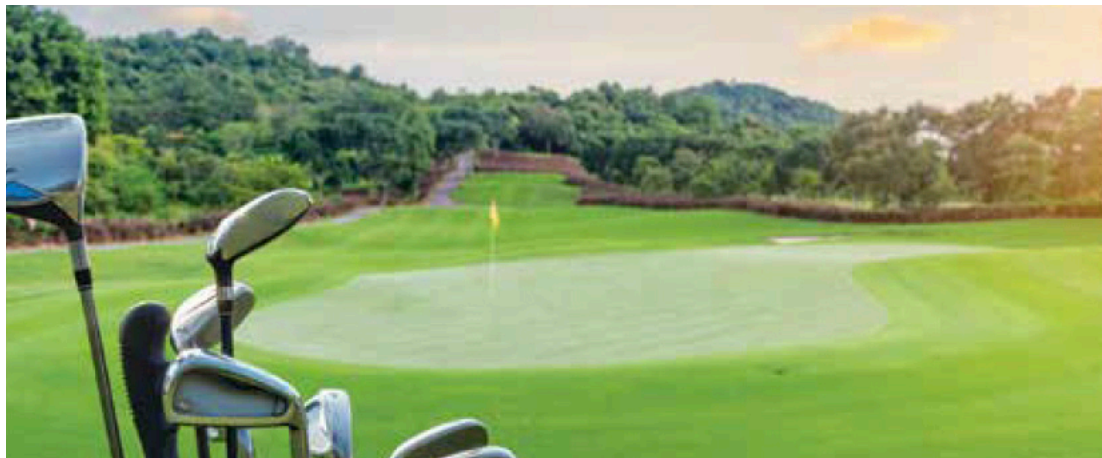
Deeson AC and Heating
3850 CR 386 S
Port St. Joe FL 32456

(850) 899-1375
deesonacandheating.com
deesonacandheating@gmail.com

The Work is the Job



By ALAN M. WATSON, PRESIDENT,
GOLF+ PCB



A new friend who is a longtime client of my store asked me on the golf course this morning, "What is your favorite part of your job?" Almost immediately, I replied that it is when I get to build a custom club for a client from a fitting we have done. The satisfaction of knowing that we have put the time into deciphering the perfect combination of head, shaft, length, lie, flex, weight, and more, and now have the means to produce that exact product, is exciting to me. To be able to hand someone a bespoke item that will enhance their game and their fun is the best part of my job. Seeing the smile on their face as they hold the new club or clubs for the first time is invigorating and keeps me motivated for the future.

But there is also a longer answer. The one that was brewing under the surface while I gave him my stock answer, which, though mostly true, is really only half of it.

I love my job! There I said it! And honestly, I love pretty much all of it. And on any given day, one part might stand out more, but really it's all good. And what I attribute that to is the fact that for me, the joy of the job is the work. The actual labor, or the work, whatever you choose to call it, is the job. Without the work, there is nothing. And while some people complain about work or having to work, I honestly would rather be working each day than just about anything else.

I love the numbers behind the math and science of golf and the products. Like understanding how

launch and spin work together to create distance and accuracy. I love the relationships I have with customers, vendors, other business owners in the community and with staff at local golf courses. Those relationships exist because we all love the game of golf, and I built my business for that close tie. I love that every day is golf-related, but also every day is unique and different. I love working with my hands to build or repair golf clubs. And I even love playing the game of golf when there is time.

And that's what I had the opportunity to do this beautiful morning. Golf with two clients whom I can now claim as friends. Golf is where the fun and the conversation far outweigh the birdies or lack thereof. Golf for sport, but not competition.

The best part about my job is

having a place where I can be a part of making all of that happen for myself and for all the other golfers who visit from Bay County, Walton County, and beyond.

So come visit us at GOLF+ in Panama City Beach if you want to see a guy who loves what he does and is happy to help you with your golf game. We have some exciting changes coming up soon to the store and to some of our offerings, and we can't wait to meet you and to help you with your custom fitting, repair, or other needs.

Located at 541 Richard Jackson Blvd., Panama City Beach. Phone (850) 249-2726, email golfplus@graceba.net.



ADVERTISE WITH US!

Reach over 8,000 Homes & 3,000 Tourists along The Forgotten Coast


Call: 804.307.8780



GOLF+

541 Richard Jackson Blvd. • Panama City Beach
850-249-2726 | golfplus@graceba.net

For Everything
GOLF
FITTING • REPAIR • RETAIL



CENTURY 21



BUY . . . SELL . . . LOVE SGI

YOUR ST. GEORGE ISLAND REAL ESTATE SPECIALISTS



MLS#: 323923

St. George Plantation | St. George Island, FL
2136 Palmetto Way | Beachfront
5 Bed | 6 Bath | \$3,325,000
Marilyn Bean | Realtor | 850.653.6733



MLS#: 323874

West Gulf Beaches | St. George Island, FL
425 McCloud Street | Bayfront | Private Dock
3 Bedrooms | 3 Bathrooms | \$1,375,000
Marilyn Bean | Realtor | 850.653.6733



MLS#: 320948

St. George Plantation | St. George Island, FL
2262 Sailfish Drive | Beachfront
5 Bedrooms | 4.5 Bathrooms | \$2,375,000
Chasity Hill | Realtor | 404.285.3274



MLS#: 322138

St. George Plantation | St. George Island, FL
1704 Magnolia Road
3 Bedrooms | 2.5 Bathrooms | \$1,199,000
Chasity Hill | Realtor | 404.285.3274



MLS#: 320576

West Gulf Beaches | St. George Island, FL
557 West Gulf Beach Drive
4 Bedrooms | 3 Bathrooms | \$1,249,000
Jean Ulrich | Realtor | 850.566.2171



MLS#: 324115

1912 Coral Reef Road | St. George Island, FL
4 Bedrooms | 3 Baths | \$1,119,000
Marilyn Bean | Realtor | 850.653.6733



MLS #: 324218

149 Las Brisas Drive | Eastpoint, FL
3 Bedrooms | 2 Baths | \$429,900
Chasity Hill | Realtor | 404.285.3274



MLS #: 324437

168 21st Avenue | Apalachicola, FL
2 Bedrooms | 1.5 Baths | \$429,000
Chasity Hill | Realtor | 404.285.3274



SCAN TO LEARN MORE!

Fishing Report: A November To Remember



Folks, it's that magical time of year when the only spreadsheet you should be looking at is the one a redfish makes when it smashes your bait in two feet of water. If you've been thinking about trading your office chair for a fighting chair, congratulations — this is your sign.

Redfish: Thick as Thieves

The redfish are back, thick as thieves -- and the bulls are bullying. They're tailing along the grass flats, taunting eager anglers. With cooler temps and spawning energy, these reds are fired up, frisky, and full of poor life choices — which works out great for us.

The bite has been unhinged, with double and triple hookups

on just about every trip — pure chaos. Picture two or three reds bulldozing off in different directions while everyone on the boat is chasing their fish, swearing it's the biggest. Please remember: save your touch-down dance until the fish is in the net. (Premature celebrations lose fish... you know who you are.)

We're catching all sizes — from "Catch ya later" pup reds (less than 18") to "Winner, winner, redfish dinner" slot reds (18–27") to those "Stop the boat, start the camera!" bull reds (over 27"). And the craziest part? These prehistoric knuckleheads will inhale a bait nearly as big as their own head. Physics has left the chat.

But when you tease 'em with redfish candy (aka live croakers) — all bets are off. Toss it out, let the sinker drop, and get ready to shout the magic words: FISH ON!

We're still flipping Speckled Trout, Sea Trout and Whiting in the box, and Sheepshead and Black Drum must have heard oysters were up for grabs soon. This is the latest I've per-

sonally seen Triple Tail in our waters, and the tarpon are in no hurry to leave, either.

Pompano have been caught surfing along the beaches, but no proof of large schools that I'm aware of. Our neighboring counties are pulling good numbers, so I'm hopeful they're on the way to us very soon.

Pro Tip: It Just Works.

If you've heard my Fish Bites speech before, feel free to skip to the next section. Everyone else: It's simple. Never leave home without "Fish Bites". Doesn't matter what color — just make sure it's shrimp flavored. Skip the "fast acting" type. The original lasts longer than some anglers' attention spans (spoken from personal experience). Cut the strip into 1/2-inch pieces, jig it along the bottom, and boom — instant croakers and pinfish, aka redfish bait. Ta-dah! This is the part where you tell little kids you're a magician, and you can turn little fish into big fish. I mean, technically, it's true. And magical. Why you cryin'?

Red Snapper: The Other Red That'll Change Your Holiday Plans

Florida extended the recreational Red Snapper season this year — meaning weekends and holiday windows through December are basically "Snappermas." And let me tell you... the Panhandle honey holes have not disappointed.

You can get that offshore experience without leaving state waters (0–9 miles). Book a charter, enjoy the scenery, and bring home dinner and memories -- it's my favorite "whole food" store: no preservatives, certified organic.

Bonus: Island Charters' 2025 Holiday Hundred discount is live: **BOOK NOW, GET \$100 OFF ANY CHARTER.** Fully refundable. Good through 2026. And yes, we make custom gift certificates — perfect for the fisherman in your life or a fun Christmas gift to enjoy on a future visit to St. George Island. Visit fishSGI.com for more information.

Flounder: Still Grounded (Legally)

Our favorite aquatic pancake is still closed for recreational harvest through November. Commercial folks are busy, though, so don't panic — flounder is still on restaurant menus.

In the meantime, if you're fascinated by how a fish with two eyes on one side stalks prey like a flat little ninja, check out some underwater flounder footage on YouTube. Studying their ambush style really does improve your success rate... though yes, we hear you... it's still easier to gig them.

If you want the full nighttime gigging adventure, Island Charters has you covered — mesmerizing, spotlight-stealth action for up to two passengers. Bring your GoPro, think, Nat-Geo.

Winter "Warmer-land"? You Heard That Right.

Best news a native Floridian could get: highs in the 60s, lows in the 40s, and that pattern holds through February.

FISHING

Continued on page 9

Island Charters

ST GEORGE ISLAND FISHING CHARTERS AND BOAT TOURS

Serving St. George Island, Apalachicola, Eastpoint, Cape San Blas, Indian Pass, Carrabelle, St. Marks

Captain Krista is a St. George Island native and 5th generation fisherman, specializing in bay and gulf fishing charters around St. George Island, the Gulf of Mexico and the Apalachicola Bay.

From advanced anglers, novices and even young children, Captain Krista customizes each charter to ensure her clients' experience is one to remember!

This enthusiastic guide enjoys taking the time to teach the beginner fishermen how to feel for the bite just as much as she enjoys being the dedicated compliment to her more experienced clients.

Captain Krista's unique assets to this fishing fraternity have established a list of repeat clientele that she hopes you will soon be a part of.



Text or Call to
book today!
850.542.2542



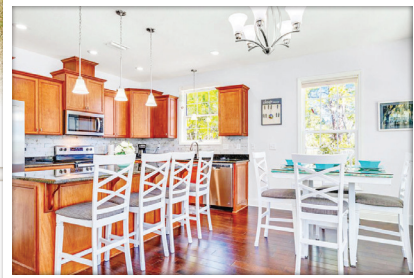
850.542.2542



www.stgeorgeislandcharters.com



all trips depart from St. Georges Island, First come, first serve



Charming 3 bedroom, 2 bath home in the desirable Las Brisas Subdivision in Eastpoint, FL! Built in 2018, this newer construction blends modern comfort with a welcoming neighborhood feel, just minutes from the sugar-sand beaches of St. George Island and the historic charm of Apalachicola. Offered at \$465,000.

— 139 Las Brisas Way —
EASTPOINT, FLORIDA

Call Kara for your private showing!



LISTED BY *Kara Landiss*
REALTOR® | 850-653-7753
Kara@BeachDreamsNow.com



300 Ocean Mile Unit J3 is a 1 bedroom/1 bath. It has been updated with beautiful coastal decor and new furniture. You will enjoy gulf and pool views from the private deck. The beach is easily accessible from the community boardwalks. Offered at \$435,000.

— 1804 E Gulf Beach Dr #J 3 —
ST. GEORGE ISLAND

Call for more information today!



Deb Robertson
REALTOR® | 678-488-0005
Deb.Robertson@NaumannGroup.com

FACTORY DIRECT WINDOW TREATMENTS

Free In-Home
Estimate &
Instillation

SHADES

BLINDS

SHUTTERS



STORM SHUTTERS

SALES, SERVICE, & REPAIR

BAHAMA

ROLL DOWN

COLONIAL



GUARANTEED LOWEST COMPETITIVE PRICES IN NORTH FLORIDA

SERVING THE FORGOTTEN COAST FOR OVER 22 YEARS | LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED

FLORIDA WINDOW COVERING COMPANY

850.697.3066 | 850.528.9355

Bay Area Choral Society: Brings Community Together Through Music

For decades, the Bay Area Choral Society has been one of the region's strongest cultural threads—a chorus built not just on talent, but on camaraderie, commitment, and a shared belief that music has the power to bring people together. What began as a small group of neighbors gathering to sing has grown into a respected community ensemble that draws audiences from across the coast.

Rehearsals are held weekly, and they've become more than just practice sessions. Members arrive early to chat, exchange local news, and catch up with the kind of familiarity that comes only from shared purpose. By the time the warm-ups begin, the room shifts into focus—voices blending, rhythms syncing, and the energy rising. The atmosphere is both relaxed and driven, a balance the group has nurtured over time. Part of the Choral Society's charm is its diversity. Mem-

bers come from a mix of backgrounds: teachers, retirees, business owners, young professionals, and lifelong musicians. Some read music fluently; others learn by ear. What unifies them is simple—they all love to sing. That openness has allowed the chorus to grow while keeping its community-centered identity intact.

The group's seasonal concerts have become treasured local events. Programs often weave together a wide range of music: classical pieces, traditional hymns, choral standards, folk songs, contemporary selections, and even the occasional pop arrangement. The variety keeps rehearsals lively and invites audiences of all ages. Holiday performances are especially popular, filling venues with familiar melodies, candlelit ambiance, and a feeling of togetherness that captures the spirit of the season.

The Bay Area Choral Society also places a strong empha-

sis on outreach. Over the years, they've partnered with schools, churches, and civic groups to share music with people who may not have easy access to the arts. Members regularly volunteer to lead workshops, support local music programs, and mentor young singers. These efforts have helped keep music education alive in the community and inspired the next generation of performers.

Audience members often remark that attending a Bay Area Choral Society performance feels personal. Concerts have a warmth that reflects the community itself—an authenticity that can't be replicated by large, formal productions. Applause often lasts longer than expected, not because of spectacle, but because people appreciate seeing their neighbors create something beautiful together.

As the chorus looks ahead, its mission remains steady: to celebrate music and strength-

en the bonds of the Bay Area community. With each rehearsal, each performance, and each shared moment of harmony, the group proves that choral music is more than an art form—it's a connection point. A reminder that voices, when brought together, can create something far greater than the sum of their parts.

The Bay Area Choral Society continues to stand as a testament to resilience, creativity, and community spirit. And as long as voices are willing to gather and sing, its legacy will keep growing—one note at a time.

FISHING

Continued from page 7

Water temps are in that perfect sweet spot — cool enough to fire up the fish, warm enough

that you won't turn into a popsicle when you grab a cold beer out of the cooler. It's basically paradise with a tide chart.

Get Out There — You Won't Know If You Don't Go

Whether you're trying to fill the cooler with dinner-sized reds, chase that "bragging rights" bull for your Insta feed, or just want a peaceful day with a rod and a dream... the moment is now.

The weather is prime. The fish are feeding. The tug is the drug.

So grab your gear, pick your favorite spot, and get after it. When redfish are chewing like this, there's no such thing as a bad day on the water. Just remember to pack an extra cold one — bull reds pull hard, and you'll need something to toast with after landing your P.B., personal best, bull red.

Tight lines, everyone!



Returning to Carnegie Hall in 2026

Ticket Prices: \$20 adults, \$5 students
Online: BACS-Trinity.eventbrite.com
BACS-PSJ.eventbrite.com

Tickets for the Port St. Joe concert can be purchased at No Name Books & Gifts.



Friday, March 27
6 PM EDT
 First United Methodist Church
 Port St. Joe

Saturday, March 28
6 PM EDT
 Trinity Episcopal Church
 Apalachicola



Friday, December 5
6 PM EST

First United Methodist Church
 Port St. Joe

Sunday, December 7
4 PM EST

Trinity Episcopal Church
 Apalachicola



2025 Youth Choir

FEATURED PROPERTIES



328 SALT CREEK | TownHome
Mexico Beach

\$5,000 Agent Bonus | \$2,500 Closing Costing Cost
 4 Bed | 2 Bath | 2 Car Garage
 Corner Lot | MLS 321607



107 STONE DRIVE | Lot

Port St. Joe
 Includes House & Engineering Plan
 .25 of Acre | \$79,000
 Near Waking Trail | MLS 322249



Sheila Holmes

C: 615-594-5300 | O: 850-296-3716
 e-mail: sheilaholmesrealtor@gmail.com



Watersound® is a service mark of The St. Joe Company and is used under license.

A photograph of the Electric Cart Watersound storefront, a blue building with large windows. A large QR code is overlaid on the image, with the text 'ELECTRIC CART WATERSOUND' and 'PRIVACY.FLOWCODE.COM' visible.



Join the *Neighborhood* Fun
 Largest Selection of Golf Carts

SALES - SERVICE AND PARTS - FINANCING



CLUB CAR



STAR EV



EVOLUTION



ATLAS



DENAGO EV



GEM

Panama City Beach
 (850) 233 0020

www.ElectricCartWatersound.com



Let's Get Growing: How To Keep Busy in the Garden



BY LAUREN GOLDSBY

Cooler temperatures mean that I'll take any reason to get outside in the garden, even if that means knocking off some dreaded chores. These are some ideas for what to focus on in your yard right now!

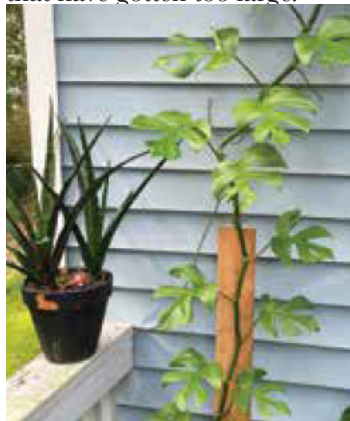
Landscape

It's the best time of the year to transplant trees and shrubs. Trees planted in the fall can establish roots while temperatures are mild, water is not limited, and the tree is not actively growing.

Plan for the first freeze now. Consider what plants you will need to cover and what you will use to cover them. The

EDIS publication, Cold Protection of Landscape Plants, can help you plan for freezing temperatures. It can be found by searching "ENH1 EDIS" into your preferred search engine, or you can pick up a copy at the Extension Office.

Check outdoor houseplants for pests before bringing them back into the house for the winter. Consider the size of your outdoor houseplants and where you will keep them in the house when it gets too cold outside. Now is a great time to take cuttings or divide plants that have gotten too large.



Large houseplants in containers.



Flowers

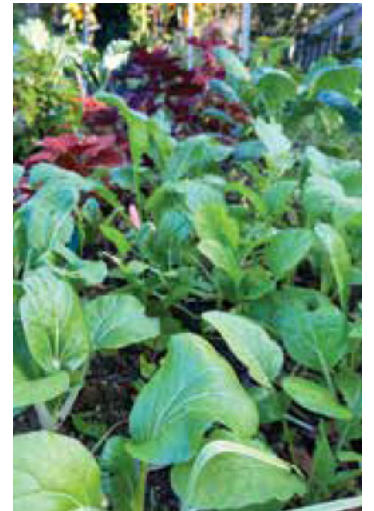
Swap out your summer beds for cool-season plants that can survive throughout the winter. Alyssum, dianthus, geranium, pansy, petunia, and snapdragon are some of my favorites this time of year.

Many native wildflower seeds require or have improved germination after a period of cold temperature (usually 1-3 months); this is called cold stratification. Wildflower seeds should be planted in the ground now to allow for this. Seeds like black eyed susan, coneflower, and native milkweed benefit from cold stratification. Look for seeds with ecotypes native to Florida or the Southeast.

Edible

It's not too late to have a fall vegetable garden. Leafy greens like arugula, cabbage, collard, kale, and swiss chard can be transplanted into the garden. Other brassicas such as broccoli, brussels sprouts, kohlrabi, and cauliflower can be transplanted as well. Root vegetables like beet, bunching onion, carrot, radish, and turnip should be planted from seed directly into the garden soil.

Extension publications (excluding 4-H and youth publications) are available free to Florida residents from county UF/IFAS Extension offices. Contact our office at 850-248-8091 or Email legoldsby@ufl.edu. Follow us on Facebook @ [bayifas](#) and Instagram @ [ufifasbay](#).



Leafy Green Seedlings

An Equal Opportunity Institution. UF/IFAS Extension, University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Andra Johnson, Dean. Single copies of UF/IFAS

MANGO MARLEY'S

Family-friendly fun and open 6 days a week. Bring the family and enjoy our full bar, and delicious food!

3102 Hwy 98
Mexico Beach, FL 32456
850-648-5000

Forgotten Coast

BREWING
- CO -

We craft beers that blend perfectly with our local menu and relaxed, timeless Forgotten Coast vibes.

Open Daily Noon - 8 PM CT

THE TASTE OF OLD FLORIDA



(850) 588-3042 | 4101 US-98 Mexico Beach, FL 32456

TEX KITCHEN



All our food is prepared fresh daily. We specialize in delicious Austin, Texas-style Tex Mex as well as tasty American classics.



Plenty of Outdoor seating!
Monday-Tuesday: Closed
Wednesday-Saturday: 12PM to 8PM
Sunday: 12PM to 7PM

1000 US HIGHWAY 98, MEXICO BEACH, FL 32456 | PHONE: 850-238-6704

Now Serving Beer and Wine!



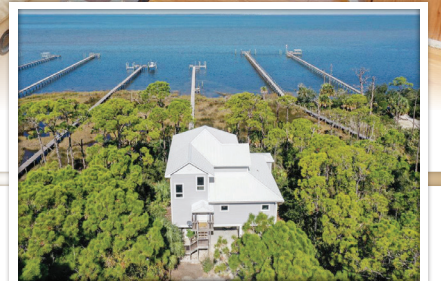
THE ITALIAN KITCHEN
Supper Club

Dine-In, Take-Out, and Delivery

Open Monday-Saturday
11 am-9 pm

108 First Street,
Port St. Joe, FL, USA

850-340-3425



Bayfront home with 4 beds, 3.5 baths and a private boat dock. Strategically designed with window walls and multi-level decks to shower rooms with natural light and capture panoramic sunset views and Apalachicola Bay vistas from the open living area, kitchen, and three bedrooms. Elevator access to all levels. Offered at \$1,200,000.

— 2019 Sand Dollar Trail — ST. GEORGE ISLAND

Call Pandora for your private showing!



LISTED BY Pandora Schlitt

REALTOR® | 850-653-6690
Pandora@PandoraSchlitt.com



www.anchorfl.com

131 Franklin Blvd, St. George Island, FL 32328



1960 Nautilus Dr. St. George Island, FL in the Plantation | 1st Tier Gulf | 4 Bed | 4 Bath | \$1,595,000 | Jackie Etheridge Realtor 850-653-5904



1183 Russell Way, St. George Island FL Gulf & Bay Views on East End 7 Bed | 5 Bath | 2 1/2 Bath | \$1,650,000 Charlotte Schneider Realtor 850-370-6223



973 Gulf Shore Dr, Carrabelle, FL Gulf & Bay Front on 5 acres 6 Bed | 3 .5 Bath | \$1,299,000 Charlotte Schneider Realtor 850-370-6223



124 8th St. Apalachicola, FL Historic District North Corner of 8th and Ave G 3 Bed | 2 Bath | \$599,000 Charlotte Shneider Realtor 850-370-6223



49 Harbour Point Dr. Crawfordville FL "Shell Point Beach Area" Canal Front 2 Bed | 2 Bath with Boat slip & floating dock | \$649,000 | Jackie Etheridge Realtor 850-653-5904



1183 Russell Way, St. George Island, FL East End lot-1 Acre tract with Gulf views and possible Bay views | Jackie Etheridge Realtor 850-653-5904



1692 Landing St. Carrabelle, Florida 3 Bed | 2 Bath | New Construction | \$310,000.00 | Paige Joseph Realtor 850-370-0235



246 Lake McKissack Ln. Carrabelle, FL 3 Bed | 2 Bath | Lake Front | \$359,000.00 Paige Joseph Realtor 850-370-0235



214 Lake McKissack Ln. Carrabelle, FL 3 Bed | 2.5 Bath | Lake Front | \$325,000.00 Paige Joseph Realtor 850-370-0235



Charlotte Schneider
850.370.6223
charlotte@anchorfl.com



Jackie Etheridge
850.653.5904
jackie@anchorfl.com



Paige Joseph
850.370.0235
paige@anchorfl.com

Highest Quality Cabinetry at Affordable Pricing



Cabinet Shop & Woodwork
Thomas Stump
Owner

850-544-7842 | ststump5@aol.com

Call today for free estimate!



Im not goin' Postal...
Im Goin' Coastal!



Stop in and shop the most amazing coastal art, furniture, jewelry, clothing, gifts & oddities on the Forgotten Coast!



103 Reid Ave.
Port Saint Joe, FL 32456
(850) 899-9129

Goin' Coastal
Gifts - Home Décor - Oddities



Upcoming Local Events

NOV 21-DEC 13

FESTIVAL OF TREES IN PORT ST. JOE

NOV 23

ST. GEORGE LIGHTHOUSE GIFT SHOP – 9TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY SIP-N-SHOP, 12-6PM

NOV 27

MEXICO BEACH FL TURKEY TROT 5K FUN RUN

NOV 29

APALACHICOLA DOWNTOWN CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION 3 PM TO 8 PM

DEC 5

BACS CHRISTMAS CONCERT, "WE NEED A LITTLE CHRISTMAS AT 6:00 P.M. AT FIRST UNITED METHOD CHURCH, PORT ST. JOE

DEC 5

LIGHTING OF THE PALMS ON ST. GEORGE ISLAND FROM 5-8

DEC 13

CHRISTMAS ON THE COAST PARADE 5 PM MONUMENT AVENUE IN PORT ST. JOE

Have events you'd like to see on the Forgotten Coast Living Calendar?

E-mail: carab1203@gmail.com

The Best of The Forgotten Coast: Dining Guide



TEX KITCHEN

All our food is prepared fresh daily. We specialize in delicious Austin, Texas-style Tex Mex as well as tasty American classics.

1000 US HIGHWAY 98, MEXICO BEACH, FL 32456 | PHONE: 850-238-6704



THE ITALIAN KITCHEN
Supper Club

Dine-In, Take-Out, and Delivery

108 First Street,
Port St. Joe, FL, USA

850-340-3425



Forgotten Coast
BREWING
- CO -

THE TASTE OF OLD FLORIDA

We craft beers that blend perfectly with our local menu and relaxed, timeless Forgotten Coast vibes.

Open Daily Noon - 8 PM CT

(850) 588-3042 | 4101 US-98 Mexico Beach, FL 32456




MANGO MARLEY'S

We're known for our floribbean food, fun & rum. Grab a drink, sit back & relax because you're on island time!

Family-friendly fun and open 6 days a week. Bring the family and enjoy our full bar and delicious food!

3102 Hwy 98, Mexico Beach, FL 32456
850-648-5000

REACH 8,000 HOMES AND 3,000 VISITORS MONTHLY

IMAGINE YOUR AD HERE

CALL 804-307-8780

Wellness

Skin Care Routines Throughout the Ages: Teens, Middle Ages and Mature Adults



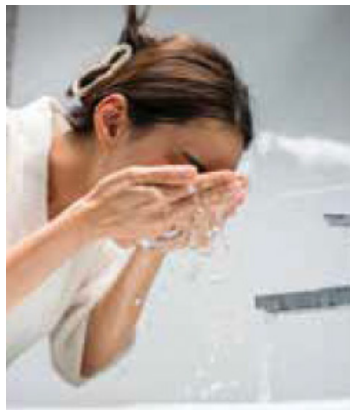
BY BRIDGET SULLIVAN, PA-C, COASTAL SKIN SURGERY AND DERMATOLOGY

Our skin changes as we age, and our routines should evolve with it. This overview breaks down what to focus on at each stage of life and which ingredients support healthy, balanced, and glowing skin. If you're dealing with a medical condition like acne or eczema, it's essential to see a dermatology provider for a customized plan and potential prescription-strength options. Adjusting your skincare to your age helps keep your skin resilient

and radiant throughout every chapter.

Teens & Adolescents:

Thanks to social media trends, many kids and teens believe they need elaborate, multi-step routines. In reality, too many active ingredients at a young age can disrupt the skin barrier and lead to irritation or inflammation. Simplicity is key. A gentle cleanser, a lightweight moisturizer, and daily SPF are all that's needed. Building consistent habits—



especially sun protection—creates a strong foundation for long-term skin health.

Middle Aged: 20s–40s:

During these years, collagen production begins to decline, and skin cell turnover slows. Early signs of aging such as dullness, fine lines, and uneven tone may start to show. This is the ideal time to focus on prevention and repair. Antioxidants like vitamin C help shield the skin from environmental damage, while retinol or retinoids encourage collagen pro-

duction and smoother texture. Many people also choose to add in professional treatments such as microneedling, chemical peels, Botox, fillers, or laser resurfacing. Don't forget to extend your skincare—and any treatments—to your neck and chest.

50s and Beyond:

Hormonal shifts become more noticeable, leading to thinner, drier skin, and sometimes brittle hair and nails. With reduced elasticity and moisture, a nourishing, barrier-focused routine

becomes essential. Creamy cleansers and rich moisturizers help maintain hydration, while peptides and growth factors support firmness and smoothness. It's best to avoid harsh exfoliants and instead choose products with peptides and hyaluronic acid to keep the skin supple and healthy.

No matter your age, consistency, protection, and a gentle approach remain the core pillars of great skincare. Healthy skin is always the most beautiful skin.



SAME DAY APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE! CALL (850) 500-DERM

DERMATOLOGY SERVICES OFFERED: ADULT • SURGICAL • PEDIATRIC • COSMETIC

Discover the Coastal Difference. Accepting New Patients. Make an appointment with Bridget today! We have a proven commitment to excellence, and we're available to you. Now offering Skin Pen Microneedling Treatments and The Perfect Derma Peels. We are also a provider for Nutrafol, EltaMD and ZO Skin Health products.



12139 Panama City Beach Parkway, Panama City Beach, FL



NOW WITH FOUR LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU:
PANAMA CITY BEACH • MIRAMAR BEACH • FT. WALTON BEACH • NICEVILLE / BLUEWATER BAY

Going Frameless



BY AUBRIE ROUNDS, MARKETING COORDINATOR, FLOORING DEPOT OF PANAMA CITY

If you're looking to make a big impact in your home a sleek, modern bathroom is a good investment both financially and aesthetically. Frameless glass shower doors are redefining bathroom design because they offer sleek aesthetics and practical functionality. Here are eight valuable pros of installing glass shower doors.

1. Modern Aesthetic

Frameless glass shower doors provide a clean, modern look. Without the bulky frames of traditional shower doors, they create a seamless, open appearance that enhances the overall look of any bathroom. Their transparency showcases

tile work, fixtures, and other design elements, making the space feel larger and more luxurious—a huge benefit in smaller bathrooms.

2. Increased Home Value

Installing frameless glass shower doors can also boost your home's value. Bathrooms are critical areas buyers evaluate when inspecting a property, and a sleek, modern bathroom with frameless shower doors creates a strong impression. This subtle upgrade reflects contemporary design trends and can improve your home's marketability.

3. Customizable Design

Frameless glass shower doors offer high levels of customization. Whether you have an alcove, corner, or walk-in shower, these doors can be designed to fit your specific layout. Their flexibility allows you to choose the shape, size, and opening mechanism that suits your bathroom's style.

At Flooring Depot of Panama City, you can select from various glass types—clear, frosted, or textured—and pick customized handles and hardware to complete your ideal

look.

4. Durability

Despite their delicate appearance, frameless glass shower doors are made from thick, tempered glass, designed for strength and durability. This type of glass is resistant to cracks and breaks, ensuring the doors withstand daily use. With minimal metal parts, there is less risk of rust and corrosion, contributing to the longevity of the door.

5. Easy Maintenance

Frameless glass shower doors are easier to clean than their framed counterparts. Traditional framed doors often trap water, soap scum, and mold in the frame's crevices, making them hard to clean. Frameless doors, with fewer crevices, offer a smoother surface that can be easily wiped down with a glass cleaner or squeegee.

By keeping the glass clear and free from buildup, frameless doors maintain their elegant appearance for years. This ease of maintenance is a huge bonus for homeowners looking to save time on cleaning.

6. Improved Lighting

Frameless glass doors also improve lighting in your bathroom. The transparency of the glass allows both natural and artificial light to flow freely, creating a brighter, more open atmosphere. This feature is especially useful in bathrooms with limited natural light, as it maximizes the available light and makes the space feel larger.

7. Enhanced Functionality

Frameless glass shower doors are functional as well as stylish. With fewer metal components, there are fewer parts to maintain or replace, reducing the likelihood of rusting or malfunctioning hardware.

Additionally, frameless doors can be customized to open inward, outward, or both, based on your preference. Their user-friendly operation adds convenience, creating an uncluttered and streamlined shower experience that homeowners will appreciate.

8. Hygiene Benefits

Frameless glass doors help maintain a cleaner, more hygienic shower space. Without a frame, there are fewer areas for mold, mildew, and bacteria to accumulate. This is es-

pecially important in a humid bathroom environment, where maintaining cleanliness is essential for both hygiene and safety. Flooring Depot's Frameless Glass Shower Doors

If you're considering upgrading your bathroom, Flooring Depot of Panama City now offers frameless glass shower doors. Our expert team can guide you through the selection process, helping you find the right design to match your bathroom's style and layout.

Not only will frameless glass doors enhance your bathroom's aesthetics, but they'll also offer durability, low maintenance, and improved lighting. With Flooring Depot, you can enjoy a modern, spa-like bathroom upgrade that adds value to your home.

With Flooring Depot of Panama City now offering these stylish doors, upgrading your bathroom has never been easier.

Whether you're renovating or building new, frameless glass shower doors are a smart investment that adds beauty and value to your home. Visit us today at the corner of 15th Street and Lisenby to get started on your project.

Flooring Depot
OF PANAMA CITY

WHITE SHAKER CABINETS IN-STOCK

NO WAITING, NO TARIFFS, NO HEADACHES!

**FREE DESIGN CONSULTATIONS
FREE IN-HOME MEASURES
SPECIAL FINANCING AVAILABLE**

**VISIT OUR SHOWROOM!
1310 W. 15TH ST. PANAMA CITY, FL
FLOORINGDEPOTOPANAMA.COM
850.785.2216**

 FLOORINGDEPOTOPANAMA
 FLOORINGDEPOTOPANAMACITY



Wellness

Want to Be Right? Or Happily Married?



BY JAMIE C. WILLIAMSON, PHD

You can be “right,” or you can stay happily married.

That doesn’t mean that if you want to stay happily married, you must be a doormat.

Instead, you must learn to accept that there is no objective reality in a relationship. There are two subjective realities – in your reality, you’re right and in your partner’s reality, they’re right.

To stay happily married, you need to find a solution that works for both of you. You can do that by following my Home Team Approach to conflict resolution.

Consider these common conflict examples:

Example #1: Who Started It?

Jason and Ashley are eating at the bar of their favorite local restaurant. Jason is flirting with a female acquaintance next to him and Ashley is talking to her sister on her phone. Once their food arrived, they turned toward each other. After their initial harsh “I can’t believe you...” comments they barely spoke until they got into the car and their “who started it” fight broke out.

Ashley argued that Jason started it. She would not have called her sister if he had not been flirting.

Jason argued that Ashley started it. He only flirted because she was on the phone.

They will never be able to agree on who is right in this circular conflict. And, to stay happily married, they shouldn’t even try.

Relationship communication is a series of continuous transactions. There is no clearly identifiable beginning or ending to any communication episode. When people think back over a stream of communication, they “punctuate” it by

breaking it into smaller pieces and labeling some of the pieces causes and the other effects.

Punctuation allows people to identify the beginning and end of a communication event as a convenient way to understand and/or explain what happened first, second, and so on.

And people punctuate interaction in self-serving ways that reflect better on themselves and are consistent with their self-image.

The Home Team Approach to Conflict Resolution

Jason and Ashley could settle this issue by following the Four Steps in the Home Team Approach:

- Internally accept that they both experienced the event differently.
- Validate the other’s reality.
- Acknowledge their own role in what went wrong and apologize.
- Commit to not letting something similar happen again.

Ashley: You must have felt so left out. I was having such a good conversation with my sister that I didn’t realize how rude I was being to you. I’m so sorry.

Jason: You must have felt like I was trying to make you jealous. I just hadn’t seen her in a while and wanted to catch up. I didn’t think about how it might look to you. I’m sorry, too.

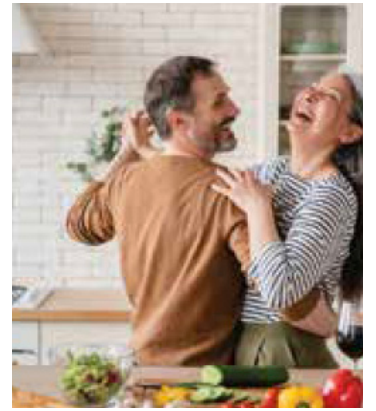
Ashley: Well, what a waste of a date night for us. We know better.

Jason: Let’s never let it happen again.

Example #2: No, you didn’t. Yes, I did.

Gabe and Maria drove separate cars to their cabin in North Georgia. Maria asked Gabe to stay close to her because she was nervous about driving through Atlanta at night. Gabe promised he would. Gabe led and kept Maria’s car in his rear view. But when he moved across lanes a car often got in between them. Maria felt panicky because she had difficulty identifying Gabe’s car in the dark.

When they arrived, Maria initiated a fight, accusing Gabe of breaking his promise and causing her to feel unsafe. Gabe said she was being dramatic. He did not break his promise. He stayed close and could see her car the whole time. They replayed this



“no, you didn’t, yes I did” argument the entire weekend.

The Home Team Approach Alternative

Gabe: You must have been nervous. I didn’t realize that you couldn’t identify my car among the others at night. I’m so sorry. I always want you to know that I’m looking out for you.

Maria: No wonder you think I’m overreaching. I didn’t realize you had your eye on me the whole time. Instead of fuming, I should have just called to say I couldn’t find you in the traffic.

MARRIAGE

Continued on page 20

The **HORMONE**
Restoration Center
Look Healthy, Feel Alive

Hormone Imbalance?

Optimize your health
the natural way with
bioidentical hormones.

Now offering Semaglutide/B12 for weight loss.
Experience real weight loss results without hunger,
extreme diet or exercise

**BEST IN
DESTIN**

Three Years In A Row!
Thank you Destin!

Call Dr. Chern, MD and Sue Griffin, ARNP today!

Dr. Richard Chern, MD

12889 Hwy 98W, Suite 107B
Miramar Beach, FL
(850) 837-1271

*Look Healthy,
Feel Alive!*

biote[®]



thehormonerestorationcenter.com

Design and Culture: Quartz Countertops, What's the News?

It has been an exciting year in Quartz countertops and there are many new colors to choose from! Silestone, Cambria and MSI have released some lovely new designs we'd like to share with you. Also, some styles are getting resurrected. The look of recycled glass is making its way back into our coastal homes.

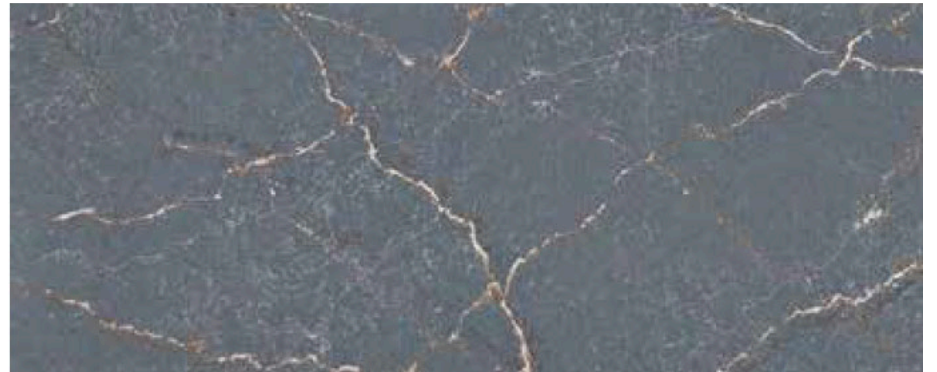
There are multiple options available out there for interior

and exterior countertops when it comes to this style. If you are interested in countertops with recycled glass, I would highly suggest visiting your fabricator as pricing can vary greatly and they can assist you in finding a selection that works for your budget.

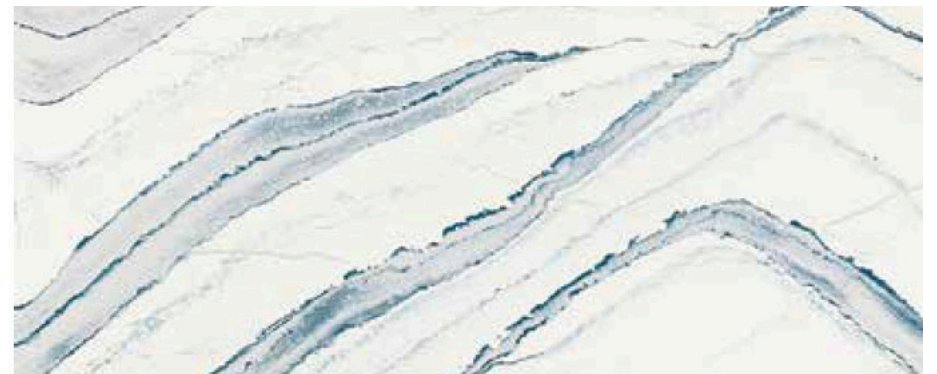
Granite Plus is one of the oldest fabricators in Bay County and can assist you with your project, whether it's new con-

struction, a remodel or commercial. If you would like to see samples of any of these projects or you would like a sample shipped to you, give us a call.

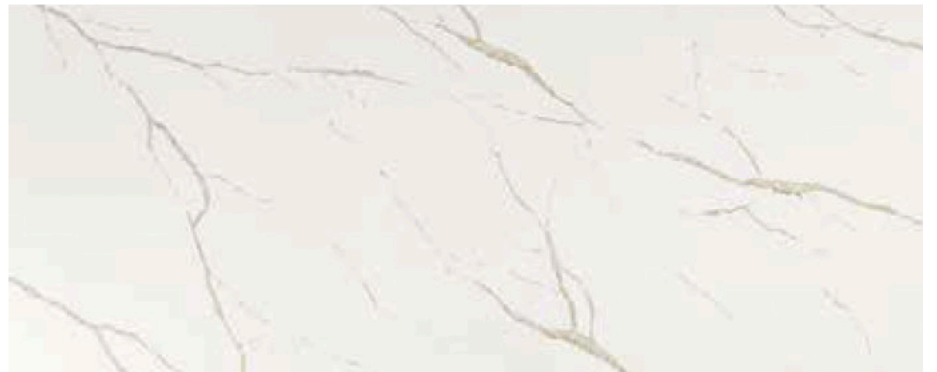
We are family-owned and operated and have a wonderful team of project managers to assist you. Our showroom is located at 17801 Ashley Drive and we hope to see you soon!



Silestone has just released their "Le Chic" collection Inspired by Natural Stones, with subtle veins and a little bit of sparkle. To really appreciate and view the aesthetics of this collection you can visit www.cosentino.com/usa/silestone/le-chic/. On the left is Eclectic Pearl, available in polished or suede, and on the right is Parisien Bleu, available in polished.



New from Cambria Quartz, Windsor Brass (left) and Inverness Bristol Bay (right) are both new and stunning. Windsor Brass has warm and cool tones, and touches of brass. Its movement is stunning and warming with its soft movement and soft veins. If you are looking to add blue into your home, Inverness Bristol Bay is a lovely choice, the pattern a whimsical blend of blue and greys perfect for our coastal homes. To find out more information you can visit CambriaUSA.com.




GRANITE PLUS
"WE WILL, WE WILL, ROCK YOU"
COUNTERTOPS - CABINETS - FLOORING
850-236-6363

MSI Surfaces "Calacatta Laza" has been a long-time loved color by our customers standing the test of time and continuing to be a favorite. MSI Surfaces recently added their House of Laza Collection, Calacatta Laza Grigio (left) and Calacatta Laza Oro (right), elegant additions to world of countertops. Calacatta Oro bringing the same sense of luxury, just adding some of those warm tones that are trending right now. Calacatta Laza Grigio is bringing us a whole new look as clients look for something new and exciting. Visit MSISurfaces.com to find out more information.

Lifestyle

Window Covering Safety Awareness: Safety Should Always Come First



By DONNA GODWIN, OWNER OF MADE IN THE SHADE

Each year, we take a moment to raise awareness about one of the most important—and often overlooked—aspects of home design: window covering safety. At Made in the Shade, safety is at the heart of everything we do. All of our shade operators are child-safety compliant,

giving homeowners peace of mind without sacrificing style or performance.

Loose cords from blinds and shades can pose serious risks to children and pets, including strangulation hazards. That's why we proudly offer a variety of cordless and motorized options that eliminate hanging cords altogether. These modern systems create a safe, sleek,

and streamlined look for any space while ensuring easy operation for the entire family.

Motorization is considered the gold standard in safe roller shade operation—simply press a button or use your smart device for effortless control. For those who prefer manual shades, cordless operation provides smooth, reliable use with just a gentle tug on the hem bar. There are no internal or external cords to worry about—only clean lines and worry-free function.

Even our child-safe clutch and bead-chain mechanisms are carefully engineered for safety and tested to meet strict standards. The chain tension device ensures the loop remains taut, preventing slack that could cause entanglement, and will not allow the shade to operate unless properly tensioned. The continuous-chain

loop is built for durability and superior strength, ensuring it won't break or pose a risk during everyday use.

This month - and all year long—remember that window covering safety saves lives. Choose products designed with protection in mind. At Made in the Shade, we help you create beautiful spaces that are as safe as they are stylish.

winning an argument and being “right” than repairing their relationship, often end up divorced. People who accept that in relationships there is no objective “right” or “wrong,” can learn to maximize their “home team” advantage and stay happily married.

Let me know how I can help. Jamie C. Williamson, PhD is a FL Supreme Court Certified Family Mediator and Couples Counselor who is part of the Gottman Referral Network. She is an owner and partner at Amity Mediation Workshop, a mediation practice specializing in “friendly divorce” mediation and psycho-educational counseling for couples. Dr. Jamie speaks frequently on relationship topics and authors the blog “Work it Out.” You can find her online at amitymediationworkshop.com.

MARRIAGE

continued from page 20

Gabe: I should have done more to ensure there were no cars between us.

Maria: Let's not waste another minute of our weekend on this. We'll do better next time.

People who care more about




MADE IN THE SHADE

Blinds • Shades • Shutters • Draperies



Worry-Free Warranty



Industry-Leading Brands



We Measure and Install



Request a Free In-Home Consultation



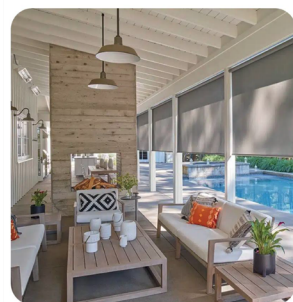
SHADES



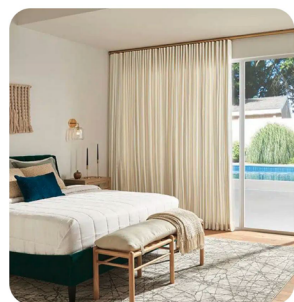
SHUTTERS



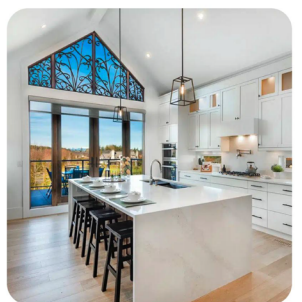
BLINDS



OUTDOOR SHADES



DRAPERY



DECORATIVE GRILLES

Proudly Transforming Residential and Commercial Interior and Exterior Spaces on the Forgotten Coast

(850) 814-6374
MITSBAYWALTON.COM

Sean of the South: Highway Café



BY SEAN DIETRICH

The little boy was with his mom, sitting in a truck stop diner. The boy was bald, wearing a loose T-shirt. A large bandage showed from beneath his collar.

Before the boy sat a massive meal. Bacon. Eggs. Huge glass of chocolate milk. Stack of pancakes bigger than a mid-size SUV.

"It feels so weird, my stitches itch," the boy said.

"Eat your pancakes," said Mom.

Mom looked tired. Her hair

looked like she had slept on it. Her clothes, crumpled.

"How many days was I in the hospital?" the boy asked.

The mother sighed. "Twenty-six. Now eat your pancakes."

Everyone in the little restaurant was staring at mother and son. Especially the trucker in the booth behind them, who couldn't help but eavesdrop.

Mother and son ate in silence for a while. The boy was inhaling his food while Mom nursed a mug in both hands, staring wistfully out the window.

"Did they cut all the cancer out?" the boy asked.

Mother was crying now. "Eat your pancakes."

She tried to hide her face but was unsuccessful. Sometimes there is nowhere to hide one's face.

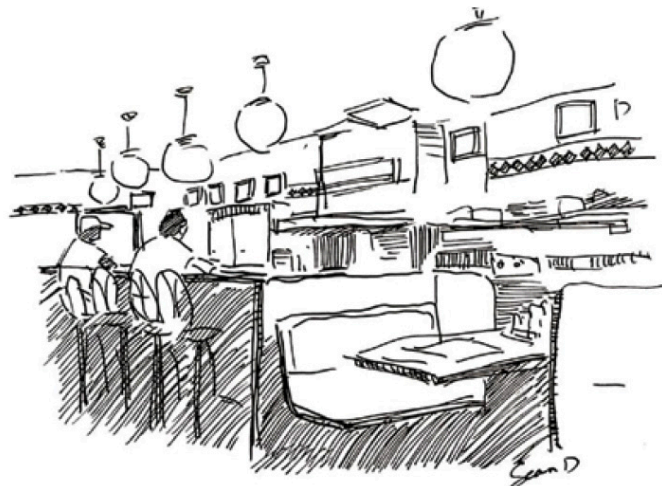
The boy just watched his mother weep. "I'm worried about you, Mom."

Mom laughed through snot and tears.

"You're worried about ME?"

He nodded.

Things went silent for a



while.

That's when something happened. The trucker from the nearby booth rose to his feet. He approached their table. He was every American truck driver you've ever seen. Powerfully built, slightly round in the middle, a ring of keys on his belt, and scuffed boots.

The man stood before their table, wearing a meek expression, hat in hand. The man said he couldn't help but overhear their conversation. And,

well, the man was wondering, would it be okay if he prayed for the boy, ma'am?

Truthfully, Mom was a little weirded out by this request. After all, people HAD been praying for the boy back home. Friends and family had been praying around the clock, actually.

Then again, one more prayer couldn't hurt.

"Thank you," said Mom. "We'd be honored."

Mom and boy rose to their

feet, per the man's request. Whereupon the man placed both hands on the boy's head. And as the man prayed aloud, others in the restaurant stopped eating and joined the circle.

First, a waitress. Then a few guys from the bar. Then more customers. A dishwasher. A cook. Within moments, the boy was standing at the center of a mass of hands, all resting upon his weary body.

The prayer was simple. The trucker prayed the boy would be healed. After his prayer, others in the circle took turns praying. Many prayers were spoken. Tears were shed by perfect strangers.

When mother and child left the highway café that night, the boy had no idea what had just happened to him.

Forty-three years later, the boy emailed me to say that he still doesn't know what happened. But every day he's getting closer to figuring it out.

Eat your pancakes.

Book Review: The Brotherhood of War By W.E.B. Griffin

REVIEW BY JACK SMITH

Planning a trip to St Barts in the late eighties, I needed enough reading material to last two weeks. I went to Barnes & Noble and found this series on the "just published" rack. As a fan of historical fiction, I thought this might be the answer. It certainly was. The Brotherhood of War is a series of nine novels that explores the lives and exploits of a group of men from World War Two through Vietnam. They start with the group as The Lieu-

tenants, The Captains, The Majors and so on. Hailed by Tom Clancy as an "American epic," The Brotherhood of War series is a sweeping saga that invites the reader to step into the world of the military both on duty and off. It probes the hearts and minds of those who serve and their companions, which makes them ideal reads for either gender.

One of the main characters is Craig Lowell who, after being thrown out of West Point, is drafted as a private and sent to Germany. The

commanding general, who is the Captain of the Army polo team, finds out that Lowell is a nationally ranked player. The only problem for Lowell is that team members need to be officers. His promotion from private to lieutenant begins the first book of the series. The characters are masters of the art of war, of carousing, and of keeping each other out of the guard house.

After the first week of that St. Barts vacation, other members of the group ran out of reading materials and picked up

my first volume. They enjoyed it so much they began to pester the current reader to hurry up and the refrain of "read, read" could be heard both day and night. The success of Brotherhood prompted Griffin to write a similar series on the marines called The Corps. In all, Griffin has written more than thirty epic novels in five series including The Brotherhood of War, The Corps, Men at War, Badge of Honor, and Clandestine Operations. All have been listed as best sellers in New York Times, Wall

Street Journal and many more.



LARGEST SELECTION OF GOLF CARTS

Join the
Neighborhood
Fun

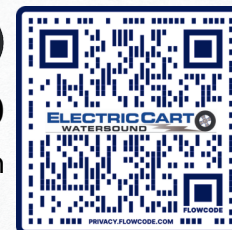
SHOP BY
BRANDS

- ✔ Club Car
- ✔ Denago EV
- ✔ Atlas
- ✔ Star EV
- ✔ EVolution
- ✔ GEM Car
- ✔ Epic

ELECTRIC CART
WATERSOUND

(850) 233 0020

www.ElectricCartWatersound.com



Your Local Realtors on the Forgotten Coast



Pandora Schlitt



139 W Gulf Beach Drive
St. George Island, FL 32328
850.799.1230
850.653.6690

Pandora has been connecting Forgotten Coast buyers and sellers for 23 years. She made her first investment in St. George Island in 1992. She became a permanent resident of St. George Island, FL, in 1999 and immediately discovered a second career. She has facilitated over \$375,000,000 in real estate transactions and has consistently been a Top Producer on St. George Island, Apalachicola, Eastpoint, and Carrabelle, FL for Naumann Group.



Deb Robertson



139 W Gulf Beach Drive
St. George Island, FL 32328
678-488-0005
850-799-1230
BeachDaysForever.com

I know the St. George Island market and the coastal lifestyle that makes this area so special. If you're selling, I'll create a marketing plan to showcase your home's best features and attract the right buyers. If you're buying, I'll help you find the property that fits your goals—whether it's a vacation retreat, investment, or forever home.

I'm committed to being reliable, responsive, and results-driven-keeping you informed and making the process smooth and stress-free. I know the St. George Island market and the coastal lifestyle that makes this area so special.

If you're selling, I'll create a marketing plan to showcase your home's best features and attract the right buyers. If you're buying, I'll help you find the property that fits your



Kara Landiss



139 W Gulf Beach Drive
St. George Island, FL 32328
(850) 653-7753
Kara@BeachDreamsNow.com

The key to Kara's success in real estate is her unique ability to connect to her customers and their needs.

This "high-touch" approach focuses on listening to her customers and partnering with them on a plan of action to find the perfect property.

Kara also understands that buying a property in a vacation destination market is unlike the typical purchase of a land-locked property, and her ability to navigate these complex transactions is unmatched.



CLIFF & SHEILA HOLMES

C: 615-594-5300 | O: 850-296-3716
e-mail: sheilaholmesrealtor@gmail.com



REACH POTENTIAL CLIENTS ALONG THE COAST

REALTOR SPECIALS NOW!

CALL 804-307-8780

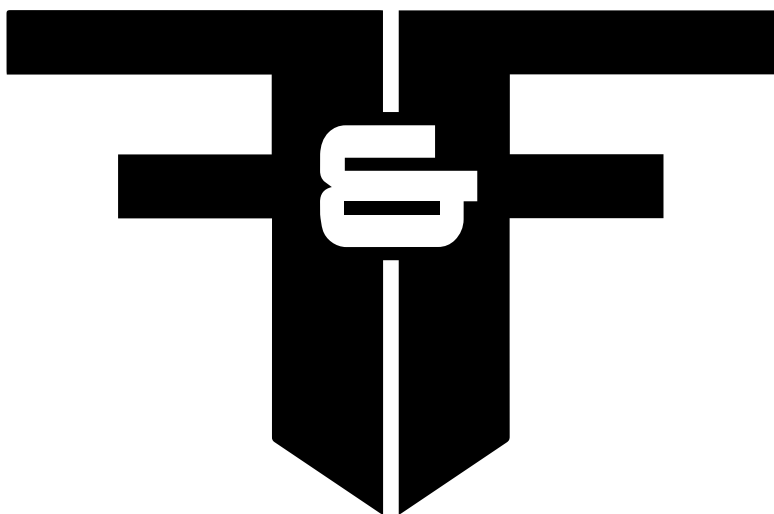
Fall in love with fashion again!
TRENDY. MODEST. AFFORDABLE.



PERMANENT JEWELRY.
WOMEN'S CLOTHING.
SHOES & ACCESSORIES.
CHRISTIAN APPAREL.



WWW.BIRDANDGOOSEBOUTIQUE.COM
107 REID AVENUE IN PORT ST. JOE



CONSTRUCTION INC.

Port St. Joe, Florida

850-818-0012

**FLORIDA
GEORGIA
ALABAMA
NORTH CAROLINA
VIRGINIA
ARKANSAS
MISSISSIPPI
WEST VIRGINIA
SOUTH CAROLINA
LOUISIANA
TEXAS**

COMMERCIAL BUILDERS

FEATURED HOMES + LOTS

WindMark Beach Community



436 WINDMARK WAY | Bay & Lagoon Views

4 Bed | 4 Bath | 2,853 SF | \$1,899,000 | Short walk to Beach/Pier and the Pool | MLS 324499



204 POND CYPRESS | Views Pool + Bay

5 Bed | 3 Bath | 2,535 SF | \$799,000
Short walk to the pool | MLS 321173



411 WINDMARK WAY

3 Bed | 2 1/2 baths | 2,850 SF | \$1,274,000
Bay Views & short walk to pool | MLS 324169



528 WINDMARK WAY LOT | Bay Views

.30 of Acre | \$299,000
Gated Section | MLS 321196



610 TIDE WATER DRIVE | Across from Park

.21 of Acre (119x72) | \$179,000
Includes approved House Plan | MLS 320898



Sheila Holmes

C: 615-594-5300 | O: 850-296-3716
e-mail: sheilaholmesrealtor@gmail.com



Real Broker, LLC