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YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

July 27, 2006

**1st Place**  
in the State!  
Gulf Breeze News  
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**Inside in Island News** PAGE 1B

- Santa Rosa Yacht Club opens soon
- Man found dead at Ft. Pickens
- Bubba's Beach

**WEEKEND Weather**

**THURSDAY 7/27**  
Scat.T-Storms  
high 88°  
low 77°

**FRIDAY 7/28**  
Scat. T-Storms  
high 89°  
low 76°

**SATURDAY 7/29**  
Scat.T-Storms  
high 90°  
low 77°

**SUNDAY 7/30**  
Scat. T-Storms  
high 88°  
low 77°

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"Mailing Statement is on Editorial Page"

FOUR SECTIONS  
VOL. 5, No. 27  
JULY 27, 2006

## County wins Navarre Beach taxation battle

BY VICI PAPAJOHN  
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Though Navarre Beach properties have been appraised and assessed since 2001, the county now has the all-clear from Florida courts to enforce taxation. After a four-year battle, the Florida Supreme Court refused to take jurisdiction and reverse

earlier rulings in favor of the county.

The county will net \$19.2 million dollars in past-due taxation, according to Santa Rosa County Property Appraiser Greg Brown, approximately 90 percent of which has already been paid.

Both the Circuit Court and the Appellant Court ruled that the Navarre Beach property

owners do owe taxes, and now the issue is dead as the Supreme Court refused to take jurisdiction.

"Now property owners will pay taxes and interest on past-due taxes," says Brown, "and the issue is settled. The county wins."

The total \$19.2 million assessed Navarre Beach property owners from 2001 to 2005

includes Santa Rosa County taxes totaling \$8.8 million and more than \$10.3 due to Santa Rosa County Schools.

Santa Rosa County Property Appraiser Greg Brown began assessing real property improvements on Navarre Beach in 2001 in his first year in office. Property owners filed suit, and over the past four

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## School budget tight for 2006-2007

BY B.J. DAVIS  
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The Santa Rosa School District (SRSD) announced its tentative budget for the 2006-07 school year at its July 20 school board meeting, and the budget is tight as the district receives the third-lowest funding in the state.

Past years' trends show that increases and decreases in statewide averages of per-student funding parallel SRSD funding. However, officials say it's difficult to immediately determine if that trend will continue this year as SRSD predicts an enrollment increase of only 20 students. Last year, SRSD experienced an influx of nearly 400 students, quite possibly from hurricane evacuees.

"Currently the state is showing an increase while we're projecting a decrease [in FTE]. It's really tough projecting. We will probably just have to wait and see how many children show up for school," said Assistant Superintendent of Finance Doug Dillon. According to the tentative budget, district projections show a decrease in FTE percentage growth from 2.52% in 2005-06 to 0.79% for 2006-07.

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## Gallagher: no special session

BY LISA NEWELL  
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governor and the state's current Chief Financial Officer, met with members of the Gulf Breeze Chamber of Commerce's board of directors and Santa Rosa County Commissioner John Broxson Friday night during a campaign stop in Gulf Breeze.

Over dinner, he discussed the growing insurance problem affecting many businesses in our area.

Matt Salvator, local insurance agent, told Gallagher that if another storm hits the state this year, the shortage of affordable insurance "is going to get worse."

However, Gallagher said it's unlikely that Gov. Bush will call a special session to address the issue.

"You've got to have a solution that you have some kind of consensus," before calling a special session, Gallagher said. As of now, there is no simple solution in sight.

Tom Gallagher, candidate for Florida

governor and the state's current Chief Financial Officer, met with members of the Gulf Breeze Chamber of Commerce's board of directors and Santa Rosa County Commissioner John Broxson Friday night during a campaign stop in Gulf Breeze.

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Gallagher said there are two potential remedies to the problem, which stems from insurance companies being unable to find reinsurance.

The first solution is to activate a commercial Joint Underwriting Association. "The reason we don't have a market is the companies can't afford the risk," Gallagher said. "Now it's being put back on through the JUA. That's the negative with doing that."

A second solution Gallagher proposed is that companies that write windstorm policies can pass the risk along to the policyholders, but "that places a tremendous liability on policyholders," Gallagher said.

However some local businesses don't want to wait months or years for a solution. "We're drowning out here, and they want to throw peanuts," Tina Pagan of Lou's Marine said. "How about a life preserver?"

Pagan was one of the attendees at a

• See INSURANCE, Page 2A ▶



Lisa Newell/Gulf Breeze News  
State of Florida CFO Tom Gallagher met with members of the Gulf Breeze Area Chamber of Commerce last Friday to discuss solutions for solving area insurance problems.

## GB's 98-year-old Nelsen has 'good genes'

BY FRANKLIN HAYES  
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The phrase: "you must have very good genes" would have evoked looks of confusion in 1908. Ninety-eight years later, people have a better scientific comprehension of the world around them and understand the statement is not referring to one's newest pair of designer blue jeans.

Emily Nelsen has great genes.

Nelsen celebrated her 98th birthday July 15 and is regarded as the eldest resident at Bay Breeze Nursing and Retirement Center's Assisted Living facility. Longevity is nothing new to Nelsen as her father lived to be 102.

"We also had an aunt who lived to be 104," explained Nelsen's daughter Christine.

The retired comptometer operator attributes her extended senescence to constant physical activity, saying that she enjoyed swimming, boating, and dancing in her younger

years.

Nelsen is originally from Temesvár, Hungary and immigrated with her family to Chicago in 1911 when she was 3 years old. While living in the windy city, she bore witness to copious advances in technology, services and science.

One of Nelsen's fondest memories is of the neighborhood lamplighter, a utility worker responsible for lighting and extinguishing the city's gas powered street lamps in the early twentieth century.

"I remember my aunt didn't want them to take out the gas lines in her home; she wasn't sure how long electricity would last," Nelsen said jokingly. "I missed the lamplighters, but the electric lights worked much better."

After marrying in 1934, Nelsen moved with her family to Omaha, Neb. during the great depression and also remembers a different era of transportation.

"We had a lot of fun riding the streetcars. We would

• See NELSEN, Page 2A ▶



Franklin Hayes/Gulf Breeze News  
Emily Nelsen, who turned 98 July 15, had an aunt who lived to be 104 and her father lived to be 102.

## BP station temporarily closed

A Stop Work Order was placed on the Gulf Breeze BP station on the corner of Shoreline Drive and Hwy. 98 after an employee attempted to make a Worker's Compensation claim and found the owner of the store had not made payments for the service.

"It's the owner's responsibility to make the payments," said BP stations district manager Patsy Kirkland. According to Kirkland, the Gulf Breeze BP was one of five locations, including four in Pensacola, closed as a result of default in Worker's Comp payments. Currently, the locations are undergoing a complete change in management. Steve Mott with Mott Oil Company out of

Bessemer, AL will be taking over the stores.

"We're trying to get [the stores] open as soon as possible," said Mott.

## Real Futures: Author

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