



MAY 2024
VOL. 2, NO. 11

FWB Life

PRSR STD
ECRWSS - EDDM
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Santa Rosa Beach, FL
PERMIT NO. #11

Postal Customer Local

Lights Out. Stash the Trash. It's Sea Turtle Nesting Season!

BY LORI SMITH
AND RITA L. SHERWOOD

Each year, thousands of sea turtles nest on our beaches. Florida beaches are the No. 1 place for sea turtle nests in North America from May to October. Northwest Florida beaches attract many endangered species including Green, Loggerhead, Leatherback and Kemp's Ridley.

Life Media's own "Theo," the Gulfarium C.A.R.E. Center, Destin-Fort Walton Beach Sea Turtle Patrol and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) remind locals and visitors to help protect nesting sea turtles by practicing some simple tips.

Clean: We can all do our part to protect the sea turtles by keeping the beach clean. Remove all belongings, including trash, when you leave the beach. Leave no trace! Stash the trash! Obstacles on the beach can prevent sea turtles from nesting as they crawl from the water, across the sand, to lay their eggs.



They can also prevent sea turtle hatchlings from reaching the water once they emerge from their nests. Dispose of all trash, fill in holes in the sand and put away boats, beach toys and furniture. This also applies to trash in the water, such as abandoned fishing gear, extremely harmful to sea turtles. They can get stuck in deserted traps or wrapped up in a net or fishing line, causing physical injuries to their flippers and softer parts of their body. Sea turtles are air breathers, so getting caught in

an old trap will prevent them from making it up to the surface. Never cut your fishing line if you hook a sea turtle while fishing. Leave no trace on the beach or in the water!

Dark: Lights out! Since most of Florida's sea turtles nest at night, it is important to keep our beaches dark. Bright lights can disorient nesting turtles and their hatchlings, leading them away from the ocean and toward potential danger, such as a parking lot. So, avoid using a flashlight

or cellphone on the beach at night. If you live along the beach or are visiting, turn out lights or close curtains after dark to ensure nesting turtles' safety as they come ashore, keeping hatchlings oriented when they emerge from their nests. Use turtle safe flashlights or flashlight covers when on the beach at night. You can get one FREE at the Visit Destin-Fort Walton Beach Welcome Center,

SEA TURTLES
continued on page 12

Hope Medical Clinic Fills the Healthcare Gap

BY MICHELLE RUSCHMAN

There's no doubt that most people would see our area as abundant, and it is. We live where other people work all year to get to and snowbirds spend entire seasons with us. We have a thriving military community as well as many successful small business owners and developers. At a glance, Okaloosa and Walton counties are doing well.

There are locals, however, who are struggling with necessities such as basic healthcare, from the homeless to entrepreneurs. This is the gap that Tim Roberts, the Founder and Executive Director of the Hope Medical Centers in Destin and Freeport, has been trying to fill since the Destin clinic opened in 2009. Both clinics are designated free and charitable clinics, in Destin and Freeport. "I moved here from Oregon and was introduced to the need that people who were working jobs 'behind the scenes' – restaurant workers, cleaning staff, etc. – weren't

HOPE MEDICAL
continued on page 17



Magnolia Grill

Equal parts museum and dining establishment, the walls of this 1910 catalog house are covered with pieces of local history

STEAKS • SEAFOOD • ITALIAN

157 Brooks Street SE • Fort Walton Beach
(850) 302-0266 • magnoliagrillfwb.com

Mother's Day Brunch 10AM-3PM



200 Eglin Pkwy NE | (850) 226-7579 | ajsonthebayou.com

Community

Legendary Hitmakers Atlanta Rhythm Section & Orleans Coming to Mattie Kelley Arts Center

The legendary hit makers Atlanta Rhythm Section and Orleans team up to bring their melodic magic to Mattie Kelly Arts Center June 29th in Niceville. The two iconic bands dominated the 70's & 80's charts—Atlanta Rhythm Section with top 10 hits “So Into You,” “Imaginary Lover,” “Doraville,” “I’m Not Gonna Let It Bother Me Tonight,” “Champagne Jam,” “Angel,” “Do It Or Die” and “Spooky”—Orleans with the unforgettable radio hits “Still The One,” “Dance With Me”



and “Love Takes Time.” Their classic songs still resonate with audiences of all ages thanks to continued airplay on

Classic Rock radio, television, film and streaming services. With multiple gold and platinum albums to their credit, both artists continue to be in demand for live shows, as they have been for more than five decades. Purchase tickets (\$43, \$57, \$68 and \$79) at www.mattiekellytickets.com or call 850-706-5206. All tickets are reserved.

WWW.MATTIEKELLYTICKETS.COM

OR CALL 850-706-5206

RESERVED TICKETS \$43 | \$57 | \$68 | \$79



Published Monthly
Mailed FREE to the communities of Fort Walton Beach, Okaloosa Island, Ocean City, Shalimar & Cinco Bayou (32547, 32548 and 32549)

P.O. Box 1424
Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459

Executive Editor & Publisher
Lori Leath Smith
Lori@LifeMediaGrp.com

Director, Advertising Sales
Scott Miller
Scott@LifeMediaGrp.com

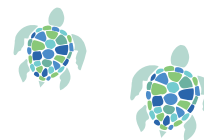
Production & Layout
Kim Harper

Contributing Writers
Barbara Palmgren
Michelle Ruschman
Doug Stauffer
Rita Sherwood
Douglas Henderson

To Advertise
850.688.9886

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

© Copyright 2024 FWB Life



Memorial Day: A Tribute to Our Fallen Heroes

BY DOUG STAUFFER, PASTOR, CHAPLAIN, VETERAN (FATHER, SON AND BROTHER TO VETERANS)

From every branch of service, every walk of life, America's soldiers are faced with peril and strife.

Bravery and sacrifice we continually recognize, Never forget those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Memorial Day: a reminder to pay respect

To those who served, freedoms to protect.

On this solemn day, their legacy lives on,

Honored and remembered, even after they're gone.

Let us guide our children to look up high

To heroes who serve and fight, and some die.

Not to those in sports or Hollywood's fame,

But those who defend our country's name.

Remember the Gold Star families still here.

Show them our gratitude for losing those dear.

They deserve our love, honor, and care,

For their loss is beyond compare.

Take a moment right now to remember and reflect

Of the fallen soldiers we must never forget.

Let us pay our respects to these heroes today

And honor their memory in every possible way.

A Legacy of Service, Dedication and a Remarkable Journey: Meet Hometown Hero Patt Maney

By PASTOR DOUG STAUFFER

In the tapestry of American public servants, few threads are as colorful and resilient as that of General Judge Representative (GJR) Patt Maney. From military battlegrounds to the judicial bench and into the halls of the Florida State House, Patt Maney's life epitomizes leadership, patriotism and an unyielding commitment to minister.

Maney's military tenure as a Brigadier General in the United States Army honed his leadership skills and ingrained a profound sense of duty in him. His service across various global hotspots, including Panama, Haiti, Bosnia, and Afghanistan, equipped him with unique insights and experiences that would later refine his approach to governance and public service.

Blown up by an Improvised Explosive Device

Patt Maney's military legacy took a pivotal turn following a near-fatal encounter with an IED in Afghanistan. The blast left him with a TBI (traumatic

brain injury), testing his resilience and reshaping his future. Fortunately for Patt, he married his college sweetheart, Caroline, almost 50 years ago, and she became his caregiver. "He became a 56-year-old/6-year-old, and I had to learn how to deal with him and help him," Caroline Maney said. "I was his full-time caregiver, and he needed assistance daily to get him from place to place."

Despite the daunting challenges of his recovery (20 months at Walter Reed Medical Hospital), which included over 80 hyperbaric oxygen therapy dives and multiple surgeries, Maney's spirit remained unbroken. His profound personal struggle and subsequent recovery not only restored his capabilities, but also deepened his empathy and commitment to fellow veterans facing physical and invisible life-changing injuries.

Upon returning to his duties as an Okaloosa County judge, Maney initiated the county's



first Mental Health and Veterans Treatment Court, recognizing veterans' unique challenges in the justice system. This court, the first of its kind in the state, has become a transformative platform for rehabilitation and reflects Maney's dedication to serving those who have served,

ensuring they receive the support and understanding needed to reintegrate into society successfully. The Florida statute establishing a Veterans Treatment Court system statewide is named after Maney, as is the street around the Okaloosa County courthouse.

Transition to Civilian Impact: The Legal Chapter

After retiring from active military service, Maney's journey did not decelerate. He shifted his battlefield to focus on the courtroom in Okaloosa County. For nearly three decades, he served as a judge, where his decisions were guided by fairness, empathy, and an ever-present commitment to justice. His legal career allowed him to directly impact his community, addressing local issues and making judicial decisions that resonated well beyond the courtroom walls.

A New Arena: Political Aspirations

In 2020, General Maney transitioned to another realm of public service by entering the political arena. His election to the Florida House of Representatives was not just a change of career but a continuation of his lifelong commitment to service. As a representative, Maney brought with him the discipline

Continued on page 16

THE PLACE
ON BEAL

WHERE FRIENDS AND FAMILY CELEBRATE!

100 BEAL PARKWAY NW, FORT WALTON BEACH, FL 32548 | 850.659.3553
THEPLACE@FWBCHAMBER.ORG | WWW.THEPLACEFWB.COM





Celebrate Women's Veterans Day at Veterans Park

By CAROLYN NEWCOMER KETCHEL

You are invited to a celebration of Women's Veterans Day on June 12th at 8 a.m. We will gather at the Destin-Fort Walton Beach Convention Center for a ceremony honoring our women who have served in the United States Military. Retired Col. Allison Black, USAF (Hurlburt) will be our keynote speaker this year. The ceremony will include a presentation of the Medal of Honor by the Choctawhatchee Bay DAR to be announced at the event. We will then gather at

the base of the Margaret Corbin statue at Women Veterans Monuments at Veterans' Park for a wreath-laying ceremony.

The beautiful 20 1/2-acre park features eight life size statues of women who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces from the Revolutionary War to current theatres. These statues have been purchased using the Tourism Development Tax known as the "Bed Tax." This is a one of kind park in the U.S. with the beauty of the land and the history of women who served our great nation. We expect

and hope for an additional eight statues to complete the park.

The park is the home of a heron rookery as well as many turtles, and the Audubon Society has identified more than 240 species of birds that migrate through our area. In addition, each fall the park is on the migratory path of the Monarch butterfly. Recently, the old wooden walkway was replaced with wide sidewalks for ease and safety and to accommodate wheelchair accessibility. Work on the living shoreline along the Choctawhatchee Bay will be

completed later this year.

This park is for patriots and conservationists and reflects people's values on our Emerald Coast. Learn of the heroic deeds of our women veterans as you enjoy a beautiful walk in nature.

Revolutionary War

Margaret Corbin continued loading and firing the cannon during the November 16, 1776, attack on Fort Mifflin after her husband was killed. She was later felled in battle and became the first woman to receive a government pension as a disabled soldier. She is buried at the U. S. Military Academy at West Point, New York.

Civil War

Cathay Williams was born in Missouri to an enslaved mother and a free father in 1844. She disguised herself as a man, assumed the name William Cathay, and enlisted in the Union forces. She was assigned to the 38th U.S. Infantry Regiment where she served two years before being discovered following a hospitalization for small pox. She later joined an all-black regiment that would eventually become part of the legendary Buffalo Soldiers.

World War I

Lenah Higbee was the first woman to receive the Navy Cross. She eventually became the second superintendent of the Navy Nurse Corps during which time she grew the corps from 160 members to 1,300, formalized Navy nursing uniforms, and designed the Navy nurse insignia. She would eventually have two battleships named for her. She is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

World War II

Jacqueline Cochran fought her way out of obscurity to become the first woman to break the sound barrier. She was instrumental in creating the WASP program, became the first woman civilian to be awarded the Distinguished Service Medal and, in 1948, was commissioned a lieutenant colonel in the Air Force Reserve.

Korean War

Jonita Bonham Bovee was a flight nurse with the 801st Air Medical Evacuation Squadron in Tachikaw, Japan,

during the Korean War. She logged 245 hours of medical evacuation flights before being severely injured in a plane crash in the Sea of Japan. She assisted in the rescue of 17 survivors before allowing herself to be pulled from the water. She became the first female recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross for her heroic actions.

Vietnam War

Sharon Lane arrived at the 312th Evacuation Hospital at Chu Lai on April 29, 1969. She worked five days a week in Ward 4 and spent her off duty hours caring for soldiers in the surgical ICU. 1st Lt. Lane was killed on June 8, 1969, when a salvo of 122 mm rockets, fired by the Viet Cong, struck between Wards 4A and 4B. She was the only American nurse killed as a direct result of hostile fire, and was posthumously awarded several medals including the Purple Heart and Bronze Star.

Persian Gulf War

Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester was a vehicle commander with the 617th Military Police Company. Sgt. Hester received the Silver Star for her actions during an enemy ambush by anti-Iraqi fighters in Baghdad on March 20, 2005.

War In Afghanistan

Neesema was born in Afghanistan and immigrated to the U.S. when her father became a student at University in the United States. She enlisted in the Air Force in 1985, completed her education and was commissioned as an officer in April 2001. On 9-11, she was the only Airman in the Air Force to understand Pashto, the language of the Taliban, and became an Aircrew Linguist in the RC-135 Surveillance and Reconnaissance Aircraft, eventually collecting and disseminating time-critical actionable combat intelligence directly to the U.S. President and SECDEF.

It is an honor and privilege to serve as your commissioner.

Carolyn Ketchel is Okaloosa County Commissioner, District 2.

She can be reached at CKetchel@myokaloosa.com or 850-651-7105.



You can't always be there,
but we can.

You are putting your trust in us, and we understand that. Your loved one's care is our biggest concern. Each of our Home Instead® Care Professionals exemplifies our values of compassion, confidence and expertise.

Our commitment to quality home care begins with the unique Care Pro training program. This comprehensive educational experience equips our Care Pros to provide individualized care to every person they serve. They share a deep passion for delivering valuable home care to your family.

Helping families in Fort Walton Beach since 2002.

850.243.6464

HomeInsteadFWB.com



Each Home Instead® office is an independently owned and operated franchise of Home Instead, Inc., an Honor Company.
© 2023 Home Instead, Inc.

Services

- **Personal Services**
Help with bathing, dressing, mobility and more
- **Companionship**
Regular visits to help combat loneliness and isolation
- **Meal Prep and Home Helper**
Preparation of nutritious meals, medication reminders and light housekeeping
- **Transportation**
Rides to doctor appointments, prescription pickup, grocery shopping and more
- **Hospice Support**
Comfort for your loved one and respite for family members

Home Care for Chronic Conditions

Receiving care at home can make life easier when someone is living with a chronic health condition. Our CAREGivers can provide:

- Alzheimer's and dementia support
- Arthritis support
- Diabetes support
- Support for many chronic conditions including cancer, heart disease, stroke, Parkinson's, weight-related issues, depression and many others

Lic #299992602

LIFE PRODUCE

ORGANIC PRODUCE SHARES

Every bite does matter. Having fresh organic produce in home to prepare for meals greatly helps to provide the nutrients we all need each day. Be inspired and nourish your body with delicious organic fruits and vegetables

MIXED BOX : FRUIT BOX : SEASONAL BOX
NOURISH & INSPIRE



EAT WELL
LIVE WELL

Eat FRESH ORGANIC PRODUCE with us!

Register online at LifeProduce.org to receive our "What's FRESH" email on Fridays. Order produce on a multi-week schedule or simply as needed.

PRODUCE PICK UP DAY is THURSDAY in NICEVILLE : DESTIN : FORT WALTON BEACH or choose HOME DELIVERY.

LIFEPRODUCE.ORG

Community

Blessed By Mom

To celebrate this Mother's Day, **FWB Life** asked, "What blesses (or blessed) you about your mom?"



My mom blesses me by being an amazing role model (and boss!) and supporting me in everything I do. She encourages everyone she knows to be their best and leads her staff and her family so well, always pointing them to Christ!

Lizzy Chapman, Director of Marketing, Melting Pot Destin



Marianne Stauffer: Forever cherished, deeply missed. Mom was a loving beacon of devotion and class. She died on the morning of Mother's Day 2021 before

I preached, so I will always continue to honor her on that special day. She is pictured here with her devoted husband, son, and daughter-in-law, Judy. Her legacy of selfless love inspires me daily.

Doug Stauffer, Pastor, Faith Independent Baptist Church, Niceville, and Life Media Writer

My mother, Rose, was my inspiration. A teacher and a mom, she told me how important it was to have a career with a purpose. I remembered her words when my husband died at a young age and I raised three children on my own. I was fortunate to have a job at a local school system as a guidance counselor. I was grateful for taking my mother's advice, so I was prepared to help my family financially.

Barbara Palmgren, Life Media writer & Heritage Museum of NWFL Board

My Mother fostered intellectual growth in me and a desire to continue to learn throughout my life. She was a woman of great integrity, living her values

through example to her family. *Carolyn Ketchel, Okaloosa County Commissioner District 2*



"My mother, Lois Dokey, has been a true blessing and an inspiration to me. Despite facing impossible odds, she not only beat cancer once but twice. She is a remarkable example of what it means to be a fighter and never give up. In the attached picture, you can see my mother, who has been in remission for eight years, surrounded by me, my husband Mike, and her two granddaughters, Jenna (15) and Elizabeth (13)."

Catherine Card, Public Information Officer, Okaloosa County School District

My mom was always my encourager. She was a best friend and constant with the biggest heart, and she always told me that I could do anything my heart

desired if I set my mind to it. She made sure I knew the Lord and prayed for me always. Her love was like no other. The best mom, Nana, and best friend.

Adrienne Brackett, Licensed Stylist-Educator, Pure & Couture Salon, Pure Collective Salon



My Mom, Carol, was a blessing in so many ways. She was compassionate and loving yet firm. She instilled in me to be a gentleman, to always give my best and to never quit.

Scott Miller, Director of Sales & Advertising, Life Media Group



My mom taught me to be honest and be tough! She was an amazing businesswoman who fo-

cusied a lot of energy on her little project.

Mary Anne Windes, Real Estate Professionals



My mom, Claudette Canuel, has blessed me with a tenacity balanced with empathy which brought my family to live in this paradise!

Greg Durette, Florida Health Connector

My Mom is a blessing in many ways - but number one is she is always praying.

Dan Collins, AJ's Restaurants

My mom, Minnie Dickerson, is no longer with us, but she was ALWAYS there for us no matter the sport or event, she was in the crowd cheering us on and she continued that with not only her grandchildren, but her great

Continued on page 18



Concerts in the Village

mattie kelly arts foundation

THURSDAY NIGHTS | MAY 9 - JUNE 6

Annual Thursday evening concert live music series featuring family-friendly premier musicians and bands performing everything from classic rock, reggae and disco to modern pop.

May 9 | Rumours ATL: A Fleetwood Mac Tribute

May 16 | Gotta Groove Band

May 23 | Mitch Malloy

May 30 | Haley Reinhart

June 6 | Adam Ezra Group

MKAF MEMBERS CONCERTS ARE FREE! BECOME A MEMBER

MKAF.org

Become a Member - JOIN NOW!

Know that your membership fees impact students, veterans, and adults of all abilities throughout Northwest Florida.

Purchase Tickets at [MKAF.org/Events](https://www.mkaf.org/Events)



Happenings Around FWB

2024 EVENTS

MAY

- 01** Dine + Dive: A Fine Art, Food & Wine Event benefiting the Underwater Museum of Art
6 pm | Grand Boulevard at Sandestin | Miramar Beach
- 02** Beachworx Fort Walton Beach Grand Opening
4:30 pm | Beachworx | FWB
Women, Wine & Wisdom
5 pm | DeFrance Boutique | FWB
Concerts in the Village: The Mulligans
7 pm | Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation | Destin
- 03** Greater FWB Chamber First Friday Coffee
7 am | Christian Life Center at First Baptist Church | FWB
ADSO Gallery Reception: Celebrate FWB Pirates
6 pm | Arts & Design Society | FWB
- 04** Boy Scouts Pinewood Derby Championship hosted by Step One Automotive Group
10 am | Step One Center of Excellence | FWB
- 12** EmpowHER
10 am | Choctawhatchee High School | FWB
Discover Science Saturday
10:30 am | Emerald Coast Science Center | FWB
Emerald Coast Bike Fest
11 am | Emerald Coast Harley-Davidson | FWB
C.A.R.E. on the Coast
4 pm | Gulfarium Marine Adventure Park | FWB
- 04-05** ArtsQuest Fine Arts Festival
10 am | Grand Boulevard at Sandestin | Miramar Beach
- 05** Craftathon
11 am | Fort Walton Beach Landing Park | FWB
Mooba Fest
2 pm | Mooba Cafe | FWB
Women's Climbing Circle
5 pm | Rock Out Climbing Gym | Destin
Live Music: Lochs
6 pm | AIs Beach Club | FWB
- 06** Painting Party: Golden Hour Sunset
6:30 pm | Painting with a Twist | FWB
- 07** Live Music: Charlie Seagar
4 pm | AIs Beach Club | FWB
- 09** Mini Makers and Experimenters Lab
10:30 am | Emerald Coast Science Center | FWB



- 09 CONT.** Greater FWB Chamber Nothing But Networking
11:30 am | El Paso de Mary Esther | Mary Esther
Concerts in the Village: Rumours ATL: A Fleetwood Mac Tribute
7 pm | Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation | Destin
 - 11** Girls Empowered in Math and Science (GEMS) Workshop
10:30 am | Fort Walton Beach Public Library | FWB
Paddle at the Park
9 am | The Boardwalk | Okaloosa Island
Comhole Tournament benefitting the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Emerald Coast
2 pm | The Ratchet Hatchet | FWB
Tequila & Taco Fest
1-4 pm | Sandestin | Miramar Beach
 - 14** Young Professionals Leadership Conference of Northwest Florida
10 am | Niceville Community Center | Niceville
 - 15** Live Music: Parker & Ivoree
6 pm | AIs Beach Club | FWB
 - 16** Greater FWB Chamber Business After Hours
5:30 pm | Wentz Industries | FWB
Planetarium Night: Billy Bowlegs
6 pm | Emerald Coast Science Center | FWB
Concerts in the Village: Gotta Groove Band
7 pm | Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation | Destin
 - 17** Members ONLY Night: Summer Sampler
5 pm | Emerald Coast Science Center | FWB
12th Annual Destin Rotary Cajun Crawfish Bash
5:30 pm | The Towne Centre at Seascape | Miramar Beach
 - 17-18** 21st Annual Bob Hope Memorial Charity Golf Classic
10:30 am | Fort Walton Beach Golf Club | FWB
 - 17-20** 68th Billy Bowlegs Pirate Festival
Various Times | FWB
 - 18** Sinfonia Gulf Coast presents Jurassic Park in Concert
7:30 pm | Destin-FWB Convention Center | FWB
-
- Opportunity Place Luau & Shrimp Boil
5-8 pm | Rick's on the Island | Okaloosa Island

FARMERS MARKETS	Okaloosa County	Downtown FWB	Grand Boulevard
	Saturdays 7 am - 2 pm	2nd & 4th Saturdays 8 am - 1 pm	Saturdays 9 am - 1 pm
	1954 Lewis Turner Blvd FWB	FWB Landing Park	Grand Boulevard Miramar Beach

- 20** Glock Sport Shooting Foundation (GSSF) Indoor League
10 am | EC Indoor Shooting & Sport | Niceville
68th Annual Billy Bowlegs Torchlight Parade
7 pm | FWB
- 21** All Ages Paint Party: Baby Sea Turtle
6:30 pm | Painting with a Twist | FWB
- 22** Partners in Entrepreneurship - A Casual Networking Event
5:30 pm | Beachworx | FWB
Live Music: Michael Howard
6 pm | AIs Beach Club | FWB
- 23** Concerts in the Village: Mitch Malloy
7 pm | Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation | Destin
Sinfonia Goes Pop! Concert
7:30 pm | Alys Beach Amphitheater | Alys Beach
- 25** Live Music: Tim Nowell
1 pm | AIs Beach Club | FWB
- 26** Hometown Half Marathon & 5k/10k
7 am | FWB Landing | FWB
- 27** Paint Party: Walkway on the Beach
6:30 pm | Painting with a Twist | FWB
- 30** True Crime Planetarium
6 pm | Emerald Coast Science Center | FWB
Concerts in the Village: Haley Reinhart
7 pm | Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation | Destin

ONGOING EVENTS

VFW Post 7674 - Sunday Breakfasts
8 am | Sundays | 231 Carol Ave | FWB

Pirate Show
5 pm | AIs Beach Club & Burger Bar | FWB

SINGO Music Bingo Nights
6 pm | Tuesdays | The Island Resort | FWB

Open Mic Night
7 pm | Wednesdays | The Sound Cafe + Enlightened Studios | FWB

Live Trivia Nights
6 pm | Thursdays | The Island Resort | FWB

Live Trivia Nights
6:30 pm | Thursdays | AJ's on the Bayou | FWB

 Community

Your Home; Your Gathering Place



BY MELISSA FORTE-LITSCHER,
NEXTHOME

April showers are supposed to bring May flowers. And, even though we didn't see that much rain in our area last month, things are still blooming and pollinating. As we take care of our final spring cleaning and yard clean-up, we look forward to spending time with the special friends and families in our lives. The month of May holds two of our treasured holidays—

Mother's Day and Memorial Day—times when we typically get together. These days honor loved ones while we also cherish memories of those who have dedicated their lives to serving and caring for others.

Mother's Day is a time to honor and recognize the important women in our lives, whether they are mothers, grandmothers or simply mother figures. It is a day filled with love, gratitude and family memories. Many of



us have cherished memories of cooking or baking in a kitchen filled with the aroma of fresh-baked cookies (or, in my case, lasagna and fresh bread), love and laughter. One of my fondest Mother's Day memories is baking blueberry muffins with my older sister for our mom. I can still see our childhood kitchen in my mind whenever I smell them, and, to this day, we try to carry on the tradition. Gathering around the dining table for a meal and shared memories is a great way to celebrate the joy of being together as a family. With our area usually warm and sunny on Mother's Day, a lot of people choose to enjoy the outdoors with cookouts, pool parties and backyard picnics. You can hear the littles playing in the yard while the smell of grilling food floats through the air. Laughing adults come together to celebrate the special women in their lives. These women provide the foundation for the group of people we call family. Whether your thoughts go to the kitchen, dining room or outside, our homes provide the backdrop for creating cherished family memories of comfort, love and togetherness.

Memorial Day is also often associated with backyard picnics, public parades and private

ceremonies. Remembering those who have given the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom is what this day is all about. We decorate our homes with flags, attend Memorial Day services or host friends and family with a cookout to honor those lost. Many in our community have encased service flags for their loved one and an empty chair at their table, because someone they cherished died in service to our country. Memorial Day is about showing gratitude for those who defended our freedom, our way of life, and in doing so, gave up their own. Please take some time this year to honor those who have fallen in service to our nation, protecting us and our homes.

Having a place to gather, to celebrate, to remember, create memories, dream dreams and raise families, that's what it means to have a home. As a real estate professional, I understand the importance of home. My goal is to help my customers find more than a house; I want to help you find a home. We will work together to find a place for you to create your own cherished memories, whether it's celebrating Mother's Day or honoring the significance of Memorial Day. When you need me, I'm at your service.



Melissa Forte-Litscher

Realtor® ABR, RSPS, MRP, PSA

850.496.7444
Melissa@NextHomeCornerstone.com
destin-fwbrealty.com

Knowledge > Commitment > Honesty > Expertise > Professionalism



NextHome
CORNERSTONE REALTY

NextHome Cornerstone Realty

321 John Sims Parkway E
Niceville, FL 32578

Each office is independently owned and operated.



The Genuine. The Original.



OVERHEAD DOOR COMPANY OF
NORTHWEST FLORIDA™

Don't wait until an emergency - we offer savings with an
Annual Service Plan - includes complete diagnostic of door systems!

Discounts for Sr. Citizens, Veterans, Active Duty and First Responders.

(850) 269-3246 • destinoverheaddoor.com

Residential and Commercial

\$100 OFF a new
WI-FI DOOR OPERATOR
and FREE DECORATIVE
DOOR HARDWARE

with each door purchase. (No other discounts apply.) Financing as low as \$79/mo. w.a.c.







Visit us at the
**Shalimar Library
& Thrift Shop!**

Scan for more info @
ShalimarLibrary.org



-Donations needed! Please drop off gently used items at the Thrift Shop.

-Volunteers needed, give us a call! Thank you!

Stop in or call us about our Children's Summer Reading Challenge!

Library
(850) 609-1515

Sun	Closed
Mon	12pm-4pm
Tues	10am-2pm
Wed	12pm - 6pm
Thurs	10am-2pm
Fri	12pm-4pm
Sat	10am-2pm



Thrift Shop
(850) 651-3675

Sun	Closed
Mon	Closed
Tues	10am-2pm
Wed	12pm-4pm
Thurs	10am-2pm
Fri	12pm-4pm
Sat	10am-2pm

Visit ShalimarLibrary.org • [Facebook.com/ShalimarLibraryandThriftShop](https://www.facebook.com/ShalimarLibraryandThriftShop)

Education News

FWB High School Student Places Fourth at National Debate Championship



Incubate Debate recently held its 2024 National Championship on April 5-6 in Jacksonville. The event was attended by 89 students from 23 counties who engaged in competitive debates on various pressing issues, such as the Trump January 6th federal case, the China-Taiwan conflict, college DEI programs and the climate emergency.

One of the standout students at the event was Christian Bailey from Fort Walton Beach High School, who placed 4th overall in the National Debate Championship. In the final round of the competition, Christian debated the merits of college DEI programs and whether there is indeed a climate emergency. It was an exciting and electrifying round. "It is truly inspiring to witness the diligence and dedication of these students, who have showcased exceptional speech and debate skills while maintaining a high degree of civility and respect for differing opinions," stated Marcus Chambers, Superintendent of Okaloosa County Schools. He continued, "I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Christian and commend him for this outstanding achievement."

A group of distinguished judges evaluated Christian's performance. The panel included Bill de Blasio, the 109th Mayor of New York City; Stephen Asoli, the Director of Admissions at the University of Austin; Dr. Peter Boghossian, the Founder of the National Progress Alliance; Simon Hankinson, the Senior Fellow at the Heritage Foundation; and Clea Conner, the CEO of Open to Debate. Mayor Bill de Blasio praised Christian's speaking skills, calling him "one of the best speakers I've ever seen" and ranking him as first place on his ballot.

Christian's exceptional performance at the National



Left to Right: Baker School – Sophie Palm, Choctawhatchee High School – Arianna Dali, Crestview High School – Hyunwoo Kim, Fort Walton Beach High School – Miller Lindsley, Laurel Hill School – Ashlee Mott, and Niceville High School – Amanda Dye)

Championship earned him not only accolades, but also a significant financial reward of \$500. Additionally, his coach, Katrina Brownsberger, the Debate Teacher at Fort Walton Beach High School, received a matching amount for her efforts.

Okaloosa County School District Seniors Recognized for Academic Achievement

On Tuesday, April 16th, the Northwest Florida State College Raider Arena hosted the 50th annual Anne T. Mitchell Senior Honor Award Reception. The event recognized 591 high school seniors from Baker, Choctaw, Crestview, Fort Walton Beach, Laurel Hill and

Niceville High Schools who will graduate with honors in May. These students have achieved a weighted GPA of 3.75 or higher, which designates them as Summa Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude or Cum Laude. Each high school principal may nominate that school's number one senior academic scholar. The Okaloosa County School Board selects one senior student countywide from the school nominations by using SAT, ACT and/or CLT scores, GPA, awards, leadership roles, community service and a principal's nomination, which includes their cumulative weighted GPA.



12 Okaloosa County Schools are "Schools of Excellence"

10 Okaloosa County District Schools, along with two charter schools, were designated recently by the Florida Department of Education as "Schools of Excellence" for the 2022-2023 academic year. The Schools of Excellence program was established by the Florida Legislature in 2017 under HB 7069 to recognize and reward Florida's highest-performing schools. The program aims to promote continuous improvement and provide administrative flexibility to the state's top schools so they can maintain the highest quality education for students.

Superintendent Marcus Chambers stated, "This prestigious recognition is awarded to

schools that have consistently ranked in the 80th percentile or higher for at least two of the last three school years based on their school grade calculation. I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the students, teachers, staff and administrators who have all contributed to this remarkable accomplishment!"

Okaloosa County Schools of Excellence: Bluewater Elementary; Destin Elementary; Edge Elementary; Eglin Elementary; Florosa Elementary; Plew Elementary; Northwest Florida Ballet Academie; Ruckel Middle School; Okaloosa STEM Academy; Niceville High School; Liza Jackson Preparatory School—Charter School; Collegiate High School at Northwest Florida State College—Charter School.



You Did It!

FWB Life congratulates 2024 High School and College Seniors! We are

so proud of our community's graduates and wish nothing but the best to all embarking on their new journeys! Sending best wishes for the next chapter!

On the Edge



June 15 | Mattie Kelly Arts Center

\$35 Adults • \$15 Children 12 & Under

Season Signature Sponsors:



NFB is Sponsored in Part by:



f • Instagram • NFBallet.org





Military News

Hurlburt Field Reopens Memorial Air Park to the Public



Air Commandos gathered with members of the public to celebrate the grand reopening of the Hurlburt Field Memorial Air Park, April 10, 2024.

For the first time in more than 20 years, Hurlburt Field opened its air park in April to the general public, allowing visitors to come face-to-face with the aircraft and history of Air Force Special Operations Command. "Today's grand opening is really a celebration of what Air Commandos are all about, this park and the people who flew these aircraft ... they have a story to tell," said Col. Patrick Dierig, 1st Special Operations Wing commander. "We want to take the opportunity to open the gates and open that history up to the public, so that we can plant the seeds for future Air Commandos."

The air park not only serves as a place of reflection, but also as an educational venue for future generations. Informational plaques provide insights into the technological advancements and historic achievements of each aircraft, fostering an appreciation for the contributions of military aviation. "As we view this crown jewel of our history, we see our heritage from two perspectives, our Air Commandos and our iron," said Lt. Gen. Tony Bauernfeind, Air Force Special Operations Command Commander. "While the latter physically looms largest in the air park, the stories of our men and women on the bronze placards speak volumes of the true inspiration and carry the heaviest weight."

Among the aircraft on display is the AC-130H Spectre gunship, emblematic of the specialized capabilities that have become synonymous with Hurlburt Field's mission. Additionally, visitors can see the MC-130H Combat Talon II, an aircraft integral to special operations.

The Hurlburt Field Memorial Air Park stands as a living testament to the dedication, sacrifice and valor of the men and women who have called Hurlburt Field their home. As visitors wander among the stoic aircraft,

they are reminded of the enduring spirit of aviation and the profound impact it has had on AFSOC as a whole. "The Hurlburt Field Air Park is not just a reminder of our heritage; it is a living symbol ... a living story of our Air Commandos, bravery, valor and unending spirit of innovation that has and continues to answer our nation's toughest challenges and bring the advantages our joint force teammates need," said Bauernfeind.

The air park serves as a destination for veterans, aviation enthusiasts and families seeking to honor the legacies of those that came before. For more information on the Hurlburt Field Memorial Air Park, please visit: Hurlburt Field > Air Park (af.mil)

Firefighter Finds Purpose in Service

Photos of men in uniform lined the living room walls, casting a familial legacy of military service to all who entered it. U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Dakota Ball, a 1st Special Operations Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter, envisioned a portrait of himself hanging in a frame next to the others. "It was in every living room of every family member," Ball said. "The long, rich heritage of military service from



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS BAILEY WYMAN
U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Dakota Ball, 1st Special Operations Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter, Hurlburt Field, April 17, 2024. Fire protection specialists are responsible for emergency management, natural disaster relief, and assisting local civilian fire departments when needed.

every male on my father's side from before 1776 to current."

Ball never questioned if he would serve. It was always a matter of when and which branch of service he would choose. Growing up, Ball would conquer neighborhoods with his friends and pretend they were liberating each home from enemy forces. He watched every military movie he could, imagining that each day in the military would directly mirror them.

When the time came that Ball took his oath of enlistment and joined the U.S. Air Force, he knew unquestionably what he was meant to do. "I chose fire protection for my job because my father had done it before me," Ball said. "Hearing stories about being a firefighter from him fascinated me in my childhood and I believe I was always destined to become one myself."

Ball knew that being a firefighter in the U.S. Air Force would come with its glory, but the job is no easy feat. He and his fellow Airmen stand by and wait for disaster to strike before becoming the wall that prevents its spread. "This job means everything to me," says Ball. "When people call us it's usually for one of their worst days and knowing that we can respond to provide someone help from those situations gives me my purpose."

In his experiences, Ball realized that no feat in his career

is faced alone. Whether it was progressing in his career or responding to emergencies, Ball must be able to rely on his wingmen to be successful. "It takes an army to get you where you want to go in the Air Force or anywhere in life really," says Ball. "You can't do military service alone, so having peers and mentors around you to inspire and expect the best from you is paramount."

Ball understands that his role is no different than what's expected of his fellow Airmen. He strived to build a basis of knowledge that others could lean on when obstacles befall their path. "Sergeant Ball has an extensive base of knowledge that can be relied upon to find answers when they're needed," says Tech. Sgt. Timothy Ingraham, 1st SOCES fire protection assistant chief. "He is an out-of-the-box thinker that brings ideas to the table rather than just problems with the expectation that someone else will find a solution."

The world of being a firefighter in the military is an ever-changing one. While calls for duty range from local emergencies to overseas deployments, Ball's confident the individuals surrounding him will outpace the adversity that follows. "Everyone here steps up without hesitation and takes care of

Continued on next page

Habitat for Humanity®
ReStore

WE WANT YOUR DONATIONS • FREE PICK UP

<p>FT. WALTON BEACH 39 Eglin Parkway SE Mon.-Fri. 10-6 • Sat. 9-5 (850) 685-0686 Ext. 1</p>	<p>CRESTVIEW 595 Ferdon Blvd. Mon.-Fri. 10-6 • Sat. 9-5 (850) 685-0686 Ext. 2</p>
--	--

Come & shop at either of our locations!
10% DISCOUNT FOR IN-STORE PURCHASES

www.HabitatFWB.org



AJ's on the Bayou

Located at the base of the Cinco Bayou Bridge in Fort Walton Beach, AJ's on the Bayou is in a beautiful setting offering indoor as well as outdoor seating on the open-air deck overlooking the Cinco Bayou. AJ's on the Bayou serves brunch and bottomless Mimosas with food purchase and weekday lunch specials for \$10.95. Serving up delicious daily specials and entertaining live music all month.

ajsonthebayou.com
200 NE Eglin Pkwy., FWB
(850) 226-7579

AJ's Oyster Shanty - Okaloosa Island

A dozen for me; a dozen for you! Located on Okaloosa Island, AJ's Oyster Shanty serves up fresh, cold oysters, fresh seafood and the best live music on the Island. Don't miss the Thursday Prime Dinner Special—enjoy a 10 oz. cut of prime rib served with baked potato and choice of side salad or cup of French onion soup every Thursday at 4 p.m. And Key Lime Pie is available all day, every day! Combine with live music nightly at 7 p.m. on the outdoor stage and it's a combination you can't resist!

ajsoystershanty.com
108 Santa Rosa Blvd., FWB
(850) 226-8108

Magnolia Grill

In 2001, Magnolia Grill in Fort Walton Beach opened its doors after a renovation that took 18 months—and it's been thriving since. A local's favorite dubbed "The Museum That Serves Food," you'll find equal parts museum and dining establishment. Its second floor contains artifacts from World War II, Vietnam and other segments of American history. And downstairs—is where you'll find lunch favorites such as Meatloaf with

Mashed Potatoes, Crab Cake with Fettuccine and Shrimp Alfredo Sauce, Red Beans and Rice and many types of burgers, sandwiches, soups and salads. For dinner, savor divine Italian dishes such as Italian Sausage and Peppers with Marinara Sauce and Filet Tips Florentina.

But there's also steaks, seafood "Camp Walton style" and even a kids' menu.

Hours: Lunch M-F 11-2; Dinner M-Th 5-8; F-Sat 5-9; Closed Sundays.
magnoliagrillfwb.com
157 Brooks Street SE, FWB
(850) 812-5761

MILITARY

continued from previous page

their Airmen and wingmen," Ball said. "It makes me beyond proud to be in an organization that can face this adversity and still manage to win awards for all the work we do here at Hurlburt."

Base Access Procedures Change

The 96th Security Forces Squadron began 100 percent identification checks this month for anyone accessing the Eglin Air Force. Visitors who do not have a DOD issued ID card must obtain a visitor pass. "Our current security and information environment requires us to

make this policy change," said Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Geraghty, 96th Test Wing commander. "We're committed to safeguarding Eglin's vital national resources."

Uniformed service members, their dependents (over the age of 16), DOD employees and retirees can sponsor these passes, which can be obtained at the East Gate and West Gate visitor control centers until the new Air Force Armament Museum VCC opens.

Passes are good for up to 60 days. However, if a visitor pass is required for more than 60 days, a commander's approval is needed and can then be issued for up to a year except for retirees. Retirees with visitors will need to renew those

passes every 60 days. Passes should be shredded or turned back into the VCC when no longer needed. People can also process REAL IDs into the Defense Biometric Identification System, a networked database system designed to easily verify access authorization of people entering military installations at the VCCs.

Registering a REAL ID in DBIDS will alleviate gate congestion if an ID card holder forgets it at home or in a CAC reader. The REAL ID can also be used by retirees to access the base if they lose their ID or it's expired. Contact the 96th Test Wing Public Affairs Office at 850-882-3931.

FORT WALTON BEACH COMMUNITY CHORUS PRESENTS
Jukebox Jams
FRIDAY, MAY 17 @ 7 PM
SATURDAY, MAY 18 @ 7 PM
SUNDAY, MAY 19 @ 3 PM
FORT WALTON BEACH CIVIC AUDITORIUM
TICKET PRICES:
\$15 - ADULTS
\$10 - CHILDREN, SENIORS, AND MILITARY
\$9 - GROUPS OF 10 OR MORE
Scan me for info or to buy tickets
FWBC-CHORUS.SQUARE.SITE
FWBCC1975@GMAIL.COM
850-296-2760
@FORTWALTONBEACHCC
@FWBCCOMMUNITYCHORUS

June 1, 2024

Taj Renee Community Aquatic Center

4345 Commons Dr W
Destin FL

THIRD ANNUAL

SIP and Splash

AN AQUATIC AFFAIR

Purchase Tickets & Tables at ecftinessfoundation.org.

Limited sponsorship opportunities are now available, email jessica@proffittpr.com to learn more.

BENEFITING

PRESENTED BY



Tim Smith
ACURA

Off the Hook

SEA TURTLES

continued from page 1

1540 Miracle Strip Pkwy SE, Fort Walton Beach.

Flat: We share the beach with sea turtles. A female will return to her beach where she was born to lay her eggs. So, when you leave the beach each day, knock down any sandcastles and fill in any holes. It's incredible to watch a 300-400 lb. Loggerhead sea turtle crawl up the beach which is no easy task, dig an 18-20-inch hole with only her back flippers, deposit her

eggs and then cover them back up with sand and pat it all down (all with only her back flippers). The whole process takes 30 to 60 minutes.

Sometimes they are seen during the day where they encounter many additional hazards and complications. For example, a sea gull's favorite snack is a baby sea turtle. The nest, also, is at risk of predation by animals as well as of high tides during storms, which can wash out and drown nests. Once hatched, they must make it to the water without becoming

disoriented by artificial light or killed by predators. Finally, they arrive to their home in the Gulf where they are at risk of sharks, fish, fishing lines, ingesting debris and trash, boats and pollution. For the females who survive and return to shore to nest, it's a great victory. Once she lays her eggs on the beach, the sea turtle mama never returns.

The most important thing to remember if you see a mama sea turtle on the beach is to be respectful, stay quiet and stay back at least 50 feet. Don't get excited or be loud or take pic-



Recently, a Kemp's Ridley sea turtle, the most endangered species of sea turtle, made her way onto a beach in Destin to nest at mid-morning, just days before the official start of the sea turtle nesting season May 1. The Destin-Fort Walton Beach Sea Turtle Patrol was on hand to make sure that the sea turtle was safe and comfortable, as permitted under MTP-24-251. It is illegal to disturb a sea turtle, her nest and her eggs.



Newly Renovated

New Tifeagle Greens • Updated Irrigation System • Bunker Renovations
Tree Removal For Enhanced Turf Conditioning • Cart Path Restoration
Tee Boxes Added • New Fleet of Carts

EXPERIENCE THE SAME INCREDIBLE FINGER-DYE COURSE DESIGN ON THE SHORES OF SCENIC CHOCTAWHATCHEE BAY

Special Seasonal Rates and Memberships Available for All Ages With **NO** Initiation Fee

Call for a Reservation 850-651-1416

tures with the flash on your cell phone which can disorient the turtle and stress her out. She is likely to return to the water unable to lay her eggs.

We're so passionate about the sea turtles that we even have a local celebrity named Theo, a lovable, plush turtle with a mission—to help protect and sustain the threatened sea turtle population along our Gulf Coast. "I'm a little turtle on a big mission. I'm here to save my fellow threatened sea turtles," says Theo.

One of Theo's favorite places is our very own Gulfarium on Okaloosa Island known as the Gulfarium Marine Adventure

Park, a beacon for coastal conservation where it been active in marine animal rescue and rehabilitation for many years through the C.A.R.E. Center, the non-profit arm of Gulfarium Marine Adventure Park. Developed in 2015 to facilitate and further its continued coastal conservation efforts, the program has helped to rehabilitate and release hundreds of various species of sea turtles found on the Gulf Coast, from the Loggerhead, Green, Kemp's Ridley, to the Leatherback, back into the wild.

Rehabilitation starts when a sea turtle patient arrives; it is evaluated by animal care and veterinary staff using guidelines from the FWC. These guidelines give staff the necessary information needed to evaluate a method for rehabilitation, recovery and release.

Although every effort is made to release the turtle back to the ocean, occasionally a sea turtle is deemed non-releasable due to medical or physical limitations, and Gulfarium C.A.R.E. Center becomes the turtle's permanent home with full-time care.

The Center leads the charge in the rescue and rehabilitation of sea turtles along the Emerald Coast, successfully treating over 130 sea turtles in 2023 alone, with the average rehabilitation of each turtle costing over \$20,000.

The C.A.R.E. Center also encourages awareness through public education as well as opportunities for locals to actively participate, such as becoming a volunteer, donating or attending a fund-raising event. You can



BALDWIN TURF

lawn • garden • home

Baldwin Turf is a family owned company offering the full scope of service and supplies in lawn care and landscape, and has most recently expanded with a retail location in Niceville. The Shop at Baldwin Turf is your new go-to for everything outdoor entertainment and décor for your patio and garden. We have carefully curated a selection of high-quality outdoor décor, furniture, lighting, unique supplies, and special touches fit to enhance any and all al fresco needs. Come shop with us!

The Shop, NOW OPEN
739 John Sims Pkwy, Niceville
Open Monday-Saturday 10-5
850-842-2221
shop@baldwinturfniceville.com

Lawn & Landscape Location
1440 Live Oak Street, Niceville
Open Monday-Friday 7:30-4
850-897-9060
office@baldwinturfniceville.com

Growing the Game: Emerald Coast Junior Golf Tour at Shalimar Pointe Golf Course

By BARBARA PALMGREN

The Emerald Coast Junior Golf Tour started in 2009 as a way for young people to measure their improvement and compete in golf in the Florida Panhandle. Junior golfers gain tournament playing experience to allow them to be the best golfers they can be while playing a game they come to know and love.

The core values of the tour are to be affordable, fun and competitive. As young players familiarize themselves with playing experience, they grow to appreciate the integrity of the game itself.

Dennis Attaway, tour direc-

tor, was busy at Shalimar Pointe Golf Club on Saturday, April 13, with a large field of 18-hole players and 9-hole players in both boys' and girls' categories. The weather was perfect and parents enjoyed following their children as they hit tee shots and putt on challenging greens.

Players with the lowest three scores in each division receive awards. Points are awarded to all players and points are accumulated during each tour season to establish the Emerald Coast Junior Golf Tour Champions for the season. A player must play a minimum of four events in each season to qualify for the respective season ending awards. The



season includes tournaments in many locations and will end with the ECJGT Season Championship and Santa Rosa Golf and Beach Club and Regatta Bay Golf and Yacht Club August 23-25.

In addition to this local tour, players from the organization can attend local qualifiers that could lead to a larger national qualifier like the Notah Begay and Optimist Championships.

Congratulations to the following first and second place winners:

Boys 8-9: 1st place-Luca Pagano
2nd place-Corbitt Dyess

Girls 10-11: 1st place-Kentley Hourigan

Boys 10-11: 1st place-Mason Dean Hampton

2nd place Colin O'Bannon

Girls 12-14: 1st place- Ariel Kim

2nd place-Tenley Sharrom

Boys 12-13: 1st place-Aiden Yang

2nd place-Clark Brandt

Girls 15-18: 1st place-Riley Bounds

2nd place- Hailey Netro

Boys 14-15: 1st place-Champ Stokes

2nd place-Lars Wiggins

Boys 16-18: 1st place Evan La-Fon

2nd place-Joshua Kelley

SEA TURTLES

continued from page 12

support by donating at <https://bit.ly/3SOuEwQ>, or through the C.A.R.E. Center's Amazon Wishlist! <https://amzn.to/3WhZZHP>.

Other ways to help sea turtles include reporting those that are sick, injured, entangled or dead to FWC's Wildlife Alert Hotline at 888-404-FWCC (3922). Do not touch the sea turtle, remove it from the beach or attempt to push it back into the water as

this can cause the animal to re-strand and die. Instead, monitor from a safe distance. While waiting for authorities to arrive, note its position and monitor its breathing.

Visit Gulfarium.com/volunteer and the C.A.R.E. Center at

Facebook.com/gulfariumcare-center. You can also help support the cause at theoeturtle.com. A portion of every Theo purchase, from ball caps and pillows to Christmas ornaments and key chains, goes directly to help support the conservation

and rehabilitation of sea turtles. We can all do our part to protect these amazing marine animals; after all, it was certainly their beach first!



Meet your fitness goals, big or small, with new shoes, insoles, apparel or Pickleball gear!

Footwear, Apparel, Accessories

Men's & Women's • Running • Walking • Court Shoes • Sandals
Personalized Footwear Fittings • Apparel & Accessories

Community Events

Public Racing Events • Tuesday Night Group Runs
Yoga at Blue Bay Lifestyle Co. (next door)

Pickleball at The Palms

Indoor Pickleball Courts • Pro Shop with Paddles, Court Shoes, and Accessories
Demo Paddles • Reservations Available at courtreserve.com

ASICS | BROOKS | HOKA | MIZUNO | NEW BALANCE | ON CLOUD | SAUCONY | TOPO

21 Racetrack Road NE, Fort Walton Beach



NOW OPEN!

Look Great! Feel Comfortable!
Bringing quality and comfort brands to Fort Walton Beach!

High quality men's and women's apparel, sandals & sneakers, accessories & gifts

VUORI | LIVERPOOL LOS ANGELES | HOBO BAGS | MAUI JIM SUNGLASSES
MERRELL | KEEN | ON | HOKA | AETREX | NAOT

**27 Racetrack Road NE, Fort Walton Beach
(Located in the Run With It plaza)**

Wellness

Skin and Mother's Day



BY KAY LEAMAN, HEALTH ARCHITECT, HEALTHYDAY HEALTHYLIFE

To every mom: Thank you for everything you do. Moms wear many hats—housekeeper, teacher, counselor, nurse, chef, chauffeur, time management guru, investigator and wife. I know this doesn't cover it all, but the sacrifice, rewards and love amounts to a life filled with adventure, smiles, tears, laughter and pride (the good kind). Have a Blessed Mother's Day!!!

Now about your skin. Skin reflects what we eat, if we're hydrated, if we've received some vitamin D from the sun, if we're not feeling well, etc. Even though this article talks about what we use on the skin, what we eat and drink plays a big role



on our skin. Just ask me what changes I see after eating some dark chocolate ice cream!

Skin should be nourished (This includes the men out there!) and cared for. It starts with using more natural soaps such as pure-castile soap, which comes in many different natural scents. Body washes also offer more natural options. The more natural ingredients, the less chance there is of reactions. This goes for shampoo, deodorant, makeup, lotions and potions as well. Remember, what-

ever you put on your skin is absorbed into the body. These products are more than skin deep. Healthy on the inside shows up as healthy on the outside.

There is no doubt that some people are more sensitive to ingredients and that includes natural. Unscented is a good choice and, of course, knowing what ingredients to watch out for. Take time to

read ingredients. You can also take a picture of the ingredients and look them up online. This will give you a list of what to avoid. Focus on three or four ingredients that you want to avoid. Your list will grow as your knowledge grows.

NOTE: Glycerin is a humectant, a type of moisturizing agent that pulls water into the outer layer of your skin from deeper levels of your skin and the air. There are several benefits with the use of products with glycerin, but if it is not diluted

enough, it can actually dry out the skin. Ingredients are listed in order of percentage, highest to lowest.

ewg.org is a site that offers great information on the use of chemicals in food, household products, skincare, makeup, etc. The upgrades on this site have made it a bit more difficult to dig into. So, if you search for a specific ingredient, look for the EWG link that can get you directly there. The U.S. allows dangerous chemicals to be used in the products we use and the food we eat, whereas many, many other countries have outlawed them.

This company also has EWG

approved products so if you are easily overwhelmed this can be a great way to start; it's how I found the makeup I use.

This topic is much deeper than my brief thoughts in this article. Sometimes starting simply gives us the success and confidence we need to continue to take control of our health. We don't need to replace everything at once. Doing the work when it's time to replenish gives us space to find our new favorites.

Moms, pamper yourself this year with ingredients that nourish your body and your soul. Heres To Health!

succeed.hdhl@gmail.com

Turning 65? I can help!

To Do List!

- Call Keri McPherson 3 months before turning 65 to discuss your enrollment in Medicare Parts A & B.
- Avoid Penalties! If over 65, ask employer for proof of insurance.
- Watch for your new Medicare card to arrive in the mail.

Keep This List!

- ✓ Medicare Advantage
- ✓ Medicare Supplement
- ✓ Prescription drug plans
- ✓ We represent multiple carriers



Keri McPherson
Licensed Insurance Agent
HealthMarkets Insurance Agency

(850) 502-1110
Keri.McPherson@HealthMarkets.com
Serving The Florida Panhandle



Medicare | Health | Small Group | Life | Supplemental

HealthMarkets Insurance Agency, Inc. is licensed as an insurance agency in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Not all agents are licensed to sell all products. Service and product availability varies by state. We do not offer every plan available in your area. Any information we provide is limited to those plans we do offer in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov or 1-800-MEDICARE to get information on all of your options. ©2023 HealthMarkets 49450b-HM-0323

Stephenie Craig, LCSW
Therapist
918-221-9987 | stepheniecraig@journeybravely.com

Todd Craig
Life & Leadership Coach
918-740-1232 | todd@journeybravely.com

www.journeybravely.com

A Personal Trainer, Dedicated to Your Goals.
-Taking New Clients-
Private/Tailored Instruction
-One on One and Small Group Training
-Nutrition Help

Call **Lisa Turpin**, Degreed & Certified Personal Trainer

*Be Active,
Stay Active!*

850-974-2005 [LisaTurpinFitness](https://www.facebook.com/LisaTurpinFitness)

Diana Health

There's a New Name and Look in Women's Health in Fort Walton!

Women's health that's truly tailored to you.



Gynecology Care



Maternity Care



Mental Health



General Wellness



Scan to book a visit or call (850) 243-2229!

1046 Mar Walt Drive, Suite 200,
FT Walton Beach, FL 32547



Wellness

Easy Access to Local Home Medical Equipment

By KELLY STALNAKER

Having easy access to home medical equipment should be a priority for everyone. You never know when an accident, injury or emergency medical situation will occur. No one is protected against a stroke of bad luck. There might come a time that an injury or surgery will leave you or a family member needing extra assistance, and recuperating with the proper equipment will promote more ease and comfort. For example, lift chairs and cryo-coolers (Rx only) are game changers for patients in recovery. But even if you're convinced that you'll never need this type of service, consider how accessibility to a hospital bed, wheelchair or ramp could

benefit a loved one.

With the arrival of warmer weather, it's that time of year for weddings, graduations and summer festivities. But maybe there's someone in your life that is hesitant about participating, because they feel unsteady or simply unable to walk safely. Don't let them miss out on important moments because of mobility issues; rent a wheelchair or transport chair! Often called companion chairs (as it requires the patient to have a companion to push them), a transport chair is smaller and



lighter than a standard wheelchair. It weighs about half as much and folds up into a man-

ageable size that will easily fit in most cars.

Maybe you're preparing to host houseguests over the summer. But, have you considered if you can accommodate everyone's needs? We rent (and sell) hospital beds, lift chairs, patient lifts and so much more to make your guests feel safe and comfortable during their visit. Our rental lift chairs are compact enough to not overcrowd a house full of guests, but can be helpful for someone with muscle weakness that cannot sit or rise unassisted. A lot of users

prefer to sleep in them as well! And consider how helpful it may be to have a portable ramp on hand. Ramps aren't just for wheelchairs; they can be a safer and easier option than stairs for anyone with any type of mobility issue.

So, whether for you or a loved one, long term or temporary, we can help you address all of your home medical needs. Stop by or call anytime Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. to chat with us about availability of rental items. Or simply peruse our showroom full of medical necessities and useful devices. We are located at 540 John Sims Pkwy. in Niceville, or call 850-729-2559.

PATT MANEY

continued from page 3

of a military leader and the judicious calm of a seasoned judge.

Current Contributions and Legislative Focus

Today, Maney serves with distinction, focusing on key

policy areas, including education, employment, public safety, veterans' affairs and mental health. Notably, his work on mental health reform—spearheading significant legislation like the transformative Mental Health and Substance Abuse bill—showcases his dedication

to improving the lives of Floridians. This legislation modernizes Florida's Baker and Marchman Acts and was PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. Maney introduced this groundbreaking bill every year during his time in office. These changes mark the first updates in 53 and 30 years, respectively!

Collaborative Efforts and Bipartisan Leadership

Maney is known for his ability to collaborate across the aisle. His efforts in co-sponsoring bills and working within committees highlight his pragmatic approach to governance, focusing on shared goals and mutual respect. His legislative success is due mainly to his ability to engage with peers and constituents, ensuring that his policies have broad support and real-world impact.

Looking Ahead: The Path Forward

As Maney continues his work in the Florida House, his future initiatives promise to enhance further the state's infrastructure, healthcare, and environmental policies. His ongoing commitment to veterans' affairs and public safety remains unwavering, driven by personal experience and professional dedication.

GJR Maney's journey from the military to the judiciary and now to the Legislature is a powerful testament to a life well-lived in service to others. For those who know him and those he serves, Maney is not just a representative but a steadfast guardian of their welfare and a tireless advocate for their rights.

Too Many Awards to List Each One

Representative Maney was honored as the national 2019

DAV Outstanding Disabled American Veteran and named Military Order of the Purple Heart National Patriot of the Year in 2010. He was also given the United States Army War College Outstanding Alumni Award (2019) for his community service after military retirement. Rep. Maney was inducted into the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame (2018) and appointed to serve on the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame Council (2019) for making significant contributions to the State of Florida after military service.

In District 4 and beyond, General Judge Representative Patt Maney's legacy is not merely in the laws he has helped pass but in the lives he has touched—a true embodiment of leadership, service, and unwavering commitment. I count him a true friend, an outstanding patriot, and one worth emulating.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA



FLORIDA MEDICAL MARIJUANA PHYSICIAN
CONSULTATION & CERTIFICATION

850-213-1215

OFFICES IN PENSACOLA, SANTA ROSA BEACH & PANAMA CITY | THEKAYALIFE.COM

EASYCARE

HEALTH & WELLNESS CLINIC



April Pretz, APRN, FNP-C, Member

- PRIMARY CARE • WALK-IN SERVICES
- BEHAVIORAL MEDICAL HEALTH
- WOMANS WELLNESS • WEIGHT LOSS
- IV HYDRATION LOUNGE
- WELLNESS SERVICES
- BEAUTY SERVICES and MORE

FOLLOW US FOR SEMINARS AND EVENTS

Located in the Palm Plaza Shopping Center
850-842-3128 • 1049 John Sims Pkwy., Ste. 2, Niceville
WWW.EASYCARECLINICNICEVILLE.COM



J & B MEDICAL, INC

540 E John Sims Parkway
Niceville, FL 32578



GOLDEN

Come try our large in stock selection

Local service for repairs and warranty

J&B Medical Can Give You a Lift

\$100 OFF

any Lift Chair purchase
with coupon

FREE LOCAL DELIVERY

if you present this ad

CALL US! 850-729-2559

HOPE MEDICAL

continued from page 1

able to afford healthcare, including the insurance that was offered by their jobs. It was just too expensive, especially now as food and housing costs are increasing. People shouldn't have to choose healthcare OR basic needs. As I was considering what I could do to help, Brad Bynum, who was the minister at the Destin Church of Christ at the time, felt like there was a possibility that they had space that could be used, and they had connections to medical personnel. Once I understood the needs of the community, which are similar to much of our nation, just exacerbated. The two counties we serve, Okaloosa and Walton, are classified as medically underserved areas. What makes our area work are the individuals who do foundational work. They're working in construction, they're working on the docks, they're cleaning, they're cooking, they're doing all these things That make our tourist economy work, and a lot of those jobs do not provide health benefits. And so that's where the Hope Medical Centers in Destin and Freeport can offer some relief to the residents of Okaloosa and Walton counties. When we stay healthy as a community, everyone benefits."

The Destin clinic is based

in the Destin Church of Christ while Destiny Worship Center hosts the Freeport clinic. The generosity of these church communities in donating space and resources has provided the opportunity for Hope Medical Center to use their donations and grants directly toward patient care, offering massive relief from rent and utilities, as the number of patients continues to grow.

The staff at both clinics are made up of Nurse Practitioners, Case Managers, Medical Assistants, Front Office Managers, Social Workers and Counselors. Together, with a team of medical volunteers and students, HMC can provide a more holistic model of healthcare. Patients are not only given a physical assessment through consultations, exams, and lab work but there is also an opportunity to assess the mental health of the patient as well. "We all want to be known and for many of our patients, Hope isn't just where they get their physical needs met, it's a place to be supported in many other areas too. We understand that for a person to build emotional resilience and move toward healing, we not only need to take care of the body, but we also need to look at how they're responding to what's going on in their lives. Not everyone wants or needs that kind of support but we do want to make that

available."

Hope Medical Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit primary care facility that serves those who don't have any type of medical insurance, and also meets the salary cap which is based on how many adults and children make up the household. The clinics are primarily funded by private donations, support from local churches and grants. There is no cost to the patient when they are seen at either clinic but donations are gratefully accepted to help with the longevity of their healthcare, no matter how modest. If the patient has to be directed toward specialty care, in most cases, there are available community partners that offer discounted rates, and every effort is made to build a team for the patients who are part of the practice. This includes partnering with other agencies and hospitals, offering discounts on medication, and talking with a social worker to see what other resources are available.

Many of the patients who come to Hope Medical Center are referred by local hospitals or word-of-mouth and Tim appreciates that the growth has been steady throughout the years,



The other thing we need is advocates in our community. We need people who see the value in what we do and want to support us in whatever capacity their resources or connections can offer. Partnerships in health services and funding are what help our everyday operations. Even a donation of \$125 helps us to see one patient for an entire year."


If you would like to learn more or would like to support these efforts, go to hopemedclinic.org, or send a check made payable to Hope Medical Center to:

Hope Medical Center
150 Beach Dr.
Destin, FL 32541

Interested in volunteering or want to become a new patient? Email Cora Sternberg the LPN Nurse Operations Director at cora@hopemedclinic.org, or call 850-270-7130. You'll need to provide your first and last name, an email and a phone number.

with the Freeport clinic opening in 2016. "If we're going to give free healthcare, why wouldn't we do it the best we can and make it what we would want for ourselves and our families? Our staff and volunteers work together to make our care the highest level it can be. Cost shouldn't be the difference between critically declining health and taking care of treatable diseases, like hypertension and diabetes."

So, how can you partner with Hope Medical Center to ensure that our local community continues to stay as healthy as possible? There are several ways. "We're always needing more volunteers, especially medically trained volunteers, especially if you are a specialist. The great thing about volunteering with us is we're grateful for any time you can provide and can schedule patients accordingly. No matter how much time you can offer, it will make an impact.







Look Healthy, Feel Alive!

Hormone Imbalance?

Optimize your health the natural way with bioidentical hormones.


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



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

Dr. Richard Chern, MD
12889 Hwy 98W, Suite 107B
Miramar Beach, FL
(850) 837-1271



BEST IN DESTIN
Three Years In A Row!
Thank you Destin!

thehormonerestorationcenter.com

Get the Smile You Deserve

Smile with Confidence Again

- Are you embarrassed about smiling in front of people?
- Do you ever put your hand up to cover your smile?
- Do you dislike your smile in photographs?
- When you look through magazines, do you envy the models' smiles?
- Do you wish your teeth were whiter?
- Do you think you show too much or too little of your teeth when you smile?
- Would you like to change the way your teeth or gums are shaped?
- Do you have gaps or spaces in between your teeth?

If the answer is "yes" to any of these questions, you may be a good candidate for A Smile Makeover.

Call today to schedule a personal FREE consultation



GULF COAST DENTAL

Steven G. Robinette, DDS
(850) 897-9600
4566 Hwy 20 East Ste 108
Niceville, FL 32578
gulfcoastdental.com





Condo Insurance and Claims



BY JULIE A. MARTIN

When you have a property insurance claim in a single-family home, the claims process can be both frustrating and intimidating, and can be a long involved process. In a condo, it can be even more challenging, because the association is responsible for

the exterior walls and the roof. So, what happens when the claim involves damage to the interior premises as a result of property that the association is responsible for?

Hypothetical situation: Due to a roof leak that was not discovered, the ceiling collapses in a condo unit, with the ceiling dry wall pieces landing on furniture in the living room and dining room. In addition to the dry-wall damage to the ceiling, there is now mold in the unit that spreads on whatever it lands on as well as the other areas of the home.

In this situation, up until several years ago, insureds would put the claim in with their carrier and then wait for the carrier to subrogate against the condo association. Now however, carriers opt to take care of the parts of the claim that the unit owner



is responsible for, i.e. contents, additional living expenses and mold.

For the areas that the association is responsible for, the carrier will deny those parts of the claim that the unit HO6 coverage does not pertain to. In a condo, you own from the drywall in, and anything permanently attached to the inside of the unit are things the association is NOT going to pay for such as the flooring, cabinets,

counters, bathroom fixtures and interior doors.

COA-Condo Association is responsible for the exterior walls and the roof. If there is a claim arising from property your COA is responsible for, your best bet is to get a copy of the Master Property policy for your building, along with a copy of their certificate of insurance, as well as a copy of your declarations page.

If you end up in the situa-

tion above, please let your agent know right away, and have your policy jacket and your declarations page handy. Protect against further loss by moving undamaged items away from loss site, and cooperate with the carrier inspection. If a carrier representative asks you questions you do not know the answers to, do NOT guess. Let them know you do not know the answer and will find out and let them know when you can.

Any questions you have about your coverage and how the coverage will respond in the event of a claim, please direct those questions to your insurance agent, and make sure you let them know any definitions you do not understand.

Claim time is the wrong time to not understand your insurance policy or what coverage you have, and whether it meets your needs. Having the conversation now will give you peace of mind that your insurance coverage meets your needs and will respond when you need it.

Affordable Pressure Washing

See What a Difference We Can Make for You!

Homes • Sidewalks • Patios • Driveways
Decks • Fences • And More...

Before



After



15 Years Experience • Locally Owned and Operated
Call Today to Schedule Your Free Estimate

\$25 OFF if scheduled by May 31, 2024

(850) 688-9886

MOTHER'S DAY

continued from page 6

grandchildren also!

I'm also blessed to have an amazing mother in law that is always supportive of her family. She has such a gentle and kind spirit and loves the Lord with everything in her! She is a true blessing to everyone in her family!

Bonnie Manthey, Loan Originator, Gerber Group at Homeside Financial

My mom has blessed me with unwavering unconditional love. I am blessed and grateful God chose her to be my mom.

Julie Porterfield, Chief Executive Officer, Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center

My mom blesses me with unwavering constancy, she wrote the book on a strong work ethic and never wavers in her faith in

The Lord. Her strength through adversity is a visual reminder daily of what I can do.

Lorenda Smith, Director of Marketing & Retail, First National Bank



insurance zone

AN ABORA INSURANCE AGENCY



New things are Launching!

- HOME
- AUTO
- WIND
- FLOOD
- CONDO
- BOAT
- UMBRELLA
- LIFE
- BUSINESS INSURANCE

ABORA

INSURANCE GROUP



(850) 424-6979

iz on 30A&98




www.ins-zone.com



Go Go Golf Carts

▪ Service ▪ Repair ▪ Parts

Conversions & Upgrades
Accessories - Diagnostics
Batteries - Motors - Brakes

Veteran Owned & Operated

(850) 586-8202 | Email: service@gogocarts.net
106 S John Sims Pkwy., Valparaiso
www.gogocarts.net



Sean of the South: Memorial Day

BY SEAN DIETRICH

Dear Young Person,
I am an imaginary old man. I am every World War II veteran you never knew. I am each faceless GI from the bygone European War. Or any other war for that matter.

I am in my 90s and 100s now. Lots of young folks probably don't even know I exist.

In my war, I was one of the hundreds of thousands of infantrymen, airmen, sailors, marines, mess sergeants, seabees, brass hats, engineers, doctors, medics, buck privates, and rear-echelon potato-peelers.

We hopped islands in the Pacific. We served in the African war theater. We beat the devil, then we came home and became the old fart next door.

Wartime was one heck of an era to be young. Let me tell ya. When we went overseas we were still teenagers, smooth skinned, scared spitless, with government haircuts, wearing brand new wedding rings. We hadn't seen action yet, so we were jittery and lots of us smoked through a week's rations of Luckies in one day.

Then it happened. It was different for everyone, but it happened. Shells landed everywhere. People screamed. And in a moment our fear melted away and we had war jobs to do. It didn't matter who we were or which posts were ours. Everyone worked in the grand assembly line of battle.

When the smoke cleared and the action was over, we had new confidence in ourselves, and we were no longer boys.

And anyway, we weren't just boys, we were girls, too. There were 350,000 females serving in the U.S. Armed Forces in World War II. People forget that.

Speaking of women. We guys were always talking about our sweethearts, wives, and mothers. If you mentioned someone's girl a man was liable to talk for hours about her. And even if

you'd already seen his wallet photos before, you never interrupted a guy talking about his gal. Because eventually you'd be talking about yours.

There were nights overseas when we would stare at the moon and wonder if our sweethearts were looking at the same moon. There were moments of indescribable loneliness.

Infantrymen had it the hardest. I don't know how our doughboys did it. They lived like pack mules. Their boots got wet, their feet swelled, and their flesh became waterlogged. Chunks of their heels would fall off; the dreaded "trench foot."

The funny thing is, even though their feet were falling off these men still didn't want to leave their posts. Many had to be dragged away cussing. That's how committed these guys were.

Oh, and the food was godawful. You learned to appreciate the rarity of a creative company cook.

In Italy, sometimes we could buy eggs from local merchants for outrageously inflated prices. One time I knew a guy who ate 32 scrambled eggs in his tent one night. I asked him why he did this and he told me he didn't want to die without tasting eggs one last time.

A lot of guys brought banjos, guitars, and fiddles over there. They'd play music at night sometimes in the open Italian air. We'd square dance and laugh. Others would sit on their helmets, smoking, thinking of home, wiping their eyes.

The Germans had a local radio station that broadcasted American stuff like Bing and Frank. Then, between songs, a German gal talked propaganda over the airwaves to us American GIs in a sexy voice, trying to mess with our heads.

She would speak flawless English and say, "Give up, boys, there's no point trying, you can't win. Everyone hates you. Your girls are at home cheating on you, they don't love you any-

more. Give up. It's over. You lost."

This was supposed to discourage us, but it usually just made us laugh. Or cry. Sometimes both.

When the war ended, we felt too much joy at once. In fact, most weren't totally sure they could trust good news. A lot of

guys got like that.

So when we heard the official papers had been signed and the war was over, it was Christmas morning multiplied times a hundred. No. Times a trillion.

Those of us overseas immediately wrote letters to family and told our wives we were coming home, told our kids to grease up

their baseball gloves. Our letters were covered in little wet polka dots, if you get my drift.

Stateside, there were huge celebrations happening. Sailors climbed lampposts to unfurl flags. Infantrymen stood on rooftops, toasting mugs of

Continued on next page

Destin's Only Radio Station!

DESTIN FM.com

Live and Local!
Download the FREE app!

- ▶

Alberto Romero
Destin's Only Local Forecast
- ▶

Billy Surf
Surf's Up In The Morning
- ▶

Dan Collins
Crab Island Throw Down Sat 12n
- ▶

Ellie Adair
Weekends
- ▶

@The850Foodie Joanna Davis
Foodie Friday 7a, 8a, 9a

 Musing


BY PASTOR DAVE HOLLAND

“No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.” – Luke 16:1-13

I ate ham, sweet potatoes, green beans and salad for dinner last night. Some of the best pecan pie known to man followed, and I went to bed fat and happy. I slept in a warm bed with the

love of the Lord overflowing my heart. God is good.

God has made us rich—we just don’t like to admit it. The blessing of God transformed America into one of the richest countries in the world. Three square meals a day, a roof over our heads, clothes in our closets and a car in the driveway testify to wealth that over half of the world’s population will never know.

God’s favor carries with it both great responsibility and tremendous potential. Luke 16:1-14 records a peculiar story called “The Parable of the Unjust Steward.” Jesus talks about a manager of an abundant estate with great resources. The manager is about to be fired for wasting the owner’s resources, so he plots a devious plan.

A Pastor’s Ponderings: **Money**



The dishonest manager negotiates with those who owe money to his boss. He cuts the debtors a sweet deal to gain favors for his future. I’m sure both the “sinners” and the “pious people” who heard Christ’s story thought, “That guy is a scoundrel.”

Jesus shocked everyone by complimenting the unjust manager. Christ commended the rascal, because he had the foresight to think ahead and plan for his future. By using this dark figure, Jesus grabs everyone’s attention and highlights three important themes.

First, consider your future. Where are you going to spend eternity? Are you investing your spiritual life by serving the Lord and giving to those in need? An honored place in heaven awaits those who use the blessings of God to help others.

Second, spending your life on comfort and pleasure with little thought to God’s purposes cheats the Lord who gave you life. When you put your faith in Christ, God invested grace and blessing in you. He expects you to serve him with generosity and thanksgiving.

Finally, one phrase in this long parable haunts us all. “You cannot serve God and money.” Money is important. We all need money to live. It’s when it becomes too important that it corrupts us. Money is numbers and numbers never end. If it takes money to be happy, then your search for happiness will never end.

When you stop chasing money and start chasing purpose, you will find prosperity and peace.

Hebrews 13:5 gives us a warning and a promise. “Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, ‘never I will leave you or forsake.’”

Jesus commended the scoundrel in our parable for his forethought concerning his future, not for his faith. If we have faith in God, we do not face the fu-

ture alone. We live with the expectation of God’s presence and blessing. We attain a security and happiness that is not dependent on circumstances or finances, but rests solely on the promises of God.

Pray with me: Dear Lord, I believe in you. Forgive my worry and stress over finances. I’m sorry I allowed money to compete with you. I choose to trust you with my life, family and future. Only you can satisfy my soul. Strengthen me to serve you and your purposes. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Dave Holland pastored churches for 38 years before retiring in Destin, Florida. He recently released his new devotional-Bible study based on the Gospel of Luke titled “Prodigal Jesus, Journey Back to the Father” You can get a copy of this book from his website, DaveHolland.org, or at Amazon.com. Pastor Dave is available to preach and teach at churches and conferences. Contact him at DavidsHolland54@gmail.com.

SEAN OF THE SOUTH

continued from previous page

homebrew. Mothers were frying chickens out the wazoo.

People were partying everywhere from San Bernardino to Flatbush. Big cities, little towns, and the rural parts between. There were ticker tape parades, auto processions, and girls would kiss any guy in government clothes.

But on this important day, you know what I think about? I think about all the guys who never got kissed again. Our men in the soil.

They were those who evaporated like the early morning fog over Anzio, or the thick mists of Normandy. They died young. And they died for a lot more than a three-day weekend of barbecues and Budweiser.

These were men who fell upholding the mantle of our unalienable American spirit, the Blessings of our Liberty, and the pride of their homeland. They were friends. They were the kids next door. They were children of God who once proved, beyond speculation, that even hellfire cannot kill the great idea that is America. I hope we never forget them. I know I never will.

Happy Memorial Day.

There’s a lot to **LOVE** about Fort Walton Beach!

TO SEE WHAT IS HAPPENING

VISIT ILOVEFWB.COM

I ♥ FWB

Stage Crafters Presents: Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap*

By DOUGLAS HENDERSON

We open with a murder. There is shouting, a police whistle sounds, and then a gravelly voice on the radio tells us: A woman named Maureen Lyon has been killed, the suspect is on the loose, and the terrible winter storm ravaging the countryside will continue.

As is often the case, the whodunnit-seed is planted, and we sit on the edge of our seats, hoping to figure out the mystery. The tension is palpable, and the thrill of it all is addicting.

On June 7th at 7:30 p.m., the curtain will open on Stage Crafters' production of Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap*. This will be the second show of their 52nd Season, and it is a classic. When asked why she chose this play for her directorial debut, Gail Hurley said, "I've always been fascinated by Agatha Christie and the process of finding the murderer. I watch crime shows all the time. My husband says I'm trying to look for the perfect way to bump him off!"



PHOTO: DOUGLAS HENDERSON

Stage Crafters Director, Gail Hurley

What would become the longest-running play in the world started life in 1947 on the radio as *Three Blind Mice*. Christie

based her story on the very real 1945 case of Dennis O'Neill, represented by the opening radio broadcast of the play. In her own distinct style, Christie allowed the story to blossom by adding a cast of eight unique characters.

"Every single person in the show is harboring a secret; some are benign and sweet, but someone's a murderer," Hurley said. "We peel the onion and learn what their secrets are, but the play doesn't tell you all of it until the very last scene."

Agatha Christie famously stipulated her story could not be published while it was being performed in London's West End. At the beginning of each of the 29,500 and counting performances at St. Martin's Theatre, the audience has been asked not to reveal the twist and spoil the experience for the next audience. Hurley insists she will honor this tradition before each of Stage Crafters' upcoming six performances.

"That's what I like about the

show the most, how it unwraps like a present," she said. "I hope we're able to bring these characters to the stage and draw the audience in to where they really don't know who did it. So that, by the end, they're really surprised."

As is always the case, Stage Crafters is an all-volunteer, community theatre. The cast and crew of this show exemplify the organization's growth beyond their amateur status. We close with the recognition that Stage Crafters made it to 50 years, because of its community, and it will be the community who keeps theatre alive for another 50 years.

Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap* runs June 7, 8, 14 and 15 at 7:30 p.m., and June 9 and 16 at 2 p.m., at the Fort Walton Beach Civic Auditorium, 109 Miracle Strip Pkwy, FWB, 32548. Tickets are \$25 and available online or in the lobby before the show; www.StageCraftersFWB.com/buy-tickets.

Stage Crafters presents

M THE AGATHA CHRISTIE'S MOUSETRAP

SUSPECT EVERYONE Directed by Gail Hurley

JUNE 7, 8, 14, & 15 at 7:30pm, and 9 & 16 at 2:00pm

FORT WALTON BEACH CIVIC AUDITORIUM 109 Miracle Strip Pkwy, FWB, FL 32548

TICKETS are \$25 and available online or in the lobby before the show

www.StageCraftersFWB.com/buy-tickets

SCAN for TICKETS

"The Mousetrap" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.; www.concordtheatricals.com

Seasons Change



BY ANNA FISHER, ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, EMERALD COAST THEATRE COMPANY

I always treasure the micro seasons we experience in this beautiful white sand corner of Florida. We get a little taste of fall, a miniscule winter, a gorgeous capsule of spring and a large slice of summer. I feel the same excitement when our new season is announced at Emerald Coast Theatre Company. Like fall, winter, spring and summer, we always have four different phases culminating in the run of our new season.

We start with one of the most important phases, the reading and research quarter. This is the time when Nathanael and I read a portion of the stacks and stacks of plays we have in our home library. Our desks at work and our counters at home become the staging area for “must reads” and “maybes” along with every color sticky note to mark our thoughts about each one. Then we order more scripts and do the same thing with them too. This leads to the next phase of impassioned debate and deliberation. Did I mention “impassioned debate?” We discuss each story and its nuances, (always calmly and rationally without throwing any scripts across the room) the characters, the writing, the music, and the overall cohesion of each show choice within the full season. We present our first draft picks and some other top choices to our executive staff for input and collaboration before settling on our new line up.

The next phase is securing production rights and graphic design for all of the show posters and media which leads up to the big announcement of what’s coming in the new season! We aim to get this information out in the spring, well ahead of when we actually launch the new season in the fall. The final large slice kicks off on opening night with a dynamic fall musical and all of the anticipation that a new season brings.

One of the most exciting moments for our patrons is the big spring announcement that happens ahead of the new season—and that day is here! I’m thrilled to present the upcoming 2024-25 Season 12 at Emerald Coast Theatre Company!

We launch in September with **Jersey Boys**. This toe tapping musical takes you behind the music of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons as they work their way from the streets of New Jersey to the heights of stardom. You can continue the fun in October with **Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery** as our five talented actors portray more than forty characters complete with silly accents and hilarious disguises.

All Is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914, our holiday show, is an a cappella masterpiece. This remarkable true story is told in the words and songs of the men who lived it. Every Brilliant Thing, an interactive show with depth and humor, premieres during January. The story centers around a young boy as he attempts to ease his mother’s depression by creating a list of all the best things in the world worth living for. Everyone’s favorite man-eating plant, sadistic dentist, and meek yet heroic shopkeeper will also make an appearance next January/February in Little Shop of Horrors.

Always a Bridesmaid, a hilarious “Golden Girls” style romp where four friends have sworn to keep their promise to be in each other’s weddings no matter what, rounds out our winter offerings in February/March. And finally, the can’t miss transformation of the eternally pink Elle Woods in **Legally Blonde: The Musical** is the perfect spring show to end our Season 12! We also have two

spring shows specifically geared towards our younger audience members. P.D. Eastman’s classic children’s book **Go, Dog. Go!** comes to life on stage like a pop-up book full of big and little doggy music fun for the whole family. We are also offering **The Tortoise and the Hare: Fast Friends, Slow Foes**, a madcap re-telling of the classic, complete with all the forest animals and a pesky possum who just wants to join the fun.

It is always a little astonishing to be in production mode for our upcoming spring show — which this year is **Mary Poppins** — and launching a new season for the next year. Each phase brings its own set of joys and challenges, and I have so much gratitude for what I get to do every day and the people I get to work alongside. The heart of ECTC is each and every one of those talented artists along with each and every one of you. Here’s to Season 12!





JURASSIC PARK

IN CONCERT

SINFONIA GULF COAST

FILM IN CONCERT

SINFONIA GULF COAST

SATURDAY, MAY 18 | 7:30 PM

Destin-FWB Convention Center

Sheer movie magic 65 million years in the making, bring the entire family to experience Jurassic Park in Concert as never before: projected in HD with Sinfonia Gulf Coast performing John Williams’ iconic score live to picture. Welcome... to Jurassic Park in Concert!

PRESENTING SEASON SPONSOR:



PRESENTING CONCERTS SPONSOR:



PRESENTING MEDIA SPONSOR:



CLASSICAL CONNECTIONS PRESENTING SPONSOR:



SCAN HERE TO BUY TICKETS



Box Office:
SinfoniaGulfCoast.org
850.460.8800

Events Around Town

11th Annual Tequila & Taco Fest | May 10-12 | Baytowne Wharf at Sandestin

Get ready to indulge in the ultimate fiesta experience as the 11th Annual Tequila & Taco Fest returns for another unforgettable celebration of Tequila Love! Established as the second longest running Tequila & Taco Fest in the U.S., Tequila & Taco Fest promises an unparalleled culinary adventure coupled with live music, family-friendly activities and thrilling competitions.

Kick-off Party: The festivities commence with the electrifying Brews, Blues & BBQ Kick-off Party on Friday, May 10th, hosted by Sandestin® Beer, Buffalo Chip Bourbon and Black Sheep Tequila (voted the best tequila in the world) at the popular Marina Bar in Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort® at the Baytowne Marina overlooking the Choctawhatchee Bay.

Main Event: Taco Extravaganza unfolds on Saturday, May 11th, at the iconic Village of Baytowne Wharf, transforming the picturesque locale into a taco lover's paradise. With an impressive lineup on Saturday, May 11th from 1 to 4 p.m., the main event takes center stage. With 25 plus taco vendors competing for the esteemed title of "Best Taco in Northwest Florida" and a grand prize of \$2,500 for first place, attendees are in for a culinary delight. The festival will also host Best Margarita Competition, vying for the coveted title and bragging rights. Aficionados of Mexico's famed spirit can rejoice as they explore the 25 tequila tents and an assortment of imported beers from South America. Families can enjoy kid-friendly activities including face painting, live music and even a Chihuahua Beauty Pageant. For those seeking a VIP experience, the exclusive VIP area at Landshark Bar and Grill will feature the finest tequila, courtesy of Black Sheep Tequila, and exotic tacos that are unavailable in the main festival area.

Farewell Brunch: Wrap up the festivities on Sunday, May 12th, with the Bye Bye Brunch at the Beach House overlooking the Gulf of Mexico from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Purchase tickets online at

www.efestevents.com. A portion of the proceeds will benefit two worthy causes: Fisher House of the Emerald Coast and the Sandestin® Foundation for Kids.

Paddle at the Park Stand Up Paddleboard Race Offers Races for All Age & Skill Levels



The 12th Annual Paddle at the Park Sponsored by HCA Florida Destin Emergency will take place in the Gulf of Mexico behind The Boardwalk on Okaloosa Island on Saturday, May 11. This standup paddleboard race features 1- and 3-mile recreational races, a 6-mile elite race and a kids' fun out-and-back paddle. Racers and spectators alike will enjoy the festive atmosphere with displays and booths set up along the beach. The races have staggered start times, beginning at 9 a.m. The event will conclude with awards.

Registration is now open at <https://paddleguru.com/races/12thAnnualPaddleatthePark>. Find all race details at PaddleAtThePark.com or follow Facebook.com/PaddleAtThePark.

Thank you to our race partners BOTE and The Boardwalk on Okaloosa Island; title sponsor HCA Florida Destin Emergency; platinum sponsors Destin - Fort Walton Beach and Shibumi Shade; silver sponsors Eglin Federal Credit Union, T-Mobile, and VivanaMD; bronze sponsors Florida CFY, Harmony Beach Vacations, and The Island Resort at Fort Walton Beach; and media sponsor Destin Life!

Opportunity Place to Host Luau and Shrimp Boil Fundraiser

Treat yourself and join Opportunity Place for an island-style, family friendly night

out for an amazing cause! On Saturday, May 18, from 5 to 8 p.m., it's Opportunity Knocks! at Rick's on the Island. (1318 Miracle Strip Parkway SE, Okaloosa Island) Savor a homemade low country shrimp boil and luau buffet, courtesy of Rick's on the Island, or try your hand at a game of cornhole or play in the arcade. Boukou Groove will be there with live musical enter-

tainment along with fun props and party favors you'll need for a relaxing tropical night out! Best of all, all proceeds benefit shelter, rehousing and financial education programs for families experiencing homelessness in Okaloosa and Walton counties. Nearly 4,000 clients and community members served...and counting! Help us continue our fight against homelessness!

Adults: \$50 per ticket; Children 11 and up: \$15; Children 10 and under: Free with purchase of adult ticket; Cash bar plus (1) complimentary signature cocktail available for attendees 21 and up. To purchase tickets, visit <https://opifwb.org/> For more information or sponsorship details, contact 850-865-1950 or fiona@opifwb.org.

Emerald Coast Theatre Company Presents

SEASON 12

 The story of Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons SEPTEMBER 20 - OCTOBER 13	 A SHERLOCK HOLMES MYSTERY OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 3	 THE CHRISTMAS TRUCE OF 1914 DECEMBER 6 - 22	 JANUARY 9 - 17
 JANUARY 24 - FEBRUARY 9	 FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 2	 MARCH 11 - 16	 The Musical MAY 2 - 18

VIP MEMBERSHIPS ON SALE NOW!
 Season Subscriptions on Sale June 1 | Individual Tickets on Sale July 1

Tickets or Info, call 850.684.0323 or visit EMERALDCOASTTHEATRE.ORG

Local Coupons

J & B MEDICAL, INC

\$100 OFF

ANY LIFT CHAIR PURCHASE

WITH COUPON

Offer expires 5/31/24
 540 E John Sims Parkway, Niceville
 850-729-255

SAVVY LEIGH PHOTO

\$25 OFF

FAMILY PHOTO SESSION

MENTION COUPON UPON BOOKING

Offer expires 6/15/24
www.SavvyLeighPhoto.com | (205) 567-2779
Instagram.com/SavvyLeighPhoto

OVERHEAD DOOR

\$100 OFF A NEW WI-FI DOOR OPERATOR AND FREE DECORATIVE DOOR HARDWARE

WITH EACH DOOR PURCHASE. (NO OTHER DISCOUNTS APPLY) FINANCING AS LOW AS \$79/MO. W.A.C.

Offer expires 6/15/24
 850-269-3246
destinoverheaddoor.com

BEACHSIDE SLIDING GLASS DOOR MAINTENANCE, LLC

\$25 OFF SLIDING DOOR TRACK REPAIR WITH ROLLER REPLACEMENT

FREE ESTIMATES

Offer expires 6/15/24
BeachsideSlide.com
 850-98-SLIDE (850-987-5433)



Sunday
BRUNCH
10AM-3PM

PRIME RIB
THURSDAYS
STARTING 4PM

KIDS EAT
FREE
4PM-6PM
TUESDAY-FRIDAY

KARAOKE
5PM TUESDAY

trivia
night
6:30-8:30 THURSDAY

Ladies'
NIGHT
6PM WEDNESDAY
9PM FRIDAY & SATURDAY

CRAW
FISH
BOIL
SATURDAYS 12PM