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Point Washington Medical Clinic Opens New Facility



The Point Washington Medical Clinic (PWMC) is pleased to announce the official Ribbon Cutting and Reception of its new stand alone 4,750 sq. ft. facility located at 1321 N. County Hwy 395 in Santa Rosa Beach. The press and public are in-

ited to attend the event beginning at 4 p.m. with a ribbon cutting on Thursday, January 25, 2024. Following the ribbon cutting there will be a reception with live music and tours of the building.

Founded by Drs. Hillary

Glenn, DNP, APRN and Patsy Vargo, MD, Point Washington Medical Clinic provides free medical care to those who need it thanks to their dedicated team of volunteers, from doctors and nurses to various community members who assist

with health education, translation, and administrative tasks.

Their new facility, beautifully situated on the Point Washington United Methodist Church campus in Point

NEW FACILITY
continued on page 2

Registration Now Open for the 2024 Fore Her Pink Walk & 5k

Fore Her is excited to announce the 2024 Pink Walk & 5k on Saturday, January 27th presented by Emerald Coast Hospice.

The event returns to The Village of Baytowne Wharf and will bring back the timed 5k race in addition to the Survivor Stroll and annual Walk, after a great success introducing the 5k in 2023.

“I am so excited for this year's Pink Walk to help so we can continue to help more breast cancer patients along the Emerald Coast,” says Jennifer Crawford, Board Vice President of Fore Her. “Our 2023 event had close to 200 runners and walkers and we are hoping to grow it even more this year”

The community is invited to walk

FORE HER
continued on page 2



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Thank you for being an integral part of our success. Here's to another year of shared achievements and prosperity.

Here's to 2023! Cheers to 2024!

- The Bobby J Team



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FORE HER

continued from page 1

or run with friends and family, wear pink, and have fun while raising funds for breast cancer patients in financial need. Attendees will enjoy an after-party with a DJ, a photo booth, prizes, and food samples. All registered breast cancer survivors can enjoy the VIP Survivors' Lounge sponsored by Rum Runners which will feature special treats including hand massages, and more.

"This event helps raise funds for those who are financially struggling while battling breast cancer. The funds raised help with the things not covered by insurance to help relieve some stress for our recipients - utilities, rent, and additional living expenses" adds Crawford.

Fore Her has sponsorships still available and will join current



sponsors including Emerald Bay Plumbing, Jennifer Crawford Realtor, Keller Williams, Julie + Rob of Scenic Sotheby's Realty, Fresh Prints of South Walton, South Walton Plastic Surgery, All



In Credit Union, Jenetta's Simple Treats, and Charlie's Cafe. All who register will enjoy a virtual swag bag as an added opportunity for all sponsors and benefit the participants.

Registration for the Pink Walk & 5K is now open online at ForeHer.org/PinkWalk5k. Early Bird 5k registration starts at \$50 through January 15 and then increases to \$60. Those who register through January 15 will receive a free Pink Walk t-shirt. Fore Her offers a discounted rate of \$45 to register for breast cancer survivors and the Survivor Stroll is free to participate for survivors. The first 200 participants to sign up will receive a



race medal.

Packet pick-up will be at The Village of Baytowne Wharf concert stage on Friday, January 26 from 3 to 5 p.m. and on Saturday, January 27 starting at 7 a.m. Day of registration will also be avail-

able from 7 to 8 a.m. The 5k will start on Saturday at 8:30 a.m.

For more information, and available sponsorship opportunities, visit pinkwalk5k.org or email ali@weilhousecreative.com

NEW FACILITY

continued from page 1

Washington, was designed by architect Zack Quinn with interior design by Suzanne Rester Watson. Woodruff Construction handled construction, and Bradford Davis Landscape Architect

the environs.

Co-founder and Executive Director Dr. Hillary Glenn, DNP shares, "This building is by the community, for the community. We wouldn't be here without the many contributions of our generous supporters, and we're incredibly excited to ex-

pand our services and hours to serve our neighbors even more. Designed with the patient in mind, the building's intentional details are all planned to ensure privacy and provide a calming comfortable environment, as well as being organized so the volunteers and team are able



Point Washington MEDICAL CLINIC

to easily access the tools they need." Dr. Glenn continues, "Unique attributes of the facility include a children's educational play area, a state-of-the-art classroom with a teaching kitchen, and a meditation prayer garden. To support the calming environment, we leaned into the natural landscape. This is seen with the oversized windows in the lobby looking out over the beautiful native forest, the dental operatories line up with large windows so patients will be looking out at trees while being treated and our partnership with the CAA and their Arts in Public Spaces program will enhance the interior beauty by bringing in works from local artists of our local environment inside."

The new clinic will provide more space for volunteers who serve the clinic in various administrative, clinical and hospitality roles. It will also include six exam rooms including a pediatric exam room, an increase from two in the current pop-up clinic. This means the team will

be able to serve 850+ patients a month in the future, an increase of 300%. The clinic will expand its preventive and primary care services with the addition of dentistry, mental health services and expanded onsite lab testing. Wellness, nutrition and educational classes will now be possible because of the new teaching kitchen and meeting space. This will enable the PWMC to further its mission of building a stronger and healthier community by providing high-quality primary health care regardless of the patient's means or access.

The PWMC staff, Board of Directors and volunteer team are all excited for what the new facility means for the growing roster of patients as well as the greater Northwest Florida region. For the past six years, operating only two days a week, they have provided over \$3.5 million in healthcare services on site and have had over 15,000 patient visits.

Once the volunteer-driven clinic is able to expand their service hours, they expect to be able to see close to 10,000 patients annually providing over 1 million dollars in healthcare services per year.

A fundraising campaign continues to support construction. Those interested in volunteering or contributing to the building campaign can visit thepwmc.org/donate to learn more and make a donation.

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BCC Recognizes Superintendent Hughes



Superintendent A. Russell Hughes

The Walton County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) recognized Walton County School Superintendent Russell Hughes at a meeting in early December. Superintendent Hughes was just named Superintendent of the Year by the Florida Department of Education.

Board Chairman William ‘Boots’ McCormick introduced Superintendent Hughes, saying “It’s the recognition of a good friend and a public servant of the county. Some of you may not know it, but Mr. Hughes was recently designated as the 2024 Florida Superintendent of the Year. Out of 67 counties, we have the best superintendent – I have

said that all along, but finally, the state recognized it. So, as a token of our appreciation from the BCC, we’d like to present this (plaque) to you in recognition of that honor... Thank you for what you do for our children.”

After the applause, Superintendent Hughes said, “I certainly want to say ‘thank you’ to the commissioners for your work in the county. We have, I believe, one of the best counties in the state of Florida, if not the country. That wouldn’t be without the collaboration and support of each one of you.” Hughes turned toward former state representative Brad Drake and said, “Of course, your state work, sir, was undoubtedly a great part of what we do.

“We’re glad to bring this kind of result to Walton County. When I became superintendent, we were ranked No. 36 and are ranked now No. 3. We have no ‘C’ schools in Walton County. There are only four other districts in the state of Florida that can say that. So, we thank you for your support, we thank the citizens for allowing us to educate



their children” he said. “We love children. That’s why we’re here.”

Hughes also recognized his wife, Lori Hughes, and Curriculum Instruction Director Crystal Appel.

Hughes closed his remarks,

saying, “Our students and teachers are phenomenal, we have a wonderful board. Just thank you for this recognition and designation. I appreciate you all and God bless you all.”

The latest state school rank-

ings were recently released and again there are no grade ‘C’-schools in Walton County.



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Community

Sustaining an Ecosystem Through Stewardship

BY HEATHER BENNETT EYE

The ecosystem provided by the Choctawhatchee Bay and surrounding areas is vital for environmental balance and biodiversity, with its waterways and estuaries serving as crucial components. These aquatic habitats not only support diverse life forms but also play a key role in regulating temperature, nutrient cycles, and serve as breeding grounds. Additionally, these waterways are integral to the local economy, contributing to fishing, recreation, and tourism. Preserving their health is essential for clean water sources, flood mitigation, and regional resilience. Sustainable practices and conservation efforts are crucial for ensuring the ongoing well-being of this important ecosystem.

The Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance (CBA) is a nonprofit organization formed in 1996 dedicated to promoting swimmable, fishable waterways in Northwest

Florida through monitoring, education, restoration and research. In order to inspire water stewardship, they are working to grow a network of supporters to protect these precious natural resources. Here are some of the recent ways they've been able to drive that mission forward.



Through their education efforts, the CBA was recently able to bring hands-on science learning to over 3,600 students in our community through their Grasses in Classes program. Students grow shoreline grasses at their

school, tend to salt marsh nurseries throughout the year, and receive monthly education on local estuarine topics. At the end of the school year, students will then plant their shoreline grasses at a designated salt marsh restoration site along Choctawhatchee Bay. This helps support the CBA's living shoreline initiative.

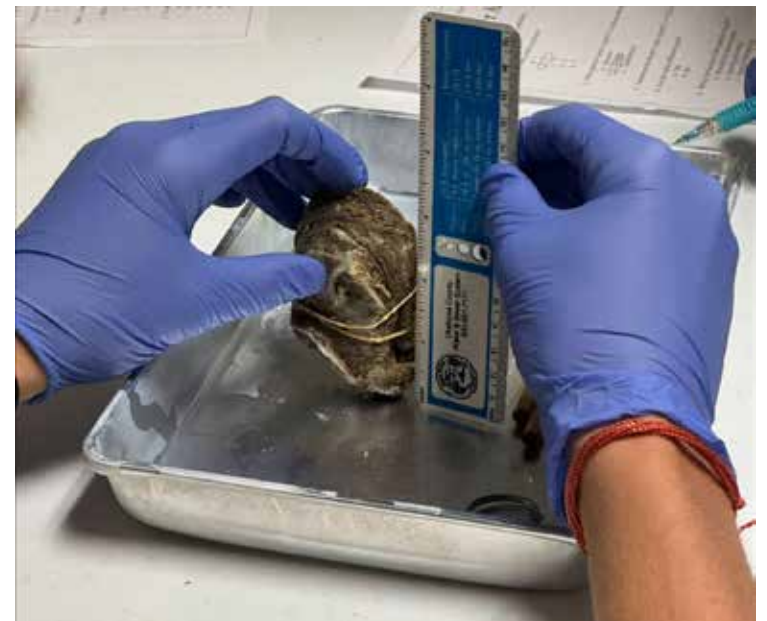
In October, CBA's Executive Director Alison McDowell & Senior Restoration Program Manager Rachel Gwin, attended the 2023 Living Shorelines Tech Transfer Workshop, an event hosted by Restore America's Estuaries and Galveston Bay Foundation. Alison presented on how CBA sources plants for restoration, and they were able to see Galveston Bay Foundation sites to learn about oyster recycling, conservation lands and education programs.

The CBA relies on sponsors to enable their initiatives. One admirable supporter is Islander Coastal Outfitter, situated at the Boardwalk on Okaloosa Island. As a proud member of 1% For the Planet, they dedicate 1% of their annual sales to the CBA. Beyond financial support, they actively volunteer and have made a substantial impact by assisting with Grasses in Classes this year.

Another outstanding supporter is the beach and fishing apparel company, FL BABE. They endorse four nonprofits, including the CBA. In addition to shopping on their website, you can also explore information about conservation efforts across Florida on their blog. They've even featured our CBA in a November article.

If you're interested in supporting the CBA by volunteering, there are openings currently available with the Water Quality Monitoring and Monofilament Recycling initiatives. The CBA collaborates with the UF Florida LAKEWATCH program to conduct monthly water quality tests at 130 stations spanning Choctawhatchee Bay, the Choctawhatchee River, and the coastal dune lakes of Walton County. The CBA is actively seeking dedicated citizen scientists to contribute their valuable efforts and help ensure the program's effectiveness.

The Monofilament Recycling bins are located at various locations along Destin Harbor, Bluewater Bay Marina Complex, Veterans Park and Ross Mar-



ler Park on Okaloosa Island, as well as Nick's Seafood Restaurant, Cessna Park and Thomas Pilcher Park. These bins play a crucial role in preventing fishing line from finding its way into the water where it poses a threat to wildlife causing entanglement, starvation, loss of flipper, tail, or wings, and can even cause death. Volunteers are needed to maintain the bins, aid in outreach efforts and occasionally help with beach cleanups.

For additional details on ongoing and upcoming initiatives and projects undertaken by the CBA, as well as opportunities for volunteering, please explore basinalliance.org. Remember that we coexist with a diverse range of wildlife that depends on the same water sources. Our actions can make a positive impact on their habitats. By being more mindful, we can contribute to the well-being of the creatures that share our environment.

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Coastal Seniors Update for January

COASTAL SENIORS

OF SOUTH WALTON

Chair Yoga Classes at the Blake in Miramar Beach – Tuesdays, January 2, and 16 at 9:45 a.m.

Fridays with Friends – Join us on Fridays, January 12 and 26, from 10 a.m. to noon, for games and fun at 70 Logan Lane.

Game Day at Somerby on Wednesdays – Wednesdays, January 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31 from 2 - 4 p.m. Somerby of Santa Rosa Beach is located at 164 W. Hewett Rd., Santa Rosa Beach. Melissa Bailey, CSSW member will host game day. Melissa teaches and plays many games such as Hand & Foot, 5 Crowns, Euchre, Mexican Train Dominoes, and more. Refresh your skills or learn a new game. Local seniors and Walton County snowbirds are welcome! Call/text Sonia at 850-280-5342 or email: coastalseniorsofsouthwalton@gmail.com.

com if you have questions.

Game Day at the Coastal Branch Library – Thursdays, January 4, 11, 18, and 25 from 2-4:00 p.m. hosted by Melissa Bailey. The Coastal Branch Library is located at 437 Greenway Trail, Santa Rosa Beach.

Art Classes – Watercolor Painting Class – Tuesdays, January 9, 16, 23 and 30 at 8:30 a.m. – noon. Karen Peterson will lead the class. Space is limited so call 850-280-5342 to reserve your spot, or email: coastalseniorsofsouthwalton@gmail.com. All supplies are included.

Monthly Meeting – Friday, January 19 - 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Sherrie Ann Aquino, Doctor of

Physical Therapy, will be our guest speaker. Call 850-280-5342 or email: coastalseniorsofsouthwalton@gmail.com to reserve your spot. Held at 70 Logan Lane in Grayton Beach.

Exercise Classes – Angela Gibson will lead classes on Tuesdays, January 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 at 1 p.m. and Thursdays, January 4, 11, 18 and 25 at 10 a.m. at 70 Logan Lane in Grayton Beach. Cost is \$5 per session. R.S.V.P. to coastalseniorsofsouthwalton@gmail.com.

Tai Chi Classes – Thursdays, January 4, 11, 18, 25 at 1 p.m. Antony Barlett will lead the classes. Cost is \$10 per class. Space is limited so call 850-280-

5342 to reserve your spot, or email: coastalseniorsofsouthwalton@gmail.com.

Pickleball - Beginner Pickleball 101 at Walton Sports Complex courts on Wednesdays, January 3, and 17 at 6 p.m. Registration required. Register for one date only at www.waltonrec.com by choosing field and court rentals. Open to Walton County residents only. Email Sandy Gulak at sowalpickleball@gmail.com for more info and with questions. Also join us at the Boys and Girls Club on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Sessions will resume in mid to late January. Please join the SoWal 30A Pickleball Association on Facebook for

more information and weekly updates and check the CSSW calendar at www.coastalseniorsofsouthwalton.org.

Seniors 50 years of age and up residing in or visiting Walton County are invited to join CSSW. Membership is \$20 for individuals, \$30 for family, and \$50 for businesses (your business will be listed on our home page and our Facebook page). You can become a member via email at coastalseniorsofsouthwalton@gmail.com, or on the website at www.coastalseniorsofsouthwalton.org. Also, follow us on Facebook at Coastal Seniors of South Walton. Coastal Seniors of South Walton, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization for active adults and we are looking for dedicated, enthusiastic persons to join our Board of Directors.

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Walton County Snowbirds Kick off 2023-2024 Season

The Walton County Snowbirds kicked off their 2023-2024 Season on December 4, 2023. What a great start it's been!!

The Walton County Snowbirds (WCS) are a collection of fun-loving, caring and sharing seniors who enjoy the wonderful communities of South Walton County during the winter months. This season, they will continue their social, educational, recreational, and charitable pursuits on the Emerald Coast.

The WCS offers over 30 activities for club members to enjoy! Some of these activities include golf, tennis, pickleball, card games, aerobics, ballroom dancing, art class, bowling, singles group, discussion groups, ukulele, line dancing, and a singles group. Additionally, we host several social events including our Snowbird Gatherings, social dinners, TGI Thursdays, trips to the casino in Biloxi, a Mardi Gras trip to New Orleans, and a dolphin cruise.

You must be a registered WCS to participate in their activities and social events. Membership is \$20 per person. You can sign up at any of the Registrations or Snowbird Gatherings.

Registrations are held at the Faith Assembly Hall at 306 S. Geronimo in Miramar Beach and are scheduled from 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January, Monday, January 8, Wednesday, January 17, and Monday, February 5.

You can also register an hour

before at any of the scheduled Snowbird Gatherings. Snowbird Gatherings are a fun social event for the WCS members offering free entertainment, door prizes, a 50/50 drawing to support a local scholarship program, and special club announcements. Come an hour early also to take advantage of free samples, discounts, and useful information handed out by supporting businesses. Snowbird Gatherings are scheduled from 10:00 a.m. - noon on Thursdays: January 11, January 25, and Feb-

ruary 8 at Destin United Methodist Church and February 22 at St. Andrew's by the Sea Episcopal Church.

For more information on registration and all the activities and social events the club offers, check out the website www.waltoncountysnowbirds.com or join the Facebook page "Walton County Snowbirds." The Club hopes to see many snowbirds join this season where you will have fun and meet new friends from all over the US and Canada!

Walton County to Host Hospitality and Service Industry Job Fair

The Walton County Tourism Department is pleased to help support local businesses and the community by hosting the third Hospitality & Service Industry Job Fair on Friday, Feb. 9, 2024, from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Boys & Girls Club, located at 427 Greenway Trail in Santa Rosa Beach, Fla.

Representatives from more

than 30 local companies will be present. Each business will be actively recruiting to fill positions. Job seekers are encouraged to attend this free event and network with business professionals who represent some of Walton County's largest employers. Attendees should bring copies of their resume. Walton County businesses interested in

participating can register at WaltonFL.com.

"Walton County businesses rely on a strong, steady workforce to provide superior service to our visitors and residents," says Nicole Everett, communications director for



Walton County Tourism. "With the spring tourism season just around the corner, this is a great way for talented, qualified job seekers to connect with local businesses about high-demand employment opportunities."

For more information about the job fair, contact Dana McDowell at Dana@WCFLTourism.com at the Walton County Tourism Department at (850) 267-1216.

Walton County businesses interested in participating can register at WaltonFL.com.



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Walton County Democratic Women's Club Makes a Difference Over the Holidays



The Walton County Democratic Women's Club gathered at member Karen McGee's home on Sunday, Dec. 10 stepping out of the usual mode in the spirit of the season. The holiday spirit abounded with delicious treats and chatter. In the spirit of giving, many items were donated to A Bed For Me. This organization provides bedding for children ages

2 to 12 in the realization that sleep plays a critical role in a child's development, mentally and physically. The WCDWC donated bedding, cash and gift cards. The WCDWC is made up of women from the north and south end of Walton County. They strive to live up to their motto, "Together, we make a difference."

The SeaLight Festival makes its debut at Seascape Resort in Miramar Beach

A dazzling world of light featuring more than 1,000 handmade Chinese lanterns comes to the Panhandle following roaring success in New York City, Atlanta and Washington D.C.



This captivating spectacle will feature over 1,000 handcrafted Chinese lanterns and lights, guaranteeing an unforgettable experience.

The SeaLight Festival is making its Florida debut following three consecutive years of sell-out runs in New York City, Atlanta and Washington D.C., where it welcomed more than

500,000 guests. On Thursdays – Sundays from 5 - 9 p.m. February 1 to March 31, 2024, Seascape Resort will undergo a breathtaking transformation into an extraordinary world of illumina-

tion. Tickets are now available for purchase. All ages are welcome. Ticket prices start from \$17.99 for children and \$25.99 for adults, and are available on SeaLights website, www.sealight-festival.com.

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SWFD AED Registration Drive

The South Walton Fire District (SWFD) is asking for the community's help in registering the automated external defibrillators (AEDs) located in public places across South Walton.

According to the American Heart Association, more than 350,000 cardiac arrests occur outside of the hospital each year across the country. However, effective bystander first aid can double or triple a victim's chance of survival.

The Fire District is asking community members who own or work in public places like businesses, gyms, restaurants, and stores, as well as members of local churches and community gathering spaces, to register their location's AED by emailing their contact information and AED location to cpr@swfd.org or use the free SWFD Smartphone App, select the Community Resources feature, then complete the form "Register An AED."

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National Model for Education

- 2 Seacoast Collegiate High School in partnership with Northwest Florida State College and the Walton County School District, is quickly becoming a national model for education through its multi-million dollar expansion that includes a dual enrollment and workforce development center. This innovative and collaborative model, set to open in Fall 2025, aims to boost economic development and provide access to college-level classes for in-demand careers.

Learning Beyond the Classroom

- 3 Learning goes beyond the classroom for our students, including gardening, culinary, art, and music programs as well as mentoring from local business leaders. We also offer a complete athletics program for our middle and high school students.

Collegiate High School

- 4 Through our partnership with Northwest Florida State College, students who attend Seacoast Collegiate High School have the opportunity to earn college credit hours and an AA degree completely free. Our 2023 graduates earned more than 3,300 college credits, saving them and their families over \$760K in college tuition. The 2023 graduates also earned more than \$3.6MM in academic and athletic scholarships.

Tuition Free

- 5 We offer our students a tuition-free personalized learning experience typically found in private education including small class sizes and top-ranked educators. We are also a certified STEM School with a strong emphasis on character, communication, and critical life skills.



Community

THE SEASIDE SCHOOL™: A Legacy of Excellence and Innovation in Education

In the picturesque coastal town of Seaside, a pioneering institution has been shaping the future of education since 1996. The Seaside School, comprising Seaside Neighborhood School and Seacoast Collegiate High School, stands as a testament to the power of community collaboration, forward-thinking and the relentless pursuit of academic excellence.

Historical Roots in the Charming Town of SEASIDE®

The Seaside School's history is intertwined with the story of

Seaside, Florida—a town conceived in 1979 by Robert and Daryl Davis, that became a symbol of community planning and design innovation. Designed on a neighborhood scale with interconnected streets, Seaside aimed to foster a sense of community. The town became famous for its design, and its idyllic setting was immortalized in the hit 1998 movie *The Truman Show*.

Remarkably, the movie played a pivotal role in Seaside School's history. Robert Davis donated the land for the school, and the fees from *The Truman Show* funded its first building.

Thus, Seaside School was born, taking the path of becoming one of Florida's first public charter schools.

Dr. Rosemary Williams spearheaded the movement to create a tuition-free neighborhood school in Seaside to address the need for middle school education in the southern end of Walton County - emphasizing that success is achievable both academically and socially during the often-challenging middle school years. The journey began with 36 students, two faculty members, and one administrator housed in two portables on Seaside's Lyceum Lawn. Over the years, the school has expanded its offerings, eventually establishing Seacoast Collegiate High School to expand the charter's scope. Today, The Seaside School proudly holds the distinction of being the oldest public charter school in Florida.

A Holistic Approach to Education

The school prides itself on being a flexible and personalized learning community, providing a tuition-free experience with small class sizes and top-ranked educators - a learning experience usually associated with private education. Learning extends beyond the classroom, encompassing gardening, culinary, art, and music programs, as well as mentorship from local business leaders. The comprehensive athletics program adds another

dimension to the students' holistic development.

Additionally, Seacoast Collegiate High School has become the premiere dual enrollment program, empowering students to graduate debt-free or enter the workforce as skilled employees. This unique high school offers a collegiate model where students can earn college credits in 11th and 12th grades to ultimately earn their A.A. degree alongside their high school diploma at no cost. With a 100% graduation rate, over 6,300 college credits earned, and more than \$8 million in academic and athletic scholarships, Seacoast Collegiate High School stands as a beacon of success.

The school's strong collaboration with Northwest Florida State College is set to reach new heights with the expansion of its campus in Fall 2025. This expansion, the first of its kind in the area, will include 80,000 square feet of new educational space, dedicated buildings for classrooms and labs, and "The Accelerator" - a facility housing a workforce/business incubation center. This initiative demonstrates Seacoast's commitment to preparing students for high-demand careers and fostering economic development in the region as well as becoming a national model for education.

Achievements Beyond the Classroom

The Seaside School stands as a beacon of academic excellence, recognized nationally and within the state of Florida for its outstanding achievements. Seaside Neighborhood School, the cornerstone of this institution, earned the prestigious National 2007 No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon Schools award, solidifying its position among the highest-performing middle schools. The commitment to academic prowess is further exemplified by the school's attainment of high-performing charter school status in 2011 and the esteemed title of a "pioneer charter school" in 2016, bestowed by the Florida Department of Education.

The accolades for The Seaside School paint a stunning picture of a top-rated combination charter school in Florida. Consistently ranking in the top 1% statewide for math and science, the institution proudly holds the #1 position in Walton County. Notably, it has maintained an "A" grade for over 20 consecutive years, reflecting a sustained commitment to excellence that resonates through every aspect of its educational journey.

Open Enrollment: Shaping Futures, One Student at a Time

As The Seaside School continues to make strides in education, it opens its doors for enrollment from January 5th to February 15th. Prospective students and their families are invited to join a community where innovation, excellence, and a commitment to the whole child have been the driving forces for over two decades.

Seaside School, Inc. stands not only as an educational institution but as a beacon of inspiration, illustrating what can be achieved when a community comes together to invest in the future. With eyes set on continued growth and innovation, The Seaside School, Inc. remains dedicated to nurturing minds and shaping futures for generations to come.

For more information about The Seaside School, Inc. and the enrollment process, please visit SeasideSchools.net.

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Psalm 18:28
"It is you who lights a lamp for me. The Lord, my God, lights up my darkness."

LOCALS ONLY: Men's Store Spreads Holiday Cheer with Generous Discounts to Locals

The fall season has officially arrived in and one small business is making sure that the spirit of giving extends to local residents. Captured Clothing, a new men's boutique located in the the salty Grayton Beach community, is ushering in the festive season with a special gift to its local customers: **substantial discounts on a wide range of stylish clothing and accessories.**

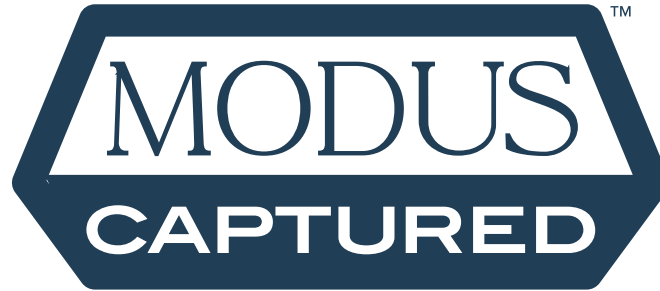
With the aim of making this holiday season a little brighter for everyone, Captured has launched an initiative that showcases their commitment to the local community. The store has decided to give back to the locals by offering impressive discounts on a carefully curated selection of items. This initiative

is not only a gesture of appreciation but also away to encourage shoppers to buy local and support small businesses during the holiday rush.

For many residents, Captured has become known as a go-to destination for quality men's fashion, offering a unique blend of classic and contemporary styles that cater to various tastes. Now, with these extraordinary holiday discounts, patrons have even more reasons to stop by.

Some of the highlights holiday promotions include: **Substantial Discounts:** The store is slashing prices on a variety of items, from stylish winter coats and custom sweaters to one of a kind upcycled denim and trendy accessories.

Discounts range from 20% to



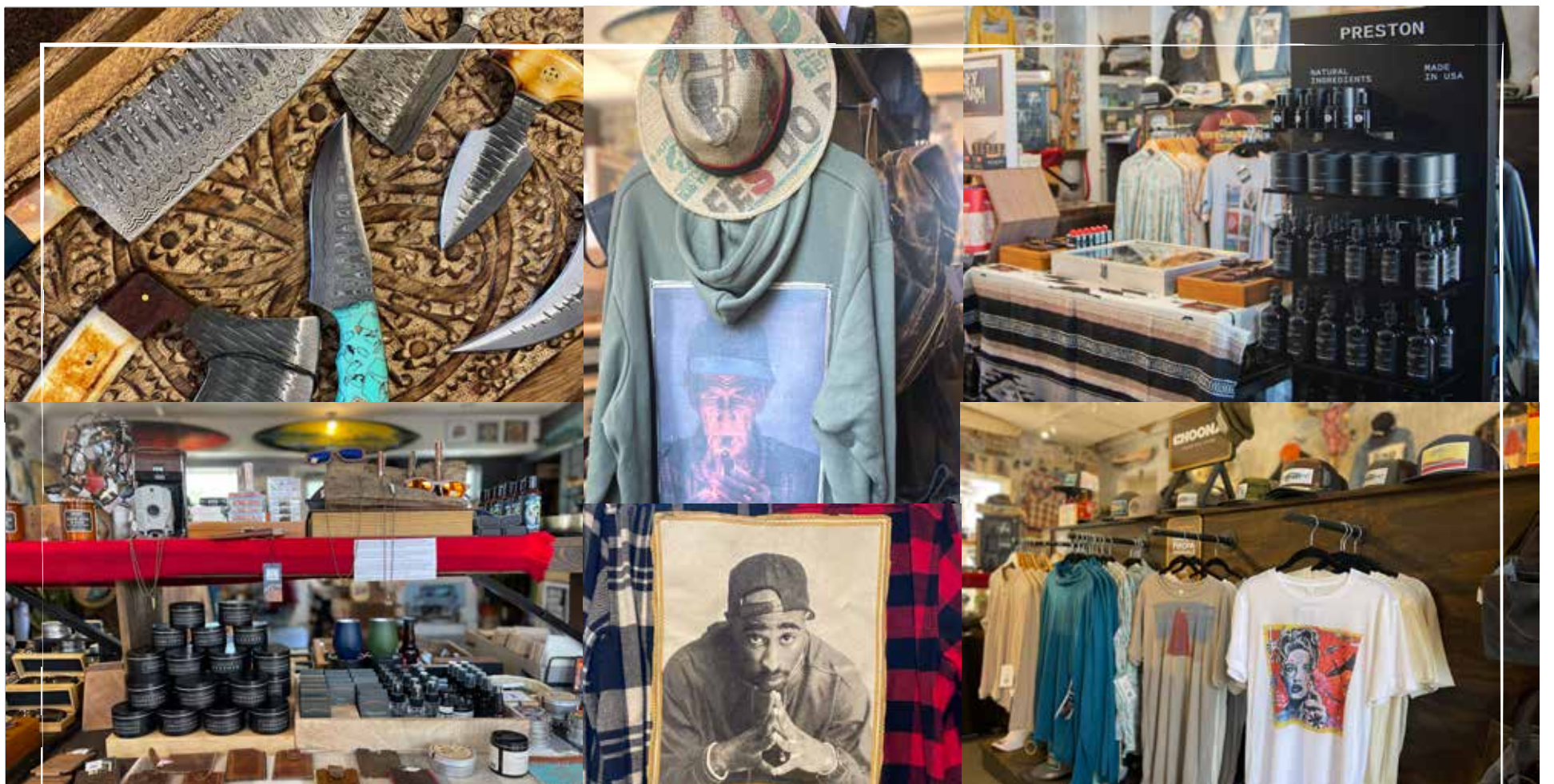
CUSTOM APPAREL & CURATED GOODS



50%, making it an ideal opportunity for the local shoppers to find unique gifts and fashion at budget-friendly prices.

Personalized Styling:

To ensure that every customer walks out with their ideal holiday look, Captured is offering personalized styling consultations. Knowledgeable staff members are on hand to provide fashion advice and assist shoppers in selecting the perfect gift for their holiday gatherings. **Gift Wrapping Services:** In the spirit of the season, captured is also offering complimentary gift wrapping services for all purchases. This thoughtful touch adds an extra layer of convenience for shoppers looking to streamline their holiday preparations!



Custom Apparel and Curated Goods from all over the Globe.
37 Logan Ln Suite 3, Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459 | 850.461.9098 | @moduscaptured



It's Time to Register for the 22nd Annual Seaside Race Weekend!

Feb. 16th - 18th, Benefiting The Seaside School, Inc. Public Charter School

The Seaside School Half Marathon & 5K, presented by SEASIDE®, is back, launching its 22nd year of racing. Registration, presented by Visit South Walton, is now open for Race Weekend February 16-18, 2024, further establishing this event as a signature running event and paramount fundraiser in Northwest Florida. Every year, athletes from around the world converge in Seaside, assisting in funding The Seaside School, Inc.

This year's race will embrace a dynamic superhero theme. Participants and spectators alike are encouraged to immerse themselves in the spirit of the event, donning attire inspired by their favorite superheroes, and celebrating the strength and resilience that defines the Seaside community. There will also be first-time exclusive VIP experi-

ences for racers and spectators.

"Each registration for the Race Weekend directly fuels our mission-based programming at The Seaside School, Inc. Whether it is enhancing educational experiences for our students through new technology, exploratory programming or gaining access to higher levels of our collegiate curriculum, every race participant plays a pivotal role in our students' success," said Dr. Tom Miller, the new Executive Director of The Seaside School, Inc.

The weekend experience commences with the coastal cuisine extravaganza, Taste of the Race, on Friday, February 16, 2024, promising culinary delights, celebrating local flavors, and culinary maestros. Saturday will be bustling with activity at the Race Expo, where participants can gather their race

packets and bask in the pre-race excitement at the Seaside Lyceum. The main event is set for Sunday, February 18, with the out-and-back half marathon starting at 7 a.m. and the 5K at 7:30 a.m. starting and concluding in Seaside.

"Seaside's deep-rooted history with the Seaside School Half Marathon & 5K, now spanning 22 years, embodies our shared ethos of community, vitality, and a commitment to excellence," said Micah Davis, President of Seaside Community Development Council (SCDC). "As Seaside continues to flourish, it's rewarding to see parallel growth and achievement in The Seaside School, Inc., honoring the vision of my parents and our town founders Robert and Daryl Davis."

Registration this year comes with delightful surprises, notably

swag from The Seaside Style, this year's swag sponsor.

Registration for the 5K is \$95, and the half marathon is \$130 and 100% of the proceeds benefit the Seaside School Foundation. Exclusive VIP experiences for both racers and spectators are also available for \$125 with dedicated parking or \$95 without parking. Kids can also take part in the VIP experience for just \$25 [limited to two kids per adult]. Weekend parking passes are also available for purchase. Military personnel, first responders and teachers are eligible for a \$20 discount upon presentation of valid identification.

The 22nd annual charity Race Weekend will kick off on Friday, February 16th with an evening under the stars at the official race pre-party, Taste of the Race. Party-goers can at-

tend this delicious Seaside party that features local chefs and restaurateurs competing for the top culinary awards including the coveted Chef's Choice Award, last year won by Wild Bill's Beach Dogs operated by the Dawson Group, and the People's Choice Award, won by The Red Bar.

Packet pick-up is Sat., Feb. 17, at the Seaside Neighborhood School and Expo in the Seaside Lyceum. The half marathon (13.1 miles) starts at 7 a.m. and the 5K (3.1 miles) at 7:30 a.m., on Sun., Feb. 18. Both races – the half marathon and 5K – start in the town of Seaside with an out-and-back run along the coastal dune lakes of Scenic Hwy. 30A.

For more information and to register, visit runseasidefl.com.

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The 22nd annual running of the
SEASIDE SCHOOL
HALF MARATHON + 5K
 presented by
SEASIDE®
 is back on Sunday, February 18, 2024
 in beautiful Seaside, Florida.

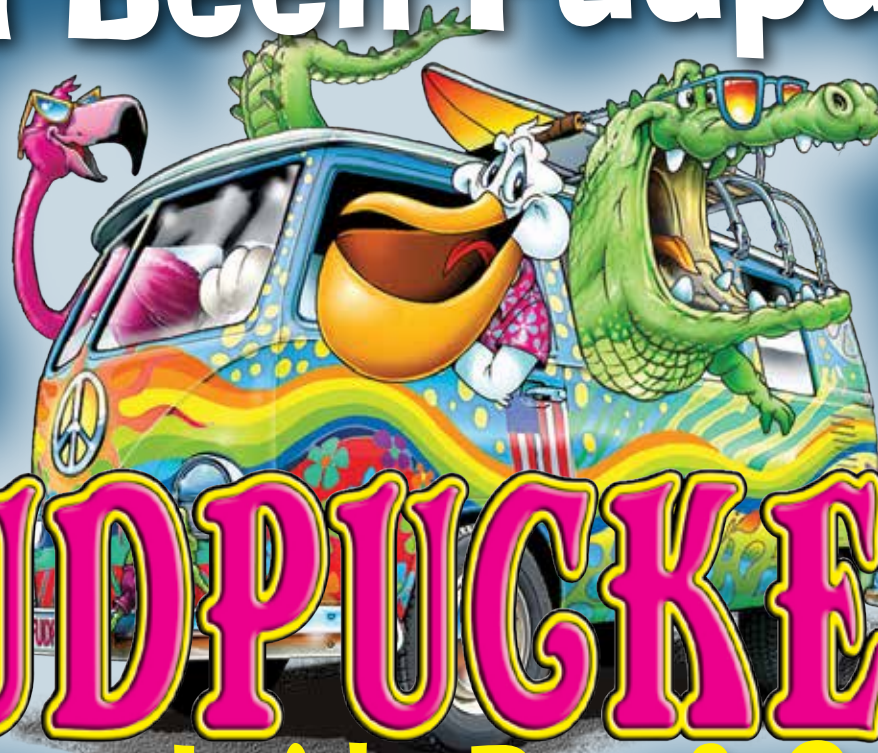
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HAVE YOU SEEN BOOGIE

She's been Missing for 6 months

Blue Mountain Beach resident Kevin Cannon is distraught. A member of his family, a close friend and companion since 2018, has been missing from the Ridgewalk neighborhood of Santa Rosa Beach since March of 2024. Cannon has reason to believe "Boogie" an affectionate Boston Terrier" was taken from his property after an e-bike accident hospitalized him on the 26th of March.

Cannon is beside himself with grief and is asking the local community for help in locating his faithful companion these past five years. "When I say Boogie" is my whole world, I mean it" he says.

"Each morning I wake up and my first thought is 'where's Boogie.' All I can do is get up and search. It's like I know she's out there. This whole episode has just broken my heart,"

Can you help? If anyone has seen this adorable Terrier, please call **Kevin Cannon at 850-596-4190.**



Insights for Investors: Deciding on Where and How to Invest in the New Year



BY MAURICE STOUSE, FINANCIAL ADVISOR AND BRANCH MANAGER

If we reflect on almost four decades in the investment world, we cannot find, with any consistency, anyone who can tell you when and how to invest in the next year. For sure, there are market predictions, economic predictions and forecasts and opinions. The question we keep coming back to is: Does anyone really KNOW where the markets, the economy and the world are headed? Sometimes a prognosticator will get it right, but he or she is rarely right on a consistent basis. Why might that be?

Morgan Housel is an author who has written two books on investing and behavior. One is titled "Same as Ever" and the other is "The Psychology of Money." The main theme drawn from these two writings is that the future cannot be predicted, because people and events cannot be predicted. Would anyone have known for sure that Russia would have invaded Ukraine two years ago (and the economic fallout that followed)? Or, as was pointed out, the effects or significance of the coronavirus pandemic? Housel points out that The Economist magazine, well revered in the investing and professional world, predicted neither in its annual forecasts for 2020 and 2022 respectively.

Some call unusual or unpredictable events "Black Swan" events. No one knows when they will appear. It's impossible to predict things, so we encourage investors to plan and invest according to their time frame,

their risk tolerance and their investment objective. These are the big three for most investors.

Charlie Munger, Warren Buffet's partner, has had many books written about him, as has Buffet. A current read is "The Tao of Charlie Munger" by David Clark. It is replete with lessons from the investing great who passed away in December of 2023. One consistent lesson was for investors to not be in a hurry. We suggest that investors identify companies, or funds, or bonds or instruments that fit your investment objective, their time frame and their comfort level, and then be patient.

2023 tested the patience of many investors as they saw the markets gain substantially for most of the year while perhaps their investments did not. Had they held the so called magnificent seven (META, Google, Apple, Microsoft, Tesla, Nvidia and Amazon) only, they would have seen those returns. Most stocks (the remainder of approximately 500 stocks in the S&P 500) had lesser returns, no returns or perhaps lost up until about October of 2023. Then, in November, interest rates (based upon the 10-year U.S. Treasury note) began to decline (from approximately a high of 5% to 3.9%). The market's performance for the S&P in November was almost nine percent and many long-term bonds appreciated as much as 6%. December numbers, while not final at this writing were equally compelling. So, what might be learned, or gained, from all of this?

Peter Lynch, the well known fund manager from Fidelity, said many years ago in one of his three books to not give up hope at the worst possible time and sellout. We have seen this repeated by many investment managers for years, to not sell at the bottom (as if you would know the bottom). Did that happen in 2023? Many investors were convinced that cash or CDs was the best place to be and as a result either sold out and moved to cash or CDs or remained in cash or CDs. To be clear, these low to no risk investments play a part in most investors' portfolios. However, we



would suggest that if someone has a long term time frame, to not use a short term lens, so to speak, when making an allocation decision or a change.

The U.S. economy continues to lead the world in innovation, cost of doing business and opportunity. We look back over the last almost 100 years and see that investors saw the highest returns in large cap stocks followed by bonds then by cash (Ibbotson Charts). Research, know what you own or what you want to own and why you own it. Know how long you want to own something. Appropriate risk mitigation along with patience might serve investors well in 2024 and beyond.

Maurice Stouse is a Financial Advisor and the branch manager of The First Wealth Management/ Raymond James. Main office located at The First Bank, 2000 98 Palms Blvd, Destin, FL 32451. Phone 850.654.8124. Raymond James advisors do not offer -tax advice. Please see your tax professionals. Email: Maurice.stouse@raymond-james.com.

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 Community

January Events Around Walton County

January 10, 2024 Alys Beach Job Fair

Alys Beach, an entity of EBSCO Industries, is expanding its team and will hold Job Fairs on January 10, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. at 84 Elbow Beach Road, Building 1. Alys Beach offers its employees competitive wages and superior benefits package. Multiple positions are available in the following departments: Guest Services, Security, Food & Beverage, Construction and Commercial Construction.

\$1,500 SIGN-ON BONUS for anyone hired by attending the job fair. If you have any questions, call 850-213-5500. Apply online beforehand at alysbeach.com/careers. However, computers will be available for your use.

Nestled on 158 pristine acres along the Gulf of Mexico, Alys Beach is a unique urban project that blends new city planning with old-world charm. Its striking architecture, elegant settings and natural landscapes make it tempting to stop and explore on your way down the east end of Scenic 30A. alysbeach.com.

Friday, January 12, 2024 Nick's on the Bay Annual Bonfire

Come out to Nick's on the Bay for the Annual Bonfire. Enjoy food, drinks and sunset from one of the best views on the bay. DJ Viper will be kicking off the entertainment followed by The Velcro Pygmies. Don't miss the local's favorite outdoor gathering of the year!

NO cover charge. All ages and pets welcome. Come out for some good ol' fashioned fun with friends. There will be food service inside of the restaurant, an ATM, and a cash bar located on premises. Additional parking will be located west of the restaurant.

Nick's on the Bay is an honest to goodness, family-friendly, fresh seafood dive on the bay west of Freeport in Basin Bayou. It don't get no fresher or better around these parts. Also known as Nicks in the Sticks by locals.

Nick's is located at 7585 Hwy 20, Freeport FL, on the Choctawhatchee Bay!

Thursday, January 18th Bubbly Baytowne

Join us for an evening full of

FREE champagne and shopping during Bubbly Baytowne starting at 5 p.m. Sip and shop throughout The Village of Baytowne Wharf! Stop in various retail stores as you enjoy a selection of premium champagnes. * This event is free and for 21 and up only. The village will be open to the public during this event.

January 19 - March 3 Emerald Coast Theatre Company: The Marvelous Wonderettes

Emerald Coast Theatre Company presents The Marvelous Wonderettes: Caps and Gowns. All ECTC productions will be staged at ECTC's space in Grand Boulevard Town Center, located in Miramar Beach. We're back in 1958, and it's time for the Wonderettes to graduate in this delightful sequel to the smash Off-Broadway hit! Tickets and information can be found at www.emeraldcoasttheatre.org.

January 26th - February 4th Emerald Coast Theatre Company: The Play That Goes Wrong

Emerald Coast Theatre Com-

pany presents The Play That Goes Wrong. This hilarious and unique show will have you laughing for days. All ECTC productions will be staged at ECTC's space in Grand Boulevard Town Center, located in Miramar Beach. Called "the funniest play Broadway has ever seen," this classic murder mystery by award-winning Mischief is chock-full of mishaps and madcap mania! Welcome to the opening night of The Murder at Haversham Manor, where things are quickly going from bad to utterly disastrous. Tickets and information can be found at www.emeraldcoasttheatre.org.

Saturday, January 27th Pink Walk & 5K Benefiting Fore Her

Join us for the Pink Walk & 5K Benefiting Fore Her! Walk or run with your friends and family. Wear your PINK and have fun while raising funds for breast cancer patients currently undergoing treatment and in financial need. Participants will enjoy an after party with music, a photo booth, food, prizes and more! Early Bird 5K Registration will

be through January 15 @ \$50 with free race t-shirt!! Survivors' Stroll: For breast cancer survivors - free entry. The first 200 walkers/runners to sign up will receive a race medal! The 5k will start on Saturday at 8:30 am. Visit: <https://www.foreher.org/pinkwalk5k>.

Saturday, January 27, 2024 Shelter House Palate & Palette Wine Dinner

Shelter House's Annual Palate & Palette Dinner will be held Saturday, January 27, 2024! This pop-up style wine dinner is a unique experience, as Legendary Marine's showroom is transformed into a chic, intimate venue with a metropolitan feel. The evening will begin with a cocktail hour and hors d'oeuvres at 6:00 p.m. with the program and dinner beginning at 7:00 p.m. Attendees will indulge in a five-course seated dinner featuring five of the area's most respected chefs. Each chef will create a dish for their course, complete with signature craft cocktails by Timber Creek Distillery and trendy beats of a featured DJ.



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Guests will have the opportunity to bid on an expansive selection of silent auction items, raise their paddle high to support Shelter House, and the painting created at the event will be auctioned off to the highest bidder in an exciting and competitive live auction.

Tickets are currently at early bird pricing of \$125 per person and can be purchased online at <http://bidpal.net/palate2024>. Ticket pricing will increase to

\$140 per person on Saturday, January 22, 2024.

All proceeds benefit Shelter House, the state-certified domestic and sexual violence center serving both Okaloosa and Walton counties, shelterhousenwfl.org.

**Friday, February 2, 2024
Hard Hats & High Heels**

Habitat Walton County invites you to join them at the an-



nual Hard Hats & High Heels, a women's empowerment luncheon bringing together a cross-section of the Emerald Coast's professional, social, and philanthropic leaders. The Hard Hats & High Heels Luncheon takes

place on Friday, February 2nd at The Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Tickets \$60 at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2024-hard-hats-and-high-heels-luncheon-tickets-739785005867>.

Brought to you by Presenting Sponsor Vacasa and Founding Sponsor The Merchants of Rosemary Beach, this year's event showcases a keynote speaker, a silent auction, games, prizes, an awards presentation, seated

lunch, complimentary cocktail (21+), Wine & Spirits Pull, and more. Take the opportunity to wear your favorite heels!

Driven by the vision that everyone needs a decent place to live, Habitat for Humanity of Walton County, Florida was founded in 1996. To donate, volunteer, get your company involved, or inquire into applying for Habitat homeownership, please visit WaltonCountyHabitat.org.

Green Thumb Garden Club Announces Meetings and Events for the Beginning of the New Year

BY KATHLEEN EDGE,
PUBLICITY CHAIR

Green Thumb Garden Club (GTGC) members are going to be very busy with meetings and events as the organization kicks off 2024.

Wednesday, January 17, 2024, is the first member meeting of the year and the program is Floral Trends of Today. The program will be presented by Russ Barley, owner of Emerald Coast Flowers and Gifts and Mayor of

Freeport, Florida. The meeting will be held at Westwinds Conference Center in Miramar Beach, Florida. Check-in time is 9:30 a.m., and the meeting begins at 10 a.m. Lunch will be served and is included in the meeting registration fee of \$30 (cash or check); \$32 (credit card).

An Arbor Day celebration will be held on Friday, January 19, 2024, at Legion Park, Miramar Beach, Florida. GTGC will plant a Mighty Live Oak, Amer-

ica's National Tree. This tree has been called one of the most impressive in North America and can live to be hundreds of years old. GTGC is dedicating the tree to local resident Donna Johns for her outstanding, long-time service to our country and Walton County, Florida.

February's meeting, to be held on February 21, 2024, will showcase the creative tablescaping skills of GTGC members in a friendly competition.



The February meeting is also at the Westwinds Conference

Center in Miramar Beach, Florida. Details will be shared at the January meeting.

Fundraisers and distribution of the donations will continue in 2024. Please visit the Green Thumb Garden Club website to learn about our charitable mission, how to join and details on meetings, activities, and events. The website address is greenthumbgardenclubinc.org or send an email to greenthumbgardenclubinc@gmail.com.



Music of the
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MUSIC OF THE KNIGHTS

Saturday, Jan. 20, 2024 | 7:30 PM

Destin-FWB Convention Center

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TICKETS: FROM \$30 PER PERSON



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Emerald Coast Theatre Company Opens Registration for 2024 Spring Educational Theatre Programs

Programs Now Available in DeFuniak Springs, Miramar Beach, and Freeport

Emerald Coast Theatre Company's 2024 Spring Educational Theatre programs are so exciting this year! These programs provide creative and engaging classes designed especially for young thespians from preschool to high school, as well as adult classes. ECTC offers classes for Mini Players (K-1st), Little Players (2nd-3rd grade), Big Players (4th-5th grade), teens, and adults. This year, ECTC is offering *SpongeBob the Musical*, Musical Theatre Workshop - Pop & Rock, Jazz and Tap for teens and adults, Controlling Chaos: Intensive Improv Workshop, Actor's Workshop - Audition/Monologue Technique, Beginner and Intermediate Ballet,



ECTC Thespian Troupe, ECTC Jr. Company (9th-12th), and Individual Coaching Sessions for Jr Thespians/Jr Company. The full schedule of class dates and times along with tuition and registra-

tion rates can be found at www.emeraldcoasttheatre.org/youthclasses.

SpongeBob the Musical is sure to be a hit with the kids this year. Plunge into this stunning

all-singing, all-dancing, dynamic stage show! When the citizens of Bikini Bottom discover that a volcano will soon erupt and destroy their humble home, *SpongeBob* and his friends must come together to save the fate of their undersea world!

Spring Youth and Adult Education Classes are held from January 6 - April 27, 2024. Payment plans and Scholarships are available. *Tuition price includes a \$30 non-refundable registration fee. Class locations include ECTC's main space at 560 Grand BLVD, Suite 200 in Miramar Beach, FL as well as Florida Chautauqua Theatre (FCT) at 848 Baldwin Avenue in Defuniak Springs, FL and at

the Hammock Bay Lake Club/Events Space, 4129 County Hwy 83A W in Freeport, FL.

ECTC's 2023-2024 season is made possible with support from Grand Boulevard at Sandestin, St. Joe Community Foundation, Howard Group, and the South Walton Tourist Development Council. Thank you to our Education Program Sponsors - Shoreline Title, Barker Williams, PLLC, Jennifer Crawford's Own At The Beach Team with Keller Williams, Heritage Oak Wealth Advisors

To register for ECTC 2024 Spring Theatre Education classes, visit <https://www.emeraldcoasttheatre.org/youthclasses>.

Nathanael and Anna Fisher of Emerald Coast Theatre Company Win The Florida Theatre Conference 2023 Distinguished Career Award

Emerald Coast Theatre Company (ECTC) is proud to announce that founders Nathanael and Anna Fisher have been awarded The Florida Theatre Conference 2023 Distinguished Career Award in the professional category.

In 1986, the Florida Theatre Conference began recognizing

individuals in the state of Florida who had made a contributing effort in the areas of Community Theatre, Professional Theatre, University/College Theatre, Theatre for Youth, and High School Theatre. Each year the Board solicits names from the general membership for these awards. Over the years,

these awards have been given to persons in the state of Florida who have made a difference in their area.

Nathanael and Anna were honored at this year's Florida Theatre Conference Award Ceremony in Winter Haven Florida at Theatre Winter Haven Mainstage Theatre on November 4,



Marci Duncan presenting the Distinguishing Career Award to Nathanael Fisher at the Florida Theatre Conference with ECTC's Jr Company High School Troupe.

2023.

A special thanks to ECTC's Major Sponsors of the 2023-2024 season: Grand Blvd at

Sandestin, St. Joe Community Foundation, Howard Group and Visit South Walton.

Emerald Coast Theatre Company Presents The Marvelous Wonderettes - Caps and Gowns

Emerald Coast Theatre Company (ECTC) presents *The Marvelous Wonderettes - Caps and Gowns*, January 19 - March 3, 2024. We're back in 1958, and it's time for the Wonderettes to graduate in this delightful sequel to the smash Off-Broadway hit! Join Betty Jean, Cindy Lou, Missy, and Suzy as they sing about their final year in high school, celebrate with their fellow classmates and teachers, and prepare for their next step toward a bright future. Act II zooms ahead to 1968, where the girls perform as bride and bridesmaids to celebrate Missy's marriage to Mr. Lee! Featuring "Rock Around the Clock," "At the Hop," "Danc-

ing in the Street," "River Deep, Mountain High," and 25 more hits, *he Marvelous Wonderettes- Caps & Gowns* will have the audience cheering for more!

he Marvelous Wonderettes - Caps and Gowns will be staged in ECTC's main space located on the second floor of 560 Grand Boulevard in Grand Boulevard Town Center in Miramar Beach. Tickets range from \$30 - \$50 depending on the show time/day. There is an additional processing fee for ticket purchases. Purchase tickets online at www.emeraldcoasttheatre.org. You can now choose your seats when you purchase your tickets.



ON STAGE

JANUARY 19 - MARCH 3

MARVELOUS WONDERETTES

Featuring "Rock Around the Clock," "At the Hop," "River Deep, Mountain High," and 25 more hits, *The Marvelous Wonderettes: Caps & Gowns* will have you bopping down memory lane and "Dancing in the Street!"

ON STAGE

JANUARY 26 - FEBRUARY 4

THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG

Called "the funniest play Broadway has ever seen," this classic murder mystery by award-winning Mischief is chock-full of mishaps and madcap mania! This hilarious and unique show will have you laughing for days.





ECTC

emerald coast theatre company

Tickets or Info, call 850.684.0323 or visit EMERALDCOASTTHEATRE.ORG

What Could Go Wrong?

By ANNA FISHER, ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, ECTC

In 2012, The Mischief Theatre Company dreamed up a worst-case scenario play where absolutely everything that can go wrong, does go wrong. It is the stuff that us theatre-makers have nightmares about, like set malfunctions, missed cues, and actors getting bonked on the head. It first premiered at the Old Red Lion Theatre in London and due to its success eventually moved on to the West End. Coincidentally, film and TV director J.J. Abrams had been filming Star Wars: The Force Awakens in London in 2014 when, on a day off, he popped into a West End theater to see The Play That Goes Wrong and absolutely loved it.

“I just became obsessed with this idea of trying to help in any way that I could if it were ever to move to Broadway,” Abrams said, adding that he soon teamed up with veteran theater producer Kevin McCollum (Rent, Avenue Q) to do just that.

In 2017, The Play That Goes Wrong premiered on Broadway with Abrams making his theatrical debut as director.

From London, to New York, and now Emerald Coast Theatre Company in Miramar Beach, FL, this show is like the “Little Engine That Could.” The humor, the writing, and the over the top scenarios make it such an audience favorite that it has won multiple awards including a Tony and Drama Desk Award. I am thrilled to say that we open what The Times calls a “mas-



terpiece of malfunction” next month in January.

As if that wasn’t exciting enough, we are also opening The Marvelous Wonderettes: Caps and Gowns in January. This is the follow up show to ECTC’s The Marvelous Wonderettes which you may have had the pleasure of seeing in Season 9. The four friends are now at their 1958 high school graduation and beyond, performing all of the favorites like “Rock Around the Clock” and “At The Hop.”

And since it’s kind of cold in January and February, ECTC has a third offering to keep you indoors and entertained. Pulitzer prize winning play Crimes of the Heart opens in February. This darkly comic show is about three eccentric sisters and a murder charge in a small southern town. We are going to make everything go right for The Play That Goes Wrong and these other fabulous winter offerings January through March. I hope you’ll join us for some good stories, warm coffee, and a laugh or two, because the heart of ECTC is you!

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KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, FAIA, CNU

Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk is a founding principal of DPZ CoDesign, and the Malcolm Matheson Distinguished Professor of Architecture at the University of Miami where she directs the Master in Urban Design Program, after 18 years as dean of the School of Architecture.

Plater-Zyberk is a founder of the Congress for the New Urbanism, an organization established in 1993 to promote walkable, resilient urban design. She is co-

author of *Suburban Nation: The Rise of Sprawl and the Decline of the American Dream* and *The New Civic Art: Elements of Town Planning*.

At DPZ, Plater-Zyberk has led and managed projects ranging from individual building design to new community design, community rebuilding, regional plans and zoning codes—including Miami 21, the ground-breaking form-based code for the City of Miami, approved in 2010 and currently in use. Her work with partner Andres Duany has been widely recognized by awards such as the Richard H. Driehaus Prize for Classical Architecture and the APA National Planning Excellence Award for Best Practice for Miami 21.

PRIZE SPEAKER: Bernice Radle is the Executive Director of Preservation Buffalo Niagara, a non profit dedicated to saving and restoring historic properties in Buffalo and Niagara Falls.

Additionally, Bernice founded Buffalove Development in 2012, a full-service real estate firm fo-

cused on reviving vacant and underutilized places and spaces in Buffalo and Niagara Falls.

PRIZE SPEAKER: Allan Branch Allan is a third-generation entrepreneur in Panama City, Florida. He grew up working at his family's car washes. He was inspired by his dad who operated and grew the family business, and his mom who was committed to homeschooling five kids. He attributes that at the heart of what he does is because of everything he learned from his parents. Allan's day job is building software companies. He and his wife have been buying real estate in Historic Downtown Panama City since 2016. He attributes the vitality and success of his businesses to the teams operating them.

PRIZE SPEAKER: Dr. Philip Stoddard has been a professor of biology at Florida International University since 1992 and Mayor of South Miami from 2010-2020. In 2015 Mayor Stoddard was appointed by the White House to the Governance

Coordinating Committee of the National Ocean Council where he developed national policy for sea level rise. Mayor Stoddard was named by Politico Magazine to the Politico-50 "guide to the thinkers, doers and visionaries transforming American politics in 2016" for his frank explana-



tions of sea level rise. Miami New Times named Mayor Stoddard the "Best Politician of 2017". A big proponent of renewable energy, his house and car are powered by the sun.

PRIZE SPEAKER: John D. Simmerman, MS, is a veteran public health and health promotion professional and consultant with over 33 years of experience helping communities create more people-oriented places and a "Culture of Activity" through proven "All Ages & Abilities"

design concepts and evidence-based behavior change initiatives

PRIZE SPEAKER: John Massengale AIA CNU was Seaside Town Architect in 1986 and a Seaside Prize Winner in 2019. With Victor Dover he wrote Street Design, *The Secret to Great Cities and Towns* (Wiley, 2014). He also wrote *New York 1900, Metropolitan Architecture and Urbanism 1890-1914* with Robert A.M. Stern and Gregory Gilmartin (Rizzoli, 1983), and *The Anglo-American Suburb*—a prime sourcebook for the design of Seaside—with Stern in 1981. He is perhaps most famous at Seaside for taking Daryl and Robert Davis's dachshund Guinness back to New York with him. John Massengale will introduce his Street Design co-author Victor Dover. John Massengale and Victor Dover will talk about the upcoming Tenth Anniversary Edition of Street Design, *The Secret to Great Cities and Towns* (Wiley, 2024).



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New Year, New You?



BY STEPHENIE CRAIG

The holidays are over and New Year messages are here. Change yourself. Change your life. Lose weight. Earn more money. Look younger. Do more. Take better trips. Buy better stuff. Eat differently. You and your life aren't enough. Spend money to be a better, more acceptable version of yourself.

While a life-long journey of growth is a healthy pursuit, common New Year messages miss the mark for changing your life. Most messages focus on external adjustments to create a better life. In reality, internal character patterns drive your external behavior. You can drink less, however, if you don't understand the emotional connection between coping and drinking, you are unlikely to sustain change. You can work out and eat differently, but if you

don't address how stress or historical beliefs impact your food/fitness habits, you are unlikely to sustain change.

What if you shifted from setting external behavior goals to setting internal character goals? What if instead of focusing on working out, weight loss, or drinking less, you focused on strengthening determination, self-control, kindness, or curiosity? It's likely that internal character growth will result in greater success in adjusting external habits. If you grow in self-control, you will set different boundaries with alcohol or money. If you grow in kindness, you will respond more kindly in relationships. So, how do you shift from external behav-

ior goals to internal character growth?

7 Ways to Focus on Internal Character Growth

1. Identify your character growth area. Ask yourself: What do I really want to be true in my life and relationships? Then, notice a character trait you need to shift for your desired reality to become true. An example for a parent: When my kids are adults, I want to have a supportive, patient, curious relationship with them that motivates them to want to spend time with me. Character traits to consider addressing to help this desire become a reality: Are you currently patient? Are you currently asking curious questions and lis-

tening? Are you currently communicating support? Choose the area where you need the most growth.

2. Notice patterns and situations related to your growth area. If your growth area is patience, notice when you tend to rush others. Notice when you are short with others. Notice the frequency of the character struggle and the situations in which it occurs.

3. Identify and increase understanding regarding the origin of the character pattern and how it is impacting your current life. Did your family of origin value being kind? When did being kind feel like a problem for you when you were younger? Counseling may be a helpful

tool if you struggle to understand the origins of your character pattern.

4. Determine what you need to know inside to be able to let go of the current character pattern in favor of the character you are trying to grow. To embrace more determination, you may need to know that you can do hard things. To embrace more curiosity, you may need to know you don't have to know everything.

5. Try a new way. Notice when you want to judge others rather than extending kindness. Stop. Breathe. Remember what you are growing toward. Try suspending judgment, then

Continued on page 22

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Wellness



BY DR. RICHARD CHERN M.D.

Intimacy over 50 remains a topic shrouded in unnecessary

Intimacy Over 50: Embracing a Fulfilling Love Life

mystery. As age encroaches, couples often retreat from discussing or embracing their changing sexual health needs. Dr. Richard Chern, MD, situated in the heart of Miramar Beach, Florida, is championing a new narrative – that intimacy and fulfillment are not exclusive to youth, but are vibrant at any age.

Understanding the physical shifts that come with age is paramount to sustaining not

just sexual health but the deeper emotional bonds that thrive on intimacy. Women may grapple with the repercussions of menopause, while men might confront testosterone decline, with both scenarios impacting confidence and the intimate dynamic of a relationship. Recognizing these shifts and addressing them head-on is where Dr. Richard Chern, MD, and his team excel.

Routine lab work is the cornerstone of Dr. Richard Chern's practice, providing crucial insights into hormone levels and overall health, which in turn produces personalized treatment plans. This proactive approach can dispel myths surrounding the inevitability of diminished intimacy with age.

Dr. Richard Chern's clinic offers more than just medical evaluations; it provides a holistic approach to intimacy post-50.

With a compassionate, knowledgeable team, inclusive of Sue Griffin, ARNP, the clinic fosters an environment where sensitive discussions are met with expertise and care. Their dedication to health and vitality is reflected in the clinic's platinum status with BioTE, signaling a premier standard in hormone therapy and patient satisfaction.

An invitation is extended to all ages especially those over 50 in the Miramar Beach area and beyond: embrace the possibility of a rich, fulfilling intimate life with the support of Dr. Richard Chern, MD. It is never too late to address sexual health, to rediscover connection, and to experience the joy and pleasure of closeness. With two decades of military precision and a commitment to education and excellence in hormone therapy, Dr. Richard Chern's clinic stands apart as a

sanctuary for those seeking to reclaim or enhance their intimacy.

The clinic's pledge is to guide each patient through the nuances of aging with grace, care, and the latest in medical advancements. Visiting Dr. Richard Chern, MD, is not just about getting lab work; it's about taking a definitive step towards a rejuvenated intimate life. Here, in the tranquil surrounds of Miramar Beach, the golden years can indeed be golden, filled with health, happiness, and heartfelt connections.

Don't let misconceptions dictate the course of your intimate life. Reach out to Dr. Richard Chern's clinic, where your journey to a vibrant, intimate future is just a phone call away. Schedule your appointment at (850) 837-1271 and open the door to a chapter of life where intimacy continues to flourish, proving that love knows no age.



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NEW YEAR

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asking a curious question truly seeking to understand. See how it feels. Notice the result.

6. Embrace the discomfort that comes with releasing the way you are used to doing things. Remind yourself that it

is okay to feel uncomfortable releasing the past way to create space for more helpful character growth.

7. Repeat to sustain growth. Keep slowing down and trying the new way of being. You are rewiring your brain through repetition and over time, it will become more natural.

As you develop an internal character trait, remember to notice how that change supports other external changes you are hoping to see in your life. Be patient with yourself. Change takes time. Connect with us at Journeybravely.com for support along your journey.

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Medicare: 5 Quick Tips



By CHRISTIAN REGALADO

If this title got your attention, I highly recommend you read each of these tips below. Your medical care coverage is extremely important to understand in order to both save you money and take care of your health. Here are 5 important tips:

Know Your Coverage:

This sounds basic but it can be tricky. This is because Medicare is divided into several parts: Part A covers hospital stays, Part B covers medical services, Part C combines Parts A and B (known as Medicare Advantage), and Part D provides prescription drug coverage. Supplement plans are an alternative to part C for a higher premium. They are widely accepted and will cover many or most of the out-

of-pocket costs when using Parts A and B. If you chose an Advantage Plan, be sure to keep track of the services and treatments covered under your plan to ensure you make the most of your benefits. This is easy to do you just may need to learn how. We are here to help.

Know Your Costs:

Medicare Part A has no premium. The part B premium just increased to \$174.70 for 2024. If you buy a supplement plan, you pay an extra premium to know that when you need coverage you will have many options for care and low out-of-pocket expenses. However, you are paying a guaranteed \$1k-\$3K extra each year in premiums for this peace of mind. You will also need to add a Prescription Drug Plan, which is an additional premium.

Those who choose an Advantage plan may have low premiums but need to understand their deductibles, copayments, coinsurance, and of course max out-of-pocket expenses. One big change that happened for Advantage Plans starting in 2024 is the introduction of Part B Giveback. Many HMO and PPO plans have become available that will give back a portion of the Part B premium. This can result in some significant savings. These were very popular during AEP.

We actually have some great options here in the Panhandle. If you missed this opportunity to change Advantage plans during AEP you still have one more chance until the end of March to make a one-time adjustment. Be sure to contact us for more details on any of this information.

Know Your Network:

I honestly can't emphasize this part enough. Don't be fooled into switching plans without first reviewing the network of care providers. Knowing which doctors, specialists, hospitals, and pharmacies are in-network can significantly impact your out-of-pocket expenses, as well as how often you will use their services. If you decide to change plans, be sure you are comfortable with the network of providers that will be covered under your new plan.

Know the Benefits:

Each Medicare plan offers different benefits beyond basic coverage. Some plans (Medicare Advantage) include additional perks like dental, vision, hearing, fitness programs, and even transportation services. Understanding these extra benefits can significantly enhance your overall healthcare experience. For instance: Part B Giveback, OTC Allowance, and access to specific wellness programs or health ser-

VICES tailored to the community are all extra perks worth knowing about. Take advantage of these offerings to optimize your Medicare plan.

Know Your Local Independent Broker:

This is honestly very important. A knowledgeable independent broker can provide personalized guidance, answer your questions, and help you explore various Medicare options available specifically to the area. We understand the local healthcare landscape and can assist in finding a plan that aligns with your unique needs and preferences. Whenever you have a question about your coverage you know exactly who to call and don't have to worry about some random operator giving you biased or inaccurate information. We are not bound to any specific

carrier and can therefore educate you on most/if not all of your options. Plus, this service is at no cost.

I hope you learned something here, but I'm sure you still have plenty of questions. Not to worry, we are just a phone call or email away to help. Reach out anytime! Email Christian@evergreenhealthins.com or call (850) 687 7606.

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A Pastor's Ponderings: Where Does Our Peace Come From?



BY PASTOR DAVID HOLLAND

The world broils with conflict. Can you imagine living in Israel with rockets lobbed into your neighborhood at random times? Or, in Gaza, where the country is being reduced to rock and rubble? Or in Ukraine, where soldiers rot entrenched in freezing fox holes. They fight a war nobody wants, but a lone madman in Moscow. Where does peace come from?

Yes, chaos reigns in the world.

Twenty-two veterans a day commit suicide. Three of the leading causes of death among teenagers are accidents, homicide and suicide. The United States records close to 700,000 divorces per year. Bad news abounds, but good news is on the way.

Christians have downloaded the free Bible App, YouVersion, over a billion times as they seek to learn more from the Word of God. What are these billion people looking for? In three of the last four years, the most common search on this app is not for scriptures relating to success, prosperity or healing. The most common search is "Fear not, for I am with thee."

People are searching for peace, the antidote to fear. They are fearful about their future, finances and families. But we do not find peace in financial security, nor is it found in political consensus. We find peace in a person, and his name is Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Jesus said in John 14:27 (NIV), "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." Peace is a gift Christ wants to give. He wants to give it to us far more than we will ask for it. You have not because you

ask not.

The Lord's presence conveys peace to us. According to Isaiah 43:5 (NIV) God says, "Fear not, for I am with you." Fear has no foundation. We have no reason to fear because God is with us. He is with us in Destin. God is with people in Israel, Ukraine, Syria, and Gaza. He is for us and not against us. The sunlight of His favor is shining on us if we will open our eyes to see it.

I remember my ex-wife once saying I dressed like a Sear's mannequin. That is bland and blasé, lacking style. As a pastor, I felt I needed to dress in a neat but non-controversial manner. One of the church members once referred to me as "Robo-pastor" because, no matter what happened, I kept going about my duties. I prided myself on not reacting to circumstances emotionally. Clearly, I needed God's work in my heart.

Following my divorce in 2005, I remember seeing my future, dying alone and uncared for. The thought terrified me and left me depressed. When I attended worship, I would weep uncontrollably. It was embarrassing. Long suppressed emotions were boiling over. My life and my peace



were shattered. As I left a church in San Antonio, unable to control my feelings, the Lord whispered into my heart, "You are angry with Me. You thought your life, family and future

were secure, but you trusted the wrong things. Will you trust Me now?"

I turned away from my anger and self-justification. God's presence in my heart was restored. My peace came from the Lord.

God's presence guarantees His peace. The remedy to fear and insecurity rests in faith in God's faithfulness. Healing for broken emotions flows in God's presence. Will you invite God into your life in 2024? Turning to the Lord is our barrier to depression, worry and anxiety. Allow peace to flow into your heart.

This article is an excerpt from Dave Holland's devotional, "Christmas Jesus." Start your new year in the word of God with Dave Holland and his daily devotional, "Every Day Jesus." This devotional-Bible study is based on the Gospel of Luke. You can get a copy of his books from the website, DaveHolland.org or at Amazon.com. Pastor Dave is available to preach and teach at churches and conferences..

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Saving Money on Your Energy Bill: How FPL is Warming Hearts and Homes This Winter



about what I do for work, they would say ‘Daddy helps people,’” he said with a smile.

Despite his hectic schedule at work and home, Booth always manages to find the time to give back to the community that raised him. For the last decade, Booth has represented FPL as a volunteer for the United Way of West Florida.

“I’m blessed to work for a company that encourages us to volunteer where we live,” said Booth.

Year-round, he helps plan the organization's biggest community-wide initiative, “Day of Caring,” taking place in October. From painting murals on elementary school walls to cooking meals for the homeless, countless lives have been touched through volunteer events, financial resources, and essential aid offered by the United Way and partnering companies.

“People can be emotional, thanking us for our work in the community,” said United Way’s



Community Impact Coordinator, Julia Helton. “Last year, [Booth] brought together more than 40 FPL volunteers.”

As the chill of winter descends upon Northwest Florida, the need for resources and energy-saving guidance intensifies.

“This time of year, we put the focus on being a light and helping others in need,” said Booth. “We all know the saying ‘It’s better to give than to receive... and I believe that to be true.’”

Whether he’s volunteering through United Way, his church

or helping FPL customers save money on their electricity bills, Booth has a genuine heart for serving others no matter the season. From his early days as an energy solutions specialist to now spearheading a team of energy experts as the northwest regional manager, Booth has built trust in his hometown.

As cold weather sets in, Booth offers practical advice on ways to stay warm while keeping your bill low when the thermometer dips in the winter:

1. Adjust thermostat settings:

For every degree you lower your thermostat during colder weather, you’ll save about 3-5 percent on your monthly heating costs. Heat your home at 68° or cooler with the thermostat fan switch on "auto." To save even more, lower your thermostat to 65° or cooler when you're away from home for more than a few hours.

2. Safely use space heaters rather than heating your entire home

The cost to run a central heating system with only electric heat (not a heat pump) can add up to \$1.50 or more per hour to heat your home. Rather than heating the entire house, use an electric blanket or a single space heater. Keep in mind the average space heater costs about 25 cents per hour to heat the space, so turn it off and unplug when not in the room.

3. Get personalized tips from FPL’s Energy Manager

FPL’s Energy Manager automatically breaks down and itemizes the actual cost and use of energy throughout your home, with personalized tips on how to save on your bill.

For more information on ways to save visit <https://www.fpl.com/save/lower-my-bill.html>.



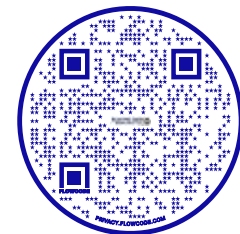
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Musing

Sean of the South: A New Year



BY SEAN DIETRICH

Long ago, my college professor told us to choose a poem to recite in class. Students chose lofty selections from the greats. Whitman, Dickinson, Frost. I consulted Daddy's Hank Williams songbook.

10:40 P.M.—New Year's Eve. Hank Williams is on my radio. My wife is sleeping in the passenger seat. My coonhound is in the backseat. To bring in the year, we've gone for a drive on county roads that weave along the Choctawhatchee Bay. There

are no cars out. The highway is vacant—except for police cruisers. I've never welcomed in a year like this. As a boy, my father and I brought in holidays with shotguns. We'd march to the edge of creation and fire twelve gauges at the moon. Then, I'd sip Coca-Cola; he'd sip something clear. Another year goes by without him.



riding through the North Florida woods, sipping Coke. Trees grow so high you can't see the moon. It's almost like poetry. Long ago, my college professor told us to choose a poem to recite in class. Students chose lofty selections from the greats. Whitman,

Dickinson, Frost. I consulted Daddy's Hank Williams songbook. He'd given it to me before he died. He'd wanted to be a guitar player once upon a time, but he was god-awful. He gave the instrument to me. I recited, "I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry," and made a D. I wasn't doing it for the teacher.
11:02 P.M.—my tank is on E. I stop at a gas station. The pump card-reader is broken. My wife is still out cold. I go inside to pay. The clerk is a young girl with purple hair. She wanted to be with her kids tonight, but someone called in with a sinus infection. I buy a Coca-Cola in a plastic bottle. I also buy a scratch-off lotto ticket. The last few minutes of the year, I'm feeling lucky. I use my keys to scratch the ticket. I win five bucks. So, I buy another two. I win another dollar. "Lucky you," the cashier says. "Wish I could buy one, but it's against store policy." To hell with policy. It's New Year's Eve. I buy her one. She swipes a coin from the take-a-penny tray. She scratches. She wins ten bucks. We high-five. It's only ten bucks, but seeing her win makes my year.

11:40 P.M.—my Coke is almost empty. I'm parked on the edge of the bay to watch fireworks. My coonhound is looking at me with red eyes. And I'm writing you, just like I do every day. Listen, I don't remember how I started writing, or why. I have nothing valuable to say, I don't know any big words, and I'm as plain as they come. But I won't lie to you, it has been precious to me. And so have you. These are my last words of the old year, my first words of the new: I love you. Happy New Year.

11:28 P.M.—I'm driving. My wife is still sawing pinelogs. I'm



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Stepping Into the Shark Tank



BY KIRK MCCARLEY

Reflecting on the year just past, how good a year did I have professionally? Did I get that promotion I had expected? Have I landed a new employment opportunity? Do I still find my work engaging? What achievements are there of which I am especially proud? Did my territories enlarge through making new connections or strengthening current ones?

For some, the accomplishments were more of the “tread water” or pedestrian variety. I escaped the reduction in force. We finally completed that five-year project! The City Commission approved our development plan following months of negotiation. I am pleasantly surprised to have received any kind of bonus.

Those of us operating our own small businesses and enterprises may wrestle with more “hand-to-mouth” considerations. Did I meet my debts and obligations? Are my receivables manageable? Am I still in alignment with my fundamental values, vision, and mission? If not, do I need to recalibrate or shift focus because of changing conditions? Am I working my business or is my business working me?

For all of us who work “outside the home” what is my level of contentment and satisfaction on a one to 10 scale?

My wife and I, both small business owners, can relate to the entrepreneurs who make their pitches on “The Shark Tank.” Facing successful businesspeople such as Mark Cuban, Kevin O’Leary, Daymond John, and Lori Greiner, enterprisers often boldly introduce their pursuits in the hope of securing a capital investor among the panelists. More importantly, they seek the legitimacy that comes from partnering with a “known” shark.

Following what is typically a clever and creative presentation, the business owner or owners are asked fairly high-level fundamental questions. How long have you been in business? What was your motivation for embarking upon this pursuit? What has been your revenue since inception? How much have you brought in year to date? Who or what is your target market?

From there the questioning becomes more pointed. What are your operating margins? What is your cost of labor? Who supplies your materials? How are you impacted by supply chain? What do you see as your greatest risk?

The sharks begin evaluating the efficacy of partnering with the business and the sensibility of not only personal portfolio alignment but based on what’s been learned, whether the enterprise merits investment under the requested terms or something counteroffered.

In viewing episodes, I find myself curious. How I might fare as an entrepreneur under the so-called “spotlight?” I readily conclude that I’m not at all interested in participating in an appearance on the shark tank, however, I find that exercise of curiosity and imagination helpful.

1. What might I be doing to better scale?
2. Is my time utilization as productive as it could be: are there areas that might or should be contracted out, or discontinued altogether?
3. What is the return on marketing and advertising?
4. Are there opportunities for taking advantage of AI? Might this very blog be just as well-crafted through ChatGPT (probably better), or formatted differently?
5. Is there a succession plan in place for when it’s time to “hang it up?”
6. Do I need to do a better job of outreach (yes) and seeking different resources for connecting?

And finally, for those who don’t operate their own businesses, how might these same considerations apply to what it is that you do professionally?

Aside from swimming in the shark tank, might these be a pretty good list of questions to begin with right now, in preparation for 2024 and the usual resolutions that will come about then?

As we gear ourselves up for a new year, I pray that the one just past has been a rousing success. That you had the opportunity to make someone else’s

life better. That you’ve been an agent of bringing about peace and spreading goodwill and greater understanding among all, but especially those who look or think differently than you.

And finally, that you build upon that momentum and experience prosperity in this new year.

A graduate of the University of

North Texas, Kirk McCarley is a Certified Professional Coach as well as a Professional in Human Resources (PHR) and SHRM-CP Certified. He also is a Production Assistant for both college football and basketball for ESPN and leads group cycling classes as a Certified Spinning instructor. Contact kirk@theseedsowercoach.com, theseedsowercoach.com, or call 314-677-8779.



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Dining

Welcome Home to Teddy's Spaghetti and Pizza



BY PAUL BONNETTE

The oven-fired scent of fresh baked pizza wafts through the air as friendly folks greet you eagerly as if they had been waiting for you to arrive. It's tough to write a "Restaurant Review" about a place that is less like a restaurant and more like being welcomed into someone's home as they unveil and try out dish after dish of Italian cuisine for you to enjoy. That being said, welcome to the "Home" review of Teddy Spaghetti and Pizza.

From the moment I sat down

to look over the menu, I noticed a pattern. Hungry, but happy patrons, most of whom walked through the door for takeout, came in not only to pick up their meal, but to let the owners know how much they loved the food. Orders were being delivered all the way to Chipley and Youngstown some thirty miles away, clearly demonstrating that the pizza I was about to try was something special (and it truly was). Teddy's Spaghetti and Pizza offers something that the myriad of other Italian res-

taurants do not. Weird & Wacky. Yes, you read that correctly. Are you in the mood for Dill Pickle Pizza? How about Taco Pizza or Spaghetti Pizza? Oh, how I wish that I could tell you that I am adventurous when it comes to dining, however this is far from the truth. I stuck with my tried-and-true pepperoni (and added grilled chicken to be slightly more adventurous) and it was glorious. The spaghetti dinner that my wife ordered was also impressively delicious complete with salad and garlic bread. For those who have a few more mouths to feed, they offer family feasts that include 1/2 gallon pasta, salad, sub, garlic bread and soda. For dessert, we could not resist trying the monthly

special which happened to be Bananas Foster. Their specials change month by month which means I will be frequenting this establishment regularly to try their newest creations.

Teddy's Spaghetti and Pizza is the type of restaurant that you stroll into after a long day to enjoy a delectable Italian meal that the entire family will enjoy, which is exactly what owners Ted and Julie Nitz were going for. Five years ago, Ted and Julie Nitz created Teddy's Spaghetti because they wanted a local favorite pasta restaurant just like they enjoyed with their family back in the Midwest. The opportunity to make that dream a reality appeared when the owner of Marcus' Gulf Pizza decided

to enjoy a well-deserved retirement, allowing Ted and Julie to open their restaurant while still maintaining that forty-year-old famous crunchy Pizza dough. To create the perfect Pasta sauce, Ted and Julie hosted a taste testing event at their home trying out six different sauces just to make sure they chose the best one. Even now, as they are constantly trying out new recipes and unveiling new specials, it's hard not to notice the indelible feeling of being welcomed home to try out some of these new dishes.

When they are not cooking up a storm as my mother used to say, Ted and Julie have been focused on giving back to the community by volunteering at Lucky Puppy Rescue and sponsoring the Arnold High School Marching Band. If you ask Ted however, it's all just part of the mission. "When we came back, this is one of the ways we decided we were going to set some roots. We love this town, and we are happy to just add a different dynamic and serve this town."

Whether you are in the mood for weird and wacky or a pasta combo to feed every member of your crew, Teddy's Spaghetti and Pizza has it all. They are located at 7010 Thomas Drive on Panama City Beach and open from 4 p.m. - 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Enjoy!

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Hatfield Bacon & Broccoli Salad

BY SUSAN BENTON, 30AEATS.COM

Bacon is one of my all-time favorite foods. While many only consider it a breakfast food, I think that the taste and versatility make it the ultimate addition to almost any meal.

This simple, classic Broccoli & Bacon Salad recipe serves as an easy side dish for any party or potluck. Made with Hatfield bacon, cranberries, sunflower seeds, cheddar cheese and a homemade dressing, this is one of my favorite side dishes and it can be prepped in under fifteen minutes!

I have been using Hatfield products for a long time now because I really like the fact they believe in delivering high-quality food to their customers. Hatfield is family-owned, American-made, and committed to sustaining American family farms. Hatfield Pork is Pork With a Pledge, which means it is ethically raised, no hormones or steroids added. I pick up my Hat-



field Bacon from my Publix, but it's available at various retailers. Click here to see which retailer in your area carries their products.

Broccoli & Bacon Salad is perfect for serving alongside Thanksgiving dinner (or any holiday meal) and is an easy and refreshing side dish for outdoor parties and pot lucks. I guarantee you that at least one person is going to ask for the recipe, wherever you bring it.

While this easy broccoli salad can be served right away, I prefer to let it sit in the refrigerator for a few hours to let all of the flavors marry together. Broccoli salad can be prepared up to 3 days in advance of serving.

HATFIELD BACON & BROCCOLI SALAD

Ingredients

5-6 cups broccoli florets (about 1 lb)

1 cup sharp cheddar cheese thicker, not finely shredded

2/3 cup dried cranberries

1/2 cup crumbled Hatfield bacon

1/2 cup salted sunflower seeds

1/3 cup red onion diced into small pieces

Dressing

3/4 cup mayo or olive oil mayo



1/4 cup sour cream

1 1/2 Tablespoons white wine or apple cider vinegar

3 Tablespoons sugar or 1 packet of Stevia

1/4 teaspoon salt

1/4 teaspoon pepper

Instructions

Combine broccoli florets, cheddar cheese, dried cranberries, bacon, sunflower seeds, and onion in a large bowl.

In a separate, small bowl, whisk together mayo, sour cream, vinegar, sugar, salt, and pepper until smooth and well-combined.

Pour dressing over broccoli combination and toss or stir well.

Broccoli salad may be served immediately, but for best flavor refrigerate for at least one hour before serving. Make sure to toss broccoli salad thoroughly again before serving.

Keep refrigerated if not consuming right away.

Follow these hashtags to other great Hatfield recipes: #HatfieldxPublix #BringHomeHatfieldBacon #BetterWithBacon

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Music

Café Thirty-A Raises Record-Breaking \$64,000 for Caring and Sharing of South Walton

Café Thirty-A's Annual Christmas Charity Ball, presented by honorary sponsors All Access Coach Leasing and Mercantile, was held on Saturday, December 2, 2023 and raised a record-breaking \$64,000 for Caring and Sharing of South Walton, an organization that provides food and financial assistance to area families and individuals in need.

This was the first charity ball held since longtime owner, Harriet Crommelin, passed away in early 2023. In honor of her memory, Café Thirty-A would like to thank Mercantile and All Access Coach Leasing for supporting this year's event as the two Harriet Crommelin Honorary Sponsors.

Through ticket sales, sponsorship, donations, and funds raised from the silent auction, the annual event raised a record-breaking grand total of \$64,000 for Caring and Sharing of South



Walton. The money raised will be used to provide local families with access to food, financial assistance, case management, and connection to other resources.

"The \$64,000 raised will help us continue providing necessary resources to Walton County families," said Carly Barnes, executive director of Caring and Sharing of South Walton. "Thanks to the support of Café Thirty-A, the event sponsors, and the attendees, the event continues to get better and better. We are so thankful for the continued support!"

Live Music 2024

Stinky's Fish Camp Swamp Writer Music Festival Jan. 11-14

The 14th annual Swamp Writers Festival will take place January 11 - 14, 2024. Featuring local and regional favorites, the music festival extends over four days with performances by more than a dozen musicians taking the stage at the famed Bait Shack on 30A. Follow Stinky's Bait Shack on Facebook for a complete list of musicians/times. No tickets & no cover!

30a Songwriters Festival Jan. 12-15

The 15th annual 30a Songwriters Festival is set for January 12 - 15, 2024. The festival, held in venues along Scenic Highway 30A in Florida's South Walton County, is the perfect mix of cool beach weather and red-hot music on MLK holiday weekend each year. More than 175 artists perform in this truly wonderful weekend of music. Artists will perform multitudes of live performances in intimate venues and large amphitheaters throughout South Walton. For more information on the 30A

Songwriters Festival, including announcements of artists, venues, and ticket information, visit www.30asongwritersfestival.com.

Still Standing A Tribute to Elton John @ Old Florida Fish House Jan. 27

Still Standing carries on the legacy and amazing music of the iconic Sir Elton John. Close your eyes and you will swear you are listening to Elton in person, as the amazing Ben Frey looks, sounds and performs his incredible music catalog to perfection! Show starts at 7 p.m. The Dinner Package is \$69 which includes dinner starting at 5 p.m. View the dinner menu and purchase tickets at <https://oldfloridafishhouse.ticketspice.com/a-tribute-to-elton-john>.

Old Florida Fish House Weekdays

Old Florida Fish House has proudly featured local live music for over a decade. Catch artists playing inside the coveted bar and lounge area as well as in the large outdoor dining space situated among the palm and oak trees under the twinkling lights next to Eastern Lake. Catch Alex Napier and Michael David live

throughout the week. 33 Heron's Watch Way, Seagrove Beach.

FOOW Sunday Brunch & Live Music

Sunday Brunch at FOOW – Fish Out of Water in Water-Color – means live music and bottomless mimosas. The Gulf front restaurant invites you to dine on brunch favorites Sundays from 8 a.m.- 2 p.m. paired with live music from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. FOOW also features live music every Friday 6-9 p.m. 34 Goldenrod Circle, Santa Rosa Beach.

The Bay

Come out to The Bay with family and friends every Wednesday night starting at 5 p.m. for dinner, cold drinks and a bonfire with various musicians on the beach of the Choctawhatchee Bay. It's a midweek tradition in South Walton. Jan. 10th: The New Cahoots, Jan. 17th: Dikki Du and The Zydeco Krewe, Jan. 24th: Tanner Gray, Jan. 31st: Sugarcane Jane. Sunday Pickin' @ The Bay features The Sand Ole' Opry with Mike Whitty & Friends on stage from 4-8 p.m. 2415 South Hwy 331, Santa Rosa Beach.

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Americana Concerts Back at the Lodge

Presented by the Friends of Camp Helen and Visit Panama City Beach, Americana Concerts in the Lodge at Camp Helen State Park are back for another year of wonderful music every other Saturday from January 6 through March 3.

The ticket link and event info will be posted on the website and the Friends of Camp Helen Facebook page and will be available for purchase starting Friday, December 15. The \$15 ticket price includes a general admission seat, plus complimentary food, and beverages.

There will be limited seats available for each show so they will book quickly and only two reservations per email are allowed. NO exceptions will be made.

The series kicked off on January 6 with Sam Robbins. This New Hampshire native and current Nashville resident is a rare soul whose music has depth and



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integrity. Smooth-faced with a voice to match his original songs are now, in the present but evolved from so much rich musical history!

Coming on January 20, the

FOCH will welcome Bradford Loomis to the Lodge. This is a giant of a man with the soul to match. His beautiful voice floats through his original music like the ethereal ghosts of past melo-

dies! His music is larger than life!

On February 3, Flagship Romance makes their debut. Shawn Fisher and Jordyn Jackson are a sweet duo with big voices and powerful harmonies. Based in Louisville, Kentucky they are always a great show!

Tom Kimmel, a poet and one of the finest human beings on the planet will perform on February 17. His songs have been covered by Joe Cocker, Johnny Cash, Waylon Jennings and Linda Ronstadt, to name just a few stellar

performers! He is a rare find in the music world today!

Wyatt Espalin closes the series on March 2. There is no finer performer, musician and songwriter performing in the country today.... and he clogs.... and plays the fiddle. He is a one-man dynamo. He is a crowd favorite!

Camp Helen State Park is located at 23937 Panama City Beach Parkway (Highway 98), Panama City Beach, just west of the Lake Powell Bridge.

Walton County Resident Nominated For A Grammy Award

The nominations have been announced for the 66th Grammy Awards. Donnie Sundal, a Walton County resident who contributed to Sam Bush's album, Radio John: Songs of John Hartford, nominated for Best Bluegrass Album – is recognized for dual roles; Recording Engineer and Tenor Background Vocals on the song "In Tall Buildings."

Donnie is the owner of Neptone Recording Studio in Miramar Beach and a seasoned professional musician. On a whim to help a friend on vacation, Donnie brought enough recording gear to turn a vacation rental of Sam Bush's into a mobile recording studio. "Once I started cutting the songs with Donnie digitally it was like, 'Oh, now this is recording studio quality here.' I was originally only meaning to make tapes of these John Hartford songs to show the guys in the Sam Bush Band and then



Sam Bush with Donnie Sundal

maybe we'd record them," says Sam Bush in an interview with thebluegrassituation.com.

Radio John is a tribute to

Sam's great friend and mentor, John Hartford. Sam plays every instrument on the album except the full band finale and sole original tune, "Radio John."

Donnie, his family and his band Boukou Groove will be cheering Sam Bush on in hopes he will win his fourth Grammy Award with more than a dozen lifetime nominations. "We love Sam Bush and are inspired by his career and commitment to his craft. It's an honor to be a part of the album and his friend," says Donnie.

The Grammy Awards will return to Los Angeles' Crypto.com Arena on Sunday, Feb. 4, 2024, with the show airing live on the CBS Television Network and streaming on Paramount+ at 8 p.m. ET / 5

p.m. PT.

You can learn more about Donnie Sundal on his websites at www.neptonerecording.com and <https://www.boukougroove.com/>.

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Virtuoso Voices Scholarship Fundraiser

The Choctaw Bay Music Club of Niceville is excited to invite you to the Virtuoso Voices 20th Annual Scholarship Fundraiser Brunch on Saturday, February 24th at Crosspoint United Methodist Church, 214 Partin Dr. South, Niceville, FL in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 11:30 a.m.

Virtuoso Voices Scholarship Fundraiser along with the Jan Miller Studio Artists of the Pensacola Opera will present an engaging theatrical show by their talented artists in residency with professional singing and acting for most all ages to enjoy. The money raised is for the worthy cause of supporting our upcoming musically talented youth in their endeavors to develop into fine musicians for generations to

come.

Some people remember this event as the "Opera Brunch." This year, the club decided to change the fundraiser's name to better reflect the presentation. Virtuoso Voices is fun-filled with attention-grabbing singing, drama, laughter, live music, comedy, and emotion, to lift your heart and spirit. The artists in residence share the storyline behind each song to actively engage the listener before they perform. Last year, \$10,500 was awarded to deserving students for college, high school senior awards, and summer music camp scholarships.

This year's theme centers



Voices for an exceptional experience of theatre, singing, food, and fun that's designed for all ages to enjoy as we support our local young aspiring musicians.

Tickets are \$40 for adults and \$25 for students and may be reserved/

around the show "Die Fledermaus" by Johann Strauss which combines light-hearted comedy with bright and beautifully precise musical motifs, producing a performance that is a joy to watch. Excerpts from this show and others will be performed.

A fun raffle will be held during the first part of the event and winners will be announced/pre-

sented towards the end. Local businesses and private donors contribute a variety of raffle items such as gift cards, wine, fine chocolates, artwork, interior decor, personal services, and event tickets. Raffle tickets are (1 for \$1, 7 for \$5, 15 for \$10) and will be for sale (cash or personal check) during the luncheon.

Please join us at Virtuoso

purchased by calling or texting Karen or Phillip LeGrand at 850.527.4200 or 850.855.0068. Tickets may also be purchased online at EventBrite at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/virtuosovoices-scholarship-fundraiser-tickets-779544186647>. For more information, visit the club's website under the events tab at www.ChoctawBayMusicClub.org

Embrace Musical Theatre

Attending musical theatre can offer a wide range of benefits for all ages, embracing both entertainment and personal development. Here are some key advantages:

Cultural Enrichment: Musical theatre often explores diverse themes, cultures, and historical periods, providing

audiences with a broader understanding of the world. This includes music, dance, and storytelling.

Artistic Appreciation: Attending musicals or operas allows individuals to appreciate various art forms, including acting, singing, dancing, set design, and costume creation.

Emotional Connection: Musical theatre has the power to evoke strong emotions. Whether it's through a heartfelt ballad, a comedic number, or a dramatic scene.

Entertainment and Escapism: Live performances offer a unique and immersive experience, allowing the audience to escape from everyday life and be transported into the world of the story.

Social Experience: Going to musicals is often a social activity, providing an opportunity to share the experience with friends, family, or fellow theatre enthusiasts. Discussing the per-

formance afterward can enhance the enjoyment and create lasting memories.

Educational Value: Musical theatre can be an educational tool, especially for younger audiences. It introduces them to various art forms and can stimulate interest in history, literature, and different cultures.

Supporting the Arts: Attending musical theatre helps support the performing arts industry. Your attendance contributes to the success of the production, encourages the growth of the arts community, and supports the livelihoods of performers, directors, designers, and

other professionals.

Live Performance Experience: Unlike recorded entertainment, musical theatre is a live performance, and each show is a unique experience.

Stress Relief: The combination of music, storytelling, and visual spectacle can provide a welcome break from the pressures of daily life, offering a chance to unwind and recharge.

Overall, attending musical theatre can be a multifaceted and rewarding experience for both children and adults, providing entertainment, cultural exposure, and personal enrichment.

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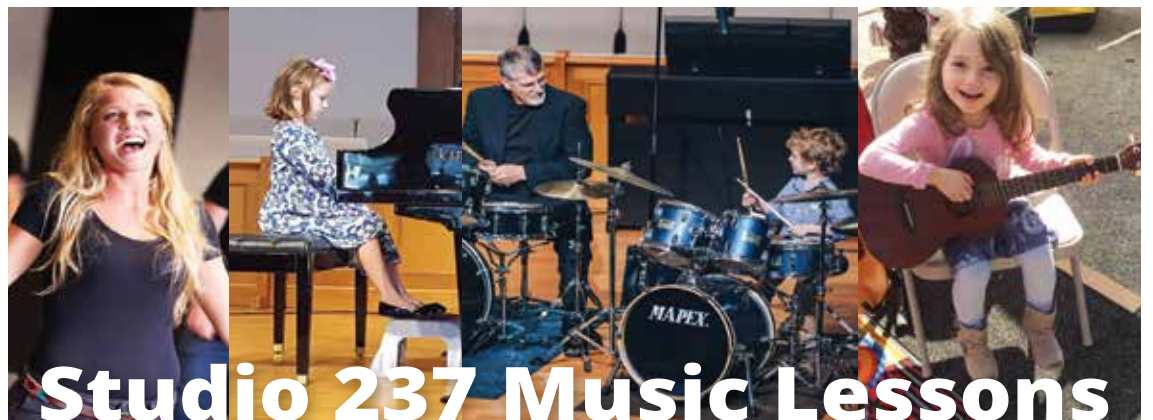
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Legacy Fund Award to Walton County Master Gardeners

BY MARGARET ZONIA MORRISON

On November 21st, it was announced that Walton County Master Gardeners have been awarded \$1,000.00 as a Legacy Award for the Landscaping Project at the Coastal Branch Office, located at 70 Logan Lane, in Grayton Beach, Florida. The Master Gardener Program operates under the auspices of the University of Florida as this state's land grant univer-

Master Gardeners is a major accomplishment. Walton County has not received such an award in the past, and was one of only two counties in the entire State so awarded this year. The project removed all previously overgrown and unkempt vegetation, consisting largely of palmettos, with the help of many volunteers, including assistance and equipment offered by Regional Utilities and the County Department of Public Works. The

in the Spring issue of the State Master Gardener Volunteer Newsletter, distributed through the University of Florida to all Master Gardener groups in Florida. Walton County has every reason to be proud of this

award. The public is invited to view the landscaping at 70 Logan Lane and to be on notice that future opportunities for lectures on Florida Friendly Landscaping will be offered. An open house at 70 Logan Lane is

set for Monday, February 12, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to noon, and the public is invited. For more information, please check the Walton County Master Gardener website, at waltonmg@ifas.ufl.edu



sity. Volunteers must commit to 8 weeks of intensive training in all horticulture, emphasizing the bio-diversity of Florida. There are many services available at no cost to the general public for assistance in landscaping, plant questions, and plant identification available through this organization at its offices in both DeFuniak Springs and at the Logan Lane facility. Plant Help Desks are open to the public from Monday through Friday at DeFuniak Springs Extension Office from 9 a.m. to noon, and every Monday at the Logan Lane Facility from 9 a.m. to noon.

The announcement granting this award to Walton County

Master Gardeners who worked closely on both design and execution of this project were Andrea Schnapp as Chair, Carol Tyler, Margaret Zonia Morrison, and Bill Kuenstler as committee members.

The Legacy Fund has been part of the University of Florida's program for Master Gardeners for over 40 years. It recognizes outstanding efforts to share the mission of education within the communities where they work. The Coastal Branch Landscaping Project, using only Florida Friendly Landscaping plants and methods, will continue to inspire those curious about this type of gardening. This project will also be featured



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Resolutions



By CHRIS BALZER, ECES

Welcome a new year! A recent survey of 531 U.S. adults showed the top resolutions are exercise more, eat healthier, and save money. A look back 20 years, CNN's poll showed the top resolutions were: get out of debt, lose weight and develop a healthy habit (quit smoking). It's not surprising that the top resolutions are similar year after year, because they all have great

intentions and actually go hand and hand. Let's look at eating healthier and exercising. Eating healthy can mean cooking more at home, which saves money. Eating healthy also could cause fewer medications or doctor visits, which saves money. The same with exercising, developing a good exercise plan will make you healthier and could cause fewer medications or doctor visits, thereby saving you money. My grandmother once said, it's better to spend money at the grocery store on healthy foods than for doctor's visits.

Another way to save money which is always on the top of my mind, and typically not on most, is to increase efficiency and tighten the envelope of our homes. Tightening the envelope is not a phrase from Tom Wolfe's novel "The Right Stuff," but a term used to describe a system.



The Building envelope is the physical barrier between the exterior and interior environments enclosing a structure (your home). Generally, the building envelope consists of a series of components and systems such as a roof, walls, windows and a foundation. These systems protect the interior from the effects of the environment like precipitation, wind, temperature, humidity and ultraviolet radiation. One function of the building envelope is to control these effects between the interior and exterior of the building. When there is missing or compacted

and comfort.

If your home is older than 15 years, you most likely don't have enough insulation to meet today's guidelines. Prior insulation code for this area was R-19 (roughly 6.5" of insulation), now the new code is R-30 (roughly 10.5" of insulation). That's a 61% increase. Why the increase? Because we know that R-19 insulation has trouble keeping our homes comfortable and the only solution was to add more insulation. We recommend R-38 (14.5" of insulation). More states are requiring the use of reflective radiant bar-

rier insulation installed on the inside of the attic roof line. Reflective radiant barriers reflect 97% of radiant heat in your attic, lowering the attic temperature by 40 to 50 degrees in the summer, allowing your insulation and ductwork to perform better, saving you money and increasing your comfort. It's all about tightening the envelope to increase efficiency and comfort. If one of your resolutions is to save money this year, schedule an inspection to know exactly where your home could improve its envelope.

May success knock on your door, all your joys multiply and you and your loved ones stay healthy. Happy 2024!

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Homeowners' Association and Property Insurance



By JULIE A. MARTIN

When you live in a community governed by a Homeowners Association (HOA), you might feel like your options for homeowner's insurance are limited. However, working with an independent insurance agent can help you find the right coverage that meets both your needs and the requirements of your HOA.

For instance, some townhomes are covered by a COA, Condo Association, and the Association assumes responsibility for the exterior walls and the roof of the buildings, so that the unit owners only require coverage for the inside of the dwellings, from the drywall in, as well as their personal property, liability, mold coverage, etc.

Homeowners Associations generally require their unit-owners to purchase insurance coverage that includes coverage for the exterior walls and the roof, in addition to coverage for liability and even flood insurance on that townhome.

An independent insurance agent is not tied to any specific insurance company. So, they can provide you with a range of options and help you choose the one that best suits your situation. They have the knowledge and experience to navigate the complex world of insurance policies and can help you understand the various types of coverage available. This is especially important when dealing with an HOA, which may have specific requirements for the insurance coverage you need.

An independent insurance agent can help you find the right policy that meets these requirements, while also ensuring that you have the appropriate level of coverage for your individual needs.

Furthermore, an independent insurance agent can help you identify potential gaps in your coverage that you may not

have considered. For instance, if you have valuable jewelry or art, you may need additional coverage beyond the standard policy. An independent insurance agent can help you identify these gaps and recommend coverage options that meet your needs.

In the case of Jewelry or fine arts and other related types of valuable personal property, the property itself is more likely to be lost through theft or mysterious disappearance than any other type of peril. There are 12 categories of personal property that require appraisals for full coverage in the event of theft, breakage, or mysterious disappearance.

Carriers require a current appraisal, usually within the last 36 months, along with a picture of the item or set, and a full description. Additionally, they may require the type of location of the item such as in your home or in a bank vault, and rate at least partially based on the location given.

Working with an independent insurance agent also provides the added benefit of having a personal relationship with your agent. You can build a relationship of trust and confidence with your agent, who can provide ongoing support and guidance throughout the life of your policy. They can help you navigate the claims process and make sure that you receive the coverage you need when you need it most.

Finally, working with an independent insurance agent can save you time and money. They can help you compare policies from different insurance companies and find the best coverage at the most competitive price. They can also help you identify discounts and other cost-saving opportunities that you may not be aware of.

In conclusion, when you live in an HOA-governed community, it is important to work with an independent insurance agent to find the right homeowner's insurance policy that meets both your needs and the requirements of your HOA.

An independent insurance agent can provide you with a range of options, help you identify potential gaps in your coverage, build a personal relationship with you, and save you time and money. Don't leave the

protection of your home and personal belongings to chance — work with an independent in-

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Business

The St. Joe Company Announces a New Watersound Club® Golf Course

The Watersound Club team will be joined by PGA legend Davis Love III and his design firm, Love Golf Design, in building a new golf course named "The Third"

The St. Joe Company (NYSE: JOE) ("St. Joe") is excited to announce the construction of another world-class Watersound Club golf course. Watersound Club staff are working closely with Love Golf Design founders Davis Love III, Mark Love and Scot Sherman to bring the new course to life as an additional amenity for Watersound Club members. In homage to both the PGA great helping design the new golf course and the fact that it will be the third championship golf course in the Watersound Club collection, the new course will be named simply "The Third."

The Third is designed to comfortably span approximately 300 acres just north of another Watersound Club golf course, Shark's Tooth. The generous acreage allows the design team room to be imaginative in creating a layout that will please



and challenge golfers of all skill levels.

Love Golf Design and Watersound Club teams selected a unique 18-hole, Par 72 design with six sets of tees, allowing golfers to adjust the course distance to play from 4,900 yards to over 7,600 yards on a firm, fast-playing course. The flexibility of play will offer accessibility for the casual golfer, and even the longest tour players will enjoy a challenge while hitting from the back tees.

The Third joins an impressive lineup of exclusive Watersound Club amenities including Shark's Tooth and Camp Creek golf courses; the member favorite Watersound Beach Club amenities comprising two resort-style pools, two



dining venues, and over a mile of beachfront along the Gulf of Mexico; and the newly opened Camp Creek amenities featur-

ing a state-of-the-art wellness center, tennis and pickleball courts, a sprawling pool complex, three dining venues, and more.

The Third is the latest of several Watersound Club amenity expansion projects launched in response to membership growth as well as strong demand for golf among members. Watersound Club membership has added more than 500 new members in 2023 and now welcomes approximately 3,100 members from 40 states.

Leading the Love Golf Design team is Davis Love III. He is perhaps best known as a World Golf Hall of Fame inductee who was twice picked to lead America's Ryder Cup Team. Just as impressive, though, are the 27 completed projects in Love Golf Design's portfolio, including both new designs and renovations. Working to naturally incorporate the mix of upland vegetation and undisturbed wetland areas into the course layout offers an opportunity to top even those previous designs.

"After exploring the property on our first few visits, we found so many options it was hard to narrow the new course down to just 18 holes," said Davis Love III. "Lead architect Scot Sherman, Mark Love and I believe the variety of the site lends itself to building a course with a timeless character. We're pleased to work with a routing that flows across white sandy dunes, with diverse native plant materials, along with beautiful pockets of old-growth cypress and pine trees to frame the golf holes. We are thrilled with how the routing of the golf course is progressing at this point."

Construction has already begun on The Third. The company anticipates the course will open for play in 2025. Additionally, St. Joe is in the planning stage of residential homesites near this new golf course.

For more information regarding Watersound Club, visit www.watersoundclub.com.



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 34709 Emerald Coast Pkwy., Destin
 850-974-9994

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 1/31/24
 850-269-3246
 destinoverheaddoor.com

OLD FLORIDA FISH HOUSE

FREE SMOKED TUNA DIP WITH THE PURCHASE OF TWO ADULT ENTREES.
 (No other discounts given.)

Offer expires 1/31/24
 On Eastern Lake and 30A, 33 Heron's Watch Way
 Santa Rosa Beach 850-865-2550

SS GRANITE & TILE

\$100 OFF*

*Coupon must be presented at the time of first deposit.

Offer expires 1/31/24
 21 Shannon Lane, Santa Rosa Beach
 850-267-0599

RIDEIT

GET \$200 IN ACCESSORIES WITH E-BIKE PURCHASE

Offer expires 1/31/24
 2166 W County Hwy 30A, Suite B, Santa Rosa Beach, FL | 850-366-2524 | rideitfl.com

30A HAT BAR

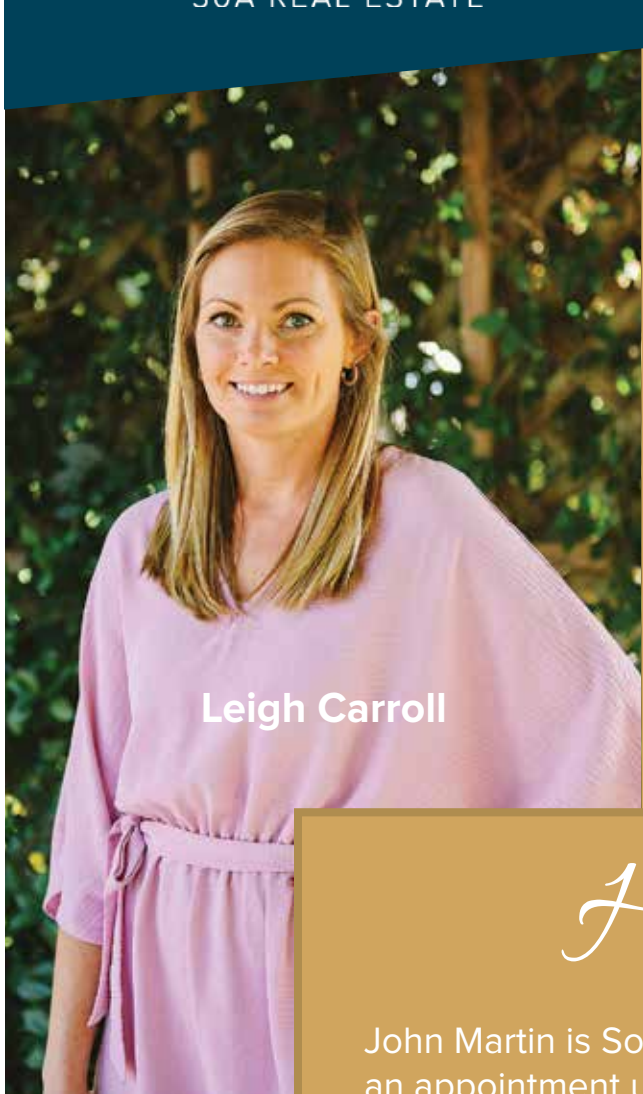
15% OFF YOUR WHOLE SINGLE HAT PURCHASE

Offer expires 1/31/24
 850-259-2025
 30ahatbar.com @30ahatbar

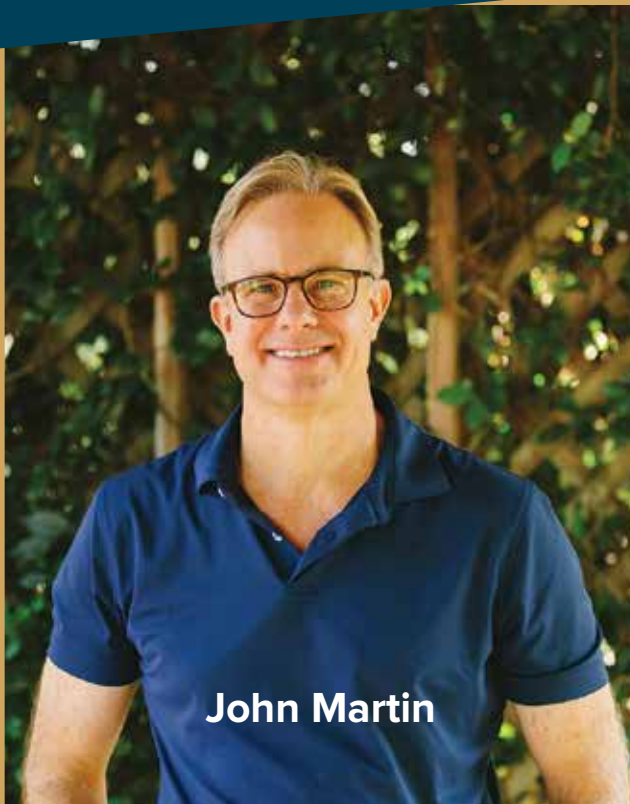


SOUTH WALTON REAL ESTATE

JOHN MARTIN GROUP
30A REAL ESTATE



Leigh Carroll



John Martin



Bryson Lee

Happy Holidays!

John Martin is South Walton's trusted real estate agent. Contact us to set an appointment up to evaluate your property needs and goals for 2024.

- Berkshire Hathaway Chairman's Club Diamond Award Winner
- Top Producing Agent for over 10 years
- Ranks in the **top 1/2 of 1%** for sales nationwide

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

"John is a great realtor and person! He is honest and a joy to work with! We have used John for both buying and selling property and the transactions have always been seamless. Thank you, John!"

- Client

"John helped us in not only making the best decision regarding whether to build rather than buy an existing home, but also in selling our existing house. He had a thorough knowledge of the market and what buyers were looking for, as well as the correct pricing and marketing strategies to get our home sold. He was also very responsive to our questions, and kept us up to date on all developments. John and his team did an excellent job in aggressively working to get our house seen by buyers and other agents, following up with each potential buyer."

- Client



BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
HomeServices
PenFed Realty



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