

KEITH
GOLDSCHMIDT
Commentary

Politics hard on education

Before you get so confused about the best school construction debate, remember this: it is more about politics than children.

As many as eight people will be interviewed Wednesday and Thursday for the position with the nonprofit organization, known formally as Pensacola-Ecambia Clean Community Commission Inc.

"We have so many qualified people we need to look at more than one or two candidates," said Clark Thompson, chairman of the board of directors and member of the selection committee.

The six-member committee plans to announce the new executive director by the middle of October, with a start date scheduled for the first week of November, Thompson said.

The new director will replace Ray O'Keefe, who has headed the Clean and Green program for the past two years. He is stepping down because of family commitments in Maine.

O'Keefe said being executive director has been both rewarding and frustrating. "It's rewarding because every day you feel good because you've made the community a better place to live," he said. "It's frustrating because two weeks after you clean an area you've got to go back and do it all over again."

O'Keefe is the second director to leave within the past four years. He replaced Mike Farrell, who left to become a marketing representative for Blue Cross & Blue Shield in Pensacola. In both cases, the decision to resign was personal and had nothing to do with the job, said Jim Porter, member of the selection committee.

"O'Keefe has done a wonderful job and we will miss him," Porter said. "We just hope that the next candidate will stay a long time."

Fifty-five candidates applied for the position, which pays in the low-to-mid \$30,000 range. The selection committee, which consists of six of 18 commission board members, will make a final decision subject to the entire board's approval, Thompson said.

The candidates' names were not released, but their backgrounds are from a broad range of professions, including teachers and military, Thompson said. Their ages range from the late 20s to late 50s.

During the selection process each applicant will be asked a series of questions from a list compiled by the committee members.

A closed discussion will help committee members shorten the list to the top three candidates, and the new executive director will be chosen from that list.

Clean and Green narrows director search

By Lisa Rhue
News Journal staff writer

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Jay students take to the airwaves
Students Michelle Lacy and Amanda Wolfe have their media class makes it big in Orlando. Neighbors, 2C

THINGS TO DO



About 175,000 helped kick off the 1997 St. Anne's Round-Up at St. Anne's church off Dauley Field Road over the weekend. Scott Fisher/News Journal

175,000 corralled at St. Anne's

Pensacola's Roy Jones named honorary mayor

By Makeda Russell
News Journal staff writer

Four-years-old Miranda White knows how to dress for the annual St. Anne's Round-Up.

With her multicolored hair and wild-west costume, she fit right in with the thousands of children and adults at the western-style charity event.

"We support it every year because it has great food and entertainment," said her mother, Monica Hammond. "She rides all the rides and we eat all the food."

Miranda and her mother were among the nearly 175,000 people who passed through St. Anne's church grounds since the 1997 Round-Up kicked off Friday event coordinators said Sunday.

The 88 booths of food games and arts and crafts kept hundreds of people spread out on the red picnic-styled benches munching a variety of food from meatball sandwiches to duck gumbo.

Children swarmed the grounds with painted faces and dusty feet, eager to get on the 10 rides, including the kiddie roller coaster and the

moon walk. Some of the 1,400 volunteers were dressed as characters such as wild-western gun fighters and big-haired damsels in distress. Sunday was the final day at the Round-Up, now in its 34th year.

For the first time in the event's history, a hometown celebrity was honored.

Pensacola native Roy Jones, WBC light heavyweight champion, was named the festival's honorary mayor. Jones worked the crowd, signing autographs, posing with children and answering questions from fans.

Brian McLellan, 11, who came to the festival with his Pensacola Boy Scouts Troop 613, said he considers Jones to be the best boxer on earth, so he wanted to know if Jones thought that way too.

"Do you consider yourself the greatest boxer on earth?" Brian McLellan, 11, shouted to the boxer.

"You are only as good as you think you are, and I am the best boxer out of here," Jones answered.

After 15 minutes of answering questions, Jones settled on the stage to sign autographs for hundreds of people in a long line that snaked around tables and food booths.

Jones, who attended a heavyweight championship boxing match in Atlantic City, flew overnight to get back in time for Sunday's event.

"It's important for kids to see me," Jones said as he posed for pictures with beaming children and signed T-shirts and pamphlets. "They look up to me, and to give them a positive image, you have to be here."



Boxer Roy Jones, left, signs a basketball for Sunnie Gates during Sunday's Round-Up festivities.

Clapsaddi also said for the first time in three years, the rain did not spoil the festival. "We've always been rained out," she said. "Hopefully this will continue."

The 68-year-old newspaperman started as a sports writer in 1953 and served as editor for 31 years. After he retires at

the streets," said James Barker. Johnson's father-in-law. "He's just a young boy but he needs to be put away."

Johnson was shot in the head about 4:30 p.m. at Fand Lloyd streets while driving home from his job.

He managed to drive three blocks before crashing his blue Ford Ranger pickup into a Cadillac parked at the Fricker Center.

Hines turned himself in to police about 8 p.m. Saturday, accompanied by a Pensacola minister. He is being held at the Juvenile Justice Center. Pilgaj says they have no motive in the shooting.

Clean path to King St. not likely

Proposal may rattle hearing

By Ginny Graybiel
News Journal staff writer

An effort to rename one of Pensacola's streets in honor of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. has met with roadblocks: twists, turns and detours over the past nine months.

And, chances are a public hearing by the Pensacola City Council this afternoon will result in more of the same, with even the agenda in dispute.

The official agenda calls for discussion of two proposals.

■ A citizen's committee recommendation to rename Main Street/Bayfront Parkway by the Pensacola Bay Bridge to Barrancas Avenue.

■ Councilwoman Marie Young's suggestion to rename A Street from Main Street to Maxwell Street.

But citizen activist LeRoy Boyd, whose proposal to rename Palace Street was rejected by the council in January, made an 11th-hour proposal last week to move the council in a different direction.

Boyd's plan, backed by nearly 1,000 signatures on a petition.

■ To rename Alcanra Street.

See RENAMING, 3C

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Martin Luther King Jr. street proposals



News Journal graphic

WHAT TO GO?

- **WHAT:** Public hearing to consider renaming a street to honor the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.
- **WHERE:** 5:30 p.m. today
- **WHEN:** Pensacola City Hall council chambers, 180 Government Center

Shooting victim dies

By Dexter Chambers
News Journal staff writer

The Milton man shot through the window of his truck Friday near the Fricker Recreation Center died Sunday at Baptist Hospital.

Stephen Dante Johnson, 28, was pronounced dead about 1 p.m. after being taken off life-support equipment according to Pensacola police.

The suspect in the shooting, Earl Dante Hines, 17, now will be charged with murder, police said.

Johnson's family said if Hines is convicted he should be put away for a long time.

"He doesn't need to be on

Long-time News Journal editor and V.P. honored

Bowden given county's and city's highest award



J. Earle Bowden, left, is honored by former Pensacola News Journal president and publisher Ken Andrews during Bowden's retirement party on Sunday.

By Elizabeth Lee
News Journal staff writer

Even at his retirement party, J. Earle Bowden continued to be recognized for his contributions to the community.

Bowden, the News Journal editor and vice president, who is stepping down after 44 years, was honored with the Community Medallion Award.

Bowden, the highest honor bestowed to individuals by Escambia County and the City of Pensacola.

More than 100 well-wishers packed into the second story of the J. Earle Bowden Building on East Church Street, offices of the Historic Pensacola Preservation Board.

"To say I'm not overwhelmed, a tad nervous, and justifiably proud for the moment would be a gross understatement," Bowden said during a short retirement speech. "Thank you, thank you very much. No one could ask for more."

The 68-year-old newspaperman started as a sports writer in 1953 and served as editor for 31 years. After he retires at

the end of this year, Bowden will remain on the News Journal editorial board and write a regular column and draw a Sunday editorial page cartoon.

The Community Medallion award was established in 1983 by the Escambia County Commission and the Pensacola City Council. Since its inception less than 10 people have earned the award.

"Earl has been such an icon in this community for so many years," said Pensacola Mayor John Fogg. "I never allowed myself to consider the possibility that he would retire."

Perhaps one of Bowden's greatest achievements was

supporting the creation of the Gulf Islands National Seashore. Bowden wrote an editorial in May 1964 that began the campaign to create preserve the 21 miles of undeveloped seashore.

Pat J. Anaro, a member of the Santa Rosa Historical Society, came to thank Bowden for his commitment to historical preservation. Bowden is someone who supported growth, but never forgot the history behind it, she said.

"He was championing causes," she said. "It always made me proud to live here. He's a real credit to the journalistic world."

ORRECTION

In some editions of Sunday's News Journal, the picture of the deputy penitentiary for the Escambia County District was incorrectly included in 4D in people who are in law enforcement authorities. He was pictured correctly on 3D in a photo which has been included in the United Together for Non-Violence Day.