



1B
Central wins thriller after hit batter brings home winning run

SANTA ROSA'S
Press Gazette
WEEKLY IN PRINT • DAILY ONLINE
inside
2 sections

SERVING NORTH SANTA ROSA COUNTY

APRIL 10-16, 2025 \$1.25 NEWS & INFORMATION



The destruction of
Mulat Bayou

Submitted photos
Above: Arthur Hauck poses with a red drum he caught at the bayou.
Left: Before and after results of the pollution in Mulat Bayou.

By Gail Acosta
editor@sppressgazette.com

“At the very beginning of the destruction of Avalon Beach – that’s when they knew,” Arthur Hauck said. “In my opinion they are liable for negligence.”

Strong words from a man who is not only defending his property value along Mulat Bayou, but also the wildlife that used to live there.

Hauck is referring to ‘negligence’ by the county, the board of commissioners, and perhaps even the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Environmental Protection Agency. But he believes a resident’s first and last line of protection is by the county.

The problem began last summer, when builders on Furlong Road and Damon Drive began delivering what residents describe as hundreds of truckloads of red clay to fill areas for development.

The Furlong Road builder, Thomas Cornelison, was fined multiple times. In September, Cornelison was fined for non-criminal violations of county ordinances for erosion control, irreparable damage to a sensitive waterway and land clearing without a permit. The total of the fines was \$12,870.

Just after Thanksgiving, heavy rain filled Mulat with red clay. The bayou turned orange. Cornelison was hit with another set of fines totaling \$18,675.

March 4, the two developers were arrested on misdemeanor charges and released on \$1,000 bond. To date, no stop-work orders have been issued to either builder. The county has the authority to stop the construction until proper erosion control measures are put in place.

The county worked quickly to get the two roads paved, however, the roads were not a source of the problem. The discharge was coming directly from the properties. The difference in sediment color was stark from the red clay and the dirt road.

See MULAT BAYOU 5A



2A Habitat for Humanity makes homeownership dreams a reality

- RV Parks in north Santa Rosa, needed or nuisance?
- 4A: Downtown Milton’s fountain dyed teal for Sexual Assault Awareness



2B Ella Nelson earns recognition from Southern Conference

- McCranie rising to occasion in first season with Gulf Coast State baseball team
- 3B: Royals ranked No.1 but know work isn’t done yet



Mulat Bayou destruction timeline



April 30, 2024
Beautiful Mulat Bayou teeming with wildlife and fish



September 16, 2024
Sediment from Furlong Rd./Damon Dr.



September 18, 2024
Discharge from septic tanks upstream



November 11, 2024
A silver and tan sediment with a metallic appearance and smell



November 19, 2024
More clay sediment from Furlong Rd./Damon Dr. property



December 10, 2024
More silver/tan sediment coming from Furlong Rd./Damon Dr.



December 15, 2024
Water turned bright blue (chemical added?)



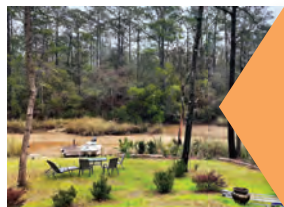
December 28, 2024
Sediment coming in



December 29, 2024
Sediment coming in and going out into bayou



January 3, 2025
Sediment from Furlong Rd./Damon Dr.



January 11, 2025
Clay from Furlong Rd./Damon Dr.



February 9, 2025
Overhead view



March 30, 2025
Clay sediment from Furlong Rd, Electra and Santa Cruz Blvd.

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LOCAL HAPPENINGS

April 11

April 11 and 12 the Spring Flea Across Florida event is taking place. It's known as Florida's longest yard sale stretching from Pensacola to Jacksonville along Highway 90.

April 12

Harold Volunteer Fire Department's Spring Free Pancake Breakfast at Harold Fire and Rescue from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Plenty of pancakes, coffee, and juice. Includes an egg hunt for kids at 11 a.m.

April 14

Sunburst K9 Training at Sunburst k-9 Training (5679 Grandview Dr.) starting at 9 a.m. Getting a new puppy off to the right start or teaching an adult dog manners, Sunburst has several training options to help you on your training journey.

Impact 100 Membership Recruitment. Impact100 of Northwest Florida is changing lives in our community- one woman at a time. They are seeking to expand membership in the northern end of both Okaloosa and Walton Counties. Please join them at the Pavilion of the Eagles Nest at the Blackwater Golf Course on Thursday, April 17.

April 19

Sy-5k at Riverwalk South (5162 Willing St.) from 8 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. After a brief hiatus, Run Different is so excited to bring their Sy-5K event to Florida. Run or walk their 5K at your pace and receive an awesome 4-inch light-up finisher medal.

April 26

Santa Rosa County Master Gardener Plant Sale at the Santa Rosa County Extension Services building starting at 9 a.m. Come support your local master gardener program at the annual plant sale. There will be over 1500 native and Florida friendly plants, educational booths, food trucks and activities for kids

May 3

2nd Annual Crawfish Boil 2.0 at the Prost Office Brewery starting at 12 p.m. Back by popular demand, it's time for another round of delicious crawfish and good vibes. Bring your friends and family for a day filled with great food, cold drinks, and music.

Foundry Student 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament Fundraiser at the Milton SportsPlex from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. This event is a fundraiser for Foundry students for their Camp Baldwin retreat and mission trip. \$10 per player, up to 4 players on a team. Open to the public. Boys and girls of all ages can participate.

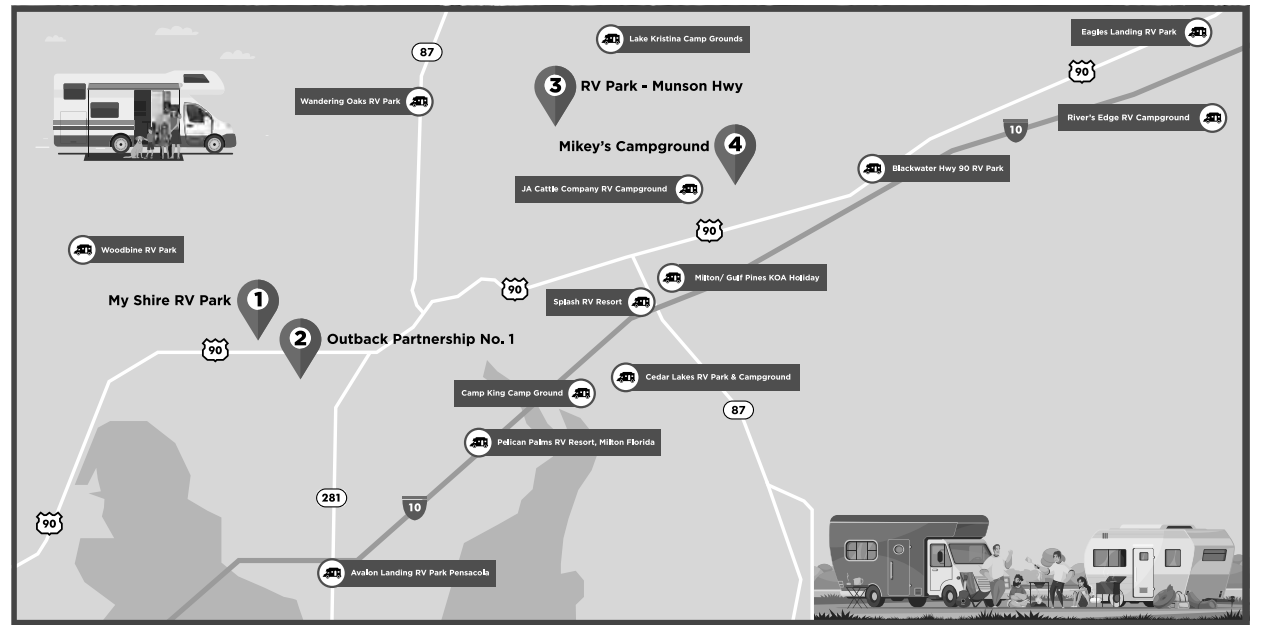
May 10

Hop into a Fur-Ever Home at Santa Rosa County Animal Services from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Join the Krewe of Wicked Pirates and the Santa Rosa County Shelter for an egg-stra special, 'Hop into a Fur-Ever Home' pet adoption event. Come meet your new furry friend at the Santa Rosa County Animal Services Center.

May 31

2025 Sheriff's Rodeo at Sant Rosa County Fair Association, Inc. starting at 7:30 p.m. A family-friendly evening packed with heart-pounding rodeo riding, jaw-dropping K-9 and SWAT demos, and other experiences, all in support of the SRSO Star Foundation.

RV Parks in north Santa Rosa, needed or nuisance?



Map by Dan Bontrager

By Marlo Scafe
news@srpressgazette.com

More RV Parks are planned for Pace and Milton. They often crop up unexpectedly, but here are some that are currently in the planning stages.

My Shire RV Park

According to their development plans, this 18-lot RV Park is planned for 4643 Keyser Ln in Pace, near Murphy's Gas Station and McDonald's intersection.

The proposed site would consist of 18 dirt/gravel RV sites with full water/sewer/ electrical hookups. Two septic fields and a dumpster pad with enclosure and grassed parking dotted throughout the site.

The existing house would be renovated to house an onsite caretaker residence and have communal laundry facilities available to the campers. In their plans, it was stated that their overall goal is for the area to remain as natural as possible.

Outback Partnership No. 1

The owners of a property zoned Rural Residential Agriculture (AGRR) are seeking permission from the Zoning Board to rezone 3.52 acres to Highway Commercial Development (HCD).

The reason for this request is to allow for an RV park in the future. The site is located behind 5385 Highway 90 in Pace. The property is currently vacant, and the applicant owns approximately 6.09 acres west of the parcel. This parcel is located in County Commissioner Bobby Burkett's District 1 on the south side of Highway 90 west of Struth Lane.

Assuming all of the projected vehicle trips will impact Highway 90, the current zoning district could allow approximately 66.46 daily vehicle trips if developed residentially. The proposed zoning could produce approximately 1,406.4 daily vehicle trips if developed to the highest intensity of commercial retail.

The applicant has expressed the desire to do an RV Park, but with a proposed number of sites, it is hard to determine the potential trips generated. But as a worst-case scenario, this would be an increase of 1,339.94 daily vehicle trips for only this parcel. Currently, this section of roadway has an AADT of 34,500. The 2020 Florida Alabama TPO Congestion Management Plan listed this portion of Hwy 90 with a Service Level of "C" with a maximum volume of 41,790. This

would not degrade the segment.

Munson Highway

Bryan Church is requesting to rezone 8.1 acres from AG-RR (Rural Residential Agriculture) to HCD (Highway Commercial Development) and amend the Future Land Use map from AG-RR (Agriculture Rural Residential) to COMM (Commercial). The reason for the request is to allow for an RV Park.

The subject site is located at 6893 Munson Hwy in Milton. The property currently has a single-family residence on site. This parcel is located in County Commissioner Rhett Rowell's District 3. On the west side of Munson Hwy, north of East Gate Road.

The proposed zoning could produce approximately 16.9 daily vehicle trips if developed as an RV park. The current AADT for Munson Hwy is 1,150, with a maximum capacity of 8,400.

The subject property is located on a minor arterial in the vicinity of mostly residential uses. There has been some commercial development on Munson Hwy; however, not in the immediate area. There is also an existing RV park to the north, and a Conditional Use approval for

a campground approximately 1.5 miles north. While this request is not compatible with neighboring properties, this area is seeing a rise in commercial types of development.

Mikey's Campground

This 36-lot RV Park is planned for 5996 Jeff Ates Rd. The site is next to the existing J A Cattle Company RV Campground. The project was created on March 13 with stormwater and site plans submitted, but not much else.

The Zoning Board meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. on April 10, and the Board of County Commissioners meeting will be held at 5:00 p.m. on April 24. Both meetings will be held at the Santa Rosa County Administrative Complex in the Commissioners Board Room at 6495 Caroline St., Milton, Florida. The Zoning Board will make a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners for final determination.

All interested parties are invited to attend and present written and/or verbal comments. If you are unable to attend, you may email comments to CameronD@santarosa.fl.gov. All comments are due by noon on the day of the meeting.

Habitat for Humanity makes homeownership dreams a reality

By Marlo Scafe
news@srpressgazette.com

Pensacola Habitat for Humanity is building four new homes in Milton. Their mission is to help families find strength, stability and self-reliance through affordable homeownership.

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit that builds homes with affordable mortgages, making the dream of being a homeowner a reality. Through their Homebuyer Program and Community Land Trust, they will be building four new homes in Larriet Lane in Milton that will go to families who would otherwise be unable to afford them.

"All of the homes sold through the Pensacola Habitat for Humanity Homebuyer Program or Community Land Trust are sold to individuals or families that have lived and/or worked in Escambia or Santa Rosa County for at least two years," said Quinn Luehring, Director of Marketing and Communications. "So yes, they are sold to local individuals or families."

To qualify for their Homebuyer Program, eligible applicants must be low to moderate-income and must not exceed 80% of the



Habitat for Humanity volunteers work together on a Habitat for Humanity home without a roof. Photo submitted

area median income. For a five person household, the maximum income would be \$77,700 to qualify for the program.

The minimum household income to purchase a home from the traditional Homebuyer Program is \$40,000, with a credit score of 640 or higher. For the Community Land Trust homes, buyers must have a minimum household income of \$35,000 if the lot is in Escambia County, or \$30,000 if the lot is in Santa Rosa County.

A common misconception is that Habitat for Humanity homes are free. But

participants pay for their home just like a regular mortgage, but at an adjusted rate based on their income. Homeowners also must complete 100 Sweat Equity Hours contributing to the construction of the home and complete the workshop series on homeownership-readiness.

At Habitat for Humanity, they understand how significant a milestone buying a home is and fully immerse participants in the program. Buyers will often be given options regarding their home lot, home layout and finishes like cabinets, flooring and colors. Before

closing, the buyer will perform a walk-through of their finished home to ensure it meets expectations.

Established in 2023, the Northwest Florida Community Land Trust is a shared equity homeownership model designed to make homeownership attainable for low-income households. The land trust is an effective alternative to renting for lower-income households seeking the stability of homeownership.

With Community Land Trust homeownership, a fee simple estate is purchased without purchasing the land. The 99-year lease functions

like legal ownership, which helps reduce monthly payments and ensures that the home will remain affordable in perpetuity.

"Owning a home can be truly life-changing, providing stability, security and a foundation for long-term success," said Luehring. "Homeownership offers financial benefits, such as building equity and potential generational wealth, while also fostering a sense of pride and personal accomplishment."

The four lots on Larriet Lane have not yet been selected by homebuyers and are still available for selection for applicants going through their programs. Two of the lots belong to their traditional Homebuyer Program, while the other two lots belong to the Community Land Trust.

Pensacola Habitat for Humanity funding comes from a combination of state allocations, generous contributions from local individual donors, corporate partners, community fundraising events, and grants from local foundations and organizations. Funding allows them to build the homes, with a dedicated full-time construction crew collaborating with volunteer groups to

bring each project to life.

"The impact extends beyond individuals, strengthening neighborhoods and creating a ripple effect of positive change throughout the community," said Luehring.

Construction begins once homebuyers select their lots. Each month, they typically accept between five and eight homebuyers into the programs, depending on the number of program applicants. Once they begin building on the Larriet Lane, volunteers will be sought to help them build the homes. Luehring said volunteers are the foundation of their mission, and they could not do it without them.

To become a volunteer, people can keep an eye on the Volunteer Sign-Up Calendar or contact our volunteer coordinator at volunteer@pensacolahabitat.org.

"Beyond finances, a stable home environment contributes to better health, improved educational outcomes for children, and stronger community connections," said Luehring. "Families who own homes often experience reduced stress, greater control over their living conditions, and a renewed sense of hope for the future."

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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 developed his skills 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

H.E. Roberts Roofing
HERobertsRoofing.com
Milton, FL 32570
850-281-6509
License # CCC 133119

hands down to his sons one day and then to his sons' sons. They want to become a large company with home-town values and a hometown perspective.

Miltoner 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 for a long time to come.

"Roofs are an investment, they are not an expense," Bodie said. "Customers don't think about the quality or the condition of the roof on their property until they have a problem.

And when a problem arises, they want someone to help, and they want the option to pay for it 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.

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Downtown Milton's fountain dyed teal for Sexual Assault Awareness

By Marlo Scafe
news@srpressgazette.com

On April 2, the City of Milton and Naval Air Station (NAS) Whiting Field united to recognize Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAM) by dyeing the city's downtown fountain teal.

City of Milton officials, Navy officers, police officers, and victim advocates all convened in downtown Milton to dye the fountain teal in honor of the SAAM. The annual event serves as a symbol of solidarity with survivors and a reminder of the community's shared commitment to awareness, prevention and support.

"Signing this year's Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention campaign calls on both the military and civilian communities to step forward," said Jessica Ortiz, MSW, Sexual Assault Response coordinator, NAS Whiting Field. "To prevent, report, and advocate for the prevention of sexual assault while supporting survivors."

According to the Department of Justice, only 310 out of every 1,000 sexual assaults are reported to law enforcement, meaning more than two-thirds go unreported. Survivors often choose not to report



Photo by Marlo Scafe

Capt. Ted Elkins says if you see something, say something.

due to fear of retaliation or lack of confidence in the legal process. However, the United States Sentencing Commission states that 98.8% of convicted sexual abuse offenders receive prison sentences.

SAAM is observed throughout April and serves as a national movement to raise awareness, educate communities and advocate for survivors. The City of Milton and NAS Whiting Field remain committed to fostering a culture of prevention, support and accountability.

"The Navy's call to action is to respect, protect and empower one another," said Jamie Coffey, Director of Public Affairs, NAS Whiting Field. "We commit to treating others with respect, protecting one an-

other from harm through active intervention, and empowering those around us to speak up or intervene."

"We're also here to stand with our victims and help make sure we don't have folks out there suffering in silence," said Capt. Ted Elkins.

Elkins said they sign the proclamation every year, but he thinks of it as a reinvigoration for getting the word out until sexual assault is eradicated from society. He spoke to the importance of the Navy having a process where witnesses and survivors can report sexual assault anonymously, but still get the medical services they need, like trauma therapy. They are also seeking to hold those who engage in such

activities accountable and ensure that no one suffers in silence.

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) is a landmark federal law enacted in 1994 to improve criminal justice and community response to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. VAWA, like Elkins, also aims to hold offenders accountable and provide services to victims.

The Gulf Coast Sexual Assault Program is the certified rape crisis center for Florida's Circuits 1 and 14 in the Northwest region. They serve Escambia, Santa Rosa, Walton, and now serve Okaloosa County as well. Victim Advocate Tish Scott and Lindy Ducker attended the event, passing out informational pam-

phlets, teal frosted cupcakes, and hair scrunchies that serve a dual purpose for covering drinks.

Their 24-hour hotline serves to provide immediate telephone crisis intervention services to all primary and secondary persons who have experienced sexual violence. The caller will be assisted in evaluating immediate needs, provided information about available resources, information about the effects of sexual violence, general information about medical and legal issues, offered advocacy services and options regarding next steps.

"This is for any survivor. We also do historical, primary, or secondary clients and have a trauma therapy program," said Scott.

The Gulf Coast Sexual Assault Program 24/7 hotline for Santa Rosa and Escambia counties is (866) 585-2040. They can also be found online at gulfcoastsap.org.

NAS Whiting Field and Department of Defense Sexual Assault resources can be accessed at: Safehelpline.org

NASWF SAPR SARC: (850) 499-5810

NASWF SAPR CVA: (850) 324-4818

DoD SAFE HELPLINE: (877) 995-5247

Leadership Santa Rosa Class 38 explores Tallahassee

Staff Report
news@srpressgazette.com

Leadership Santa Rosa Class 38, an initiative of the Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce, went to Florida's capital for an immersive two-day experience, gaining firsthand insight into the state's legislative process while fostering valuable regional connections with Leadership Okaloosa and Leadership Walton.

The Florida Capitol, Florida Supreme Court, Historic Capitol Museum and State Library were on the list of tours for the class. The group was able to have discussions with speakers from various state agencies and legislative organizations, enhancing their understanding of policy development and governance.

A highlight of the trip was a meeting with the Florida Chamber, where members explored economic and business development topics relevant to



Photos submitted by Stephen Prestesater

Santa Rosa Leadership Class 38 meets in a conference room in Tallahassee.

Santa Rosa County. The experience was further enriched by a networking dinner at the Capitol City Country Club, providing an opportunity to connect with leadership peers from neighboring counties and strengthen regional collaboration.

"This trip offers an invaluable opportunity for emerging leaders to engage with the legislative process and understand



Santa Rosa Leadership Class 38 at the Florida Supreme Court.

how decisions made at the state level impact our communities," said Me-

lissa Stoker, Business Development Manager for Space Florida and Curric-

ulum Chair for the Leadership Executive Committee. "By connecting with leaders across the region, participants gain insights and relationships that will serve them well as they work to support and grow Santa Rosa County."

Leadership Santa Rosa's visit to Tallahassee reinforced the importance of civic engagement and regional partnerships, leaving participants with a deeper appreciation for the role of government and a strengthened network of peers committed to leadership and community development.

For more information about Leadership Santa Rosa, contact Stephen Prestesater, Leadership Santa Rosa Executive Committee, Public Relations Chair, at sprestesater@miltonfl.org. Content and write-up provided by Jennifer Hines, Santa Rosa County School District.

https://srcchamber.com/leadership-santa-rosa/

SRCDs Florida Prepaid Superintendent Scholarship recipients announced

Staff report
news@srpressgazette.com

On April 2, 2025, Dr. Karen Barber, Superintendent of Schools, had the opportunity to surprise two outstanding students with the Florida Prepaid Superintendent's Scholarship. Scholarship recipients for the Class of 2025 are JimJin "Angel" Powell and Jackson Stewart, both seniors at Pace High School.

Angel, a talented artist and chorus member, dreams of becoming an art teacher. This scholarship will help her take the next steps toward that goal! Jackson, an ROTC cadet with a passion for mechanics, is eager to pursue a career as an auto mechanic. He shared, "This is going to get me so much further in achieving my goal than I ever imagined."

These students will be recognized at the School Board Meeting on April 10, 2025. Congratulations to Angel and Jackson! Our mission in Santa Rosa County is to love, educate, and prepare ALL students for graduation and a successful future. We look forward to seeing the success from these students with this amazing opportunity.

More about this scholarship:

Santa Rosa County District Schools is pleased to partner with Florida Prepaid to offer two deserving high school seniors the chance to earn a 2-Year Florida College Plan Scholarship valued at approximately \$8,000. Thank you, Florida Prepaid College Plans!

State Road 87 South Resurfacing Project to Begin in Santa Rosa County

Staff report
news@srpressgazette.com

This April, the Florida Department of Transportation will begin a \$5 million resurfacing project on State Road (S.R.) 87, from south of East Bay Boulevard (County Road 399/Turkey Bluff Road) to Vonnie Tolbert Road, in Santa Rosa County.

This project also includes:

- Sidewalk and crosswalk improvements, including Americans with Disabilities Act upgrades.
- Signalization upgrades.
- Stormwater management enhancements.
- New signing and pavement markings.

During construction, drivers may encounter overnight periodic lane closures that will be limited to 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. Additionally, there will be periodic bicycle and pedestrian detours and closures that will not exceed 72 hours.

This project is scheduled for completion in late 2026. Find a larger view of the image online at www.santarosa.fl.gov/Document-Center/View/8632/SR-87-S-Resurface.

FPL awards Avalon Middle School \$50,000

By Marlo Scafe
news@srpressgazette.com

Avalon Middle School teacher Theresa Yankovoy was one of five teachers in the state of Florida to receive the Florida Power and Light (FPL) Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Classroom Makeover Grant for the 2024-2025 school year.

The STEM Classroom Makeover Grant Program is awarded to update technology to a 21st-century learning environment, advance curriculum, and increase exposure of STEM education to students. This grant is intended to provide transformational learning opportunities for students in a classroom setting.

"I wrote the grant with the intention to promote Avalon Middle School as being a pioneer and a leader in STEAM, and in career connection," said Yankovoy. "And I think Avalon Middle School is choosing me as a leader and pioneer, bridging the ancient world into the future."



Photo by Marlo Scafe

Avalon Middle School Social Studies teacher Theresa Yankovoy shares her plans for the \$50,000 grant from FPL.

Yankovoy teaches social studies and has big plans for her students' education now that she has received the grant. With some of the funding, she intends to teach 3D printing to her students. This is one way she intends to bridge the gap between history and the future with technology.

The students will print 3D historical artifacts and recreate arrowheads, pottery, and other tools. Yankovoy took students on a field trip to see the Muscogee Creek Heritage Artifacts and had Chief Skyhorse visit the school library, so the students have been learning about the local Na-

tive American history.

"I will be doing all of these lessons that we made from the Creek Nation, and we will be doing the 3D printing with our world history students," said Yankovoy.

She said the Career and Technical Education (CTE) class is going to create a virtual field trip. Not only will Yankovoy's classes benefit from the grant, but she intends to purchase virtual reality headsets that the entire school can use to take virtual field trips. Rather than taking students on a field trip to the capital, they can explore and learn from the classroom.

The teachers at Avalon Middle School often collaborate, like during their STEAM night, when they had a path of lights winding through student projects that represented a time period. She believes teaching is something that takes time, effort, and collaboration that often reaches beyond the classroom.

"When I saw that kids did not understand where we were going with coding, I had to go home and learn coding," said Yankovoy. "I think my strength as a teacher is that I dedicate time to things, and I will not give up."

Yankovoy has been teaching for 10 years, but she is continually learning and honing her skills. Even with a master's degree in education, she still seeks to better herself, like learning how to print 3D or create virtual reality worlds. With the coding, which was for a project she created where students would design their own smartphone app.

When she herself learned how to code, it motivated and inspired students to do it as

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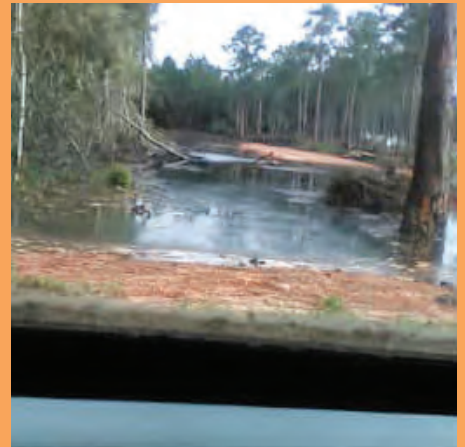


Submitted photos

Arthur Hauck lives on Mulat Bayou and has seen the pollution first-hand and the damage it has done to the bayou. In the center photo below, an unknown chemical was added to the water by an unknown person.



Avalon Beach - Santa Cruz Blvd



Mulat Bayou

Continued from page 1A

“We have been told by the county commissioners and DEP since last September and every month since then, that this was going to be taken care of,” Hauck said. “We thought when we paid for more than 100-ft. of waterfront property that we would be protected from sewage and clay sediment from five other properties coming into the bayou. It is infuriating that it not only continues but seems to be getting worse.”

Hauck is struggling to make sense of all that has happened over the past seven months as construction clay from developments has washed down into Mulat Bayou over and over again. His home waterfronts the bayou. Hauck recalls sitting in the backyard watching Bald Eagles, hawks, pelicans, ospreys and other birds visit and live on the bayou for its richness in food availability. That is all but gone now.

“It has been 7 months since we have seen any fish in this bayou,” Hauck said. “The wildlife has been greatly reduced and killed off.”

Hauck and his wife moved to Mulat Bayou for their retirement. “I moved here to retire and fish, not become an activist.” Now they wonder if they made a mistake. This has even put a strain on their marriage.

“This has not just affected me personally, but my wife as well. It has affected our relationship because of the stress of this,” Hauck said. “Dealing with the constant destruction of our property, but also losing the use of the bayou, which is why we moved here has been incredibly stressful.”

“I have worked 8 hours a day every day for 7 months documenting the damage, emailing everyone I can find in the DEP, EPA and the county,” Hauck said. “I shouldn’t have to do this.”

Hauck brings the entire situation back to a lack of leadership. “There are laws and codes in place that they are not upholding. No one is talking about that. I had to follow every inch of the codes and laws when I built this house.”

DEP has not, to date, produced a public records request made by this newspaper Feb. 25, 2025, citing an open investigation into the matter. But, they did send this statement:

“The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has been actively monitoring and documenting the ongoing discharges into Mulat Bayou from the Avalon Beach developments, including those following this weekend’s heavy rains. While DEP does not have the authority to directly implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) on private property, we have repeatedly directed the developers to take immediate action to mitigate these discharges.

DEP has conducted more than a dozen inspections and is thoroughly documenting the recurrent turbidity violations and BMP failures. This documentation will be critical for supporting both regulatory and criminal enforcement actions.”

There are many unknowns for Hauck and his wife and their future. How long will it take the bayou to repair itself without any remediation? Do they want to stay to see the bayou alive again? They want answers and they want change.

Hauck concluded by saying, “I’m so tired of not being heard. Why do I have to go to such extremes to be heard?”



For God's sake

By Rev. Michael Bannon
Compass Community Church

This Resurrection Sunday – my preferred term for Easter Sunday – I will baptize a man in our congregation. This will be the third year in a row that I have had that privilege. He and I will wade out into Santa Rosa Sound until we come to water deep enough to dunk him. Pray for the tide to be high and the weather warm! When you consider the theology behind baptism, baptizing on the day that we celebrate Christ's resurrection from the grave is a beautiful thing.

At COMPASS Church, we practice baptism by immersion, an act that pictures the believer's union with Christ in his death and resurrection. In the Apostle Paul's letter to the church in Corinth, he reminds them about the gospel that he preached to them, "that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures." When a person believes from the heart that Jesus is the Christ, the One the Father promised to send to redeem his people, that Christ died for their sins, and that Christ was raised from the dead, they are saved from God's judgment against their sin and given a new life in Christ.

When in baptism that believer is plunged under the water, it pictures their union with Christ in his death and burial. When Christ died on the cross for our sins, it's as if we died with him. In baptism preparation classes, I like to ask the participants what would happen if I held them under the water for five minutes. They warily answer, "I would drown." Assuring them that I will not do that, I ask what being brought up out of the water represents? It is easy to see how it represents being raised to life. Just as surely as the believer is united with Christ in his death, so too is he united with Christ in his resurrection.

The life that the believer is raised to in Christ is not simply their old life polished up, they are raised to a new life. "For the death he died he died to sin, once for all," Paul writes, "but the life he lives he lives to God. So, you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus." The believer's new life is to be a life lived "to God," that is, a life lived for God's purposes and glory. With this act of obedience to Christ, being baptized, the believer's baptism becomes a way for him to express publicly his commitment to live for God's glory.

The facility we rent for our Sunday services is being used by another group on Resurrection Sunday, so we have rented the Beach House at Holley By The Sea, which sits on Santa Rosa Sound. If you want to encourage the man being baptized, join us. I am anticipating baptizing him after our 10:30 AM worship service.

FAITH Out of this world worship



Astronauts Sunita (Sunni) Williams and Barry "Butch" Wilmore safely return to Earth after being stranded on the International Space Station for nine months. Photos submitted by NASA

By Marlo Scafe
news@srpressgazette.com

On March 18, two astronauts returned to Earth after being stranded on the International Space Station for nine months. One of them utilized church service streaming to help him get through the trip.

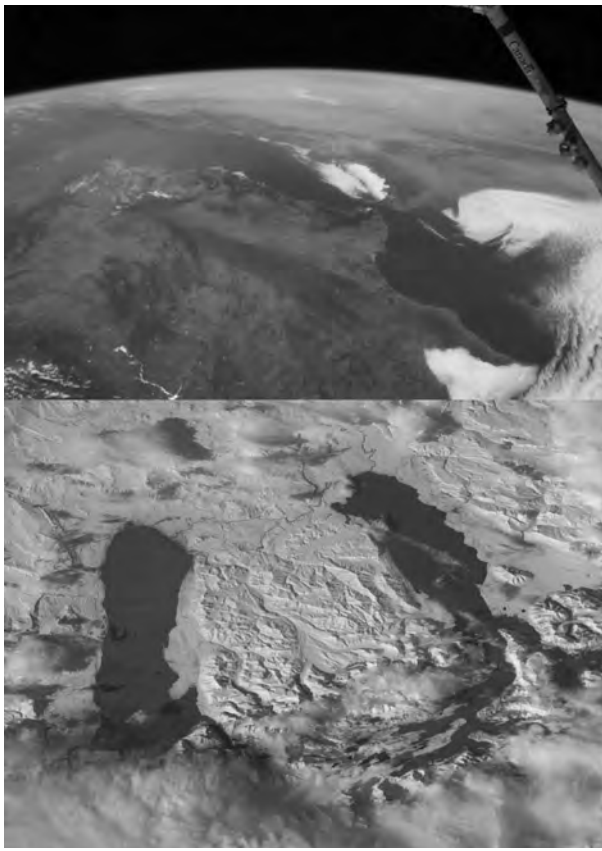
On June 16, 2022, NASA confirmed that Crew Flight Test would be a two person flight test, consisting of Barry "Butch" Wilmore and Sunita "Sunni" Williams. On June 5, 2024, Starliner was launched successfully into orbit. On June 6, the Starliner docked to the space station.

The mission was meant to last eight days, ending with a landing on June 14. However, according to NASA, the capsule's thrusters malfunctioned as Starliner docked with the International Space Station.

Despite months of testing, NASA felt it was not able to determine why the thruster malfunctioned and decided it was too risky to return Wilmore and Williams to Earth aboard Starliner. The spacecraft returned uncrowded on Sept. 6, 2024.

In December 2024, it was announced by NASA that Williams and Wilmore would return to Earth on a new SpaceX Dragon capsule. On March 18, 2025, they finally returned home on the rescue capsule. On March 31, Williams and Wilmore spoke at a news conference about their journey into space.

Wilmore said during his nine months of being stranded on the International Space Station he decided to stream church services to keep



his spirits lifted through the support of fellowship.

"The word of God can continually fill me, I need it. I have the best pastors on, or in this case off, the planet," said Wilmore. "And to tie in and worship with my church family was vital, it's part of what makes me go."

Wilmore believes that no one has lived a life without pain, sorrow, and challenges because that's the nature of existence. Pain can cause us to grow; we learn from it, and that's the focus that Wilmore tries to take from it.

He considers what the Lord is trying to show and teach him. He knows that because there's so much to learn in life that he and his family can better understand life's teachings through Jesus Christ.

"I also tuned into Grace Baptist Church in Mount Juliet, Tennessee. A buddy of mine is an elder and pastor there, and I would watch their service as well every single week, and it was invigorating," said Wilmore. "It is a part of what I need as a believer in Jesus Christ."

Wilmore was assisted day in and day out

during his nine-month space voyage by focusing on his beliefs. He needed that fellowship, even though it was from afar. He said it was different from being in an in-person fellowship, but still, he needed it.

"All of our lives are bound up in many things. For me, it's faith and belief in my savior Jesus Christ. He is the end-all be-all. He forgives us," said Wilmore. "He teaches us what his word says about being content in all situations because he's working out his plans and his purposes for his glory and our good."

Wilmore said he believes what the Apostle Paul said in the book of Philippians about being content in all situations. That's the message he and his family live by. They were taught that the most difficult and trying times of their life also serve a purpose, and that's contentment. Even while being stranded in outer space, Wilmore put his trust in God. He said being content doesn't always mean happy, it also doesn't mean there's no pain. But content is knowing that God's in control, working out his plan and his purpose.

BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Haggai (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Where does Jesus speak of separating the sheep from the goats? Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
3. Who told Saul that

rebellion was as bad as witchcraft? Moloch, Mamath, Marduk, Samuel

4. From Proverbs 18, "Whoso findeth a wife findeth ..." Himself, Life, Good thing, Family

5. How old was Moses when he died? 100, 120, 160, 190

6. How many sons did Judah have? 3, 5, 6, 12

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Matthew (25:31-33), 3) Samuel, 4) Good thing, 5) 120, 6) Five

Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in bookstores and online. (c) 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

This page is for the faithful and for faith communities of all denominations. Do you or your church have a story you think needs to be told?

Email us at news@srpressgazette.com. We'd love to hear your ideas.

MILITARY

Autonomous F-16 program advances with modifications, simulations

VETERANS ★ POST ★

by Freddy Groves

Missing inventory

If you're getting care at a Department of Veterans Affairs facility and staff can't find the equipment or supplies needed for your treatment, somebody has goofed up, likely somebody in inventory control.

One hospital alone, as investigated by the VA Office of Inspector General, was supposed to stock \$203 million in equipment and \$5.5 million in expendable supplies. In verifying the accuracy of the inventories, 82% of items in a random sample of surgical or medical items were found to be incorrect. That's 49 of the 60 items checked. As an example, inventory records showed over 1,100 decontamination gowns. In reality, there was one gown.

Then there were the over 1,500 expired items, the 94% of items that were not in the locations where they should have been and the new supplies found in dumpsters.

Interestingly enough, the Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) had conducted quality control reviews two years in a row, which meant they received documents and information from the facility. Their on-site reviews didn't find the deficiencies the VAOIG did: missing data, expired supplies, inventory discrepancies, missing medicine cabinets, lack of correct use of the barcode system and more. Then there was the lack of training.

And the VISN reviewers -- because they lean heavily on data supplied to them -- apparently didn't notice the unlocked bins of veteran files, containing personal and health information, sitting outside the warehouse door.

The finger of blame for the expiration of biological and non-biological implant items can be pointed in several directions: staff because they weren't tracking the inventory, the various departments that used different methods to track their items, vendors that weren't made responsible for monitoring the items they supplied. And when problems did surface (damage and loss, for example), no one investigated.

The end result of this VAOIG inspection was chilling: Patients were medically at risk because of expired implant items and financially at risk due to their personal and health information sitting in bins outside the warehouse door.

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U.S. Air Force Photos by Samuel King Jr.
An F-16 Fighting Falcon undergoes modifications as part of the Viper Experimentation and Next-gen Operations Model – Autonomy Flying Testbed program at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. The changes include software, hardware and instrumentation that will allow the aircraft to fly autonomously.

By Samuel King Jr.
Eglin Air Force Base

The last F-16 Fighting Falcon set for autonomous aircraft modification landed April 1. The aircraft marked the final F-16 arrival to be part of the Viper Experimentation and Next-gen Operations Model – Autonomy Flying Testbed program, also known as VENOM.

In a hangar nearby, three of those F-16s are in the VENOM modification process. These adjustments involve software, hardware and instrumentation that will eventually allow the autonomy to fly the aircraft.

A new physical change to the aircraft will be the inclusion of an auto-throttle. This modification allows the autonomy flying VENOM to regulate the flight control surfaces and the thrust.

"Modifying the aircraft is the result of a rigorous design phase and brings us one step closer to testing autonomy on a fighter jet with real mission systems and capabilities," said Maj. Trent Mc-



Chris Kiser, an aviation engineer, works on modifying an F-16 Fighting Falcon's wiring as part of Viper Experimentation and Next-gen Operations Model – Autonomy Flying Testbed program at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. The changes include software, hardware and instrumentation that will allow the aircraft to fly autonomously.

Mullen, the 40th Flight Test Squadron's advanced capabilities division chief.

As the physical pieces of the VENOM program take shape at Eglin, the to-be-used autonomy is continuously tested in faster-than-real-time modelling and simulation environments in countless aircraft combat scenarios.

Those simulations began in 2024 and included one-on-one and now two-on-two combat flights. These scenarios also involve within-visual-range and beyond-visual-range missions. The data from these tests get analyzed

and help test engineers improve the autonomy.

"These simulations provide an efficient way to train the autonomy to learn complex air combat tactics," said McMullen. "A specific scenario can be run 1,000 times and the variations and decisions made throughout that mission can be studied. We can then make recommendations to the developers on how to improve the autonomy's behaviors and overall performance."

The next step for VENOM development is hardware and software-in-the-loop testing. With the software testing,

test engineers want to ensure the VENOM autonomy connects to and communicates with the aircraft's system.

For hardware testing, the primary goal is safety. Test engineers will confirm autonomous commands cannot break the aircraft or pilot, according to McMullen. This testing ensures the autonomy can't go past its limits or exceed its flight envelope regardless of the commands given to it. This is done inside an F-16 flight simulator.

These tests will be critical for the human-on-the-loop role required for the VENOM project. When the aircraft begins actual flight testing, a test pilot will be on board to oversee the flight with the ability to start and stop the autonomy in real time. The hardware tests will examine how to manage aggressive aircraft maneuvers that are within the pilot's physical and physiological safety limits.

Once the software and hardware tests are examined and cleared, the VENOM program will move to

ground testing with a fully modified F-16.

Just like most F-16 and F-15 testing at Eglin, the VENOM program will undergo simultaneous developmental and operational testing.

"Having both DT and OT pilots working and flying from the same location allows for daily collaboration and reduces the stove piping of knowledge and lessons learned," said Lt. Col. Jeremy Castor, VENOM operational test lead.

That collaboration pushed the advancement of the program forward so that possibly within only 18 months of the first F-16s arriving, a fully modified aircraft will be ready to begin testing.

"As the VENOM program's first flight approaches, we are excited to test novel autonomous solutions. The strides we've witnessed in the simulation environment suggest VENOM will help advance aerial combat capabilities for future crewed and uncrewed platforms," said McMullen.

Installation, as weapons system, requires a strong defense

By Samuel King Jr.
Eglin Air Force Base

A top Defense Department priority, highlighted in January by the Defense Secretary, is to rebuild the military by matching threats to capabilities and reestablish deterrence by defending the homeland.

This year, the base commander accepted that challenge and recently shared his defense vision of the installation he oversees as the 96th Test Wing commander.

Brig. Gen. Massaro called Eglin a power projection platform requiring a combination of mission, people and partners to maintain that capability.

"I see Eglin as a weapons system," said Massaro during a recent commander's call. "The base is a way to project power. The Air Force missions here span the spectrum of science and technology all the way through putting bombs on targets."

The basic beginning-to-end elements of a military mission resides



U.S. Air Force photo by Samuel King Jr.
Brig. Gen. Mark Massaro, 96th Test Wing commander, speaks at his recent commanders call March 27, 2025, at Eglin Air Force Base. His message focused on the base as a weapons system and how to best defend the installation.

within the Eglin complex. Ideas generated by Air Force Research Lab scientists and engineers create the next warfighter improvement. The Armament Directorate provides the planning and coordination to get it built and prepared for testing. The 96th TW and 53rd Wing accomplish that testing so it can be used by those warfighters.

The 33rd Fighter Wing, Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal school and 6th Ranger Training Battalion train those fighters for war. The 919th Special Operations Wing and the 7th Special Forces Group must be ready to go at a moment's notice. That's only a few of the 44 different agencies that make the Eglin weapons system function.

"The job of the installation is to protect and sustain those missions, so they continue to be effective," said the commander.

To protect that system, the base's defensive posture changed to include restrictions to waterways, range roads, gate measures and specifically to counter-unmanned aircraft systems.

Massaro praised an Eglin counter-UAS working group, created approximately six months ago, focused on creating protocols on how to report, and deal with UAS's such as drones. The group includes security, operations and the local community to help in the effort. Massaro explained Eglin is further ahead than Northern Command's current requirements for posturing United States bases against this new threat.

"Our power projection has changed significantly over the last 30 years," Massaro said. "There are now adversaries out there that can strike at the things that we hold dear in several different ways. There are activities happening that are against our interest in projecting power and affecting our ability to execute the mission. Understanding these threats are out there, we taken these new steps to better protect our weapons system."

EDUCATION

Sports Ability Games give special needs students chance at athletics

By Hansen Hasenberg
hansen@navarrepress.com

Students from 16 schools in Santa Rosa County descended upon Pace High School's football field for the inaugural north end edition of the Zack Butler Memorial Sports Ability Games Thursday, April 3.

Named for a physical education teacher and coach who lost his battle with cancer in 2022, the Sports Ability Games are designed to expand the field of opportunity for special needs students in athletics.

The Special Olympics inspired event featured over a dozen different activities and a break for lunch. Activities included bowling, tug-of-war, badminton, T-ball, cornhole, jump rope, egg races, ring toss and an obstacle course. There is also a game where students use a slingshot to try and get bean bags to land inside hula hoops.

The event is organized by Elizabeth Mann, a school district mentor coach, and the Santa Rosa County Education Foundation, a nonprofit which directly supports Santa Rosa County District Schools. The foundation also sponsors the teacher of the year recognition each year.

"We are proud and honored to celebrate Zack's memory and carry forward the legacy of his passion, kindness and commitment to students with special abilities," the Foundation said in a Facebook post. "This event is more than just games — it's about inclusion, joy and creating lasting memories, just as Zack did throughout his life. His spirit lives on in every smile, cheer, and high-five today."



Kenny Hadley, an Avalon Middle School student, bowls at the Zack Butler Memorial Sports Ability Games, held Thursday, April 3 at Pace High School. Shamir Gooden, another Avalon student, waits his turn. Photos by Hansen Hasenberg



A student at the Zack Butler Memorial Sports Ability Games celebrates making a goal on one of the activities. Students compete in a 20-yard dash.



Pea Ridge Elementary students take turns using a slingshot to propel a bean bag into a hula hoop.

During his time with the school district, Butler organized a version of the Sports Ability Games with his adaptive P.E. students in Gulf Breeze area schools. The event has been held for over 15 years and previous iterations have been held at Gulf Breeze High School's football stadium and other locations in the south end of the county.



Noah Nelson, of Central School, tosses a bag during a round of cornhole at the Zack Butler Memorial Sports Ability Games.

Mann said this was the first time the Games have been on the north end of the county. A version of the Games was held at Navarre High School in March for south end schools.

"The goal is for the south end Games to rotate between GBHS and NHS," Mann said. "This is our first north End Games, and we hope to

hold them annually at Pace (a central location for all schools)."

Mann said the Special Olympics of Florida also plays a role in putting on the event.

"Special Olympics helps the Adaptive PE teachers submit paperwork on their students/class roster to purchase shirts and ribbons for their students," Mann said.

Santa Rosa Education Foundation announces nominees for Santa Rosa Rookie of the Year 2025

Staff Report
news@navarrepress.com

The Santa Rosa Education Foundation invited every school in the Santa Rosa School District to nominate one teacher for the 2025 Santa Rosa Rookie of the Year award. All full-time teachers in their third

year or less of teaching were eligible for this award. This included total teaching experience, not just in Santa Rosa public schools.

The following school nominees will be recognized at our Thirtieth Annual Rookie of the Year Reception on May 8, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. at B.C. Russell

Elementary School. Santa Rosa's Rookie of the Year 2025 will be announced during the awards presentation.

2025 Santa Rosa Rookie of the Year Nominees:

Avalon Middle: Leanna Bounds, Bagdad Elementary: Nicole Constant, Bennett Russell Elementary: Felicia

Nelson, Berryhill Elementary: Patricia Eaton Bull, Central: Natasha Pearson, Chumuckla Elementary: Savannah James, Dillon Administrative Center: Kyla Hesters, Dixon Intermediate: Jessica Delange, Dixon Primary: Meliah Glass, East Bay K-8: Milahn Reed, East Milton Elementary: Elizabeth Ramirez, Gulf Breeze Elementary: Mina Sharifian, Gulf Breeze High: Mycah Daniel, Gulf Breeze Middle:

Deborah Voizin, Hobbs Middle: Jane Barnes, Holley-Navarre Intermediate: Savannah King, Holley-Navarre Middle: Frank Veres, Holley-Navarre Primary: Megan Downam, Jay Elementary: Kimberly Jefferson, Jay High: Chase Shell, King Middle: Brittani Fall, Locklin Technical College: Sean Ham, Milton High: Clare Colon, Navarre High: Sara McPherson, Oriole Beach Elementary: Courtney White,

Pace High: Samara Hughes, Pea Ridge Elementary: Lauren Linda, Rhodes Elementary: Jennifer Resmondo, Santa Rosa High & Adult: Susan Feraci, Sims Middle: Kelley Petrovits, TR Jackson Pre-K-K: Keshanta Reese, Wallace Lake K-8: Cameron Rhea, West Navarre Intermediate: Danielle Hackman, West Navarre Primary: Randi Goss, Woodlawn Beach Middle: Catherine DeAngelo

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

Ashley Rimes

Age: 17
Class: Class of 2025
Parents: Stephanie Rimes, Kristopher Rimes

Favorites

School subject: AP European History
Extracurricular activity: Mock Trial
Hobbies: Reading, drawing, writing, hanging out with friends, going to the beach
Car: Volkswagen Beetle
Store: Barnes & Noble
Musical Artist: Flptum
Movie: "Mama Mia"
TV show: "How I Met Your Mother"

Fast Facts

Cafeteria food must-have: Dr. Pepper
Last book read that wasn't required: "The Cat Who Saved Your Books"
Pet peeve: Chewing with your mouth open
Person most admired: My sister
Person I'd like to meet: Chappell Roan
First job: Cook
Top accomplishment: Getting honorable mention for Best Prosecution Attorney with only 2 weeks of preparation

Future

After-graduation plans: UWF for 2 years then transfer to FSU
Career goal: Museum historian



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

Hayden Tripodi

Age: 17
Class: Class of 2025
Parents: Christopher Tripodi and Tyvanna Domini

Favorites

School subject: Math
Extracurricular activity: Cross country and lacrosse
Hobbies: Coloring and playing lacrosse, running and spending time with friends
Car: Volkswagen Beetle
Store: American Eagle
Musical Artist: Olivia Rodrigo


Fast Facts

Movie: "The Notebook"
TV show: "Dance Moms"

Cafeteria food must-have: Mozzarella sticks
Last book read that wasn't required: "7 Husbands of Evelyn Hugo by Taylor Jenkins Reid"
Pet peeve: People being late
Person most admired: My mother
Person I'd like to meet: Olivia Rodrigo
First job: Cat sitting
Top accomplishment: Becoming captain of the girl's lacrosse team

Future

After-graduation plans: Go to college for architecture or accounting
Career goal: An architect or an accountant



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SANTA ROSA
**HOME &
GARDEN**

Pro tips for maintaining your lawn mower

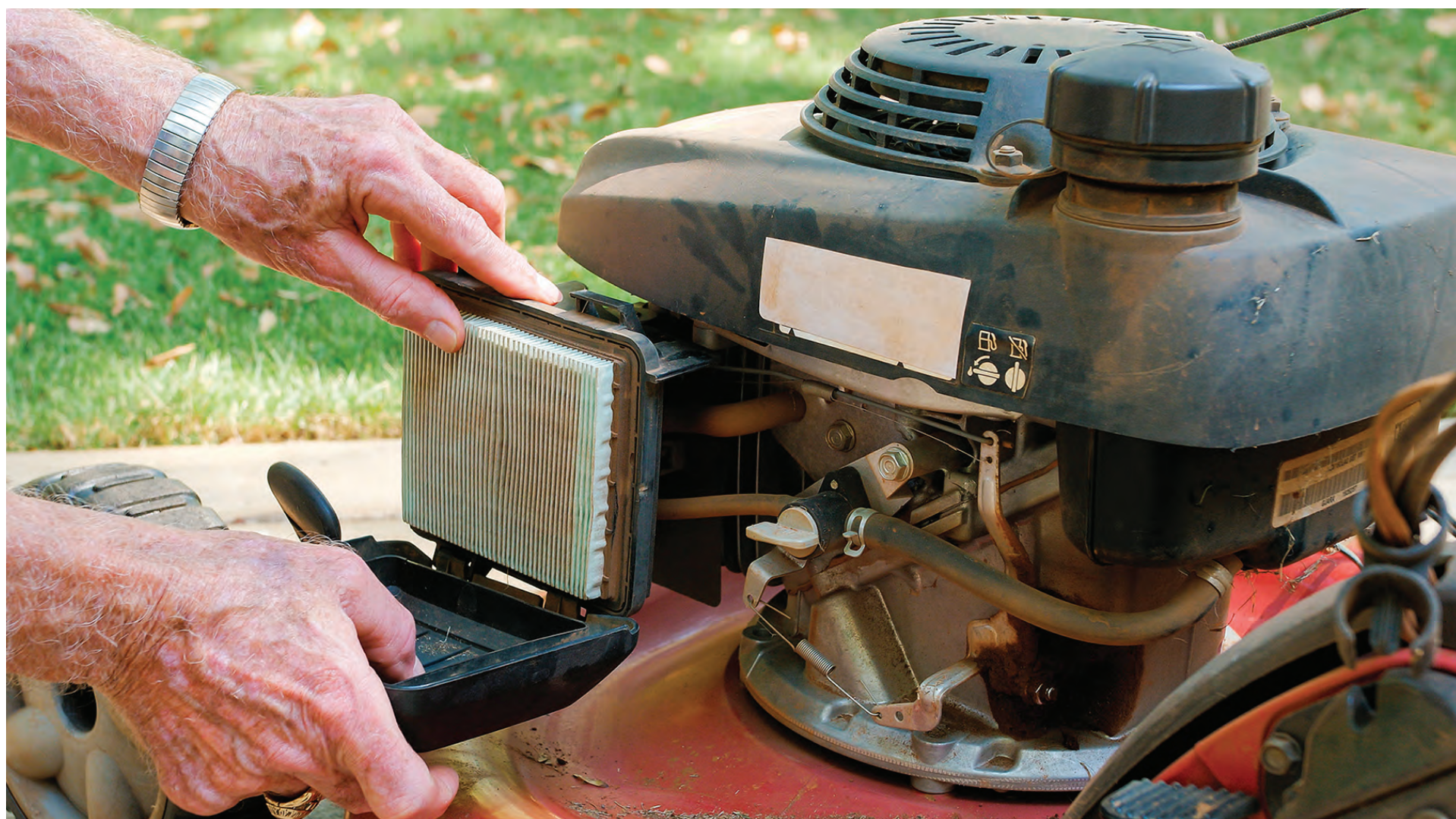


Photo courtesy of Shutterstock

Family Features

Most homeowners strive for beautiful yards, but neglecting a key component of lawn maintenance – the lawn mower itself – can lead to issues not only with your lawn but with the machine as well.

A well-maintained mower provides a cleaner cut, which promotes healthier grass growth. Neglecting regular

maintenance can result in uneven cuts, scalping and other issues that can damage your lawn. Regular maintenance also ensures your mower operates at peak efficiency, which can extend the lifespan of your mower, saving you money in the long run by preventing costly repairs or the need for a new machine.

To unlock the full potential of your lawn mower, clean it after each

use to prevent buildup of grass clippings and debris, and store it in a dry, sheltered place between uses. Additionally, regular maintenance including checking the oil level, inspecting the air filter and ensuring the blades are sharp can prevent larger issues and keep your mower running smoothly.

1. Change the oil: Drain the old oil from

your mower and refill it with fresh, high-quality engine oil.

2. Replace the air filter: A clogged air filter can reduce your mower's efficiency. Replace it with a new one to ensure optimal air flow to the engine.

3. Change the spark plug: Remove the old spark plug using a spark plug wrench and replace

it with a new one. This ensures reliable ignition and efficient fuel combustion.

4. Sharpen the blades: Remove the blades and sharpen them using a file or a sharpening tool. Reattach them securely before mowing.

5. Clean the deck: Grass clippings and debris can accumulate under the deck. Clean

it thoroughly to prevent rust and ensure smooth operation.

6. Inspect the belts and cables: Check for any signs of wear or damage. Replace any worn or frayed belts and cables to avoid future breakdowns.

Visit eLivingtoday.com to find more advice to keep your lawn and garden equipment in pristine condition.

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EDITORIAL

In Our Opinion

For whom does the bridge toll?

Santa Rosa County has an aptly named department for maintaining and repairing county roads and bridges – called ‘Roads and Bridges.’ They have a budget that includes among other things maintenance

of county bridges.

According to the last inspection of the Navarre Beach Bridge, which is county owned, the condition of the bridge is listed as ‘fair’ with somewhat better than minimum adequacy to tolerate being left in place as is. The deck geometry is basically intolerable requiring a high priority of corrective action.

The deck and super-structure are in fair condition which means it is structurally sound, but may have minor sections of loss, cracking, spalling or scour (erosion of sand around the bridge foundation by moving water).

This inspection was in 2024. But we know it didn’t get that way in 2024 – this is something that has been known and talked about for years. While we praise Commissioner Ray Eddington for taking bridge replacement head on, as commissioners for years before him have kicked the proverbial can down the road. But we call a time out on what the intended use of the proposed tolls are.

In the bank right now, the county has \$1.5 million for a Planning, Design and Engineering study for a new bridge. It is the first requirement that must be complete before moving even an inch further to replace the bridge. If it started today, the PD&E study would take at least 18-24 months to complete.

The county wants to take the \$1.5 million set aside and use it to put in a toll system for the bridge. We are fine with that. Building a bridge is expensive and if we want to have skin in the game, so to speak, to receive grant funding from the state – well then, we should toll the bridge.

But at Monday’s county commission meeting we heard something we haven’t heard before. When we asked the question about the toll funds and what they will pay for, we were told it would be to provide matching funds for grants and such

to construct the bridge. Today, we heard the tolls will be used for maintenance of the bridge.

That is a little concerning. Please name another county-owned bridge or road that is tolled for the maintenance of said road or bridge. The correct answer is there isn’t one. The only commissioner who spoke up on that was Rhett Rowell who said something along the lines of – since we don’t operate

that way for other bridges and roads, I don’t think it is fair to toll this bridge for maintenance. They want to make this bridge pay its own way (and by bridge, I mean locals who work on the island, local Realtors and locals going to the beach). Get the drift?

The tolls from this bridge should pay for the PD&E study and the matching funds needed to build the bridge.

Pier operator and Windjammer’s co-owner, Tamara Fountain, addressed the commissioners from the podium, “If we are going to toll the bridge, I want to make sure I understood that we are not going to use any of that funding for maintenance of the bridge, because we don’t toll any other bridge in the county for maintenance. We have been told we have to come up with matching grants and that money should be put in a segregated fund and allowed to grow. We don’t need to use if for other purposes.”

Commissioner Kerry Smith said one of the primary reasons he wanted to approve this is fund repairs. “Its certainly not going to buy a new bridge. We have already spent \$8 million in repairs and are looking at another \$3 million.”

Eddington said we have to put the tolls toward the repairs.

We understand the cost of repairs; however, the county has repaired bridges and roads in the past to the tune of several million dollars – they didn’t toll any of them. We just want it to be fair. Is there a reason why Navarre is expected to pay their own way?



Santa Rosa County Meetings

April 10
Zoning board
 Santa Rosa County Administrative Board Room
 6495 Caroline St., Milton at 6 p.m.

April 11
Land Development Code Task Force
 Santa Rosa County Administrative Board Room
 6495 Caroline St., Milton at 8:30 a.m.

April 14
Fire Dept. Executive Group
 Santa Rosa County Emergency Management
 4499 Pine Forest Road, Milton at 6:30 p.m.

April 17
Local Mitigation Strategy Committee
 Santa Rosa County Emergency Management
 4499 Pine Forest Road, Milton at 1:30 p.m.

Milton Community Redevelopment Agency
 6738 Dixon St., Milton from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Sundial Utilities of Milton, Inc.
 6738 Dixon St., Milton from 5:45 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

City of Milton work session
 6738 Dixon St., Milton from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

April 21
Commission Committee
 Santa Rosa County Administrative Board Room
 6495 Caroline St., Milton at 8:30 a.m.

April 24
BOCC Regular
 Santa Rosa County Administrative Board Room
 6495 Caroline St., Milton at 8:30 a.m.

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

April 29
Sales Tax Committee
 Santa Rosa County Administrative Board Room
 6495 Caroline St., Milton at 9 a.m.

April 30
Santa Rosa County Multijurisdictional Flood Mitigation Task Force
 Milton City Hall Council Chambers
 6738 Dixon St., Milton from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

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For inclusion in any Thursday edition, stories and ad reservations are due at 5 p.m. on the previous Friday. Press releases and story submissions are welcome and encouraged, but will be printed on a space available basis, subject to editor approval.

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Weekend Weather

Friday
 Mostly Sunny
 79°/50°

Saturday
 Sunny
 73°/48°

Sunday
 Sunny
 77°/57°

Fine Print

Santa Rosa Press Gazette
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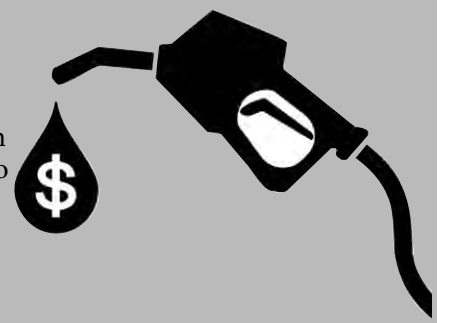
STATE NEWS News Service of Florida



\$98.7M above projection
 State general-revenue collections in February topped a projection by about \$98.7 million. A report posted online Monday by the Legislature's Office of Economic & Demographic Research showed Florida had net general revenue during the month of nearly \$3.747 billion.

14¢ up

Florida's breather with average gas prices under \$3 a gallon came to a quick end, with the average jumping more than a dime over the past week. The AAA auto club said Florida motorists Mar. 31 paid an average of \$3.10 a gallon for regular unleaded, up from \$2.96 a week earlier.



5,402 jobless claims
 The U.S. Department of Labor on Apr. 3 estimated 5,402 first-time unemployment claims were filed in Florida during the week that ended March 29, down slightly from a revised count of 5,614 claims during the week that ended March 22.

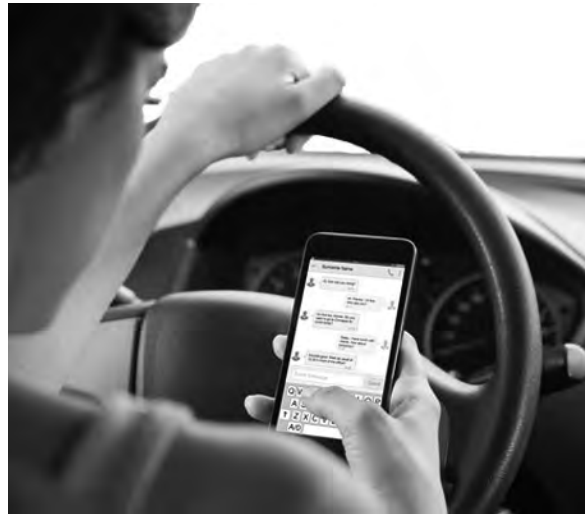
\$75 registration waived

A House committee on Thursday approved a proposal that would waive a \$75 annual registration fee for medical-marijuana patients who are veterans.



State immigration law challenged

Immigrant-advocacy groups Apr. 2 filed a potential class-action lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of a new Florida law aimed at cracking down on undocumented immigrants. The Florida Immigrant Coalition, the Farmworker Association of Florida and two individual plaintiffs filed the lawsuit in federal court in Miami. It challenges a law (SB 4-C) that passed during a February special legislative session. The law, in part, created state crimes for undocumented immigrants who enter or re-enter Florida. The lawsuit contends the law violated what is known as the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution because immigration enforcement is a federal responsibility. "Under this novel system, the state of Florida has created its own immigration crimes, completely outside the federal immigration system," the plaintiffs' attorneys from the American Civil Liberties Union and Americans for Immigrant Justice wrote. "State police will arrest noncitizens for these entry and re-entry crimes; state prosecutors will bring charges in state courts; and state judges will determine guilt and impose sentences. The federal government has no control over, nor any role at all in, these arrests and prosecutions." The lawsuit also alleges a violation of the Constitution's Commerce Clause because it "impermissibly regulates people's entry into Florida, and it imposes unacceptable burdens on interstate and foreign commerce." The February special session came as Republican lawmakers and Gov. Ron DeSantis said they were trying to help carry out President Donald Trump's immigration policies. The law targeted in the lawsuit was one of two immigration bills passed during the special session.



'Hands-free' driving bill ok'd

A proposal that would put more restrictions on the use of cell phones while driving is ready to go to the full Senate. The Rules Committee on Apr. 1 approved a bill (SB 1318) that would bar the handheld use of wireless devices while behind the wheel. The proposal would expand Florida's current texting-while-driving prohibition. It would apply to any actions that involve holding cell phones, including using social media, looking at maps and watching videos. Bill sponsor Erin Grall, R-Vero Beach, said distracted driving in Florida is a major problem. "It takes us digging in and saying we are going to change our behavior, because we know this is as bad, if not worse, than drunk driving," she said. A similar House bill (HB 501) has not been heard halfway through the legislative session.

County term limits backed

The Florida House on Apr. 2 continued moving forward with a proposed constitutional amendment that would impose eight-year term limits on county commissioners. The proposal also would put term limits in the Constitution for school-board members. The Legislature in 2023 approved eight-year term limits for school board members, but those limits are not in the Constitution. The House Education Administration Subcommittee on Wednesday voted 11-6 to approve the proposal (HJR 679), filed by Rep. Michelle Salzman, R-Pensacola. Salzman said public service is "not a career" and pointed to the power of incumbency. "It is not easy to unseat an incumbent," Salzman said. But opponents said term limits would restrict the ability of local voters to choose their county leaders. "Getting rid of good people is not the right thing to do," Putnam County Commissioner Larry Harvey said. The proposal, if approved by the Legislature, would go on the 2026 ballot. A Senate version (SJR 802) has cleared one committee.



Apple TV app - Top Movies Week
 By The Associated Press

Top Movie Purchases and Rentals (US):

1. Last Breath
2. Flight Risk
3. Wicked
4. Babygirl
5. One of Them Days
6. Companion
7. Dog Man
8. The Brutalist
9. Riff Raff
10. The Substance

Today in History

By The Associated Press
 Today is Thursday, April 10, the 100th day of 2025. There are 265 days left in the year.

On April 10, 1998, the Northern Ireland peace talks concluded as negotiators signed the Good Friday Agreement, a landmark settlement to end 30 years of bitter rivalries and bloody attacks.

- Also on this date:**
- In 1866, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was founded in New York by Henry Bergh.
 - In 1912, the British liner RMS Titanic set sail from Southampton, England, bound for New York on its ill-fated maiden voyage.
 - In 1919, Mexican revolutionary Emiliano Zapata was assassinated by forces loyal to President Venustiano Carranza.
 - In 1963, the nuclear submarine USS Thresher (SSN-593) sank during deep-diving tests east of Cape Cod, Massachusetts, killing all 129 aboard.
 - In 1971, the U.S. table tennis team arrived in China at the invitation of the communist government for a goodwill visit that came to be known as "ping-pong diplomacy."
 - In 2019, scientists released the first image ever made of a black hole, revealing a fiery, doughnut-shape object in a galaxy 55 million light-years from earth.

Today's Birthdays: Labor leader-activist Dolores Huerta is 95. Football Hall of Famer Mel Blount is 77. Author Anne Lamott is 71. Actor Peter MacNicol is 71. Singer-producer Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds is 66. Musician Brian Setzer is 66. Singer Kenny Lattimore is 55. Rapper-producer Q-Tip (A Tribe Called Quest) is 55. Actor David Harbour is 50. Singer Shemekia Copeland is 46. Actor Charlie Hunnam is 45. Actor-singer Mandy Moore is 41. Actor Haley Joel Osment is 37. Country musician Maren Morris is 35. Actor-singer AJ Michalka (mish-AL'-kah) is 34. Actor Daisy Ridley is 33. Singer-actor Sofia Carson is 32.



School cell phone ban advances

A proposal to prevent students from using cell phones and other wireless devices during the school day, not just during instructional time, is headed to the full House. The Education & Employment Committee on Wednesday unanimously approved the proposal (HB 949), which also would require school districts to designate areas where students may use devices. Bill sponsor Demi Busatta, R-Coral Gables, said the proposal doesn't define wireless devices to account for medical devices and to capture the "new gadget or gizmo that comes out." The proposal comes two years after lawmakers barred students from using cell phones and other wireless devices during instructional time. Committee Chairwoman Jennifer Canady, R-Lakeland, said the goal of Busatta's bill is to create an environment where students can thrive. A Senate proposal (SB 1296), which cleared the Education Pre-K-12 Committee on Monday, would require the education commissioner to craft a state-wide policy based on findings from six school districts that would ban the use of cell phones and other devices during the school day throughout the 2025-2026 academic year.



"We anticipate an above-average probability for major hurricanes making landfall along the continental United States coastline and in the Caribbean," researchers at Colorado State University said. Apr. 3, they forecasted 17 named storms during this year's Atlantic hurricane season

"We've got many families, farmers and ranchers who do have a difficult time getting affordable health insurance in our state," bill sponsor Nick DiCeglie, R-Indian Rocks Beach, said. The Senate on Thursday overwhelmingly passed a proposal that would allow the Florida Farm Bureau to offer largely unregulated health coverage to farmers.





APRIL 4
BAY BRIDGE BAND

APRIL 11
JOHN HART PROJECT

APRIL 18
THE NEW CAHOOTS

APRIL 25
CROSSTOWN BAND

MAY 2
SMOKEY JONES & THE 3 DOLLAR PISTOLS

MAY 9
SIX PIECE SUITS

MAY 16
STORMFOLK

MAY 23
NU-BLU

MAY 30
FREE RANGE IGUANAS

JUNE 6
BOX OF ROX

JUNE 13
DISCO KISS

FRIDAYS 7-9PM
Downtown Milton
Jernigan's landing



SPORTS

HBP Walk Off!

Central wins thriller after hit batter brings home winning run

By Brian Lester
sports@srpressgazette.com

Payton Holland tossed his bat in the air, threw his helmet on the ground and began celebrating with his teammates.

With the bases loaded in the bottom of the seventh inning, Holland literally took one for the team, getting hit by a pitch as the winning run came across the plate in Central's thrilling 3-2 win over rival Jay last Thursday night.

"I put my toes on the line, saw the pitch coming, and just turned," Holland said.

Holland was willing to do whatever it took to win. Even if it meant taking a hit.

"This game was marked on our calendar since losing to Paxton (in the regional). A chance to play the state champion, we had to fight for it. Glory to God."

Quincy Wilson was intentionally walked moments earlier to load the bases. The Jaguars' leading hitter was hoping to hit. But he also trusted the team.

"I always trust my teammates," Wilson said. "I wanted to go up there and swing, but it's all good. We still got it done."

The Jaguars (13-3) snapped a two-game losing streak while earning a big in-region victory. Central came in sixth in the state and third in Rural Region 1. Jay is 10-8 and ranked second in the region and fourth in Florida.

"It's a big win, beating the defending



Payton Holland was hit by a pitch in the seventh inning to bring home the winning run for the Jaguars.

Photos by Brian Lester

state champs," Central head coach Coy Campbell said. "This group plays hard every day. I love this group. We compete every day."

Jay tied the game in the sixth when Brady Godwin avoided a rundown and came home to even the score. The Royals nearly took the lead in the seventh but Clay Norris was caught stealing home.

"There's nothing you want to do more than beat a team you know well," Jay coach Duane Raley said. "I worked here (at Central) for three years. I know a lot of people here. It's a big game. A rivalry game. It's tough to lose it."

Jay tallied four hits, including two by Godwin. After the game, the players gathered in the outfield to talk about the loss and what they can do to bounce back.

"Those guys are doing it among



Brady Godwin reacts after a play where he scored the tying run.

themselves. You love to see the players lead. We'll benefit from this. It's going to make us better," Raley said.

Wilson led the Jaguars with two hits and is batting close to .600 on the season. He drove in runs in the first and third innings to give Central a 2-1 lead.

While this was a huge game, with fans filling the bleachers as well as the entire fence line on a warm night in Allen-

town, the mindset doesn't change.

"You go into every game looking to win. It doesn't matter who we play, we are going to be ready," Wilson said.

Central won 21 games last season but was bounced by Paxton in the regional tourney opener. The players are driven to redeem themselves.

"It's added motivation," Holland said. "Getting made fun of on the internet and everything, it adds fuel to the fire."



The Jaguars walked off the field winners over rival Jay in a showdown of state-ranked teams.



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Brian Out Loud!

By Brian Lester

Baseball and softball in this area seems to be in a great place.

Most of the teams are highly ranked in the region and state and the competitiveness that has been evident is no joke.

If you really want to know just how good those two sports are right now, consider the fact that if Jay or Central wants to get to state in baseball, it will have to go through the No. 1 team in the state (Holmes County) to get there.

And the Royals and Jaguars are no pushovers either. They are ranked fourth and sixth, respectively, in the Rural classification. If either gets to state, they will have earned it. Pace finds itself in a similar situation in baseball. The Patriots are ranked second in the state, but if they want a shot at the state final four, they'll have to get past top-ranked Buchholz to make it happen.

And how about 5A baseball? It's a grind to say the least. The top three teams in the state, Gulf Breeze, Niceville and Lincoln, are all in the same region as Milton. In fact, five of the eight teams in the Panthers' region are ranked in the top 10.

The 5A softball landscape is just as brutal. In the region Milton plays in, there are six top 10 teams. That includes No. 1 Niceville and No. 2 Middleburg. In some ways, you have to feel if you get out of that region unscathed, you deserve the state championship trophy.

The world of 6A softball isn't bad either. Reigning state champ Pace is No. 2 right now while Navarre is 11th. Those two teams squared off on April 1 and it was a thriller, with the Patriots escaping in extra innings. The Raiders left it all on the line that night and it was nearly enough.

Don't be surprised if those two teams meet again for the district title as well and maybe even for a regional championship. That's how good both teams are.

In Rural softball, Jay is the No. 1 team and the road to state might very well go through the Royals. It will kind of be surprising if it doesn't.

Look, even the teams that aren't quite high up in the rankings, there are no pushovers. Navarre has been in a lot of close baseball games this season. All it takes is getting hot at the right time and the Raiders could easily make a run.

Central's softball team also has a lot of talent on its roster. Don't overlook the Jaguars in the long run. They could easily get hot at the right time as well.

No matter how the rest of the season plays out, it's a great thing for the athletes to play in such a competitive area of the state. Iron sharpens iron every time and when you have great teams to compete against, it makes you that much better in the long run.

Nothing is gained from facing easy teams week after week. If you want to be the best, you need to play the best.

And in 2025 in this area for baseball and softball, that rings true.

Ella Nelson earns recognition from Southern Conference

By Brian Lester
sports@srpressgazette.com

Ella Nelson has established herself at the college level during her freshman year at Samford and was just named the Southern Conference Player of the Week.

The Jay alum earned the honor after a stellar performance against Western Carolina. She crushed three home runs in the second game of the series and drove in eight runs while also scoring three runs to lead the way for the Bulldogs in a 14-4 victory.

Nelson is in her first season of college softball with Samford and is hitting .310 on the year. She has come through with 22 hits, including four doubles and four home runs, and has knocked in 18 runs. Nelson has also scored 24 runs.

Nelson is part of a Samford team that is 23-14 through its first 37 games. The Bulldogs are 5-1 in Southern Conference play.

Nelson was a standout player during her high school days at Jay, helping to lead the Royals to a state championship in 2022.



Photo provided by Samford Athletics
Ella Nelson hit three home runs in a game against Western Carolina last month to earn Southern Conference Player of the Year honors.

McCranie rising to occasion in first season with Gulf Coast State baseball team

By Brian Lester
sports@srpressgazette.com

Alex McCranie is in his second year of college baseball and has handled life at a new school well.

The Pace alum plays for Gulf Coast State after spending his freshman campaign at Lurleen B Wallace in Alabama.

His numbers will tell you he's playing at a high level, batting .447 with five home runs through 25 games. He's driven in 22 runs and has crossed the plate 29 times.

"I definitely feel good. I have higher numbers than what some might expect, and I am with where I'm at," McCranie said. "All the hard work is paying off."

McCranie is playing a key role for the Commodores, who are ninth in the nation in the NJCAA rankings, and said staying dialed in has been instrumental in his success.

"I'm not worrying about every little thing. I know everything has a reason and purpose," McCranie said. "I try to weed out the negative thoughts and stay focused."

McCranie said he came into this season ready to test himself against the talent that the Panhandle Conference has to offer after hitting .377 and driving in 16 runs as a freshman.



Photo provided by Gulf Coast State Athletics
Alex McCranie celebrates with former Pace teammate Jackson McKenzie.

"I had a good year last year, but I felt my best option was to bet on myself and play in the Panhandle. You have better chance of getting recruited out of there," McCranie said. "So far, it's worked out."

One of the cool things about this season has been that McCranie has had an opportunity to

play with former Pace teammate Jackson McKenzie again.

"It's awesome," McCranie said. "Jackson is my roommate and it's cool to play another year with him. He's doing well as a pitcher. It's really cool."

McCranie has taken the approach of just going out on the field and having fun.

"It's a game at the end of the day. You just have to play and have fun," McCranie said.

He adds that you have to be focused on game day.

"The competition is really good," McCranie said. "You have to bring your A game every day," McCranie said.

McCranie has attracted interest of bigger schools

and plans to play at the next level.

As for the present, he can't ask for a better season.

"It's awesome. I'm having a blast," McCranie said. "A lot of people don't get to experience this. I love being with my teammates, traveling and having fun. I'm blessed. It's something I'm going to cherish for a long time."

Presents

MHS Athlete of the Week

Parker McCoy

Sports: Baseball

Class: 2026

Parents: Missy and Mark

Plans after graduation: Go to college and play baseball

Dream Job: MLB Player

Favorite TV Show: "Outer Banks"

Favorite Movie: "Polar Express"

Favorite Store: Academy

What is the best part about being an athlete? The memories and the friends that turn into brothers

Favorite Sports Memory: Bus rides back after big wins

Who is the funniest teammate on your team? Brayden Slidinger

What is your biggest strength as an athlete? My leadership

If you could be a pro athlete for a day, who would you be? Nolan Arenado

Parker McCoy

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Royals ranked No.1 but know work isn't done yet

By Brian Lester
sports@srpressgazette.com

Jay's softball team dominated a game against Pace in late March, rolling to a 17-6 victory over the Patriots, who are the reigning 6A state champs and a contender again this year.

The Royals aren't so bad themselves. Ranked No. 1 in Rural, they appear to be the team to beat so far this season in their classification.

As for that win over Pace, it means something.

"We know Pace wasn't at full strength, but we'll stick our chest out a little bit," head coach Brian Watson said after the game. "But we also know there is still a lot of work to do."

The Royals have a lineup that is dangerous, led by Kiley Samford and Mylee Frazier, who were both hitting .500 or better through the first 11 games of the season.

Kaylee Gilbreath is batting better than .300 for a Jay team that has scored eight or more runs eight times.

"I like our lineup," Watson said. "We have a bunch of tough outs. And some of our younger girls have grown up. Carleigh (Baker) is hitting in the eight spot and she has three home runs. Not bad for a rural team."

Pitcher Layna Lowry loves the lineup, too. They have given her plenty of run support, though Lowry has helped her own cause as well, including hitting a grand slam in the



Mylee Frazier rounds third. She finished with three hits and has been one of Jay's top hitters this season.

Photos by Brian Lester



Layna Lowry pitched a complete game and hit a grand slam.



Kiley Samford reacts to a call. She's been one of Jay's top hitters.

win over Pace on March 28. She spoke about that moment after the win over the Patriots.

"I was just trying to help my team out because they do so much for me when I'm in the circle,"

Lowry said.

The Pensacola State commit said it gives her confidence knowing she has a

good defense behind her.

"The defense behind me makes it 10 times better for me. It's so great," Lowry

said. "And they turn it on offensively when they need to."

The team also brings a lot of energy to the field, always cheering each other on in the dugout.

"The energy keeps us up and helps us win games," Lowry said.

As of now, the road to a state final four goes through Jay, which is atop Rural Region 1.

But the work isn't done yet if Jay hopes to be in the mix for its first state title since 2022.

"We know we have tougher games ahead. We have to step up. There is no easy road from here on out," Watson said.

Panthers go from 0-5 to feeling good about the season

By Brian Lester
sports@srpressgazette.com

Milton's softball team was once 0-5. Twice in that stretch, the Panthers lost by 15 or more runs.

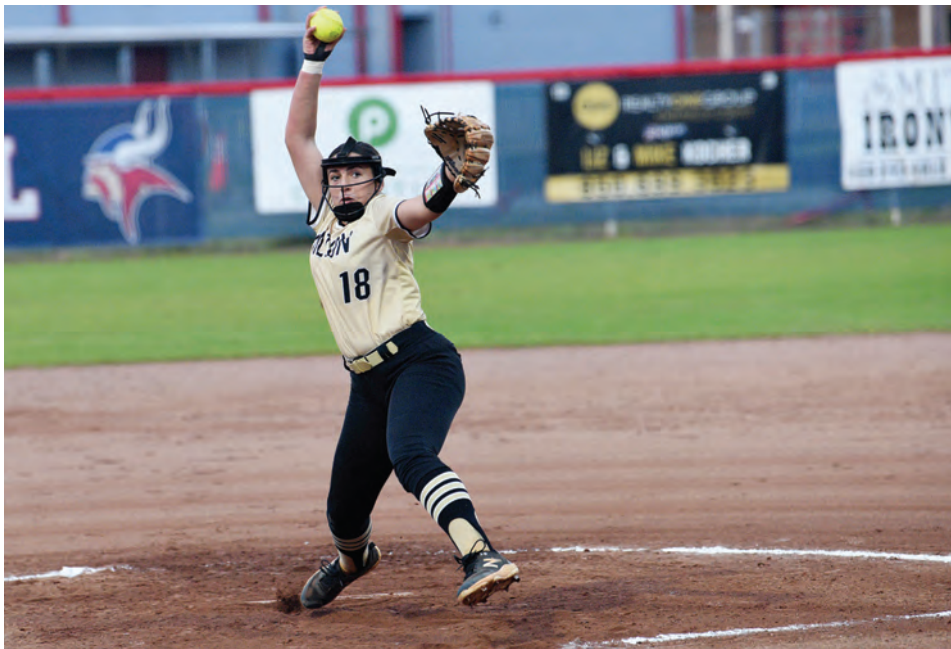
Lexi Hawthorne, the lone senior, wasn't about to let the year continue down a hopeless road.

"Losing the first five was tough," Hawthorne said. "But I just remembered, it's going to be okay. You aren't going to win every game. Then we won one, and then another. We've been on a roll."

Indeed. The Panthers (8-7) have won eight of their last 10 after suffering a 17-2 loss to Navarre on Feb. 28.

"We are playing for each other and trusting the process," Hawthorne said. "We keep fighting."

Head coach Matt Wood knew this team had potential. It was just a matter of tapping into it. He also knows that, after the brutal start, this season could have gone in a different direction.



Chloe Norman has stepped up as a pitcher this season despite only being a freshman.

Photos by Brian Lester

"The way we started, they could have easily shut it down," Wood said. "But they didn't. That's a testament to their work ethic and character, and the want to be better."

Chloe Norman, a freshman and an integral part of the pitching staff, said the team is no doubt playing as

a unit. "It's showing the hard work we are putting is paying off. We've come together as a team. After 0-5, it feels good to be here," Norman said.

Sophomore Ashlyn Sutton, also a key pitcher for the Panthers, said the energy is different.

"We've kept the energy up and that has led to us doing better," Sutton said. "We've fought through adversity and are making less errors. That's a result of us always picking each other up."

Having a leader like Hawthorne hasn't hurt either. A four-year varsity star and multi-sport athlete, Haw-

thorne is batting .327, racking up a team-leading 16 hits and driving in eight runs.

"She's rubbing off on them," Wood said. "They are buying in because of her. She's a good one to feed off. Her experience is irreplaceable for us on the field and off it."

Hawthorne has embraced the leadership role.

"Knowing they have confidence in me and look up to me, I never want to fail for them," Hawthorne said. "I always want to be a leader and do my best for the team."

Norman appreciates that leadership.

"She's a really good leader," Norman said. "She's always picking people up and helping everyone. She always has a really positive attitude."

That attitude has been huge for Norman and Sutton, who have both settled in as pitchers. The two have combined for eight wins and 68 strikeouts.

"I know when I struggle, the team is going to back me up and say, 'it's okay. Move


on to the next pitch.' It's nice having a team you can depend on," Sutton said.

How the rest of the year plays out remains to be seen. But the Panthers feel good about the direction of the program.

"It's a nice feeling to be winning again," Hawthorne said. "We have a team that is going to continue to do whatever it takes to win."




Lexi Hawthorne is the leading hitter for the Panthers and has also been a leader on and off the field.



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Presents

PHS Athlete of the Week



Kamryn Pierce

Sports: Softball and weightlifting

Class: 2026

Parents: Kelly and Jeff

Plans after graduation: Live on the beach with my friends and family

Dream Job: Forensic psychologist

Favorite TV Show: "Dexter"

Favorite Movie: "The Black Phone"

Favorite Store: Target


What is the best part about being an athlete?
Meeting people and building connections with your teammates

Favorite Sports Memory: Winning state

Who is the funniest teammate on your team? Britten Kettler

What is your biggest strength as an athlete?
My strength and size

If you could be a pro athlete for a day, who would you be?
Jessie Warren



Kamryn Pierce

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Patriots learning to play with target on their back as reigning state champs

By Brian Lester
sports@srpressgazette.com

Pace's softball team knows it has a target on its back being the reigning 6A state champion.

And the Patriots were put to the test again in a game against rival Navarre last Tuesday night on the road.

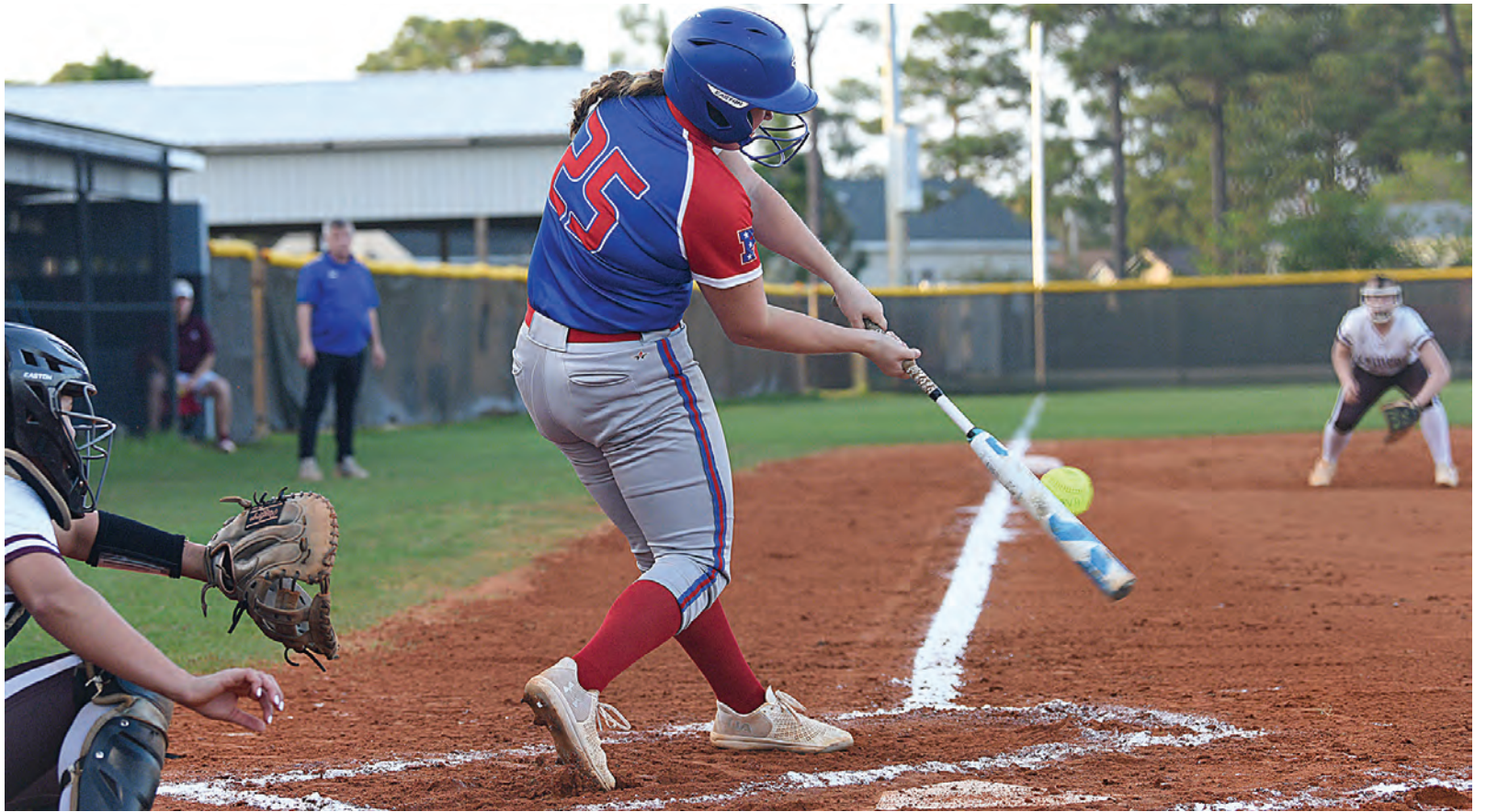
A game that lasted three-plus hours and was filled with swings of momentum ended with Pace prevailing 13-9 in nine innings for its 11th win of the season.

The No. 11 Raiders overcame a four-run deficit and even led 5-4 at one point before the second-ranked Patriots tied the game in the sixth and blew the game open in the ninth, fueled by a two-run home run by Kamryn Pierce that accounted for the Patriots' final runs.

"When someone slaps you, you have to slap back harder," coach Danny Worrell said. "I felt when we got the lead, we relaxed a bit and had some trouble making plays on defense."

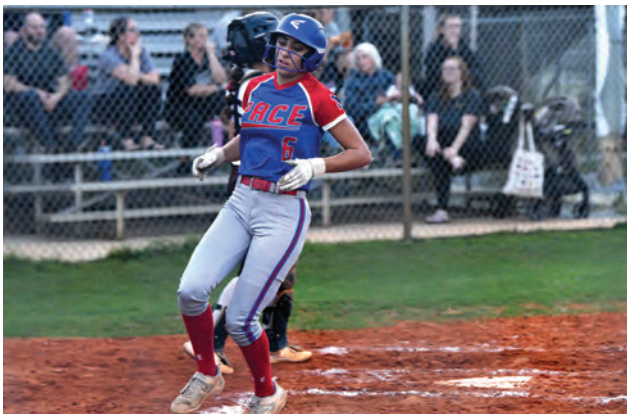
Navarre tried to rally, closing within four, but couldn't finish the comeback as Pace held on for a thrilling win. The Patriots survived playing in a tough environment against a Raider team hungry for an upset.

"They came out hungry and I think they had their whole school in the dugout. I don't know how



Abby McClean comes through with a hit in Pace's game against Navarre.

Photos by Brian Lester



Grayson Cox scores a run for the Patriots.

many more they could have fit in there," Worrell said. "We were lucky to get the win."

Hannah DeMarcus

came in having given up only one run all season. Despite a tougher night, she still managed to strike out 15, including the final



Hannah DeMarcus struck out 15 in Pace's extra-inning win over Navarre.

two batters she faced to secure the win.

But DeMarcus had plenty of support on her side, with Gracie Ueberroth

leading the charge. She racked up five hits and drove in five runs. Pierce and Emma Hicks tallied two hits apiece as Pace improved to 11-1.

Pace came in stinging from a 17-6 loss to Rural powerhouse Jay a few nights earlier and Worrell said the team is just working to fight through a challenging stretch.

"We've lost a little bit of confidence and have to get it back," Worrell said. "I thought we did a good job of scoring in the ninth. It's just a midseason slump

that we are in, but we will get out of it."

Worrell likes the way the team is swinging the bats and expects that to continue. He also notes that tough games come with the territory when you are viewed as a team to beat.

"This whole area is getting better in softball, and that's good," Worrell said. "I remember when I was at Milton, Tate and Niceville were the standard. Now everyone wants to be like us, and I'm not saying that to be cocky. We have to hold up our end of the bargain."

Tripodi and Barnes have seen confidence grow and skill improve in lacrosse



Photo by Brian Lester

Hayden Tripodi and Anna Barnes have been key players for Milton's girls lacrosse team this season.

By Brian Lester
sports@srpressgazette.com

Hayden Tripodi and Anna Barnes have embraced their roles as goal scorers for Milton's girls lacrosse team.

The two have been leaders in that category this season for the Panthers.

"I'm happy with myself because it's the most goals I've scored," Tripodi said.

Barnes has similar thoughts.

"It's my second year really getting playing time, so it's nice to have a few goals," Barnes said.

Both seniors this season, Tripodi and Barnes have done their best to fill the void left by Lauryn Hatler and Amber Barnes. Those

two combined for more than 100 goals last year.

Tripodi leads the Panthers with 20 goals after tallying just four last year. Barnes has scored 10 after recording six a year ago.

It has been a tough year for the Panthers as a team, however, as they have just three wins. Still, they keep pushing forward.

"We have stayed positive and encourage each other," Barnes said.

Tripodi started playing lacrosse as a freshman. She hadn't played the sport before then but decided to give it a try.

"Our first coach was my PE teacher and she said we have lacrosse and that I should join," Tripodi said. "I've been playing four

years now and really enjoy it."

Barnes almost played as a freshman, but held off.

"The coach wanted me to play but I decided to wait until sophomore year. It's been fun," Barnes said.

Both players needed some time to adapt to the sport.

"I thought it was super difficult at first," Tripodi said. "Trying to catch and throw was difficult. I knew I would enjoy it the better I got at it."

Barnes agrees.

"It was very hard. I was nervous about it. But after I got used to it, I loved it," Barnes said.

And the confidence of both players has grown significantly.

"I'm way more confident now, not only as a person, but as a player. I know I can go in and score a goal," Tripodi said.

Barnes' mindset has changed as well.

"I was not as aggressive at first, but now I play a lot more aggressive and more confidently," Barnes said.

Barnes said the experience has been great overall.

"I've made a lot of friendships and it's really helped my high school experience," Barnes said.

"I'm just trying to enjoy the rest of the season and have fun."

Tripodi is doing the same.

"I want to finish strong and have fun no matter how things go in each game," Tripodi said.

Area teams still among best in regional softball rankings

By Brian Lester
sports@srpressgazette.com

The latest regional rankings are out for softball and Jay, Pace, Navarre and Milton all remain in the top eight of their respective regions.

The Jay Royals are the No. 1 team in Rural Region 1 as well as the No. 1 team in the state. They are unbeaten through their first 11 games of the season.

The Royals play in a region that also features eighth-ranked Northview.

In Region 1-6A, Pace and Navarre are in the upper half of the region. The Patriots are atop the region and No. 2 in the state while the Raiders are third in the region and 11th in Florida.

Pace has just one loss in its first 11 games while Navarre is 6-3 in its first nine games.

Milton has held steady

in the top eight of the Region 1-5A rankings. The Panthers are eighth in the region and 18th in the state. Their region is one of the toughest in Florida, with six teams ranked in the top 10 in the state, including No. 1 Niceville.

The top four teams in Rural and top eight teams in 5A and 6A will make the playoffs, with district champs earning an automatic bid.

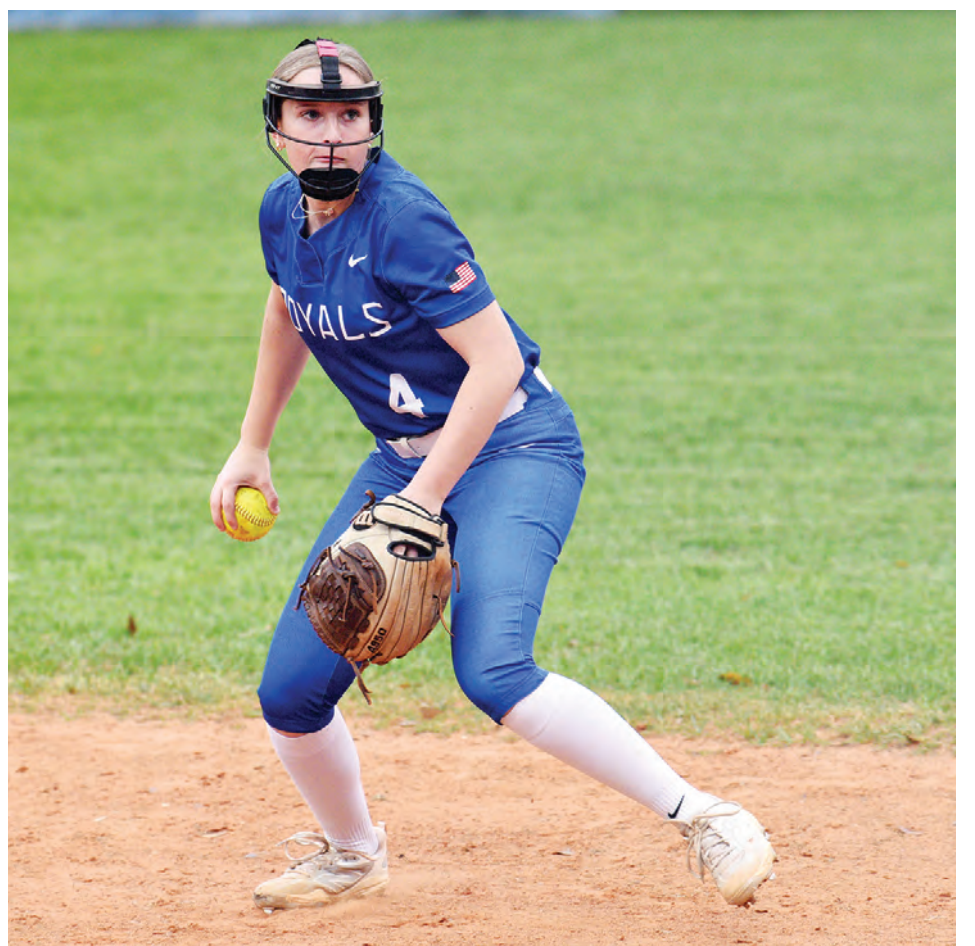


Photo by Brian Lester

Presley Hawthorne and the Royals are the No. 1 team in the region and state.

Rural Region 1 Rankings

Jay: Rating: 19.981. State Ranking: 1
Northview: Rating: 11.091. State Ranking: 8
Holmes County: Rating: 5.468. State Ranking: 15
Paxton: Rating: 5.356. State Ranking: 16
Note: Baker is sixth (0.836), Central is seventh (minus-0.036), Laurel Hill is 10th (minus-8.455)

Region 1-5A Rankings

Niceville: Rating: 14.352. State Ranking: 1
Middleburg: Rating: 13.947. State Ranking: 2
Matanzas: Rating: 13.403. State Ranking: 5
Chiles: Rating: 12.855. State Ranking: 7
Ponte Vedra: Rating: 12.813. State Ranking: 8

Gulf Breeze: Rating: 11.919. State Ranking: 10
Fleming Island: Rating: 7.934. State Ranking: 16
Milton: Rating: 7.934. State Ranking: 18

Region 1-6A Rankings

Pace: Rating: 21.936. State Ranking: 2
Horizon: Rating: 13.656. State Ranking: 9
Navarre: Rating: 13.138. State Ranking: 11
Bartram Trail: Rating: 9.102. State Ranking: 17
Tocoi Creek: Rating: 8.326. State Ranking: 20
Oakleaf: Rating: 7.694. State Ranking: 22
Buchholz: Rating: 7.450. State Ranking: 23
Fletcher: Rating: 4.997. State Ranking: 31
Note: Crestview is 12th (3.929)

Pace flag football team hasn't 'missed a beat' this year

By Brian Lester
sports@srpressgazette.com

Pace's flag football team went all the way to the state final four last season.

The Patriots are a contender again this year, currently ranked third in the state in 3A and atop Region 1-3A, which would mean homefield advantage in the regional playoffs.

"The season is going pretty well," first-year head coach Pat Riley said. "The team hasn't missed a beat."

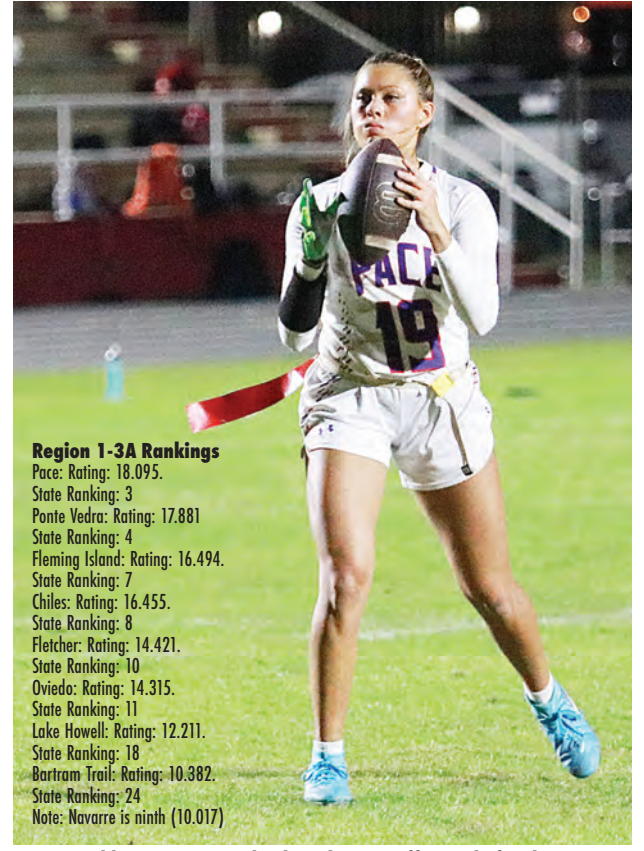
Pace is 11-1 through 12 games and thriving off a defense that has recorded seven shutouts and has allowed double digits in points only once.

"Our biggest strength is our defense. It's really good," Riley said. "Our defense is where we want it to be right now."

Emily Good leads the way with 72 tackles. Maci McGinnis has tallied 43 tackles. Riley also pointed to players like Berkley Lutz and Josie Arthur, who have both stepped into more



The Pace defense has been key to the Patriots' success this season.



Region 1-3A Rankings
Pace: Rating: 18.095. State Ranking: 3
Ponte Vedra: Rating: 17.881
State Ranking: 4
Fleming Island: Rating: 16.494.
State Ranking: 7
Chiles: Rating: 16.455.
State Ranking: 8
Fletcher: Rating: 14.421.
State Ranking: 10
Oviedo: Rating: 14.315.
State Ranking: 11
Lake Howell: Rating: 12.211.
State Ranking: 18
Bartram Trail: Rating: 10.382.
State Ranking: 24
Note: Navarre is ninth (10.017)

Amaya Pablo is once again leading the way offensively for the Patriots.

prominent roles. "They've really come on strong," Riley said. "Nothing really gets past them. We have six or seven all-stars on the defense. Our experience and talent has

come into play for us." And of course, Amaya Pablo at quarterback doesn't hurt either. She's thrown for more than 14,000 yards in her career as one of the nation's all-

time best. She's thrown or 2,240 yards and 41 touchdowns this year.

"Amaya is still very effective," Riley said. "She has a lot of options to throw to on the field.

She's having another great year."

Pace will be the top seed for the district tournament later this month and is hoping for another long playoff run as well.

"We're just trying to get mentally prepared for it and want to be ready to be at our best," Riley said. "And we would love to have homefield advantage throughout the playoffs."

Milton boys lacrosse team showing improvement

By Brian Lester
sports@srpressgazette.com

The last time Milton's boys lacrosse team played against Navarre, the Panthers were overwhelmed in a 17-3 loss.

It was a different game this time as the Panthers played much closer before falling 12-6 last Tuesday night at Bennett C. Russell Stadium. They were tied at 1-1 after one quarter and only trailed 5-3 at the half.

"You never like to be on the losing end of a game, but it was a lot better game this time. I'm proud of them," Milton head coach Dave Hanley said.

And there is no shame



Boone Sanborn runs down the field in a game against Navarre.

Photo by Brian Lester

in losing to Navarre, which is having its best season in program history.

"Navarre has a good team and a strong feeder

program," Milton coach Dave Hanley said. "But our guys played hard, and we accomplished what we hoped to accomplish."

Milton is 7-9 through 16 games and playing this season with a team made up of mostly underclassmen.

Hanley is pleased with

the way his younger team has handled the challenges in front of it.

"We only have three seniors, and one is playing

lacrosse for the first time, so we are seeing a lot of growth," Hanley said. "It's something you hope for, but it doesn't always happen. The kids are getting better every game. They are hungry and they are learning."

The Panthers wrapped up their regular season Friday and were scheduled to play in the district tournament on Wednesday.

"We just want to keep getting better each day, each practice, each game," Hanley said. "The guys have been fighting until the end, and it can be hard for a young team to do that. But they are doing it. That's all I can ask for."

Patriots remain ranked in region in beach volleyball

By Brian Lester
sports@srpressgazette.com

Pace's beach volleyball team is still in the top eight of the latest Region 1-3A rankings.

The Patriots check in at No. 8 this week in a region that is one of the toughest in the state, featuring reigning state champion Gulf Breeze.

Pace is in its second season of volleyball and is coming off a year where it nearly made it to the regional.

The top eight teams will qualify for the regional tournament, with district

champions earning an automatic berth.

Pace is scheduled to host Choctaw on April 8 and then play at home in its regular season finale against Destin on April 17.

The district tournament

begins April 22 at the Fort Walton Beach Rec Center. Semifinals and championship match are April 23 at the same location. The top eight teams make the regional, including district champions, who receive an automatic bid.

Region 1-2A Rankings

Gulf Breeze: Rating: 19.840. State Ranking: 2
Bishop Kenny: Rating: 19.418. State Ranking: 3
Chiles: Rating: 16.416. State Ranking: 5
Mosley: Rating: 12.049. State Ranking: 13
Beachside: Rating: 11.838. State Ranking: 14
Crestview: Rating: 11.733. State Ranking: 15
Leon: Rating: 10.821. State Ranking: 18
Pace: Rating: 7.994. State Ranking: 25



Liv Riffell and the Patriots are among the top eight teams in the region in beach volleyball.

Photo by Brian Lester

Jay, Pace, Central and Milton among best in respective regions

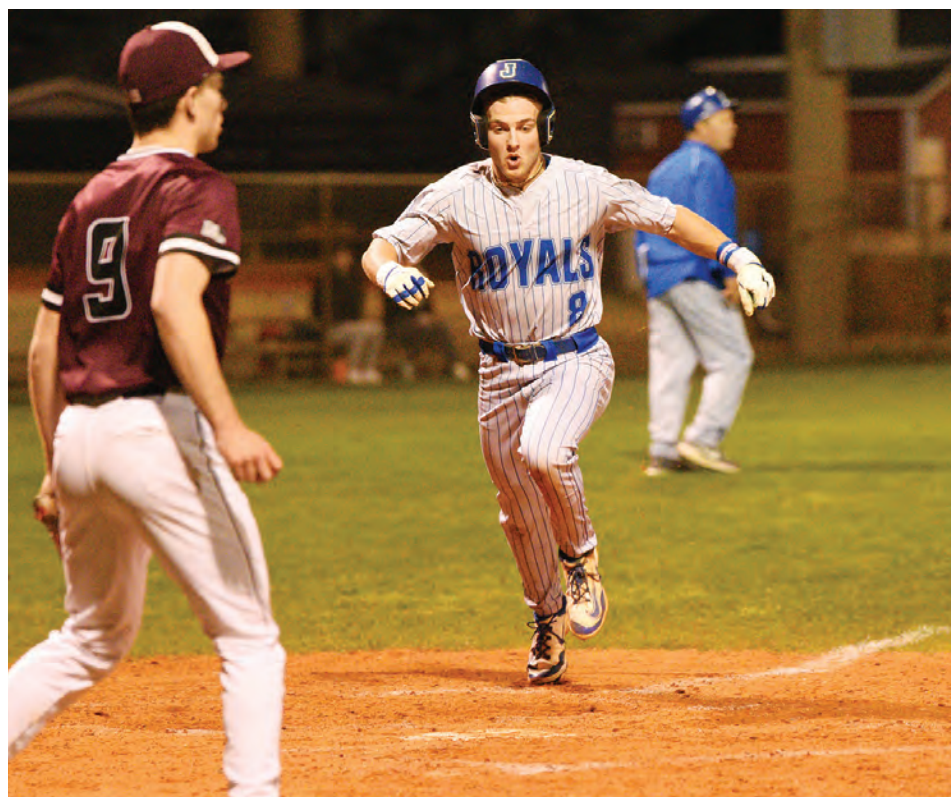


Photo by Brian Lester

Grayson Shehan and the Royals are the reigning state champions and hoping to stay in contention for a repeat.

By Brian Lester
sports@srpressgazette.com

Jay and Central remain in the top four of the Rural regional rankings while Pace and Milton are among the best in their respective regions as well.

The Royals and Jaguars

are second and third, respectively, in Rural Region 1. Jay, a reigning state champion, is fourth in the state and Central is sixth.

Pace's baseball team is ranked second in the region and state in 6A while Milton is holding down the eighth spot in Region

1-5A, which features five top 10 teams in Florida.

The top eight teams in 5A and 6A make the post-season. In the Rural classification, the top four get in.

Jay is 10-7 through 17 games while Central sits at 12-3 after 15 games. Pace is 13-3 and Milton is 8-8.

Rural Region 1 Rankings

Holmes County: Rating: 18.587. State Ranking: 1
Jay: Rating: 12.570. State Ranking: 4
Central: Rating: 10.028. State Ranking: 6
Northview: Rating: 4.470. State Ranking: 9
Note: Baker is 6th (1.062) and Laurel Hill is 10th (minus-13.954)

Region 1-5A Rankings

Gulf Breeze: Rating: 21.034. State Ranking: 1
Niceville: Rating: 20.389. State Ranking: 2
Lincoln: Rating: 19.829. State Ranking: 3
Columbia: Rating: 15.585. State Ranking: 6
Mosley: Rating: 14.535. State Ranking: 7

Chiles: Rating: 13.928. State Ranking: 11
Ponte Vedra: Rating: 9.696. State Ranking: 18
Milton: Rating: 8.644. State Ranking: 22

Region 1-6A Rankings

Buchholz: Rating: 26.303. State Ranking: 1
Pace: Rating: 21.848. State Ranking: 2
Tocoi Creek: Rating: 13.475. State Ranking: 12
Fletcher: Rating: 12.300. State Ranking: 15
Tate: Rating: 12.242. State Ranking: 16
East River: Rating: 10.938. State Ranking: 19
Bartram Trail: Rating: 9.565. State Ranking: 24
Lake Howell: Rating: 8.478. State Ranking: 30

HEALTHY
LIVING

Caring for your gums

**Green Shoot Media**

Healthy gums are the foundation of a beautiful smile and play a critical role in maintaining overall oral health.

Gum disease, also known as periodontal disease, is one of the most common dental issues, and it can lead to serious problems like tooth loss if left untreated. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that about one in two men and one in three women 30 years or older have had some level of periodontitis. It becomes more common as people age.

Periodontal disease is an umbrella term referring to any condition involving

inflammation and infection of the tissues that surround and support the teeth. Gingivitis is largely preventable, while periodontitis is an irreversible condition involving bone loss around teeth.

With proper care, you can maintain strong, healthy gums throughout your life.

Brush properly

Brushing your teeth twice a day is essential for gum health. It helps remove plaque, a sticky film of bacteria that forms on your teeth and gums and can lead to gum disease if not removed.

Use a soft-bristled toothbrush and fluoride toothpaste, and be sure to

brush gently in circular motions. Don't forget to angle the toothbrush toward the gum line, where plaque tends to accumulate. Brushing too hard can damage your gums, so be gentle but thorough.

Floss daily

Flossing is just as important as brushing when it comes to gum care. It removes food particles and plaque from between your teeth, where your toothbrush can't reach. If left there, this debris can cause gum inflammation and lead to gingivitis, the early stage of gum disease.

Make flossing a daily habit to keep your gums clean and healthy. If you find traditional floss

difficult to use, consider alternatives like floss picks or water flossers.

Use an antibacterial mouthwash

Incorporating an antibacterial mouthwash into your oral care routine can provide extra protection for your gums. Mouthwash helps reduce the bacteria in your mouth, prevent plaque buildup and reduce inflammation. It can reach areas your toothbrush and floss might miss, making it a helpful addition to your gum care regimen. Look for mouthwashes that are designed to promote gum health, and use them as directed.

Maintain a healthy diet

What you eat plays a significant role in the health of your gums. A diet rich in vitamins and minerals, particularly vitamin C and calcium, helps keep your gums healthy and your teeth strong. Avoid excessive sugary snacks and drinks, as they can lead to plaque buildup, which irritates the gums. Instead, opt for fresh fruits, vegetables and whole grains that support overall dental health.

Regular dental checkups

Even with the best at-home care, regular dental visits are a key factor in maintaining healthy gums. Dentists can spot early signs of gum disease and address any problems

before they worsen. Professional cleanings remove tartar (hardened plaque) that can't be removed by brushing and flossing alone. Aim for at least two checkups a year, or more if recommended by your dentist.

Avoid smoking

Smoking is one of the leading risk factors for gum disease. It weakens your immune system, making it harder for your gums to fight off infections. It also reduces blood flow to the gums, slowing healing. Quitting smoking is one of the most important steps you can take to protect your gums and improve your overall oral and general health.

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SRC BUSINESS LICENSES

- 3/27/25 - Cherrie Hodge, Cherrie Doge Detail Services, Service, 7755 Marshall Rd., Milton, FL 32583 US
- 3/27/25 - Benjamin Barnard, Gulf Coast Septic Solutions LLC, Contractor, 7076 Marin Rd., Milton, FL 32570-5528 US
- 3/27/25 - Trevor Thomas Hill, Hillz Handyman Services LLC, Service, 9187 Military Trl., Navarre, FL 32566-1125 US
- 3/27/25 - Tabitha McAnally, Tabitha McAnally Clean-Up, Service, 5292 Black Rd., Milton, FL 32583 US
- 3/28/25 - Gabriel Garcia, Coastal Home Builders Group LLC, Contractor, 4152 Madura Five, Gulf Breeze, FL 32563-3536 US
- 3/28/25 - Darrick Johnson, Darrick Johnson Playmaker Inc., Service, 5088 Mary St., Milton, FL 32570-6696 US
- 3/28/25 - Katrina McCoy, Lime Avenue LLC, Service, 5454 Gulf Breeze Pkwy Unit B1, Gulf Breeze, FL 32563 US
- 3/31/25 - William Morris, Gulf Coast Tennis and Pickleball, Service, 5629 Byrom St., Milton, FL 32514 US
- 3/31/25 - Jason Reed, Jason Reed's Home Improvements LLC, Service, 838 Valley Ridge Cir., Pensacola, FL 32514 US
- 3/31/25 - Jason Reed, Jason Reed's Home Improvements LLC DBA Nexgen Air Solutions, Contractor, 838 Valley Ridge Cir., Pensacola, FL 32514 US
- 3/31/25 - Alexander Zaremsky, Zaremsky's Home Improvement, Service, 5896 Timberline Dr., Milton, FL 32570 US
- 3/31/25 - Cameron Sams, CNR Outdoor Services LLC, Service, 8657 Laredo St., Navarre, FL 32566 US
- 3/31/25 - Ariana Bustillo, Professional, 5422 Gulf Breeze Pkwy., Gulf Breeze, FL 32563 US
- 3/31/25 - Charles Ward, Yard by Ninjas LLC, Service, 6901A N 9th Ave #816, Pensacola FL 32504 US
- 4/1/25 - Jary Drywall Inc., Subcontractor, 2645 Barefoot Creek Cir., Navarre, FL 32566-8772 US
- 4/1/25 - Stephens Family Services, Service, 5827 Ibis Rd., Milton, FL 32583-2328 US
- 4/2/25 - Hunter Roberts, Provision Contractors LLC, Contractor, 6136 Cedar Tree Dr., Milton, FL 32570 US

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Mediocre
- 5 Church seat
- 8 Greenish blue
- 12 Tora —, Afghanistan
- 13 Noshed
- 14 PETA concerns
- 15 Slight criticisms
- 17 Pear-shaped fruits
- 18 Step
- 19 Hot dish holder
- 21 Oodles
- 24 Log chopper
- 25 Mandatory coll. courses
- 28 Calendar entry (Abbr.)
- 30 Zodiac animal
- 33 Chit
- 34 Concepts
- 35 Swelled head
- 36 Singer DiFranco
- 37 Proscribes

DOWN

- 38 Eve's mate
- 39 Born
- 41 Entryway
- 43 Dress designation
- 46 Ignited again
- 50 Shake — (hurry)
- 51 Dropouts
- 54 Portnoy's creator
- 55 Coffee vessel
- 56 Barrel part
- 57 Fine spray
- 58 Sort
- 59 Curry and Reinking

- 9 Trembled
- 10 Desire
- 11 Celeb's aide
- 16 Buddy
- 20 "Phooey!"
- 22 Zilch
- 23 Shell out
- 25 Estuary
- 26 A gazillion years
- 27 Groups of five
- 29 El —, Texas
- 31 Turkish title
- 32 Oft-tattooed word
- 34 "A likely story!"
- 38 "Queen of Soul" Franklin
- 40 Skating figure
- 42 Scrap
- 43 Italian cheese, for short
- 44 Sci-fi race
- 45 Iso-
- 47 Boxer Spinks
- 48 Press
- 49 Recipe amts.
- 52 Web address
- 53 Squid squirt

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MARRIAGES

- Dustin Ray Reese to Wendy Danielle Bozeman
- Alexis Diana Brock to Kevin Elvis Dustin
- Amanda Lee Fundis to Richard Allen Oliver Jr.
- Paul Jacob Hendron to Soo Ae Chiharu Ono
- Austin William Brian Stevens to Mikayla Danielle Austie
- Colin Philip Miner to Jasmine Alya Berry
- Dalton Mchael Murphy to Faith Mary Wolbert
- Leslie Sito Guan to Sonny Van Nguyen
- Jesse Aaron Hernandez to Tabitha Renee Siegfried
- Gina Marise Rodriguez to Robert Pate Salazar
- Erika Jaquelyn Touns to Matthew David McLean
- Stacey Lee King to Scott Austin Druempel
- Tyler Lee Adams to Alejandra Lynn Todd
- Amber Broke Adams to James Joyce Erwin Carnley
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- Cameron Bryce Halpin to Bailey Madison Ashlock
- James Ryan Crouse II to Lexi Marlene Diessner
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- Joya Kendall Swails to Brayden Cole Holland
- Whitney Amanda Devore to Kendahl Michelle McCubbins
- John Orlowski to Ulrike Viktoria Smith
- Kara Lynne Mack to Nicholas James Johnson
- Brittani Marie Files to Jean Marie Elizabeth Burnham
- Brian Joshua Hanes to Brooke Lacey Richardson
- Jordan Michael Matic to Cindy Maria McClellan
- Roger Lee Cufau Jr. to Carissa Dawn Pascanik
- Samantha Sue Vavra to Lucas Matthew Miguez
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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!








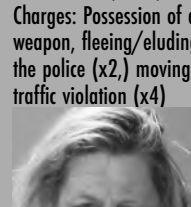



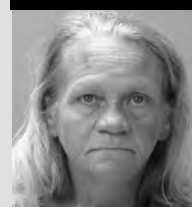
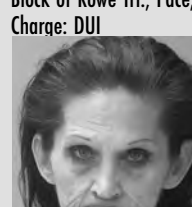




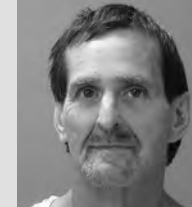











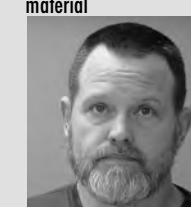









- Echo **PARTEE**
- Usual **OUTERIN**
- Walk **EPISTAR**
- Zero **THUGA**

TODAY'S WORD

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>March 27</p>  <p>Christopher Mark Ayo, 37, 4400 Block of Alanthus St., Milton, Charge: Selling a controlled substance</p>  <p>Preston Michael Bonifate, 24, Homeless, Milton, Charge: Trespassing</p>  <p>Annette Carol Messina, 63, 9100 Block of Single Tree Dr., Milton, Charge: Drug possession</p>  <p>Deborah Else Pooley, 28, 6900 Block of Timber Crest Rd., Milton, Charges: Possession of a weapon, drug possession, drug equipment possession, possession of a harmful drug without prescription</p>  <p>Kenneth Cole Spivey, 63, 6200 Block of Audobon Dr., Milton, Charge: Probation violation</p>  <p>Steven Lee Warnock, 43, 4700 Block of Pine Lane, Milton, Charges: Aggravated battery, drug possession</p>	<p>March 28</p>  <p>Katryna Karlene Bryan, 40, 4600 Block of Old Guernsey Rd., Pace, Charges: Amphetamine trafficking, cocaine trafficking, drug trafficking</p>  <p>Darrell Donovan Gandy, 39, 4300 Block of Cameo Dr., Pace, Charges: Possession of a weapon, fleeing/eluding the police (x2), moving traffic violation (x4)</p>  <p>Chelsea Suzanne Garmon, 46, 2700 Block of Nelsontown Rd., Jay, Charge: DUI</p>  <p>Fernando Martin Hernandez, 30, 5200 Block of Spring St., Jay, Charge: Violation</p>  <p>Alyssa Jolene Neshkoff, 22, 6200 Block of Berryhill Rd., Milton, Charge: DUI</p>	<p>March 28</p>  <p>Adam Paul Sullivan, 42, 5900 Block of Happy Hollow Dr., Pace, Charge: Out of county warrant</p>  <p>Shawn Jeffery Watkins, 45, 6400 Block of Wilmar Ave., Milton, Charge: Failure to appear</p> <p>March 29</p>  <p>Angela Rochelle Blackmon, 50, 6700 Block of Trail Ride, Milton, Charges: Drug possession, marijuana possession, drug equipment possession</p>  <p>Dreaema Abigail Byrd, 24, 4700 Block of Patriot Dr., Pace, Charges: Drug equipment possession, burglary, larceny (x2), fraud/impersonation (x3)</p>  <p>Melony Lynn Downs-White, 34, 5400 Block of Rowe Trl., Pace, Charge: DUI</p>  <p>Carrie Lee Ferrell, 50, 4800 Block of Calvin Dr., Milton, Charges: Obstructing justice, marijuana possession, drug equipment possession, resisting an officer</p>	<p>March 29</p>  <p>Rhonda Leigha Hudson, 34, 9400 Block of American Farms Rd., Milton, Charge: DUI</p>  <p>Jerald Elev McCullough, 50, 6000 Block of Cherokee Dr., Milton, Charges: Drug possession, marijuana possession</p>  <p>Andrea Lynn Oney, 31, 4600 Block of Oak Vista Ln., Pace, Charge: Battery with domestic violence</p>  <p>Donna Yvonne Sims, 38, 5300 Block of Cassie Ln., Milton, Charge: Failure to appear</p> <p>March 30</p>  <p>Clay James English, 38, 6500 Block of Maddox Rd., Milton, Charge: Possession of a weapon</p>  <p>Destiny Nichole Harbin Johnson, 38, 5500 Block of Rowell Rd., Milton, Charges: DUI, moving traffic violation, fleeing/eluding the police</p>	<p>March 30</p>  <p>Blaine Allen Hertz, 60, 5800 Block of Admirals Rd., Milton, Charge: Possession of a weapon</p>  <p>Linzy Mikayla Melton, 21, 6800 Block of Chuck Wagon Ln., Milton, Charges: Probation violation, drug possession, obstructing justice</p>  <p>Terry Wayne Villarrubia, 33, 8300 Block of Whiting Field Cir., Milton, Charge: Sexual assault</p> <p>March 31</p>  <p>Ryan Wade Qualls Stephens, 30, 7800 Block of Malone Rd., Milton, Charges: Probation violation (x2)</p>  <p>Amanda Leigh Troclair, 38, 4800 Block of Spencer Oaks Blvd., Pace, Charge: Larceny</p>  <p>Jennifer Leigh Johnson, 54, 5100 Block of Nichols Creeks Rd., Milton, Charge: Conditional release violation</p>	<p>March 31</p>  <p>Paxton Bryce Kareski, 30, 6500 Block of Pinto Ave., Milton, Charges: Conditional release violation, drug equipment possession</p>  <p>Zakery Tyler Wilmoth, 25, 6500 Block of Tar Plant Rd., Milton, Charge: Abandoning an animal</p>  <p>James Edward Bembo, 41, 3800 Block of Ward Bason, Milton, Charge: Out of county warrant</p>  <p>Kahlil De Shaun Leggs, 29, 6300 Block of Shady Ln., Milton, Charge: Conditional release violation</p>  <p>Keithan Dwayne Tolliver, 49, 6700 Block of Harvell St., Milton, Charges: Moving traffic violation, drug possession, drug equipment possession, marijuana possession</p>  <p>Heather Leann McCarver, 43, 3800 Block of Williams Ave., Jay, Charge: Failure to appear</p>	<p>April 1</p>  <p>Hannah Bailey Anderson, 27, 5400 Block of Brandon Dr., Milton, Charge: Possession of obscene material</p>  <p>Richard Todd Bibb, 44, 5600 Block of Windermere Trace, Pace, Charge: Failure to appear</p>  <p>William Joshua Michel, 44, 6400 Block of Julia Dr., Milton, Charge: Probation violation</p>  <p>Christopher Brian Spears, 38, 5400 Block of Shamrock St., Milton, Charge: Probation violation</p>  <p>Tonya Renee Bowman, 59, 6600 Block of Coldwater Church Rd., Milton, Charges: Probation violation (x4)</p>	<p>April 1</p>  <p>Melanie Marie Shaw, 38, 5600 Block of Kingrey Rd., Milton, Charge: Probation violation</p>  <p>Robert John Waldron, 44, 2900 Block of 14TH Street, Milton, Charge: Probation violation</p>  <p>Dalton Cole Wallace, 30, 4200 Block of Seaport Rd., Pace, Charge: Withholding support</p> <p>April 2</p>  <p>Logan Trey Burroughs, 28, Homeless, Milton, Charge: Larceny</p>  <p>Ashley Nichole Baker, 32, 5600 Block of Divot Ln., Milton, Charge: Obstructing a criminal investigation</p>  <p>William Nathan Hawthorne, 42, 5400 Block of Holley St., Milton, Charge: Out of county warrant</p>
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TRANSACTIONS

Real estate transactions Feb. 2025

Woodlands
 Seller: DR Horton Inc
 Buyer: Sandhya Dhakal
 Address: 4971 Red Cedar Rd
 Sale date: 2/12/2025
 Price: \$316,900
 Previous sale date: 3/20/2023
 Previous sale price: \$217,500
 Seller: Matthew A Barrett & Shelley

N Barrett
 Buyer: Austin Elijah Willis
 Address: 5677 Peach Dr
 Sale date: 2/6/2025
 Price: \$295,000
 Previous sale date: 7/23/2018
 Previous sale price: \$212,690
 Seller: Esteban M Irizarry & Angelina M Irizarry

Buyer: Clint Brandon Morrow
 Address: 5189 Peach Dr
 Sale date: 2/6/2025
 Price: \$295,000
 Previous sale date: 4/16/2021
 Previous sale price: \$238,250
Pond Creek Rd
 Seller: Walther Land Group Inc
 Buyer: Flynn Building Specialists LLC
 Address: 1300 E Olive Rd
 Sale date: 2/14/2025
 Price: \$50,000
 Previous sale date:
 Previous sale price: \$0
 Seller: Walther Land Group Inc
 Buyer: Flynn Building Specialists LLC
 Address: 1300 E Olive Rd
 Sale date: 2/14/2025
 Price: \$50,000
 Previous sale date:
 Previous sale price: \$0
 Seller: Walther Land Group Inc
 Buyer: Flynn Building Specialists LLC
 Address: 1300 E Olive Rd
 Sale date: 2/14/2025
 Price: \$50,000
 Previous sale date:
 Previous sale price: \$0
Buffalo Creek
 Seller: Buffalo Creek Estates LLC
 Buyer: Derek & Angela Gilmore
 Address: 5420 Turbine Way
 Sale date: 2/3/2025
 Price: \$115,000
 Previous sale date:
 Previous sale price: \$0
 Seller: Buffalo Creek Estates LLC
 Buyer: Derek & Angela Gilmore
 Address: 5420 Turbine Way
 Sale date: 2/3/2025
 Price: \$115,000
 Previous sale date:
 Previous sale price: \$0
 Seller: Buffalo Creek Estates LLC
 Buyer: James E Gilmore
 Address: 6825 Old West Ln
 Sale date: 2/3/2025
 Price: \$110,000

Previous sale date:
 Previous sale price: \$
 Seller: Buffalo Creek Estates LLC
 Buyer: James E Gilmore
 Address: 6825 Old West Ln
 Sale date: 2/3/2025
 Price: \$110,000
 Previous sale date:
 Previous sale price: \$0
Navarre Beach
 Seller: Kevin & Rachel Harden
 Buyer: Wendy Lee Carr
 Address: 34 River Cypress Ln
 Sale date: 2/7/2025
 Price: \$3,575,000
 Previous sale date: 10/29/2015
 Previous sale price: \$135,000
Navarre Towers
 Seller: Keith S Weil II & Kathleen M.
 Buyer: William Jason Lambertson
 Address: 98 Pintail Tree
 Sale date: 2/13/2025
 Price: \$740,000
 Previous sale date:
 Previous sale price: \$270,000
Inn at Summerwind
 Seller: Landyn Taylor Properties 4 LLC
 Buyer: Dvon Williams
 Address: 8577 Gulf Blvd
 Sale date: 2/10/2025
 Price: \$849,900
 Previous sale date: 1/10/2025
 Previous sale price: \$100
Summerwind Condos
 Seller: Barbara B Adams
 Buyer: Gayle Jones
 Address: 3737 Dover Dr
 Sale date: 2/5/2025
 Price: \$192,500
 Previous sale date: 9/18/2014
 Previous sale price: \$385,000
Summerwind Condos
 Seller: Joseph C Vick
 Buyer: Allen Palmer
 Address: 425 Live Oak Rd
 Sale date: 2/6/2025
 Price: \$14,000
 Previous sale date: 2/6/2025

Previous sale price: \$14,000
Sundunes Condo
 Seller: Blair Downing Edwards
 Buyer: Jessica Zablah
 Address: 7979 Gulf Blvd
 Sale date: 2/3/2025
 Price: \$565,000
 Previous sale date: 12/22/2021
 Previous sale price: \$100
No subdivision
 Seller: Baurin Martinez & Olga Hernandez
 Buyer: Pomaikai Investments Of Nw Fl
 Address: 5341 Jeremy Dr
 Sale date: 2/14/2025
 Price: \$20,000
 Previous sale date: 7/29/2022
 Previous sale price: \$100
 Seller: Francisco Montenegro Montenegro
 Buyer: Robert Fields
 Address: 3340 Colonial Oaks Dr
 Sale date: 2/13/2025
 Price: \$72,000
 Previous sale date: 9/14/2022
 Previous sale price: \$45,000
 Seller: Santa Rosa County Clerk of Circuit Court et al
 Buyer: Guyer Capital Llc
 Address: 5437 Berryhill Rd
 Sale date: 2/4/2025
 Price: \$29,500
 Previous sale date: 12/23/2015
 Previous sale price: \$100
 Seller: Company Homes Herbst, Llc
 Buyer: Andrew G Miller
 Address: 1900 Elevate Ave
 Sale date: 2/7/2025
 Price: \$369,900
 Previous sale date: 3/12/2024
 Previous sale price: \$590,000
 Seller: Helen Jo Tammy Jo Brown
 Buyer: Helen Chastain
 Address: 9551 Quiet Creek Rd
 Sale date: 2/3/2025
 Price: \$30,000
 Previous sale date: 7/19/2021

Previous sale price: \$20,000
 Seller: Santa Rosa County Clerk of Circuit Court et al
 Buyer: AC
 Address: 2475 E Nine Mile Rd
 Sale date: 2/10/2025
 Price: \$3,600
 Previous sale date: 10/12/1984
 Previous sale price: \$100
 Seller: Santa Rosa County Clerk of Circuit Court et al
 Buyer: CL Capital Investments LLC
 Address: 11 Hampton Cir
 Sale date: 2/4/2025
 Price: \$3,900
 Previous sale date: 5/9/2017
 Previous sale price: \$2,200
 Seller: Charles Brandon Yarbrough & Amy Touchstone
 Buyer: Rhodes Dobrin
 Address: 6558 Warren Rd
 Sale date: 2/5/2025
 Price: \$214,183
 Previous sale date: 2/10/2017
 Previous sale price: \$115,500
 Seller: Kevin J Robbins & Kimberly M Robbins
 Buyer: James Keith Marquess
 Address: 7691 Petersen Point Rd
 Sale date: 2/14/2025
 Price: \$775,000
 Previous sale date: 9/22/2021
 Previous sale price: \$439,000
 Seller: Robert S Saxton, Jr.
 Buyer: Brent Matseas
 Address: 7665 Lund Rd
 Sale date: 2/10/2025
 Price: \$295,000
 Previous sale date: 8/20/2015
 Previous sale price: \$100
 Seller: Robert S Saxton, Jr.
 Buyer: Brent Matseas
 Address: 7665 Lund Rd
 Sale date: 2/10/2025
 Price: \$295,000
 Previous sale date: 8/20/2015
 Previous sale price: \$100
 Seller: GPC Enterprises of NW Florida,

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ADOPT REVISIONS TO SANTA ROSA DISTRICT SCHOOLS 2025 -2026 SCHOOL CHOICE PLAN

Pursuant to Chapter 120, Florida Statutes, the Santa Rosa County School Board will hold a public hearing to consider the revisions, additions and deletions to the 2024-2025 School Choice Plan in preparation for the 2025 -2026 school year's School Choice Plan. The purpose of these changes is to update the existing School Choice Plan in accordance with legislative and State Board of Education Regulations. The public hearing is scheduled for April 10, 2025 at 5:30 PM in the Santa Rosa County School Board Room at 5086 Canal Street, Milton, Florida. Copies of proposed revisions, additions and deletions for the 2025 -2026 School Choice Plan will be available for study and examination at the Douglas A. Dillon Administrative Center in Milton, Florida from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, March 6, 2025 through April 10, 2025.

Dr. Karen R. Barber
 Superintendent of Schools

ML3593

TRANSACTIONS CONT.

LLC
 Buyer: Northwest Florida Community
 Address: 300 W Leonard St
 Sale date: 2/10/2025
 Price: \$31,500
 Previous sale date: 5/3/2023
 Previous sale price: \$60,000
 ■ Seller: Robert Karr & Linda Dianne Karr
 Buyer: Virginia Ann Boyd
 Address: 6508 E Shore Dr
 Sale date: 2/8/2025
 Price: \$134,000
 Previous sale date: 8/4/2022
 Previous sale price: \$120,000
 ■ Seller: GPC Enterprises of NW Florida, LLC
 Buyer: Northwest Florida Community
 Address: 300 W Leonard St
 Sale date: 2/10/2025
 Price: \$31,500
 Previous sale date: 5/3/2023
 Previous sale price: \$60,000
 ■ Seller: GPC Enterprises of NW Florida, LLC
 Buyer: Pensacola Habitat For Humanity
 Address: Po Box 13204
 Sale date: 2/10/2025
 Price: \$31,500
 Previous sale date: 5/3/2023
 Previous sale price: \$60,000
 ■ Seller: Adrian & Maria C Palacios
 Buyer: Lgp4 Llc
 Address: 803 N Highway 95A
 Sale date: 2/7/2025
 Price: \$30,000
 Previous sale date: 4/19/2013
 Previous sale price: \$100
 ■ Seller: Ian Gilliespie Byrnes
 Buyer: Chad Marcus Franzel
 Address: 1106 Nw 13th Ter
 Sale date: 2/11/2025
 Price: \$120,000
 Previous sale date: 10/31/2024
 Previous sale price: \$100
 ■ Seller: Mingxian Jiang & Viola Elena Jiang
 Buyer: Jennifer Brant
 Address: 7464 Johnson Rd
 Sale date: 2/6/2025
 Price: \$250,000
 Previous sale date: 4/30/2024
 Previous sale price: \$230,000
 ■ Seller: Richard L Johnston
 Buyer: James M Sessions
 Address: 7162 Springhill Rd
 Sale date: 2/10/2025
 Price: \$52,900
 Previous sale date: 11/21/2007
 Previous sale price: \$100
 ■ Seller: Tyler Paul Griswold
 Buyer: Paul Griswold South Farms LLC
 Address: 8935 Highway 89
 Sale date: 2/18/2025
 Price: \$770,000
 Previous sale date: 2/19/2013
 Previous sale price: \$400,000
 ■ Seller: Grade Investments LLC
 Buyer: Daniel W Hampton
 Address: 4737 Integrity Ct
 Sale date: 2/18/2025
 Price: \$175,000
 Previous sale date: 8/12/2024
 Previous sale price: \$125,100
 ■ Seller: Daniel Lee Wayland, Trustee et al
 Buyer: Shana Lynn Schmidt
 Address: 6750 Camp Henderson Rd
 Sale date: 2/7/2025
 Price: \$340,000
 Previous sale date: 11/7/2021
 Previous sale price: \$100
 ■ Seller: Richard Becker
 Buyer: Evaine Jill Davis
 Address: 6305 E Shore Dr
 Sale date: 2/11/2025
 Price: \$250
 Previous sale date: 11/25/2013
 Previous sale price: \$500
 ■ Seller: Brent J Friddle & Hannah Friddle
 Buyer: Rebecca Renee Rowen
 Address: 2614 Tunnel Rd
 Sale date: 2/13/2025
 Price: \$180,000
 Previous sale date: 12/6/2017
 Previous sale price: \$129,000
 ■ Seller: Flynn Building Specialists LLC
 Buyer: Mark Allen Holmes
 Address: 6092 Quintette Rd
 Sale date: 2/12/2025
 Price: \$424,258
 Previous sale date: 9/25/2024
 Previous sale price: \$100
 ■ Seller: CT Homes Emerald Coast, LLC
 Buyer: Carlos V Colon
 Address: 5099 Berryhill Rd
 Sale date: 2/19/2025
 Price: \$445,900
 Previous sale date: 9/30/2022
 Previous sale price: \$100
 ■ Seller: R&E Homebuilders LLC
 Buyer: Pedro M Zamora
 Address: 9024 Sage Forest Ln
 Sale date: 2/4/2025
 Price: \$113,000
 Previous sale date: 8/26/2021
 Previous sale price: \$74,900
 ■ Seller: R&E Homebuilders LLC
 Buyer: Albert Baker
 Address: 15420 Rosemary Ln
 Sale date: 2/4/2025
 Price: \$87,000
 Previous sale date: 8/30/2022
 Previous sale price: \$150,000
 ■ Seller: R&E Homebuilders LLC
 Buyer: Joshua Smith & Marilyn Smith
 Address: 5664 Paddle Wheel Dr
 Sale date: 2/4/2025
 Price: \$87,000
 Previous sale date: 12/7/2021
 Previous sale price: \$119,800
 ■ Seller: James J Pierson
 Buyer: Daniel Sibilev
 Address: 551 Summit Vw
 Sale date:
 Price: \$120,000
 Previous sale date: 12/4/2021
 Previous sale price: \$175,700
 ■ Seller: KGKL Investments LLC
 Buyer: Daniel Sibilev
 Address: 551 Summit Vw
 Sale date: 2/4/2025
 Price: \$120,000

Previous sale date: 2/7/2022
 Previous sale price: \$175,700
 ■ Seller: Anthony Leporin & Kendall Leporin
 Buyer: Christopher S Cooper
 Address: 2097 Ten Mile Rd
 Sale date: 2/14/2025
 Price: \$100,000
 Previous sale date: 3/16/2023
 Previous sale price: \$20,000
 ■ Seller: Cathy Patricia Winkles
 Buyer: David Benjamin Wilks
 Address: 8415 Highway 89
 Sale date: 2/12/2025
 Price: \$120,000
 Previous sale date: 1/4/2024
 Previous sale price: \$100
 ■ Seller: Santa Rosa County Clerk of Circuit Court et al
 Buyer: Maksim Matyunin
 Address: 1707 N Devine Rd
 Sale date: 2/10/2025
 Price: \$47,100
 Previous sale date: 11/4/2020
 Previous sale price: \$100
 ■ Seller: Walther Land Group
 Buyer: MCH Property Group LLC
 Address: 6967 Hidden Forest Trl
 Sale date: 2/14/2025
 Price: \$120,000
 Previous sale date: 9/13/2018
 Previous sale price: \$225,1300
 ■ Seller: Walther Land Group
 Buyer: MCH Property Group LLC
 Address: 6967 Hidden Forest Trl
 Sale date: 2/14/2025
 Price: \$120,000
 Previous sale date: 9/13/2018
 Previous sale price: \$2,251,300 (acreage)
 ■ Seller: Walther Land Group
 Buyer: Diana Garcia
 Address: 479 Deer Point Dr
 Sale date: 2/20/2025
 Price: \$120,000
 Previous sale date: 9/13/2018
 Previous sale price: \$2,251,300 (acreage)
 ■ Seller: Walther Land Group
 Buyer: Diana Garcia
 Address: 479 Deer Point Dr
 Sale date: 2/20/2025
 Price: \$120,000
 Previous sale date: 9/13/2018
 Previous sale price: \$2,251,300 (acreage)
 ■ Seller: Walther Land Group
 Buyer: Paul Griswold South Farms LLC
 Address: 8935 Highway 89
 Sale date: 2/7/2025
 Price: \$400,000
 Previous sale date: 2/1/1975
 Previous sale price: \$14,200
 ■ Seller: Drusilla W Dobson & Marcus G Dobson Trustees
 Buyer: Darren K Dobson
 Address: 13750 Highway 89
 Sale date: 2/6/2025
 Price: \$22,000
 Previous sale date: 11/1/1997
 Previous sale price: \$100
 ■ Seller: Gregory R Y Paula R Trustees et al
 Buyer: Robert Gast & Ashley Gast
 Address: 2004 Yosemite Dr
 Sale date: 2/19/2025
 Price: \$330,000
 Previous sale date: 5/25/2021
 Previous sale price: \$100
 ■ Seller: Santa Rosa County Clerk of Circuit Court et al
 Buyer: Lauren Whitbey
 Address: Po Box 561
 Sale date: 2/4/2025
 Price: \$22,200
 Previous sale date: 8/10/2018
 Previous sale price: \$100
 ■ Seller: Charles L Blackwell & Brandy Smith
 Buyer: Michael T Olenych
 Address: 5673 Cane Syrup Cir
 Sale date: 2/14/2025
 Price: \$280,000
 Previous sale date: 6/28/2022
 Previous sale price: \$260,000
 ■ Seller: Carolyn M Day
 Buyer: Richard W Santo
 Address: 5968 Moors Oaks Dr
 Sale date: 2/20/2025
 Price: \$150,000
 Previous sale date: 4/4/2011
 Previous sale price: \$20,000
 ■ Seller: Jacob H Clements & Jeanne A Clements
 Buyer: William McCune Everett
 Address: 2238 Whispering Pines Blvd
 Sale date: 2/10/2025
 Price: \$320,000
 Previous sale date: 5/18/2020
 Previous sale price: \$210,000
 ■ Seller: Country Manor Homes Inc
 Buyer: Mario Del Sorbo
 Address: 9258 Ridge Dr
 Sale date: 2/3/2025
 Price: \$534,900
 Previous sale date:
 Previous sale price: \$0
 ■ Seller: Matthew D Sites & Brittany Sites
 Buyer: Matthew D Sites
 Address: 8914 Timber Ln
 Sale date: 2/7/2025
 Price: \$73,073
 Previous sale date: 9/28/2018
 Previous sale price: \$260,900
 ■ Seller: Leroy Grimes & Greg Grimes CO Trustees Et Al
 Buyer: CL Capital Investments LLC
 Address: 7540 Highway 64
 Sale date: 2/7/2025
 Price: \$205,000
 Previous sale date: 10/1/2021
 Previous sale price: \$100
 ■ Seller: Historic Cedarwood LLC
 Buyer: Matthew Walsler
 Address: 3562 Bob Tolbert Rd
 Sale date: 2/7/2025
 Price: \$479,900
 Previous sale date: 8/22/2023
 Previous sale price: \$420,000
 ■ Seller: Historic Cedarwood LLC
 Buyer: Matthew Walsler
 Address: 3562 Bob Tolbert Rd
 Sale date: 2/7/2025
 Price: \$479,900
 Previous sale date: 8/22/2023
 Previous sale price: \$420,000

■ Seller: Williams H Phillips Et Al
 Buyer: Rosalina Juarez Villalon
 Address: 1879 Cotton Bay Ln
 Sale date:
 Price: \$140,000
 Previous sale date: 8/18/2004

Previous sale price: \$115,000
 ■ Seller: William Michael Nagg
 Buyer: Thorace E Stiff
 Address: 724 7th Way
 Sale date: 2/4/2025
 Price: \$12,000

Previous sale date: 3/24/1988
 Previous sale price: \$100
 ■ Seller: Almabella P Menez & Julie Estigoy Et Al
 Buyer: Alexander Hanson Trustee
 Address: 6800 Montgomery Rd

Sale date: 2/12/2025
 Price: \$45,000
 Previous sale date: 3/18/2020
 Previous sale price: \$100

NOTICE OF CHANGE OF LAND USE AND INTENT TO CONSIDER AN ORDINANCE

The Santa Rosa County Zoning Board and Board of County Commissioners will conduct public hearings to consider a change of land use and/or rezoning of land areas depicted on the maps within this advertisement. The hearings are scheduled as follows:

Zoning Board (to consider and make a recommendation on the proposals):
Thursday, April 10, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

Board of County Commissioners (to consider adoption of the ordinance):
Thursday, April 24, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

The Zoning Board meeting and the Board of County Commissioners meeting will be held at the Santa Rosa County Administrative Center in the Board Meeting Room, 6495 Caroline Street, Milton, Florida. At the public hearings, the Zoning Board and Board of County Commissioners shall consider the ordinances entitled:

Ordinance 1:
AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA; AMENDING ORDINANCE 21-19 AS AMENDED; AMENDING THE ZONING DISTRICTS AS DEPICTED IN THE ATTACHED MAPS; APPROVING THE AMENDMENTS TO THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE AS DEPICTED IN THE ATTACHED MAPS; AMENDING ORDINANCE 2021-13; AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP OF THE SANTA ROSA COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; CHANGING THE LAND USE CLASSIFICATIONS AS DEPICTED IN THE ATTACHED MAPS; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Zoning District Amended: from R1M (Mixed Residential Subdivision) to R2 (Medium Density Residential)- total approximately 0.90 (+/-) acres

Future Land Use Amended: No Change

Zoning District Amended: from R1M (Mixed Residential Subdivision) to R2 (Medium Density Residential)- total approximately 0.90 (+/-) acres

Future Land Use Amended: from SFR (Single Family Residential) to MDR (Medium Density Residential)- total approximately 9.4 (+/-) acres

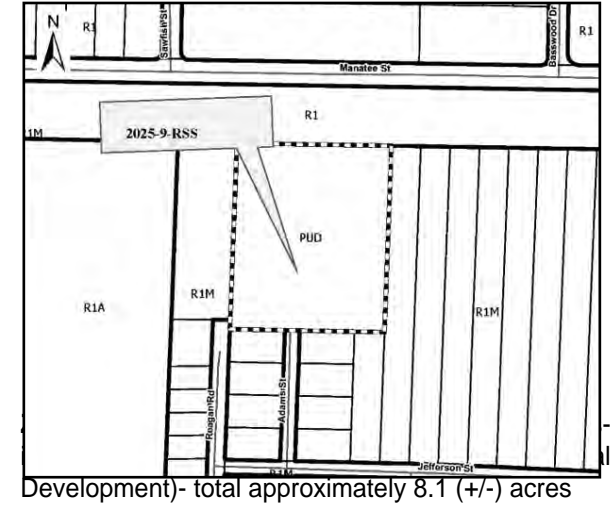
Future Land Use Amended: from SFR (Single Family Residential) to COMM (Commercial) - total approximately 3.52 (+/-) acres

Future Land Use Amended: from SFR (Single Family Residential) to COMM (Commercial)- total approximately 0.75 (+/-) acres

Future Land Use Amended: from SFR (Single Family Residential) to COMM (Commercial)- total approximately 0.75 (+/-) acres

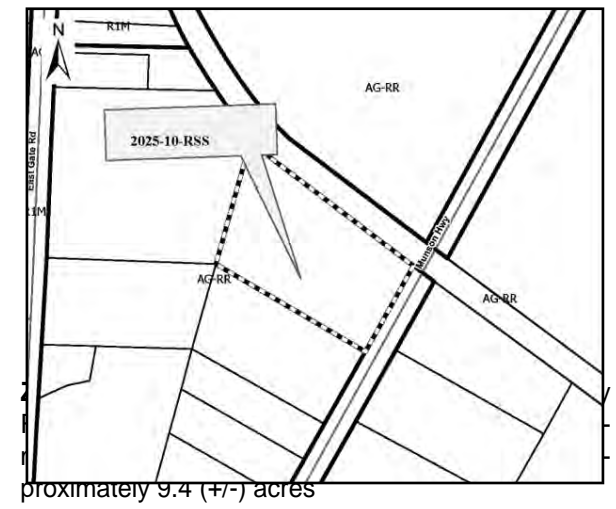
Future Land Use Amended: from SFR (Single Family Residential) to COMM (Commercial)- total approximately 0.75 (+/-) acres

Future Land Use Amended: SFR (Single Family Residential)- total approximately 7.5 (+/-) acres



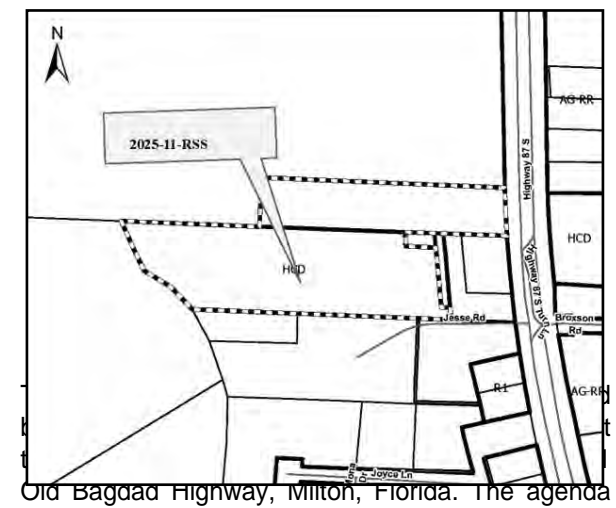
Development)- total approximately 8.1 (+/-) acres

Future Land Use Amended: from AG-RR (Agriculture Rural Residential) to COMM (Commercial)- total approximately 8.1 (+/-) acres



proximately 9.4 (+/-) acres

Future Land Use Amended: from SFR (Single Family Residential) & COMM (Commercial) to MDR (Medium Density Residential)- total approximately 9.4 (+/-) acres



Old Bagdad Highway, Milton, Florida. The agenda and backup documentation will be available via the Meetings & Agendas Page of the County's website at www.santarosa.fl.gov approximately 1 week prior to each scheduled meeting. Interested parties may appear at the meetings and be heard with respect to this proposed ordinance. All interested parties should take notice that if they decide to appeal any decision made by the Santa Rosa County Board of County Commissioners with respect to any matter coming before said Board at said meeting, it is their individual responsibility to insure that a record of proceedings they are appealing exists and for such purpose they will need to insure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record shall include the testimony and the evidence upon which their appeal is to be based.

Santa Rosa County adheres to the Americans with Disabilities Act and will make reasonable modifications for access to this meeting upon request. Please call Santa Rosa County Planning and Development Division at (850) 981-7086 to make a request. For the Hearing-Impaired, 1-800-955-8770 (Voice). Requests must be received at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting in order to provide the requested service.

ML3662

LEGALS cont.

-1- LEGALS

whose date of death was February 6, 2025, is pending in the Circuit Court for Santa Rosa County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 4025 Avalon Blvd, Milton, FL 32583. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below. All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this Court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this Court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, 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 April 10, 2025.

TODD M. LADOUCEUR, Florida Bar No.: 064051 GALLOWAY, JOHNSON, TOMPKINS, BURR & SMITH, P.L.C.

21 East Garden Street, First Floor Pensacola, Florida 32502 Telephone: (850) 436-7000 Facsimile: (850) 436-7099

E-mail: tmlservice@gallowaylawfirm.com

Counsel for the Personal Representative Maria Williams LaDouceur 2899 Greystone Drive Pace, FL 32571 Personal Representative ML3685

Notice of Final Agency Action Taken by the Northwest Florida Water Management District Notice is given that Environmental Resource permit number IND-113-3099937-3 was

issued on March 31, 2025 to Garden Street Communities Southeast, LLC for the

construction of a new surface water management system Parkland Place Wetland Crossing and Conceptual Future Phases. The project is located at Berryhill Road, Santa Rosa County.

The application file is available online and can be accessed through the District's e-Permitting Portal at:

https://permitting.sjrwmd.com/nwep/permitting/jsp/Search.do?theAction=PermitNumSearch. If you

have any questions or are experiencing difficulty viewing the electronic application, please contact us at (850) 951-4660.

A person whose substantial interests are affected by the District permitting decision may petition for an administrative hearing in accordance with Sections 120.569 and 120.57, Florida Statutes, or may choose to pursue mediation as an alternative remedy under Section 120.573, Florida Statutes, and Rules 28-106.111 and 28-106.401-404, Florida Administrative Code. Petitions must comply with the requirements of Florida Administrative Code, Chapter 28-106 and be filed with (received by) the District Clerk located

-1- LEGALS

at District Headquarters, 81 Water Management Drive, Havana, FL 32333-4712. Petitions for administrative hearing on the above application must be filed within twenty-one (21) days of publication of this notice or within twenty-six (26) days of the District depositing notice of this intent in the mail for those persons to whom the District mails actual notice. Failure to file a petition within this time period shall constitute a waiver of any right(s) such person(s) may have to request an administrative determination (hearing) under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S., concerning the subject permit. Petitions which are not filed in accordance with the above provisions are subject to dismissal. Because the administrative hearing process is designed to formulate final agency action, the filing of a petition means that the District's final action may be different from the position taken by it in this notice. Persons whose substantial interests will be affected by any such final decision of the District on the application have the right to petition to become a party to the proceedings, in accordance with the requirements set forth above. ML3686

File #: 2025007

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT RICCARDO MARINO, 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: 1900903

Year of Issuance: 2019

Description of Property: OLLINGER TRACT SE DIAGONAL 1/2 OF LOT 2 BLK 72 AS DES IN OR 1606 PG 667 & OR 3307 PG 1772 Parcel ID: 11-1N-28-2920-07200-0020

Name in which Assessed: PATRICIA WHITFIELD ET AL 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 05/19/2025 at 12:00 noon CT, by Jason D. English, ESQ, Santa Rosa County Clerk of Courts & Comptroller. ML3687

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 1ST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 25000027CAMXAX CARRINGTON MORTGAGE SERVICES LLC, Plaintiff,

vs. UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING AN INTEREST BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST THE ESTATE OF RICHARD A. CLINCHY, III A/K/A RICHARD ALEXANDER CLINCHY, III A/K/A RICHARD A. CLINCHY, DECEASED; RICHARD ALEXANDER CLINCHY, IV; KEVIN RICHARDSON CLINCHY; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; VELOCITY INVESTMENTS, L.L.C., Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF ACTION TO: Unknown Heirs, Devisees, Grantees, Assignees, Lienors, Creditors, Trustees, and all other parties claiming an interest by,

-1- LEGALS

through, under or against the Estate of Richard A. Clinchy, III a/k/a Richard Alexander Clinchy, III a/k/a Richard A. Clinchy, deceased 6814 Tidewater Drive Navarre, Florida 32566 Richard Alexander Clinchy, IV Residence Unknown YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following described property in Santa Rosa County, Florida:

COMMENCE AT A POINT 1400.00 FEET WEST OF THE EAST LINE OF SECTION 22, TOWNSHIP 2 SOUTH, RANGE 27 WEST, ON THE SOUTH RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF U.S. HIGHWAY 98 (SR 30), SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA; THENCE RUN NORTH 89 DEGREES 25 MINUTES 53 SECONDS WEST ALONG SAID SOUTH RIGHT OF WAY LINE FOR 460.01 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 00, DEGREES 58 MINUTES 37 SECONDS WEST FOR 1648.54 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 81 DEGREES 41 MINUTES 37 SECONDS WEST FOR 42.53 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE SOUTH 81 DEGREES 41 MINUTES 37 SECONDS WEST FOR 115.00 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 08 DEGREES 18 MINUTES 23 SECONDS EAST FOR 197.38 FEET; THENCE RUN NORTH 81 DEGREES 41 MINUTES 37 SECONDS EAST FOR 115.00 FEET; THENCE RUN NORTH 08 DEGREES 18 MINUTES 23 SECONDS WEST FOR 197.38 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; ALL LYING IN SECTIONS 22 AND 27 TOWNSHIP 2 SOUTH, RANGE 27 WEST, SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

SUBJECT PROPERTY BEING LOT 5, BLOCK B OF THE UNRECORDED PLAT OF SOUND RETREAT. Street Address: 6814 Tidewater Drive, Navarre, Florida 32566 has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on McCabe, Weisberg & Conway, LLC, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 3222 Commerce Place, Suite A, West Palm Beach, FL 33407, within 30 days after the date of the first publication of this notice, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court, otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.

-700- SERVICES

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-800- MISCELLANEOUS

STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADS FOR WEEK OF: 04/07/2025 - 04/13/2025

1. Business Opportunities Are you ready for financial freedom? Visit: www.cashcoach-paul.com

2. Home Improvement/Service Don't Pay For Covered Home Repairs Again! Our home warranty covers ALL MAJOR SYSTEMS AND APPLIANCES. We stand by our service and if we can't fix it, we'll replace it! Pick the plan that fits your budget! Call: 1-888-521-2793

3. Home Improvement/Service WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP & RESTORATION: A small amount of water can lead to major damage in your home. Our trusted professionals do complete repairs to protect your family and your home's value! Call 24/7: 1-866-782-4060. Have zip code of service location ready when you call!

4. Home Improvement/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 1-877-644-9799 Have zip code of property ready when calling!

5. Miscellaneous DONATE YOUR CAR TO KIDS. Your donation helps fund the search for missing children. Accepting Cars, Trucks and Vans. Fast Free Pickup - Running or Not - Tax Donation - Call 888-815-4341

6. Home Improvement/Service AGING ROOF? NEW HOMEOWNER? STORM DAMAGE? You need a local expert provider

the County of Santa Rosa, in the city of Milton, Florida, 32570, intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida. Dated at Milton, Florida, this 10th day of April 2025. Katherine Spears, owner, or Corporation full name. ML3690

-1- LEGALS

the County of Santa Rosa, in the city of Milton, Florida, 32570, intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida. Dated at Milton, Florida, this 10th day of April 2025. Katherine Spears, owner, or Corporation full name. ML3690

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of The Dapper Dane, at 6701 EAST BAY BLVD, in the County of Santa Rosa, in the city of NAVARRE, Florida, 32566, intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida. Dated at NAVARRE, Florida, this 10th day of April 2025. Dakri Ventures LLC, owner, or Corporation full name. ML3691

Airport Mini Storage located at 7778 Johnson Road, Milton, FL is holding a public auction www.StorageTreasures.com ending on April 24th, 2025, at 10:00 am. The following unit will be sold: Unit 60 - Tamara Hood Household items ML3692

-700- SERVICES

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Specializing in Driveways, Patios, Brick Mailbox, Retaining Walls. Senior & Military Discount. 30 years experience. Licensed & Insured. Call 850-400-0660.

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STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADS FOR WEEK OF: 04/07/2025 - 04/13/2025

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2. Home Improvement/Service Don't Pay For Covered Home Repairs Again! Our home warranty covers ALL MAJOR SYSTEMS AND APPLIANCES. We stand by our service and if we can't fix it, we'll replace it! Pick the plan that fits your budget! Call: 1-888-521-2793

3. Home Improvement/Service WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP & RESTORATION: A small amount of water can lead to major damage in your home. Our trusted professionals do complete repairs to protect your family and your home's value! Call 24/7: 1-866-782-4060. Have zip code of service location ready when you call!

4. Home Improvement/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 1-877-644-9799 Have zip code of property ready when calling!

5. Miscellaneous DONATE YOUR CAR TO KIDS. Your donation helps fund the search for missing children. Accepting Cars, Trucks and Vans. Fast Free Pickup - Running or Not - Tax Donation - Call 888-815-4341

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that proudly stands behind their work. Fast, free estimate. Financing available. Call 1-888-967-1158 Have zip code of property ready when calling! 7. Medical ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Discover

er Oxygen Therapy That Moves with You with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. FREE information kit. Call 866-472-8591. 8. Home Improvement/Service BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as

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