

Bay Florida's Forgotten Coast® BUSINESS REPORT

August 2010

Vol 19, Number 8

Monthly Meetings

Meeting Notices

Monthly Business Luncheon
August 4, 2010, 12:00
Franklin County School
Campus
Culinary Program
Eastpoint

Business After Hours
September 9, 2010
5:30-7:00 pm
Chapman Botanical Gardens
177 5th Street
Apalachicola

Monthly Business Luncheon
September 1, 2010, 12:00
Up The Creek
313 Water Street
Apalachicola

Visitor Statistics

June 2001	1,238
June 2002	1,025
June 2003	1,185
June 2004	1,196
June 2005	1,245
June 2006	1,791
June 2007	2,521
June 2008	2,287
June 2009	2,537
June 2010	2,082

Website stats May

Visits	23,986
Page Views	106,665
Average Page Views	4.45
Time on Site (mins)	4:04
Bounce Rate	26.82%
New Visits	67.61%

Tax Amnesty

If you didn't pay all your Florida state taxes, you can fess up this summer and not feel quite as much pain. Amnesty for many Florida state taxes is available through September 30. Florida is offering consumers and businesses a one-time chance to pay delinquent sales and use taxes, corporate income tax and a variety of other levies, according to the Florida Department of Revenue's website. The benefits for those who pay up now: No penalty and no criminal prosecution, a 2010 state law says. You'll also get a break on up to half the interest due. Go to <http://dor.myflorida.com/dor/amnesty/> for details.

2010 Sales Tax Holiday

If you sell clothing, footwear, certain accessories, books or certain school supplies in the State of Florida, the upcoming Sales Tax Holiday may impact your business. Florida law directs that no sales tax or local option taxes (also known as discretionary sales surtax) will be collected on sales of books, clothing, footwear, and certain accessories selling for \$50 or less, or on certain school supplies selling for \$10 or less. This three-day tax exemption is in effect from 12:01 a.m., Friday, August 13, 2010, through midnight, Sunday, August 15, 2010. The exemption will still apply no matter how many items are sold on the same invoice to a customer. For more information go to <http://dor.myflorida.com/dor/tips/tip10a01-04.html>

New Members

Covenant Hospice

Janice McEuen with *Covenant Hospice* joined the Chamber last month. Janice is Director of

Directors Column

A new board of directors was elected by the membership at our July luncheon. New to this year's board are Kristy Branch Banks Attorney, Donna Duncan with Sanders and Duncan PA, Kevin Ward with Blue Manta Technology & 13 Mile Seafood, and Royce Rolstad with Forgotten Coast TV & Royce Rolstad Photography.

Continuing on for another term are: Mark Friedman with Friedman Financial Consultants, Bud Hayes with Cook Insurance, Susan Bassett with Shimmering Sands Realty, Bev Hewitt with the Apalachicola Seafood Grill and the Soda Fountain, Kristin Anderson owner of LongDreamGallery.com, Paul Marxsen of Marxsen Accounting, Michael Shuler, attorney with Shuler & Shuler, Diana Prickett, Owner & Property Manager with Resort Vacation Properties, Jerry Hall with Apalachicola Seafood Grill and The Soda Fountain, Ginny Griner with Weems Memorial Hospital.

Michael Shuler was elected as President this year. Ginny Griner was elected Vice-President, Kristin Anderson will serve as Secretary/Historian and Jerry Hall will continue as Treasurer. We would like to thank our retiring directors for all their dedication and hard work. They are Ted Ruffner, Joe Taylor, Wayne Thomas, Richard

Chamber Board of Directors

PRESIDENT

Michael Shuler 653-9226

VICE-PRESIDENT

Ginny Griner 653-8853

TREASURER

Jerry Hall 653-9510

SECRETARY

Kristin Anderson 653-2249

BOARD MEMBERS

Kristy Branch Banks 670-1255

Donna Duncan 653-8976

Susan Bassett 323-0092

Mark Friedman 670-1253

Bud Hayes 927-3305

Beverly Hewitt 653-9510

Paul Marxsen 697-2542

Diana Prickett 927-2322

Kevin Ward 899-0669

Branch Operations for Bay, Gulf, the western side Franklin County. Michael McLaughlin who also works in this area is a Community Educator. *Covenant Hospice* is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing comprehensive, compassionate services to patients and their loved ones during times of life-limiting illnesses. *Covenant Hospice* exists in the hope and belief that through appropriate care, education and the promotion of a supportive community sensitive to the needs of the persons facing the end of life, patients and their loved ones may be able to obtain physical, mental, and spiritual preparation for the end of life, bereavement and renewal. For more information, contact Janice at (850) 785-3040, cell 814-9939 or visit their website at www.covenanthospice.org.

Early Learning Coalition of Northwest Florida, Inc.

Lynne Eldridge, Executive Director with the *Early Learning Coalition of Northwest Florida* joined the Chamber. The *Early Learning Coalition's* purpose is to grow healthy children, parents, and the relationship between them. They value compassion, dedication, discipline, excellence, honesty, respect and safety. They encourage, teach, and strengthen economic self-sufficiency for families through access to community services and resources and envision a Northwest Florida where all children receive world class early education and care thereby being fully prepared to learn upon entering kindergarten. The *Early Learning Coalition* has just launched a new website that provides families, providers, community and business partners with relevant information about the services they offer in a user-friendly format. They serve seven counties included Franklin and their offices are located at 703 West 15th Street, Suite A in Panama City. They can be reached at (850) 747-5400, toll free 866-269-3022 or visit their website at www.elcnwf.org.

Hole in the Wall Raw Bar

Welcome *Hole in the Wall Raw Bar* to the Chamber. Lisa and Dan Davis and Debi and Jeff Fletcher are proud of their new restaurant venture located on Avenue D in downtown Apalachicola. Known as the old Cook Insurance building, the Davis purchased it in

Langford and Andrea Duval. Thank you for your service!

Anita Grove, Executive Director

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Exposure

Mary Ellen Stancill was sent photos and information on area events for the Birmingham News Fall Gulf Coast Guide.

Jean McLean and Frances Putman were also sent information and photos for the Birmingham Fall Gulf Coast Guide.

1993. Jeff painstakingly transformed the space keeping its historic charm and highlighting its old Florida feel. *Hole in the Wall* serves fresh seafood, homemade soups and casseroles, Apalachicola select oysters, crabs and shrimp, daily specials and beer and wine. This fall they plan to open the courtyard in the back and add a seafood market. Sixth generation Floridians Jeff and Debi grew up in Panama City. They moved to Indian Pass 18 years ago. Debi's great grandfather was Captain Anderson of Anderson Seafood in Panama City, an icon in north Florida that owned a seafood market, a dinner cruise boat and charter boats. Jeff's brother Greg Fletcher is the cook at the raw bar. *Hole in the Wall* is open Wednesday from 3:00-9:00 pm, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 12:00-9:00 pm, Sunday 5:00 -9:00 pm. They are located at 23 Avenue D across the street from the US Post Office and can be reached by calling (850) 653-3222.

Member News

Oyster Radio Gets New Owners

Welcome Bonnie Gomes, new owner of Oyster Radio. Bonnie purchased the stations in July from Rick & Linda Plessigner. She is from Rhode Island and had traveled to check out a station in Marianna. Fate led her to Franklin County. She fell in love with us, and the rest is history. She and her family have been in broadcasting for twenty-five years. She has a lot of experience is very excited to be here. Her husband, daughter and son also work in the business and will be joining her. Rick will be around to help during the transition along, as will news director Michael Allen and DJ Billy Dee.

Atlanta lifestyle magazine Points North website did a website article on Apalachicola in late July.

Andrea Stone, Senior Washington Correspondent for AOL News was in town July 21-22 interviewing folks about the effects of the oil spill.

Andrea Feska from Hamburg, Germany was in town in mid July reporting for Die Zeit on the impacts of the oil spill.

Coast Guard Auxiliary

Anyone interested in becoming a part of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary is invited is invited to attend an organizational meeting at the Carrabelle Boat Club on Monday, August 2nd 6:00 pm. This meeting is being held to determine the level of interest within the local community to be a part of a vital support group enhancing the United State Coast Guard presence in our area.

Your involvement is based on your own availability while benefits to you and your community are vast. This could be an invaluable way for you to enjoy your time on the water while giving back to your country and community. Extraordinary educational opportunities are available to all USCG Auxiliary members and much more.