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Postal Customer Local

Keeping Military Families Together During Times of Medical Need

By MICHELLE RUSCHMAN

Publisher's Note: Our area is blessed with several military installations, serving thousands of military personnel and possessing a significant deployment commitment. Consequently, our family and friends in the military are continuously placed in harm's way. Fortunately, we have Fisher House, which provides a home away from home with no fee, where our military and their families from throughout the U.S. receive caring, unconditional support.

Fisher House of the Emerald Coast is a tangible "thank you" for those who have served in the military. Located on Eglin Air Force Base, across the street from the hospital and VA Clinic, this nearly 11,000 square foot five-star facility includes 12 private suites, a large common kitchen and areas where guests can rest and renew. Any time a military member or family member is being treated at any local medical facility, they are eligible to use the Fisher House.



The idea of Fisher House first started in the 1970s when Pauline Trost, the wife of Admiral Trost, saw an injured combat veteran return home and wondered where the family would stay during this time of crisis. She knew high-priced hotels would only add a financial burden to an already difficult time. This thought never left her and it led to a critical

partnership. Pauline brought the need for housing to her husband, and he reached out

partnership. Pauline brought the need for housing to her husband, and he reached out

FISHER HOUSE
continued on page 2

**Welcome to
FWB Life,
Your Community
Newspaper!**



It is with great pleasure to introduce a truly, community-oriented newspaper to the locals of Fort Walton Beach. FWB Life has joined the Life Media family of local newspapers (Bay Life, Destin Life, SoWal Life and PCB Life) with the publishing of this new edition. Residents and business owners—you have been asking for it, and we are now providing Fort Walton Beach its own edition, particularly geared to promote and highlight all the positive

WELCOME
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 Community
WELCOME*continued from page 1*

and valuable activities, businesses, events and people in the Fort Walton Beach community.

FWB Life is designed to foster a connection to and within the community. Each month, 12,000 copies of FWB Life will be produced, distributed and direct mailed to households and businesses in Fort Walton Beach — a potential readership of more than 25,000!

Inside FWB Life, you'll find articles on local news, fishing, events, non-profit organizations,

sports and local businesses. And, each month, the paper will feature profiles of people and businesses in the community with an interesting story to tell. We strive to let FWB residents know what's going on in their community all year long.

As a former publisher, editor and art director for numerous projects and clients world-wide, my mission is to provide insightful understanding of the distinct and varied Fort Walton Beach community personalities. As a local resident for more than 16 years working in public relations, marketing and communications,

I've been blessed to observe, forge relationships with and listen to the needs of locals, which will be reflected in the rich FWB Life editorial.

We also promote your business and as a result, witness its success. But, we're acutely aware of the challenges small businesses face in reaching key audiences with a limited advertising budget. FWB Life offers the platform and opportunity to effectively promote in an affordable way, combining the best of both worlds—marketing and advertising with direct mail plus affordable rates. The website, MyFWBLife.com, offers

additional value: marketing and advertising promotion with an online version of FWB Life available, blog posts of feature articles and archived issues.

We invite schools and non-profit organizations to submit monthly articles and event listings. If you're a local business, we encourage you to offer tips from your experiences and through expert columns, advice, articles and recipes. Students, parents and others — “find your voice” through this new monthly newspaper. Nominate those that impact your community in a positive way.

FWB Life is community focused and community based; it will reach your friends and customers. I invite you to join me in this local connection and tell your story. Please submit your announcements, articles, events and story ideas to Lori@LifeMediaGrp.com or by calling 850-660-1444.

We look forward, through FWB Life, to relaying our accomplishments, visions and amazing adventures, bringing out the best of our truly unique community!

~ Lori Leath Smith, Publisher

FISHER HOUSE*continued from page 1*

to Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher who were builders, philanthropists and patriots. They caught the vision immediately and went to work. Since then, the Fishers have donated more than \$20 million in the building of homes that receive families of hospitalized military personnel, free of charge. Today, the number of homes has grown to 92 throughout the U.S. Fisher House of the Emerald Coast, our area's own, was built in 2010 and was number 48.

In 2019, Fisher House of the Emerald Coast hosted more than 1,100 guests and provided 2,900 bed nights, saving military families over \$290,000 in lodging,

It is the goal of Mia Hughes, our local Fisher House's Executive Director, for Fisher House of the Emerald Coast to be a home away from home when our military members need it the most. “If it's the birth of a baby and grandma doesn't live here but wants to come, she can stay at Fisher House. We've also had babies that were delivered, but mom got ill and couldn't be around the baby,” Mia says. “They've stayed at our house so they could be close. On the other end of the spectrum, we've also had guests who were dealing with end-of-life situations and were in their last stages. During the pandemic, however, because it's a military installation, they restricted some of the access. Life-ending scenarios



were given higher priority.”

“Many of our guests will only stay a few days, but our record is 13 months,” Mia continued. “One family had a member going through oncology treatments and they were able to stay here. Before that, a guest of 11 months was blinded during the battle in Afghanistan, and he used our home for therapy. Fisher House was built to help lighten their load.”

Fisher House of the Emerald Coast serves every branch of the military from Pensacola to Panama City. So, guests will not be more than an hour from the therapies and services they require.

Fundraising efforts are continual; monies raised provide much needed funding to the house to support the operation and the maintenance of the home, and to provide the families with any necessary items needed during their stay. Are you interested in partnering with Fisher House? Mark your calendar to attend the Fisher House gala on October 27th with guest speaker Joey Jones,

Fox News Contributor and former marine who lost both his legs in combat.

There are additional unique ways you can help as well. “We've had corporate teams come for one week in the spring and fall to help clean the house,” says Mia. “They do it for team building and we're always so grateful for the extra help. It's their way of giving back.”

“We also have a young guy who lives in Birmingham, and his mom, who was a volunteer, passed away in 2016. On the anniversary of her passing, he comes to the Fisher House and makes her recipe for Cornish Hens for those there at the time. It's his memorial tribute to his mom and he does it every year he can,” she says.

Fisher House accepts meal donations, enough for eight to 12 people, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Because Covid protocols are still in place, the food needs to come from local restaurants. Although the fridge is always fully stocked, these needed donations bridge the gap. If guests have specific

dietary needs or desires, the staff does their best to accommodate them as well to make the stay easier. As Mia says, “We love making people happy and want this to feel like home.”

If you'd like to learn more, go to fisherhouseemeraldcoast.org or you can reach Mia Hughes directly at Director@fisherhouseemeraldcoast.org or 850-259-4956.

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Preliminary Brooks Bridge Expansion Work Under Way

By KENNETH BOOKS

Early preparation work has begun on the replacement of the 56-year-old Brooks Bridge, connecting Okaloosa Island and Fort Walton Beach, according to Ian Satter, public information director for FDOT District 3.

The \$171 million project, which will expand the bridge from four to six lanes over two spans, is set to begin next summer. The completed project will include three, 11-foot-wide driving lanes, two 10-foot-wide shoulders and a 12-foot-wide shared-use bicycle and pedestrian path will be included in each direction.

About 50,000 vehicles currently cross the bridge each day, Satter said.

The contract for the new construction was awarded to Superior Construction Co. Southeast, headquartered in Jacksonville, earlier this month. Three other bids were submitted. The company will design the new bridge as well as construct it, Satter said.

Previously in Okaloosa County, Superior Construction designed and built a \$14.5 million interchange on Highway 98 at Hurlburt Field, which was completed in 2016, according to a spokesperson for the company. The company was founded in Indiana in the 1930s, with its first Florida project begun in 1987. Since then, the spokesperson said, "We've slowly grown that position. We have a lot more presence out there now."

Forty-eight parcels of land will need to be acquired, comprising 7.5 acres, as well as 4.2 acres of easements. So far, six



are under negotiation, Satter said. Completion date will be the summer of 2028, weather permitting, he said. At least 10 buildings will need to be demolished, several of which have already come down.

So far, several Oak Breeze Apartment units, Pat's Bait and Tackle Shop, and a building in front of the old Giovanni's One89 restaurant have been torn down.

A separate product development and environmental study will be undertaken in a couple of years, Satter said, to deal with the current bottleneck at the Fort Walton Beach end of the bridge. To accommodate the bridge replacement, intersection improvements are necessary at Perry Avenue on the west end of the bridge and in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Boulevard, extending to Pier Road on Okaloosa Island.

A project development and environmental study was performed last year to establish the conceptual design and evaluate the environmental, traffic, engi-

neering and social impacts for the replacement of the bridge, which found the current span suffers from structural deficiencies. The existing bridge, which was constructed with a 50-year lifespan, does not meet current design standards, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements, or navigational clearance requirements for this portion of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, according to the Florida Department of Transportation.



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Photo courtesy Destin-Fort Walton Beach, FL

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Celebrating the Greatest Generation: The 80 Raiders 80 Years After

BY DOUG STAUFFER

Okaloosa County was privileged April 18 to host history in the making. Almost 2,000 of us were blessed to say, “I was there to witness this historic event.” This date marked the 80th anniversary of the World War II Doolittle Raiders bombing of Tokyo. Eighty men launched the first retaliatory strike against Japan’s unprovoked attack upon America 80 years ago.

Lieutenant Colonel James Doolittle (later a lieutenant general in the U.S. Army Air Forces and the U.S. Air Force Reserve) led the raid on Tokyo. The USS Hornet launched 16 B-25B Mitchell medium-range bombers, each carrying a crew of five men. They bombed Tokyo on April 18, 1942.

The raid was the first on Japanese soil, four months after their attack on December 7, 1941, when 300 Japanese aircraft destroyed much of the Navy’s Pacific Fleet in Pearl Harbor. The Doolittle Raid on

the Japanese capital boosted American morale and exposed Japan’s vulnerability from the air. Although the damage to Tokyo was minimal, many historians credit the raid as the critical factor in the Japanese defeat at the Battle of Midway – often cited as the turning point in the Pacific.

Since April 1947, a ceremonial “roll call” has honored the 80 Doolittle Raiders. Ted Cocoran, with the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce, and Dr. Devin Stephenson of Northwest Florida State College (Home of the Raiders) hosted the “Final Doolittle Raiders Goblet” ceremony. It marked the passing of Doolittle Raider Col. (ret.) Richard E. “Dick” Cole. This event also celebrated the Air Force’s 75th Anniversary by the Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC).

Ted’s heart seems to skip a beat at the mention of the Doolittle Raiders. Talking with him



PHOTO CREDIT: JDCPHOTO

is like conversing with a Doolittle historian and cheerleader. One of Ted’s many insights: “My awakening to the significance of the Raiders started in 2006. Since then, I have come to love the Raiders as a group and individually on a personal level. I am proud that the Chamber was able to bring the Raiders to this area in 2008, 2013, and finally in 2022. It is important to me to educate the community concerning their history by bringing the knowledge of the Raiders to the forefront. I am thrilled to have played my part in getting them to be relevant

again in this area after being overlooked for far too long.”

Okaloosa County and the Raiders: The Doolittle Raiders trained at Eglin field in 1942. Although the Army/Air Force had just been formed in 1941, AFSOC considers the Doolittle raid the first special operations mission. The Raiders held their 15th reunion here in 1957, and they returned in 1968 for their 26th reunion. They then vanished off our radars until Ed Horton (crew 10) moved to Fort Walton Beach. In the late 1990s, the local newspaper mentioned that Ed’s wife had passed

away, thus preventing him from attending future reunions.

Wes Fields, a gunner at Hurlburt Field and an auxiliary sheriff’s deputy, read the newspaper article. He volunteered to transport Ed to future reunions. The Raiders honored Wes by making him director of Raider security. In 2006, Wes introduced Ed Horton to Ted Corcoran, who soon realized the significance of that encounter. Ted watched his relationship with the Raiders bud and blossom after attending the 2007 and 2008 Raider reunions.

In 2008, only eight of the 80 raiders remained, so the Chamber created a special event called “The Homecoming” on May 29-31, 2008. The Homecoming spawned the reintroduction and re-engagement of the Raiders with the Okaloosa County community. In 2013, Fort Walton Beach played host for the final reunion, and the five remaining

Continued on page 14

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The Place on Beal Ideal for Social and Business Events

BY TED CORCORAN, PRESIDENT/CEO, GREATER FORT WALTON BEACH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Place on Beal location is one of the most sacred in Fort Walton. The land, owned by the Brooks family, was home to Mrs. James Hartley Beal from the 1920's until her passing in 1949. Her family is recognized in many ways around our city, including the named roadway—Beal Parkway—on which The Place on Beal now resides.

After Grandma Beal's passing, Louise Brooks and her husband Thomas E. Brooks conveyed the current land location to two of the most prominent civic groups in our community: Gulf Area Garden Club—and the Fort Walton Beach Women's Club. The Contract is dated: February 11, 1955. (Thanks to our local historian Tom Rice, owner Magnolia Grill on Brooks Street, for providing historical details.) However, it wasn't until August 4, 1974, that the current structure was opened as the Fort Walton Beach Women's Club & Gulf Area Garden Club.

The incredibly extravagant



(at the time) \$40,000 expenditure was underwritten by several of the club members. In honor of The Brooks and Beal families, the building was named: The Brooks Beal Center. For more than 45 years, the two groups utilized the building for their own civic activities as well as renting to our local community for all varieties of social and business uses.

The Gulf Area Garden Club—which leads many of our area's grand beautification projects, such as the Camellia City moniker for Fort Walton Beach, ran out of steam in the late 1990's and turned the building management over to the Women's Club. The Fort Walton Women's Club, which recently celebrated its 100th Anniversary, and the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce (celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2021), have always collabo-



rated on making positive improvements for our community.

The relationship was enhanced dramatically after the passing of Col. Bud Day in 2013. Women's Club representative Cissy Wyninegar approached the Chamber about collaboration on how our community could create a legacy for Bud and his wife, Doris-A Women's Club member. In 2015, the Bud and Dorie Day Patriots Trail opened! The Fort Walton Beach Women's Club received several awards for this amazing accomplishment.

In 2019, the Women's Club



approached the Chamber about taking over the management of the Brooks Beal Center as the costs and time to run the property became too much for their membership. With an expenditure of about four times the original cost to construct the Center in 1974, we totally renovated the building in 2020, changing its name to The Place on Beal. It's so named, because everyone in town knows of the building, but many did not know its name—just 'you know The Place on Beal' at the intersection of Yacht Club Drive!

The Place on Beal is now one



of our area's perfect locations for social and business event rentals, Monday through Sunday, 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. The newly renovated space can accommodate up to 120 guests seated comfortably in a banquet setting. And with a full audio-visual package, The Place can host any organization or business meeting as well. Tables and chairs are provided—all you need to bring is your own food and beverages!

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Community

Meet Our Local Pro: Melissa Forte-Litscher, NextHome Cornerstone Realty

As a near native of Fort Walton Beach, having graduated from FWBHS and Okaloosa Walton College, Melissa Forte-Litscher can honestly say she loves her hometown! She has spent her entire adult life living, working, worshipping, raising children, and enjoying her first grandchild, right here in Fort Walton Beach. "My family and I have been serving our community for decades by volunteering with the American Diabetes Association, American Cancer Society, the United Way of Okaloosa & Walton Counties and Habitat for Humanity in Okaloosa County, and my husband and I are active members of our church," she says. "We love the small-town friendly feel and Southern charm that Fort Walton Beach has, all nestled within the most beautiful beaches you will ever find. Living in our area is such a blessing, and we want everyone to have that feeling."



to them is a key element to a successful real estate relationship."

Being a full time professional real estate agent allows Melissa to serve people when they are in a transitional time in their lives as well. She says her goal is to ease the burden and stresses that certainly come with moving. Whether it is for a transfer in or out of our area, downsizing or expanding, a real estate transaction brings a unique set of issues that can arise. "I'd love to be your trusted advocate guiding you through the process," Melissa says. "Knowledge, commitment, honesty, expertise and professionalism are the cornerstone of my business. Let me earn your trust, your business and most importantly your friendship. I look forward to working with you!"

Melissa has spent years dedicated to superb customer ser-

vice, first at Sam's Club for 15 years, and then five years selling our beautiful area to meeting and event planners for the Emerald Coast Convention Center. She moved into the non-profit world working with Habitat for Humanity in Okaloosa County, assisting low to moderate income folks achieve the dream of home ownership. The time with Habitat for Humanity clarified her goal of helping people become homeowners, and her love

of helping people purchase their own home grew. After much prayer for the right time, the right brokerage and the right opportunity, she met Dana Topel and God's plan became clear.

"With the support of my husband and family, I stepped out in faith to fulfill this dream that was placed in my heart years ago," says Melissa. "I have a great love for people, and a sincere belief that home ownership creates stability for families and

communities. Real estate is one of the keys to financial freedom and can change the trajectory of a family's legacy. This belief creates a passion for serving others and providing the guidance they need to successfully navigate the process of either purchasing their first home or sell a home or property to further advance their financial goals. I believe in thorough communication with my clients and I feel that getting to know what is truly important

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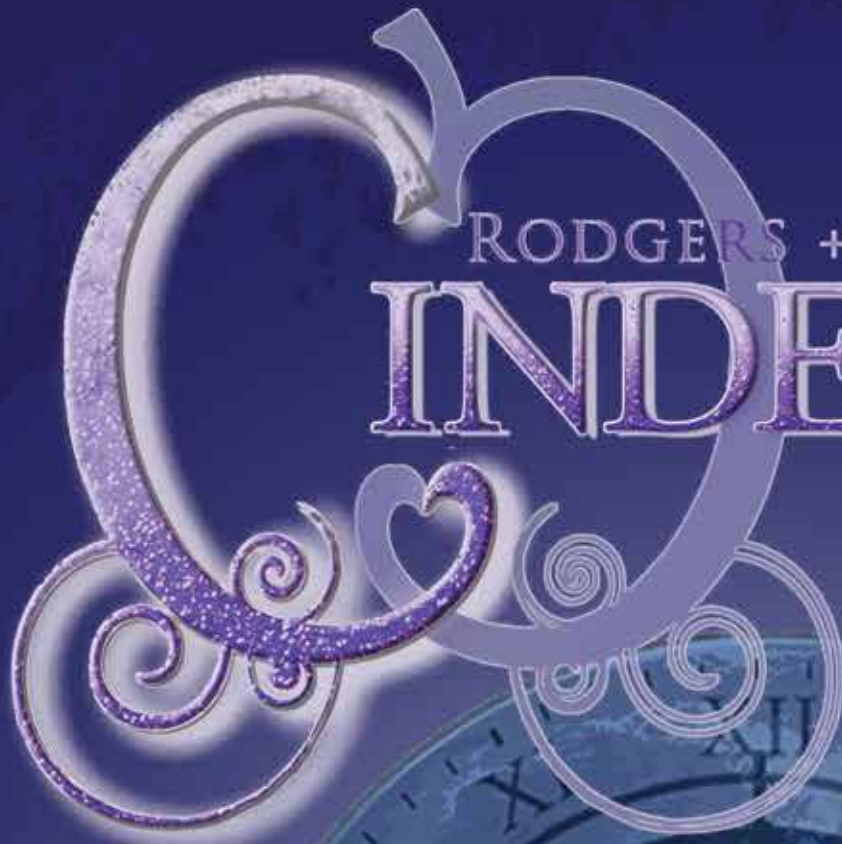


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 Community

Meet Our Hometown Hero Giselle McLaughlin

BY KAY PHELAN

Meet 13-year-old Giselle McLaughlin, an eighth grade graduate from Liza Jackson Preparatory School in Ft. Walton Beach. Julie Porterfield, CEO of Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center (ECCAC), met Giselle at its Niceville Center when she presented a \$280 donation check to Julie.

Giselle took an in-depth look at Florida foster care for her school "Graduation By Demonstration" (GBD) project this year. GBD is a process in which students undertake a major project that is of personal interest to them and may have a positive impact on their future career interests and decision making. The program is designed to take students out of their comfort zone, set goals and discover their interests. GBD culminates with a major presentation at school by each student about their project.

Taking on foster care as her GBD project, Giselle wanted to find a way to give back and create awareness of what children face. As it turns out, she

has had first-hand experience in this area, coming very close to the foster care system. She was raised by her mother and step-father, both of whom were in the military. Unfortunately, in 2018, her mother took her own life. This caused a split-up of Giselle's siblings that included a younger brother and sister. In 2020, her step-father moved Giselle and her then 4-year-old sister to Northwest Florida to be closer to family. There was a brief stint in Texas and then back to Northwest Florida because of unpredictable circumstances. Last August, Giselle was taken in by their great aunt and uncle in Fort Walton Beach, passionate relatives who really understood the situation. Several weeks ago, Giselle was officially adopted by these kind relatives. Although her siblings do not live with her, they are all close and communicate frequently.

"Throughout this period of instability after the loss of my



Giselle McLaughlin, age 13, Liza Jackson Prep School student graduate, and ECCAC CEO Julie Porterfield

mother, in sixth and seventh grade, I felt like I had no purpose in life," Giselle said. "But then once my great aunt and uncle stepped into my life, things began to normalize for me. Now I am so happy at Liza Jackson Prep School and involved with so many school activities."

With a shortage of foster parents in Walton, Okaloosa, Santa

Rosa and Escambia counties, one now understands this teenager's avid interest in taking on this subject. Because of Giselle's foster care research for her school's project, she became aware of ECCAC.

Giselle has been very impressed with the many child-friendly services the non-profit organization provides for kids and their families dealing with abuse and neglect situations. In a couple of years, she hopes to volunteer at the Niceville Center saying, "I would love to stay involved, and hope I can give insight to other kids. It is a really nice thing ECCAC does for kids dealing with so many problems."

"It has been our pleasure to meet Giselle and acquaint her with our operation," Julie said. "She is a passionate and caring young lady. I'm certain she will do an impressive job with her GBD presentation. Who knows, maybe one day Giselle will be an important ECCAC staff member!"

ECCAC provides services in a child-friendly environment to help identify, treat and support children in abusive situations, as well as helping to prevent child abuse through education and prevention programs. With a center in Okaloosa County and the Pierce Family Center in Walton County, it houses representatives from the Florida Department of Children and Families, Child Protection Team, State Attorney's Office, local law enforcement, licensed mental health counselors and ECCAC's staff and volunteers. In ECCAC's 23-year history, more than 15,000 children have received more than 170,000 services at no cost.

For further information about the Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center, visit www.eccac.org. If abuse is suspected, call the anonymous Florida Abuse Hotline at 1-800-96-ABUSE.

FWB Life wants to know about YOUR Hometown Hero. Please send your recommendation to Lori@Life-MediaGrp.com.



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Gov. Ron DeSantis Visits Fort Walton Beach to Support Florida's Military Families

Held at veteran-owned Props Craft Brewery and Taproom in Fort Walton Beach, Gov. Ron DeSantis recently visited our area to sign six bills that support veterans, military members and their families in finding employment and educational opportunities in Florida. These pieces of legislation build on funding provided in the Freedom First Budget he signed in June to support Florida's military members and their families.

"Florida is the most military friendly state in the nation, and I am proud to continue that commitment to our military members and their families by signing these pieces of legislation," said Governor Ron DeSantis. "Providing military families with the resources they need to receive a high-quality education and find good jobs is the best way that we as a state can show our appreciation for the sacrifices that they make."

"I'd like to thank the Legislature and Gov. DeSantis for all they've done for the soldiers and airmen of the Florida National Guard," said Maj. Gen. Jim Eifert, The Adjutant General of Florida. "These bills will go a long way to help our citizen soldiers and their spouses have opportunities for meaningful employment. Solid career opportunities lead to a well-rounded and ready force, and a stable home environment prepares our Guardsmen and their families for deployments, to include disaster response."

"Gov. DeSantis continues to deliver on his promise to provide a work-ready, high-quality postsecondary education for our veterans and service-members," said Senior Chancellor Henry Mack. "Today's new laws guarantee our state and technical colleges stand ready and equipped to remove all educational barriers for our military families."

"We're very appreciative of Gov. DeSantis' unwavering support of Florida's 1.5 million veterans, their families and survivors. As a Navy combat deployed veteran, he appreciates the importance of expanding earned benefit eligibility to our active-duty members, our veterans, and their family members,"

said retired Marine Corps Major General James S. "Hammer" Hartsell, Executive Director of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs. "Working together to offer enhanced educational and workforce opportunities for our nation's heroes, we'll ensure Florida continues to be the most sought-after state by veterans in the nation."

"Gov. DeSantis has prioritized Florida's military communities, and DEO is proud to support his efforts through innovative and dynamic opportunities," said Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Secretary Dane Eagle. "Projects funded through DEO's military grant programs promote economic growth and diversification in military communities and enhance the lives of all Floridians."

Props Craft Brewery was founded originally by two USAF Special Operations Pilots with a passion for brewing beer, but has grown into a regional brewery operated by Nathan Vannatter, Mike Kee, Brian O'Neill and Travis Peterson. Mike, Nate and Travis spent most of their lives serving in the USAF. "I enlisted in the Air Force when I was 18 years old," said Nate, one of the owners in attendance. "I used the GI Bill and an ROTC scholarship to get a commission. 10 years after that commission, my partners and I used a VA/SBA loan to start our business right here in Fort Walton Beach. I thank the Governor for his support of these veteran bills. As these men and women depart the armed forces and go into the next phase of their life, these bills are really going to mean something."

The six bills will support education opportunities for veterans and children of active-duty military as well as expand access to employment opportunities by removing barriers to licensure and postsecondary education requirements. Those bills are:

House Bill (HB) 45 provides educational opportunities for disabled veterans by providing additional assistance to achieve a 100 percent award for tuition and fees.

Senate Bill (SB) 430 reenacts the Interstate Compact on



Educational Opportunity for Military Children which ensures a smooth transition for children of active-duty military families by enabling seamless school placement, enrollment, records transfers, and verification of graduation requirements.

SB 514 allows state agencies to substitute work experience, including military experience, for postsecondary education to

allow veterans to use on the job experience to apply for civilian jobs.

SB 896 will help veterans access jobs in education by allowing their military service to count toward the requirement for a temporary educator

certificate under the mentorship of a certified teacher.

SB 562 requires the Department of Business and Professional Regulation to expedite license applications of active-duty military spouses.

SB 438 updates Florida's definition of Uniformed Service to include the U.S. Space Force and updates military base names.

The Governor also announced that CareerSource Florida and state workforce agencies will dedicate \$20 million in targeted workforce training supports for Florida's veterans. This funding will focus on high demand industries including aviation, aerospace and defense. Gov. DeSantis stated there are over 70,000 active duty or reserve enrolled in our colleges where we are currently underwriting the cost of tuition.

"We have more infrastructure than ever for our transportation; we've given parents access to the curriculums and we're fighting Biden at the border," said Gov. DeSantis. "We all have a responsibility to be fighting back."

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Eglin's Climatic Lab Celebrates 75th Anniversary!

BY BRADLEY HICKS

As folks across the nation gear up to celebrate the 75th birthday of the Air Force later this summer, those at the McKinley Climatic Laboratory here recently marked the facility's diamond anniversary. Initial testing at the MCL occurred on May 24, 1947, predating the official establishment of the Air Force by about three months.

For 75 years since, the unique capabilities available at the MCL have been utilized to conduct a variety of climatic testing for the Department of Defense, other government agencies and private industry. From arctic freeze to blazing heat and desert sand to jungle humidity, any climatic environment in the world can be simulated in the facility. "For all agencies of the DOD, environmental testing at the MCL is an essential step in establishing a proven military capability to meet our global commitments specifically stated in the National Defense Strategy," Kirk Velasco, retired MCL director, wrote in a commentary published in High Mach in 2020. "The results ob-



PHOTO BY SAMUEL KING

tained from the vast array of aircraft and equipment tested at the MCL have been a major factor in maintaining the position of the United States as the world's leading military power."

Today, the MCL is managed by the 717th Test Squadron, a geographically separated unit located at Arnold Engineering Development Complex in Tennessee.

When it first began operations, the MCL was part of the U.S. Army Air Forces. This component was soon separated from the Army and became its own military branch when the Air Force was founded on Sept. 18, 1947. Before the MCL,

there was the Cold Weather Test Detachment stationed at Ladd Field in Fairbanks, Alaska. The Army Air Force designated that site as a cold-weather testing facility in 1940. Prior U.S. involvement in World War I meant that international warfare was on the table and service members could end up engaged in combat virtually anywhere on the planet. The ability of military aircraft and equipment to maintain operability and reliability in the harshest of climates needed to be ensured. This was the mission of the Cold Weather Test Detachment at Ladd Field. For two years following its 1940 activation, the detach-

ment managed to establish basic operational and maintenance requirements for aircraft in the arctic, perform experiments on cold weather uniforms and rations, and experiment on solutions to arctic flying issues. Testing at Ladd Field ceased after the December 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. There were concerns installations in Alaska could also come under attack. So, it was decided that all military aircraft there would be used to defend the state.

The Cold Weather Test Detachment was reactivated in 1942 and by that winter, testing had resumed at Ladd Field as the importance of such efforts was recognized. However, issues present since testing initially began at Ladd Field continued to be encountered. Despite its position on the globe, cold weather testing at Ladd Field was often inconsistent.

Cold weather testing there was conducted in an open-air environment which essentially involved subjecting aircraft and equipment to the outdoors conditions. However, it was difficult to predict when temperatures would reach the levels required for testing. When they did, these temperatures would sometimes not remain low enough for long enough to meet testing needs.

Along with suggesting that U.S. aircraft be operable at minus 65 degrees Fahrenheit, then-Lt. Col. Ashley McKinley is credited for suggesting the construction of a refrigerated airplane hangar to allow for cold weather testing under controlled conditions. The headquarters for such testing was reassigned to the more temperate Eglin AFB and plans for McKinley's suggested facility were approved in 1944. Construction began soon thereafter.

The first tests at the MCL involved subjecting a B-29 Superfortress, C-82 Packet cargo

plane, P-80 Shooting Star, P-51 Mustang, P-47 Thunderbolt and R5D helicopter, as well as trucks, tanks and clothing, to a temperature of minus 70 degrees Fahrenheit. The tests were considered highly successful.

In 1971, the refrigerated hangar was dedicated as the McKinley Climatic Hangar in honor of McKinley, who passed away the previous year.

Over the years, the facility that would become known as the McKinley Climatic Laboratory expanded its offerings beyond arctic and subarctic testing. The laboratory now consists of five testing chambers used to prove the operational reliability of systems under test in the climatic extremes found around the world. Along with large aircraft, items tested within these chambers include engines, tanks, missile launchers, shelters and automobiles. "The MCL is the only facility in the world that can hold and test a full-scale operational aircraft in climatic extremes," said Melissa Tate, MCL site director. "This facility can produce, on any given day, any extreme weather environment within which to conduct a desired test."

Examples of aircraft more recently tested at the MCL include the F-117A Nighthawk Stealth Fighter, C-130J Super Hercules, F-22 Raptor, F-16 Fighting Falcon, B-2 Spirit bomber and the HH-60W Jolly Green II combat search and rescue helicopter.

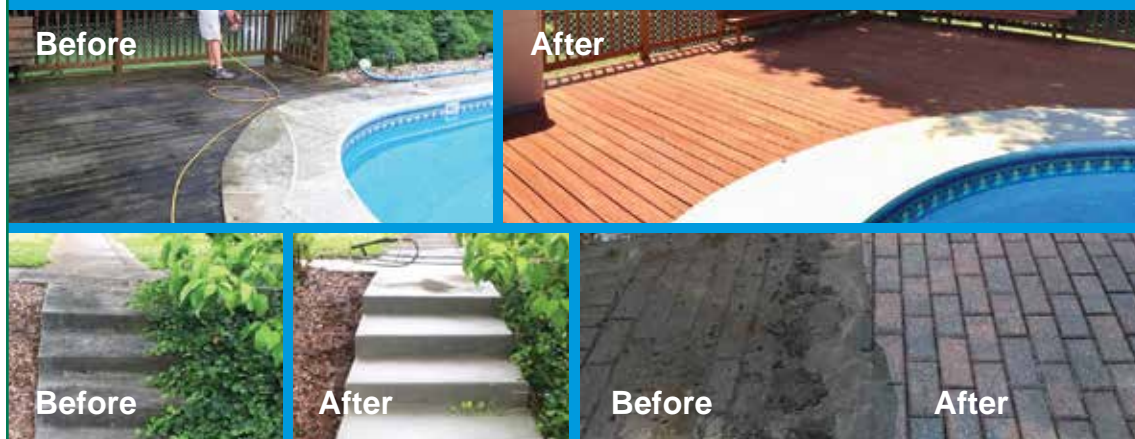
In 1987, the MCL was named a National Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. The following decade, it was added to the National Register of Historic Places. "It's pretty awesome that MCL is the only facility on the planet that can do what we do," said Michael Burch, MCL senior facility field engineer, who has been employed at the laboratory for nearly 25 years.

Editorial note: This article includes information from the National Park Service itinerary "Aviation: From Sand Dunes to Sonic Booms," an American Society of Mechanical Engineers brochure on the MCL and an Army study titled "Cold Weather Testing in Alaska: 1940-1970."

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Coastline K9's New Location Is Officially Open!

BY LORI LEATH SMITH

Congratulations to veteran-owned and operated Coastline K9 on its recent grand opening in Fort Walton Beach! With an elite team of prior military, Special Operations and Law Enforcement K9 handlers, Coastline K9 is a business that provides customized training for dogs and world-class protection dogs for family and other needs.

The trainers work with any breed, any age to be obedient. "But we're not your average protection dog company," said Byron. "Our leadership team is made up of special operations K9 handlers who have trained and utilized protection dogs in some of the most dangerous and demanding circumstances ever." He said because of that, the team understands the importance of security and protection in ways that many have never experienced. "These K9's serve as a personal security guard for you and your loved ones, a loyal companion that can go anywhere with you, and a highly intelligent asset that can adapt and learn new skills," said Byron. "You can enjoy the life you've created for yourself while your protection dog takes on the responsibility of being hyper-vigilant."

"The dog thing found me," said Byron. In fact, Byron, a local who grew up in Destin and Pensacola, joined the military in 2001 and served our country as a Special Ops Army Ranger. While serving, he participated in the Iraqi and Afghanistan

invasions, risking his life to protect ours, as do so many others. "That's why dog training is such a perfect fit," says Byron. "Anything can happen to anyone, and we train our dogs to handle it. That gives me a lot of satisfaction and also utilizes my experience and knowledge."

In 2009, he returned home as an instructor and taught a pre-scuba dive course for the Army's Special Ops Special Forces Combat Dive School on Eglin Air Force Base. Since then, Byron has worked as a contractor, an underwater welder, and in the medical field's emergency services. "Now, I've found another purpose with training these dogs that help so many," said Byron.

Serving clients throughout the U.S., Byron and his partner, Trent McDonald, a well-known veteran dog trainer, expanded Coastline K9 to our area. The business originated in Naples by partner Erick Innis, also founder of the RESCUE 22 Foundation 5013(c). Erick served as Special Operations K9 Handler with his teammate, a Veteran Military Working Dog named Rex. You might have seen the recent movie, "Dog," about Rex. The two served two combat tours together throughout Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom. After military service, Erick began training law enforcement canines in both the U.S. and Internationally as a civilian.

"The first step is to evaluate your individual needs to find the right dog and then provide



and your trainer will spend 3-4 days with you providing hands-on, specialized training.

The new Fort Walton Beach location, the largest on the East Coast, is a host each month also to educational seminars for dog trainers that are open to the public. Along with the daily business, it is also a partner of the non-profit Rescue 22 Foundation training service dogs and has become Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office police dog trainers.

Visit coastlinek9.com, facebook.com/CoastlineK9 or give Coastline K9 a call at (850) 307-7771. 819 Navy Street, Fort Walton Beach 32547.

customized training to suit your unique lifestyle." He said the majority of the K9s are imported from Europe, where the world's best K9s have been bred for decades. "We hand-select the pedigree for excellent temperament—a balance between being loving, loyal and protective—and security attributes to perfectly suit an owner's personality, lifestyle and protection requirements."

Coastline K9 dogs are sourced from its partners in the UK, Holland, Belgium and Ireland. "We rigorously assess all prospects for the qualities and attributes that will perfectly suit your needs," says Byron. Once approved, training begins. When training is complete, your new companion is transported to you anywhere in the continental U.S.

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For over a decade, Matthew Vanderford has worked in the Construction, Restoration and Insurance Industries as an Insurance Company Preferred Vendor, Insurance Industry Continuing Education Instructor, Public Adjuster/ Policy Holder Advocate and Licensed Contractor. He's proud to call Destin his home, with his wife Candice and four children: Matthew, Blake, Jordan and Scarlett.

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(850) 362-6077

Make Plans to Attend the Lincoln Dinner

Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody will be the keynote speaker at the Okaloosa County Republican Executive Committee's annual Lincoln Dinner Friday, July 15, at the Island Resort, Fort Walton Beach.

A fifth generation Floridian from Plant City, Moody be-

gan her legal career practicing commercial litigation. Later she joined the U.S. Attorney's Office, prosecuting drug, firearm and fraud offenses. In 2006, at the age of 31, she became the youngest judge in Florida.

Since taking office, Moody has been recognized as a national



leader having served as a Commissioner on the Presidential Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice. She serves as Chair of Florida's Statewide Council on Human Trafficking. She will run for re-election this November alongside Gov. Ron DeSantis.

For tickets, visit Okaloosagop.com or contact OCREC Chair Sandra Atkinson at (850) 543-8742 or OCREC Vice Chair Cheryl Stubbs at (850) 797-3605 or Diana Gilbert at (850) 897-2592.



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Local Athletes Represent Team Florida at Special Olympics USA Games

BY PAMELA SPARKS

On June 14th during a Town Hall Meeting, the City of Fort Walton Beach officially welcomed back three Okaloosa County Special Olympics athletes: Surfers Chase Sparks and Ian Cook and Swimmer Noah Garbo. Chase won the Surfing Silver Medal; Ian placed 5th in Surfing; and Noah became the swimming Gold Medalist in 100-yard Freestyle, 4X 50-yard Freestyle Relay and 50-yard Butterfly. All received their medals during a special airing on ESPN and ABC.

SURFING actually made history at this year's Special Olympics USA Games in Orlando. It's the first time it was introduced to USA Games.

Several of the Team Florida athletes have been surfing for more than a decade, but mostly on the Gulf. In this competition, they had to master the wave pool.

Special Olympics Florida started its surfing program in 2009, and South Carolina was the only other state with a team in this year's competition.

Special Olympics has always been dear to my heart as I am one proud mom of a Down syndrome son, Chase. Special Olympics USA Games athlete, Chase Sparks, proudly represented the State of Florida in Surfing. But, he has actually actively participated in Special Olympics Florida in 10 different sports for more than 18 years. He was first introduced to Special Olympics at Silver Sands School in Fort Walton Beach where I would often find him on the Basketball Court sinking three pointers; he even won the school trophy which was nearly half his size!

If he wasn't playing basketball, he'd be swimming in the



Local and Northwest Florida Athlete Leader Chase Sparks bringing the heat at 2022 Special Olympics USA Games in Orlando!



Okaloosa County Athlete Noah Garbo – Swimming Gold Medalist



Okaloosa County Athlete Ian Cook – Surfing 5th Place and Okaloosa County Athlete Chase Sparks – Surfing Silver Medalist

pool. He loved water so much you'd think he was part fish! You'd spot him sitting on the bottom of the pool holding his breath with his amazing lung capacity. He often stated he was "Sharkboy" from the 2005 movie "The adventures of Sharkboy and Lavagirl." This past year, he was excited to learn a new stroke, the butterfly!

It all started in Little League, then PAL Soccer and Challenger Baseball. So, naturally he wanted to participate on the Special Olympics Soccer and Softball teams. He has also Bowled with Special Olympics.

Additional sports included 3-hole golf, tennis and pickleball. Chase's love for the water led him to competing in Surf-

ing and Stand-up Paddleboard (SUP). In 2015 Chase even caught the eye of Sun Sports as they aired a clip of him at State Games in Cocoa Beach.

Chase also loves volunteering which goes hand in hand being a Special Olympics Athlete Leader. He was chosen to be the March of Dimes Poster Child and selected by the Boys & Girls Club to be the recipient of Camp ASCCA Scholarship. His favorite volunteer role is working the concession stand at the FWBHS, Bruner Jr. High Home Football Games and the Blue Wahoos Stadium!

Ian has been competing five years and loves Thomas & Friends, Queen, Drones, Lego and Robots. His other sports

include basketball, flag football, swimming, golf, soccer and SUP. "I see this as a unique experience and a chance to better myself," he said.

Noah has been competing six years. His additional sports include football, hiking, fishing, biking, unified soccer, paddleboard and open water swimming. He said he hopes this experience makes his family proud.

For in-depth information on Special Olympics in our area, visit mydestinlife.com/did-you-know-special-olympics-florida-was-born-locally. Special Olympics Florida-Okaloosa County is located at 1978-B Lewis Turner Blvd. in Fort Walton Beach. Call (850) 264-9901.

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 Off the Hook

Destin-Fort Walton Beach Hosts World's Largest Lionfish Tournament

BY APRIL SARVER,
OKALOOSA COUNTY PIO

Congratulations! Divers participating in the 4th Annual Emerald Coast Open Lionfish Tournament successfully removed 13,835 lionfish from local waters. The invasive species prey on native fish and have no known predators due to their venomous spines. Hosted by Destin-Fort Walton Beach, alongside Florida Fish and Wildlife at HarborWalk Village and AJ's Seafood & Oyster Bar, this event is a key component in mitigating the risk of a growing lionfish threat.

"We are fortunate to have a Coastal Resources Division in our community, focused on awareness and reducing the population of this invasive species," said Okaloosa Board of County Commissioners Chairman Mel Ponder.

Divers from all over the country traveled to Destin-Fort Walton Beach for the spearfishing tournament held on May 13th and 14th. An award ceremony was held on Sunday announcing the winners of various categories including most lionfish removed, largest and smallest. The record for the smallest lionfish was broken at 39 millimeters during the main tournament by Alabama



Jammin. Diver Tim Shivers collected 604 lionfish during the pre-tournament which surpassed the 2019 record. Thanks to Emerald Coast Open sponsors, participants were awarded \$48,000 in cash and approximately

\$50,000 in prizes. View a list of this year's winners @EmeraldCoastOpen on Facebook.

Several events were held over the weekend in conjunction with the tournament including The Lionfish Removal & Awareness Day Festival hosted with Florida Fish and Wildlife which garnered 5,000 attendees. Over

40 vendors were in attendance with educational activities that focused on conservation efforts. Lionfish & Libations was a new event held at HarborWalk Village. These events allowed locals and visitors to learn about lionfish and even have the chance to experience tastings.

Emerald Coast Open Lionfish Restaurant Week was held the week leading up to the tournament. Each evening, a local restaurant served a unique lionfish dish on their menu. The fish caught pre-tournament were provided to the participating restaurants to serve. The lionfish

dishes were scored by a host of judges including a New Yorker Magazine journalist and Chief Scientist for NOAA National Marine Sanctuaries. A scoring system was used and Chef Al Massa took the highest marks with Brotula's Seafood House & Steamer creation. They presented a Lionfish Pan-Seared dish with Black Forbidden Rice, Melting Zucchini Ribbons, with a Chardonnay Shellfish butter.

"We couldn't be happier with the success of this year's Emerald Coast Open Tournament with 145 tournament participants and 50 volunteers donat-

ing their time. Thank you to our sponsors for their support that continues the growth of the tournament and the education of lionfish management. The removal of this many lionfish from our local water restores the ecosystem, especially as we head into a busy fishing season," said Alex Fogg, Coastal Resource Manager, Destin-Fort Walton Beach.

For more information on the Emerald Coast Open Lionfish Tournament visit emeraldcoastopen.com and for more on Destin-Fort Walton Beach, Florida, please visit www.destinfwb.com.

RAIDERS

continued from page 4

Raiders attended.

The Goblets: For the annual reunion on April 18, 1959, the city of Tucson created 80 silver goblets. Each goblet bears a Raider's name, printed upright and upside down. At each reunion, the living Raiders toasted their fallen brethren. After a Raider passed, his goblet was inverted. A final toast with the last three Raiders took place in November 2013.

Two years later, Congress bestowed the Congressional Gold Medal upon the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders "for outstanding heroism, valor, skill, and service to the United States in conducting their bombings of Tokyo." The last living Raider, Colonel (ret.) Dick Cole died on April 9, 2019, at 103 years old. He was co-pilot of the lead plane with Col. Doolittle. Covid delayed the Final Goblet Ceremony for several years, with the Fort Walton Beach Chamber chosen to host the event.

The Ceremony: The featured attendees at the Final Goblet Ceremony included the family of Col. Dick Cole, along with the other Doolittle Raider families. The historic ceremony was honored by the presence of the Air Force's top brass: Secretary of the Air Force Frank Kendall III; Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. CQ Brown, Jr.; Lt. Gen. Jim Slife, commander of Air Force Special Operations Command; and Lt. Gen. Brad Webb, commander of AETC.

Secretary Kendall said of the Doolittle Raiders, "Like many of the greatest generation, they saw it as their duty and accepted it without any regret."

In recognition of the Air Force's 75th Anniversary, 16 local active-duty and distinguished veterans were honored to represent the legacy of each Doolittle crew and the contributions of fellow airmen to the rich history of the U.S. Air Force.

Lt. Col. (ret.) Rich Cole, son of Col. Richard E. "Dick" Cole, performed the ritual of turning over his father's goblet – the final goblet to be inverted. "The Cole family is deeply honored and appreciative of the Okaloosa County Community hosting the Goblet Ceremony for our Dad ...," he said. "We are thankful to celebrate this moment in the city where it all began." The National Museum of the U.S. Air Force at Wright Patterson AFB in Ohio permanently displays the Goblets.

Later that evening, thousands of onlookers witnessed the historic beach flyover celebrating this momentous occasion. The aerial review took place over Okaloosa Island, featuring 30 vintage and current U.S. Air Force aircraft including a B-25 Mitchell bomber, a B-52 Stratofortress, an F-22 Raptor, an F-35 Lightning Stealth Fighter, a C-130 Hercules Transport, a CV-22 Osprey, a B1 Lancer Bomber, 2 F-15s and two Sikorsky UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters. Lt. Col. Cole piloted the lead plane.



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Gulfarium C.A.R.E. Center Releases Four Rehabilitated Sea Turtles

The Gulfarium's C.A.R.E. Center successfully released four rehabilitated sea turtles.

It was a beautiful morning as crowds gathered to watch the endangered turtles head back into the Gulf of Mexico. All of the rehabilitated sea turtles had fallen victim to fishing hook related injuries. One of the turtles was outfitted with a satellite tag for the release.

Jamie, a large adult female loggerhead weighing 208lbs, had been outfitted with a satellite tag by the United States Geological Survey team for a tracking research project prior to release. She was accidentally hooked at Navarre Beach Fishing Pier on Nov. 20, 2021. X-rays showed that she had a large circle hook in her proximal esophagus and a small treble hook further down. Jamie underwent a four-hour surgery on Nov. 22, to remove both hooks. After the surgery was complete, the recovery phase was very extensive. However, after a seven-month long stay at the C.A.R.E. Center, she was finally ready to be released. The satellite tag will allow researchers to monitor Jamie's movements and track where she travels and how long she spends at each location. This equipment is part of an ongoing, long-term research project to determine the movement patterns of repeatedly hooked sea turtles at local fishing piers. This was Jamie's third time being foul hooked at the same pier - she is an excellent candidate for this project.

The other three turtles that headed back into the Gulf of Mexico included Sheldon, a sub-adult loggerhead weighing in at 79 lbs., who was foul hooked with a cobia jig in the right front flipper in April. Following the initial intake procedure, Sheldon's X-rays showed a large hook embedded in his tongue. After mild sedation, the hook was successfully removed. Sheldon was under observation by our veterinary team for a few weeks to ensure all was well and after being cleared for release, he was ready to head back into the Gulf of Mexico. This was Sheldon's second visit to the C.A.R.E. Center for rehabilitation.

Pluto arrived at the C.A.R.E. Center on May 10, 2022, after being foul hooked by a fisherman at Navarre Beach Fishing Pier. This sub-adult loggerhead weighs 90lbs and had unremarkable blood work and clear radiographs upon arrival at the center, so was medically cleared for release by the veterinary team once the hook was removed. This was Pluto's third visit to the Gulfarium C.A.R.E. Center.

Shirley, a sub-adult Kemp's ridley sea turtle, who was hooked in the mouth with a J-hook in May 2022, at Navarre Beach Fishing Pier was also released. Shirley weighed in at 56lbs and had a very quick stay at the Gulfarium C.A.R.E. Center. With unremarkable blood work and radiographs, she was deemed medically cleared for release by the center's veterinary team.

"Release days are always extremely rewarding," states Tabitha Siegfried, Stranding Coordinator for the Gulfarium C.A.R.E. Center. "We are very excited to be participating in a



research project that includes a satellite tag as all sea turtle species are endangered so any help that we can provide to these animals is crucial."

If you see a sea turtle in distress, injured, or deceased please report it to Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission immediately at 1-888-404-

FWCC (1-888-404-3922).

Follow the C.A.R.E. Center on Facebook to learn more about sea turtles and the center's rehabilitation efforts. The C.A.R.E. Center and its patients can be visited as part of a general admission ticket to Gulfarium Marine Adventure Park.

The Gulfarium CARE Foun-

ation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, is proud to act as a beacon for coastal conservation through marine animal rescue and rehabilitation. Donations are tax-deductible and can be made online on the C.A.R.E. Center's webpage.

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 Wellness



BY DR. RICHARD CHERN, MD

Hormone therapy has many benefits and I've written about these for several years now. Hormones can, however, have some unexpected effects and I have seen these effects firsthand in our clinic. I've informed prospective patients for years that hormones are not just for libido and sexual function. Women tend to focus on their lack of libido and men tend to focus on a lack of performance. But, in my view as a physician, these are the least important benefits of hormone therapy for both men and women.

As a physician, I prefer to focus on the ability to prevent disease and improve the health of both body and mind. Hormone therapy can prevent numerous cancers, diseases of the heart, diseases of the brain and so much more. Hormone therapy reduces cholesterol and blood pressure and lowers overall mor-

tality rates. Testosterone reduces stress levels and anxiety. Many of our patients are able to get off their anti-depressants after starting hormone therapy with us. Patients can finally lose weight.

Motivation increases and mood improves tremendously. In fact, it is not unusual for patients to apologize to us about being angry and irritated prior to therapy. They've been bitter and irritable for so long it had become part of who they were and didn't see how it was affecting everyone around them. After getting treated they were finally happy and relaxed again and quickly realized how poorly they were treating everyone around them, including those they love the most.

Then there are the unintended consequences of hormone therapy. On several occasions in our practice, we have seen couples who were once happy but had reached a point where they just couldn't tolerate each other. At the edge of divorce their stories were all nearly identical. Their partner had just changed. They were tired, quick to anger, lost their empathy and just didn't seem to care about anyone. They couldn't find the per-

Unexpected Consequences of Hormone Therapy



son they had married anymore. I would hear, "Our marriage is essentially over so I'm finally doing something for me." After the hormones kicked in, mood improved, stress levels came down, and problems got smaller. The major issues causing arguments turned into the minor issues they had always been. Stress and tension reduced and those quick to react and quick to anger emotions faded. I have heard more than once that getting hormones not only improved the patient's life but also saved a marriage at the brink of extinction.

Dr. Richard Chern, MD provides hormone therapy to men and women from across the country. He is also on staff at BioTE Medical and teaches hormone therapy to new providers

including providers in our local area. In addition, Dr. Chern treats doctors in the local area and from around the country. He is a platinum BioTE provider and runs one of the largest BioTE hormone clinics in the country in Miramar Beach. Call him at (850) 837-1271.

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Protecting More Than Your Skin



By KAY LEAMAN,
HEALTH ARCHITECT

Summer is here. You can feel the humidity thicken and watch traffic double. Sunscreen sales increase as we hit the beach, go camping, work in the yard, etc. Many of us look over the myriad choices focusing on SPF numbers rather than ingredients.

The benefits of being outside, besides lifting our spirits, breathing fresh ocean air and feeling the sun on our face, is the manufacturing of Vitamin D, which is essential for myriad cellular functions.

Many of us know the ultraviolet (UV) radiation is the culprit behind sunburns, which can lead to peeling skin. This radiation causes damage to oxygen-carrying cells as well as our DNA which can lead to genetic mutation. There are two types, UVA and UVB, which is more harmful. Protection is key but we often associate sunscreen with water activities. What about driving, shopping outdoors and wearing summer clothes which expose more skin? And what about the other seasons? Why is summer the only time we think about protecting our skin?

My sister loves the sun. She has spent many hours lying on the beach getting her tan on. Back in the '70s, the go-to for tanning was baby oil or lotions that aided in "getting your tan on." However, today my sis spends her time at the doctor's office cutting off skin cancer growths, wearing chemo lotions which peel the cancer off the skin (it hurts and burns) and other not so fun therapies. She has as many as three appointments

every year. I, on the other hand, loved the beach but hated lying on it. I was in the water 99 percent of the time, which probably helped to shield me. I didn't wear any lotion and, although I had my share of sunburns, I have been blessed so far with no major residual damage.

This being said, many sunscreens are a combination of chemicals that are harmful to both the human body and marine life. Many contain oxybenzone and octinoxate (These can be labeled under several different names disguising their existence in the product.) These ingredients are contributors to the demise of coral reefs. They also have been found to accumulate in the tissues of many marine wildlife, which can be passed on to their young. You'll need to do your own research but two safer sunscreens I've found are Ocean Potion 70 and MyChelle Dermaceuticals Protect 50. Natural safe sunscreens are hard to find, so you might want to see where your choice is sold before trekking out to find it.

As a side note: Did you know



that the Blue Light, which is transmitted by our electronic devices from computers to televisions, can lead to visible signs of aging for your skin? Research suggests that sunscreen offers some benefits from this type of radiation.

Aside from sunscreen, activewear clothing now has UV protective fabrics. Add shade to your body by wearing a hat, sunglasses, activewear, using an umbrella, etc. Remember to

wear a facial cream with sunblock in it to lower exposure from blue light radiation.

Here's to fun in the sun! Contact me if you're interested in a natural face cream that nourishes, protects from the sun and blue light exposure and is reef friendly.

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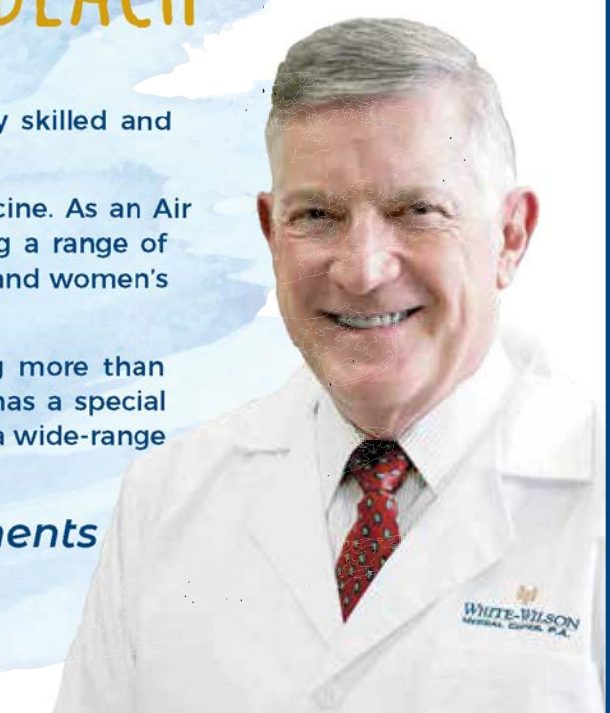
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Living in a Bear Market



By MAURICE STOUSE, FINANCIAL ADVISOR AND BRANCH MANAGER

Investors have watched the market move its way down for most of this year. Whether invested in stocks, bonds, crypto or otherwise, it seemed that values just continued to slip. Why has this been so? We look at several inputs to help understand the outputs and talk about what investors might expect and do during these times.

The American economy has been on a growth spurt for quite some time. Believe it or not, the government ran a surplus – that is not a misprint – in April. The federal government took in \$308 billion more than it spent. And that is a dramatic change

from a deficit of \$226 billion in April of 2021. We read that it is from strong income for businesses and ponder if the prediction that the U.S. is inflating its way out of record debt is starting to take shape.

Inflation in and of itself however has had quite an impact on the markets. Fears of rising prices for just about everything leaves investors worried that it is a matter of time before corporate profits feel the impact and hence have reduced their exposure to many equities. Technology stocks have been the hardest hit. The problem for many technology stocks is that if they are yet to turn a profit or pay little to no dividends, their stock price feels it when inflation and bond yields rise. The big, somewhat profitable tech stocks, however, have tumbled, along with everything else. By one account, just eight stocks, many of them technology stocks, make up a significant amount of the overall decline of the market.

We think investors should consider investing in many of the legacy, large cap technology stocks at this time as they are nearing multi-year lows and are in a relatively oversold state.



The same sentiment is seen by many pundits with regard to biotechnology stocks.

Bear markets have historically hit their trough when we experience negative economic circumstances and perhaps high unemployment and low corporate profits. None of these are the case right now. Pessimism regarding the future is, however, pervasive.

Inflation has also caused the Federal Reserve to begin to increase its short-term rate and begin to reduce the size of its balance sheet. The balance sheet is an indicator of Fed activity in expanding or decreasing the money supply. The Fed has been increasing it since the start of the pandemic. That unleashing of money has driven asset prices for real estate, stocks, commodities, crypto, nonfungible tokens and a host of other assets. One reported statistic is housing values, which have risen \$6 trillion in the last two years alone. The problem it has created is that the increase in the money supply has on the one hand spared the economy from a pandemic-driven depression but on the other also has set inflation in motion. The perfect storm of the supply chain imbalance and pent-up demand from Covid, along with scores of early retirements (causing a labor shortage and driving wage inflation) has led to inflation's rapid rise. Left unchecked, inflation can erode purchasing power as well as standards of living.

The housing market accounts for about 20 percent of the U.S. economy and for at least one third of inflation. There is fear that housing may have peaked as pending sales continue downward and the refinance market has all but ceased. That could reverberate throughout the economy, affecting several sectors.

The Fed has an inflation target of two percent per year,

which many consider healthy. Currently, inflation is more than four times that and that has sent asset prices down and raised the level of discomfort, if not outright concern, for many investors. We suggest investors look at some things to expect (based upon history) in bear markets and use that in their decision making. Question: Are market downturns and bear markets the exception or are they the rule? We think that for long-term investing, they are the rule.

Some characteristics of bear markets are important to take note of. The first of these are some of the dramatic upward swings that occur during bear markets. Investors have seen some dramatic legs up in a short period of time, often lasting just a day. Those investors who headed to the sidelines and are waiting to time a movement back into the markets most often miss these and that can have a dramatic impact on long term results. Bear markets also might signal that stocks or other assets had become overbought and an event or a series of events could bring markets back in line with historical averages. If markets are in decline one-third of the time, it could almost be argued that they bring efficiency to the markets by way of asset prices.

Bear markets, when they end – and they average nine months – typically represent very undervalued assets at the end as the pendulum has swung too far in the other direction. Bear markets exhibit excessive pessimism, while bull markets have exhibited excessive optimism. The problem is, they don't ring a bell at the bottom just as they don't ring a bell at the top of markets. We suggest investors, unless they need liquidity (cash) now, stay invested, not give up hope at the worst possible time, remain focused on their goals and govern their actions accordingly.

The First Wealth Management is located at First Florida Bank, a division of The First Bank, 2000 98 Palms Blvd, Destin, FL 32541. Branch offices in Niceville, Mary Esther, Miramar Beach, Freeport and Panama City. Phone 850.654.8122.

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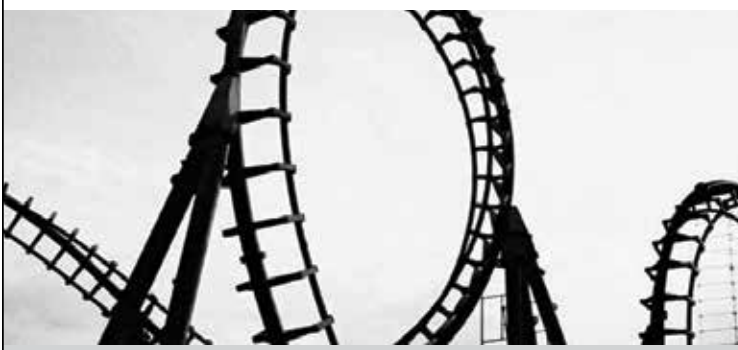
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Up, down or sideways: Keep your head on straight when markets move.


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Maurice Stouse
Financial Advisor

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BY JOE CAPERS,
INSURANCE ZONE

With 70% confidence, NOAA (National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration) has just released its 2022 Hurricane Season Forecast calling for an above average season with 14 to 21 named storms. Last year's 21 named storms was the second season in a row – third overall – in which the designated 21-name list of storm names was exhausted. NOAA forecasters estimate 14 to 21 named storms, six to 10 of which will become hurricanes, with three to six of those developing into major hurricanes.

The 2022 Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30. The areas covered include the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea. The National Weather Service defines a hurricane as a “tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of 74 mph (64 knots) or higher.” And in recent years, storms have grown increasingly intense.

If you own a home, investment property or business, you are probably aware that having the right homeowners, rental and business insurance policies in place are of utmost importance. Without proper coverage, you could be responsible for expensive damage in the event of a weather-related incident. In fact, as this year's hurricane season kicks off, now is a really good time to review your insurance policies and make sure you are satisfied with your level of coverage.

We recommend you initially review your Hurricane/Wind coverage. Most personal lines policies (HO3, DP3, HO6, HO4) in Florida include either hurricane, named storm or wind/hail under a separate deductible. Consistency of coverage is important in any policy, but this type is typically preferred. When it comes to wind coverage, the best option is to

attempt to secure it on a Hurricane basis, rather than Named Storm or Wind/Hail. Keep in mind there are several deductible options available that can have a large impact on what would be your out-of-pocket responsibility if you file a claim as well as the amount of premium you would pay for the policy.

In last month's article, we discovered that Inflation may be leaving you more underinsured. Adequate Dwelling and Building Limits coverage to rebuild your home or structure in the event of a loss is also important. Local and national data indicates that nearly two out of three homes and structures are underinsured.

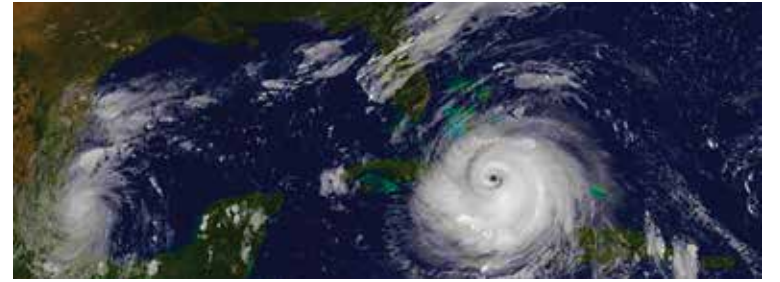
The cost of lumber and other common building materials has soared in the past year as a result of supply chain disruptions and shortages, and this is the main reason new home construction has grown more expensive in recent years. As such, the homeowner and insurance policies that were once sufficient for your property might now fall short.

Another important coverage to review is Loss of Use that pays for you to live somewhere else while repairs are being done to your temporarily unlivable home. This also goes for rental properties with Loss of Rents coverage. To trigger this type of coverage, there needs to be direct physical damage.

An often misunderstood coverage not offered with each carrier, but always recommended, is Law or Ordinance coverage. Most carriers, if they have it available, offer either 10%, 25% or 50% coverage tied to your Dwelling or Building Limit. If there is extensive hurricane damage, like we saw with Hurricane Michael, there might be new building codes you must adhere to in order to rebuild. The additional Law or Ordinance coverage is crucial to your protection, since your policy is designed to rebuild your home as it was before the damage, with similar materials and quality, and not with more costly materials that could now be required by more stringent construction codes that may have come into play.

Our coastal properties are threatened by hurricanes and tropical storms each year, and flooding can happen anywhere, anytime—even in non-flood prone areas. We encourage everyone to purchase flood insurance from the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), or a reputable, private flood insurance facility which may be a better flood insurance alternative to the NFIP for your home, investment or commercial property.

It is also good to remember that flood and water damage from a wind event are not necessarily the same thing. There are a few carriers who will add flood coverage as an endorsement to a home policy. For most insured homeowners, your flood policy will be a separate policy written through the NFIP (National Flood Insurance Program) or a private market, and this is the method we prefer. Unless your lender requires the policy, or you are closing on a new purchase, there is a standard 30-day waiting period through the NFIP before your flood policy will become effective. Many of the private markets in the country, and especially in Florida, offer broader coverages than the



NFIP and these should be considered as an alternative to maximize your protection.

The insurance marketplace continues to deteriorate with premiums increasing, guidelines and appetites tightening and some carriers losing the ability to offer new coverages and renewals. According to the Insurance Information Institute, property insurance premiums in Florida are expected to jump 30-40% on average in 2022, with many likely seeing renewal increases well over 50%. Citizens Property Insurance Corporation, the state's insurer of last resort, is again becoming a popular and vital player in Florida. Although Gov. Ron DeSantis just signed two pieces of legislation during the special session focused on insurance reform, there's nothing in this legislation right now that's going to provide immediate relief, or even

the hope of some rate relief for a year or two.



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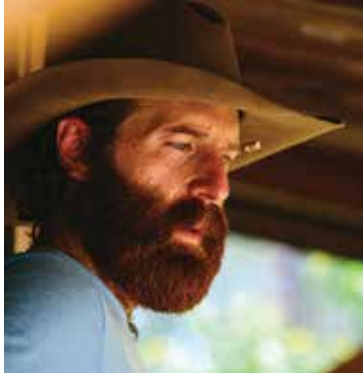


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 Musing


BY SEAN DIETRICH

I hung an American flag on our house today. We just moved in. We have only been living in Birmingham for three days, but I thought it was time we flew the Stars and Stripes.

This house dates back to 1923, so this porch has probably seen its share of flags.

When Lindbergh flew across the pond, a flag whipped from these columns. When the Depression hit, and people stood in 10-mile breadlines, there was a flag here. When the kid who grew up in this old house went off to join a global war, and died in Europe, Old Glory was flying from the eaves.

So I went to the hardware store to buy a flag.

“Yeah, we got flags,” said 80-year-old hardware store employee, Steadman. “But I tell you right upfront,” he added, “flying a flag ain’t cheap.”

I thought Steadman was speaking poetically, but as it turned out, he was speaking from his wallet. Flags cost a small fortune.

First there was the oak flagpole (\$35.99), then the mounting hardware (\$29.99), the flag hooks (\$4.99 apiece), the masonry screws (\$8.99), the masonry drill bit (\$19.99), and of course, the flag itself (\$69.99). For those keeping tally, that’s a grand total of \$154.94. It would have been cheaper just to get a flag tattooed on my forehead.

But the American flag speaks to me. I wish I could give you some high-minded patriotic reason for why I spent hours hanging the Star Spangled Banner from my house, I wish I could be ultra poetic and tell you what a great citizen I am. But I’m not a poet. And my reasons are much more low-rent than that.

I just really like American flags.

I love being American. When I was young, people my age were hellbent on traveling to Europe to become internationally conscious. I was so jealous of my friend, Justin, who studied journalism in college. He visited Spain, Portugal, and France on a student exchange program. In one year he traveled through Europe, Nepal, Thailand, India, and (Why not?) Greenland.

Me? I couldn’t afford college. And the farthest from home I’d ever been was Texarkana.

So my lack of travel made me feel bad about myself. I counted myself as a failure. I was a dropout and a roughneck who lived

Sean of the South



in a doublewide and could hardly afford a McRib sandwich, let alone a holiday in Barcelona.

But that all changed one summer when I made a decision. I told myself, hey, so what if I couldn’t see the globe, I live in a pretty great country, and I was going to see America.

So that’s what I did.

I was 18 when I drove to the Grand Canyon in my truck. I slept in a tent hammock for four weeks, hiking and eating dangerous amounts of pinto beans. I wandered isolated trails on the canyon’s North Rim.

One morning at sunrise, I strolled to Point Imperial, the highest point on the North Rim. I arrived just as the orange sun was peeking above the craggy canyon horizon.

That’s when I noticed some-

one had shoved a lone American flag into a crevice of rock, right on the canyon’s edge. It was a massive flag, flapping loudly, like a flock of geese getting ready to take flight. I have no idea what the flag was doing there, but it was an impressive sight.

In a brief moment, my heart swelled with inexplicable pride. I was thinking to myself, I might never see Montreux, or Bangkok, or Bordeaux, but I am American, and that’s enough.

My ponytailed ancestors brandished Flintlock muskets and knee breeches. They tossed tea into the Boston Harbor and spit in the king’s eye. They died so I could stand right here, right now, and feel the exact way I was feeling Proud.

Then it occurred to me that although I would probably nev-

er become a college student, or a poet, or a great thinker, or a seasoned traveler, big freaking deal. That didn’t mean I wasn’t lucky. I was. I was American, and that’s lucky enough.

There are 44 million Ukrainians right now who are ravaged by the hell of war, meanwhile I live in a jacuzzi of luxury. If that’s not lucky, I don’t care to know what is.

You and I come from a country that fosters artists, thinkers, poets, craftsmen, and saints. People who left an indelible mark on the world. Such geniuses as John Singer Sargent, Satchel Paige, Flannery O’Connor, Samuel Clemens, Fred Rogers, Fanny Crosby, Harriet Tubman, Jack London, Norman Rockwell, Charles Kuralt, and of course, Gary Larson.

So today I stood on a ladder and I honored them. I held a cordless drill and paid tribute to my forefathers and foremothers.

After I had mounted the flag I stood back to appreciate my handiwork. A few kids on bikes stopped to watch. A sudden wind gust blew in. Our nation’s colors were immediately unfurled, and in a dramatic moment, the kids stood silent in slack-jawed admiration. Finally, one of the children said reverently, “I think it’s crooked.”

Like the man said, flying a flag ain’t cheap.

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A Pastor's Ponderings: GOAT or GMOAT?

BY RICK MOORE

After traveling to the far south-east of the Caribbean, we flew to the island of Tobago to see the GOAT. Some say Michael Jordan is the GOAT (Greatest Of All Time). Some say Tom Brady is the GOAT. Some say Elvis Presley is the GOAT. However, we didn't go to see the "Greatest Of All Time" in sports or entertainment. We went to see a real goat race. I had heard of horse racing and dog racing, but I had never heard of

goat racing. Several times a year, the island of Tobago features a goat racing festival. Tobago proudly calls itself, "The Goat Racing Capital of the World." When we arrived for one of these events, our host asked us if we would like to enjoy some boiled chicken feet on a stick. Oddly enough, eating chicken feet was not the weirdest part of the day. I had assumed the goats would be pulling a cart behind them, but instead, they pulled humans behind them. The fastest young men and women on the island are selected to race with the goats. There are usually eight teams per race; one human and one goat per team. Each racer stands behind their goat holding on to a rope for dear life. The lanes on the grass track are about one-hundred yards long. When the gates open, it's off to the races.

While pedigree is part of the selection process in choosing a goat that can run fast, the secret is finding goats that can swim. Yes, the race takes place on ground, but the training takes place in the beautiful Caribbean waters surrounding the island. The goats who swim have much more strength in their legs, allowing them to run faster. Unfortunately, goats are much less tolerant of wet conditions than sheep and cattle, and goats will naturally seek shelter from the rain when it is available. Trainers select healthy goats to carry into the water one at a time. If a goat takes to the water and gets accustomed to it in a short time, it is selected to be a member of the racing team. There are many myths surrounding the advantages of swimming in the beautiful Caribbean waters of Tobago, but it is true that the mineral rich waters have several health benefits, even for goats.

Not only are many of the goats in Tobago extremely healthy, but so are the people. I asked our host why? He said it's the chicken feet. I thought he was joking. However, like the health benefits of homemade bone broth, chicken feet have vitamins, minerals and calcium in abundance. Bone marrow carries oxygen to our cells. It is, tru-



ly, a natural super-supplement. Self-improvement often requires a willingness to try something you have never tried before. I must confess, that was the first and last time I have eaten chicken feet, but it did inspire me to eat healthier foods.

As I reflect on my life, it seems doubtful I will ever be considered the GOAT (Greatest Of All Time) at anything. But I can still become the GMOAT... the "Greatest Me Of All Time." The question is, am I willing to be thrown into the water? Will I allow myself to be placed in "sink or swim" moments that lead to

the "Greatest Me Of All Time?" Getting out of our comfort zone isn't comfortable. If you ever feel like a fish out of water, or a goat in water, remember, there is a purpose to every challenge in life. You may not understand the purpose of what you are going through, but there is a purpose. That purpose may not lead you to becoming the greatest entertainer or the greatest athlete, but if it leads to becoming a better you, embrace it.

Rick Moore is Communications Pastor at Destiny Worship Center.

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Arts & Music

Area Independence Day Fireworks!

Stars & Stripes Celebration at AJ's on the Bayou!

Join AJ's on the Bayou Sunday, July 3rd for the Stars & Stripes CELEBRATION! The whole family is invited to enjoy bounce houses, stilt walkers, face painting and live music, Black Eyed Blonde from 6 – 10 p.m. Fireworks begin at 9 p.m! 200 Eglin Parkway NE in Fort Walton Beach.

City of Fort Walton Beach

Gather at the Fort Walton

Beach Landing for the City of Fort Walton Beach's Independence Day Fireworks show Monday, July 4th at 8:45 p.m. The Fort Walton Beach Landing Fireworks are set off from a barge over the Santa Rosa Sound and you will get a great view anywhere along the water downtown or from the Landing Park downtown where other July 4th festivities will take place earlier in the day.

4th of July Celebration at HarborWalk Village

HarborWalk Village's festive Independence Day fireworks occur over the Destin Harbor at 9:30 p.m.

Smoke on the Coast

Get your 4th of July started at the Annual Smoke on the Coast BBQ and Fireworks Festival July 3rd at Destin Commons. Family entertainment and live music kicks off at 5 p.m. (Tobacco Rd Band from 5 – 7 p.m.; Heritage



Call for Art!

The Mattie Kelly Art Center at Northwest Florida State College welcomes visual, performing, and sound artists of all styles and media to apply for the 30th Annual Emerald Coast National Juried Show. This is an open call without a set theme.

This year's guest judge is Viet Le, Ph.D., MFA, an accomplished international art-



ist and scholar based at the California College of Arts. Selected artists will exhibit in the 1500-square-foot McIlroy Gallery, with an opening reception at 6 p.m. Aug. 26. The best-in-show artist will win \$1,000 and a solo exhibition in

the Holzhauser Gallery during the 31st annual Emerald Coast National show in 2023. The second-place artist will win \$500 and the third-place artist will win \$250. Deadline to apply: July 1. To apply: mattiekellyartscenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/ecn30_call_to_artists.pdf.

Your Membership supports MKAF's ArtsReach education and community outreach throughout Northwest Florida.

Not a member yet? Now is the time to join!

Join or Renew at MKAF.org.

Member Benefits



Receive one season pass to our "Concerts in the Village".



Receive membership rates on MKAF events throughout the year.



Receive one season pass to our NEW "Fall Flix".



Receive a discount on "Festival of the Arts" merchandise.



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



Band from 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. At 5:30 p.m., you can enjoy \$1 samples from 18 area restaurants and BBQ groups and vote for your favorite. Independence Day Fireworks extravaganza begins at 9:30 p.m.

City of Destin July 4th Fireworks Celebration

The Annual Independence Day Fireworks Show is set off from the West Jetties Beach and can be seen over the East Pass beginning at 9 p.m. on Monday, July 4th. Tune in to Z96 (96.5 FM) for the simulcast music. If inclement weather, the fireworks show will take place on Friday, July 5th at 9 p.m.

Red, White & Baytowne

Beginning Monday, July 4th at 6 p.m. at The Village of Baytowne Wharf at Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort, enjoy lawn games, inflatables, kids' crafts, and face painting. At 7 p.m., enjoy LIVE music on the Events Plaza Stage followed by the special 4th of July Fireworks display at 9:15 p.m.

Fireworks continue at The Boardwalk on Okaloosa Island each Wednesday at 9 p.m., and over the Destin Harbor directly behind HarborWalk Village every Thursday night throughout the summer at 9 p.m.

4th of July Concert at The Landing!

There will be a free, family-friendly 4th of July Concert at The Landing from 6-8 p.m. featuring a local favorite, Six-Piece Suits. Led by the vocals of Kyle Hooks and the musicianship of Nicky, Mike,

Corey, Raywood and Nick Hooks, you'll sing and dance to the powerhouse sound and experience. family-friendly fun. 139 Brooks St. SE, Fort Walton Beach.

Destin's Got Magic!

Summer beach days are here, but what is there to do at night? (Especially for families!) PRESTO! at the Magic Parlor is bringing some of the best magical talent from around the world for a show filled with illusion, showmanship and outright hilarity. This 90-minute magical masterpiece is Inspired by early 20th century magic performances and the beauty of vintage, traveling European dance halls, PRESTO! delivers an experience unlike anything previously seen in North America. Under the velvet dome of The Magic Parlor at Destin Commons, you and your family will witness some of magic's greatest minds perform their innovative, legendary acts.

The acts in PRESTO! have been seen on America's Got Talent, Britain's Got Talent, World's Best Magic, Champions of Magic, Masters of Illusion, The Late Show with David Letterman, The Late Show with Stephen Colbert and more.

Yu Hojin is one of the many unique talents that is featured at



PRESTO! this summer and the Magic Parlor won't be the only stage he'll be on. Yu Hojin received word that he passed the initial auditions for this season of America's Got Talent and will be moving on to the live rounds. This season of America's Got Talent will premiere in June while Hojin is performing at PRESTO! He may have to sneak out to Vegas during this summer for a filming, depending on how far he goes in the competition. As he prepares for America's Got Talent, Hojin says he is eagerly awaiting his chance to show the world his story through his performance. "I've always

wanted people to remember my name," Hojin says. "I am going to do my best to make people remember me."

A native of South Korea, Yu Hojin has been a visionary force in turning the world of artistic performance. At 8 years old, Hojin's participation in magic competitions were often followed by titles such as "The Youngest Competitor." He has won prizes in almost every international magic competition in the United States, Taiwan, Italy, Hong Kong and the United Kingdom. He's risen to international stardom as one of the first magicians to perform in the concert hall at the historic Sydney Opera House as well as the first Asian magician to perform on Broadway.

Hojin's act is more than just a magic show or illusion show – it's an opportunity to use magic

to tell his own story. Through every trick, attendees learn more and more about Hojin and what he wants to say to his audiences. Hojin will be in Florida for the first time for PRESTO! He says it has always been a dream of his to visit Florida and Hawaii, and he is excited to cross one location off of his performance bucket list.

The show is hosted by David Williamson, who has been featured on ABC's Champions of Magic, CBS' Magician's Favorite Magicians, and NBC's World's Greatest Magic III, CW's Masters of Illusion and as a guest performer on America's Got Talent.

Additional performers include Chris Cox, the only mind-reader ever to have starred on Broadway, the Sydney Opera House and in London's West End and the star of Chris Cox's Mind-Boggling Magic (CBBC) and the award-winning Killer Magic (BBC Three) in the UK; The Great Kaplan, a modern-day vaudevillian master who has made numerous head-

liner appearances at the Magic Castle in Hollywood; and Pablo Canovas, an internationally-known, dynamic magician prodigy.

PRESTO! takes place in a beautiful imported antique theater from Belgium. Opulent palaces of red velvet and gold brocade, stained glass and deep mahogany, these European cabaret tents, known as spiegel tents (or mirror tents), were constructed in the 1910s by renowned craftsman Willem Klessens. It hosted dances, cabarets and celebrations throughout Europe for almost a century. About 35 of these remarkable structures exist, largely still seen throughout Europe.

You can see Hojin and the rest of PRESTO!'s amazing acts at the Magic Parlor through Aug. 28, with 10 shows per week at Destin Commons. See more information by following on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok. To purchase tickets, visit prestodestin.com or call the PRESTO! box office at (850) 688-1201.

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STARS & STRIPES

CELEBRATION

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200 Eglin Pkwy NE, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547

FIREWORKS!

AT

★ 9PM ★



Family Fun Event!

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Black Eyed Blonde Starting at 5pm



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