

Seashore begins prescribed burn ops.

BY BRADLEY "B.J." DAVIS, JR.
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Favorable weather conditions allowed workers to perform a prescribed burn on 276 acres in Gulf Islands National Seashore Naval Live Oaks (NLO) last weekend. Groups from as far away as the Great Smokey Mountains assisted in the burn designed to reduce the hazard of wildfires resulting from combustible underbrush and dead trees.

"We bring in specialists and crews to both ignite and hold the fires (as well as) direct it and control it. That involves not only National Park Service personnel from the Seashore, but also the Department of Forestry, Nature

Conservancy and other agencies," said Rick Clark, GINS Chief of Science and Resources Management.

Clark said that as a result of modern-day fire suppression, areas such as GINS require controlled burning every 3-5 years. Before fire suppression through fire departments and other agencies, lightning strikes were a prime cause of natural fires.

According to park officials, public safety is also an important factor in the burns.

"The purpose of the upcoming prescribed burns is to restore habitat and reduce hazardous fuel levels which will serve to better protect adjacent homes, properties and Park lands in case of a wild fire," said GINS Superintendent Jerry Eubanks. "Fuel loading has been elevated



Lisa Newell/Gulf Breeze News

Contained smoke could be seen for miles as crews conducted a controlled burn of 276 acres at Naval Live Oaks last week.

by the hurricanes of 2004 and 2005, as well as a bug kill that occurred in the area during the fall of 2005 and 2006."

Officials say weather permitting, the burning can be completed

within several days. However, if crews are faced with weather challenges, the burning could continue through early April. Burning usually begins around 10 a.m. and ends around 4 p.m.

Santa Rosa County Commission talks trash

Commissioners discuss reducing number of garbage services

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Franklin Hayes/Gulf Breeze News

Waste Management is one of nine residential trash services working in Santa Rosa County and one of four to six companies operating in Southern Santa Rosa County.

provider will reduce the wear and tear on those roads. It will also help us identify who the source of the litter is, that's blowing off these trucks."

County Engineer Roger Blaylock said there are nine different companies providing county residents with residential trash pickup.

As part of the RFP, Goodin said he would like to see language that requires bidders to:

- Provide large item pickup at curbside
- Collect recyclable materials at curbside
- Build a transfer station in Southern Santa Rosa County
- Conduct billing services for residential customers

Goodin said that neighboring Okaloosa County shifted to a sole trash pickup provider 10 years ago and were able to reduce their residential pickup rates.

"We have people who lived in the Navarre area who have moved across the county line

that are paying less for household garbage pickup now including curbside recycling and including large item pickup," Goodin said. "They're paying less now than they did when they lived in Santa Rosa County"

Commissioner John Broxson said he'd like to see a system that is similar to what exists within the city limits of Gulf Breeze. Steve Milford with Gulf Breeze City Hall said many city utilities are streamlined into one invoice including water, gas, sewer and trash services. The city also provides curbside recyclable material pickup.

However, not all residents like the idea of monopolizing the county's residential trash service.

"I think competition is good," said Tiger Point resident Ken Robinson. The independent insurance adjuster said he originally signed up for one trash service, but quickly changed to another when the first provider

did not respond fast enough. "If there's someone else with a better service and a better price I'd like to have that choice, rather than a government entity dictating to me which service to use. I'm for smaller government and less government in my day to day life."

Commissioners also discussed sponsoring Spring Cleaning 2007, a volunteer initiative that includes the Great American Cleanup on April 22 and Amnesty Day March 24.

Rodney Sutton with Santa Rosa Clean Community System, which he said is a local chapter of Keep America Beautiful, explained that the April 22 event would be a county wide volunteer clean up effort. He said The Gulf Breeze High School parking lot normally serves as a local deposit point and last year 57 volunteers were able to collect 15 cubic yards of trash at that location. Sutton said close to 700 volunteers collected over 100 cubic yards of trash county wide in 2006.

Sutton also said Amnesty Day is an opportunity for citizens to dispose of household hazardous materials such as paint, chemicals, batteries and propane tanks.

In an ongoing effort to control alleged derelict landfills in Santa Rosa County, commissioners extended their moratorium of construction and demolition landfill permits for another six months. County staff is working to correct pollution concerns at Joiner landfill in Milton and are developing a tougher list of regulations for all landfills in the county.

CRASH: Motorist traveling 55 mph before impact

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pretty much airborne. It definitely impacted the front of the building," Williams said there were patrons in the restaurant in the area Lynch struck at the time of the crash.

"There were eight to ten peo-

ple right there in that area when she impacted," said Williams. FHP officials say Lynch suffered minor injuries and Williams said no one was hurt inside the restaurant.

"(FHP's) estimation was that if the (parked) car were not

there and she hit the building first, the damage would have been worse," said Williams.

FHP reports alcohol was involved in the accident and charges are still pending.

As for Barnhill's employees, they are pressing on with their

normal routine. They concur that the accident is certainly something to talk about.

"Quite a few people have inquired. They say 'I hear you tried to put in a new entrance into the building Saturday night,'" said Williams.

TIGER POINT: Officials considering several properties

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Association (TPSA), a youth athletic organization that developed as a response to explosive growth in the area, would more than likely be the proposed building's primary tenant.

The president of Tiger Point park, Tom Dorsey, described plans as "very very preliminary" and said, "It's a good thing the county is planning for the future."

"Hopefully, [the proposed facility] would take a little bit of the burden off of us," said Gulf Breeze's director of Parks and Recreation, Ron Pulley. The director said approximately 1,000 individual children are served by the Gulf Breeze

Sports Association (GBSA) in one year in baseball, tee ball, softball, basketball, volleyball, soccer, cheerleading and football programs. Out of that number, he said about two thirds of the GBSA's athletes live outside the city limits.

"Tiger Point has an equally strong number of supporters down there and any improvements would make us equally stronger," he said.

Another function of the proposed building could be a joint use agreement with Pensacola Junior College (PJC) for an athletic complex, Broxson said.

The PJC board of trustees currently owns a little over 100 acres of land on Nantabala Beach Road valued at nearly \$4

million. The college's administrators have previously discussed plans to construct a "Midway Campus" on the wooded, empty lot across the street from the Mediacom office complex, but do not have the funding to do so.

"The only thing we have done is to put it on the state's board of education property development list as a special center sight," said Isaac Brigham, Senior Vice President of Planning and Administration for PJC.

Broxson said if plans were further developed, the county's proposed recreation center would more than likely be the first building built, and would probably entice PJC officials to

more aggressively pursue their development plans.

"If we can come up with a joint use plan where local government provides construction money then the state could provide matching funds," said PJC president Tom Delaino.

The college president said his staff is in constant communication with county and school district officials to develop programs customized for the South Santa Rosa student demographic, such as medical and vocational training degree tracks.

"We've given a lot of thought to the educational needs of Santa Rosa County instead of waiting on state funds that are stretched thin by so many things right now," Delaino said.

Primary vote approaches for Florida Rep. Seat 3 special election

There are only a few more days left for early voting for a special election for Florida State Representative Seat 3 vacated by Holly Benson. Early voting ends Saturday,

Feb. 3 and the special primary election is set for Tuesday, Feb. 6. Hours for early voting are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Elections Office, 6495 Caroline St., Milton or the

South Service Center, 5841 Gulf Breeze Pkwy., east of The ZOO. Hours for the primary election are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at your precinct. The candidates include: Tom

Banjanin (REP), Elizabeth C. Campbell (DEM), C. V. (Clay) Ford (REP), Lyn T. Hart (REP), George Scarborough (REP) and John H. Wyche (DEM).

CEMETERY: County recognizes two south end historical sites

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nances to protect historical gravesites. The commissioner indicated that the county is not interested in paying for the maintenance of the sites but educating people of their existence and preservation.

"One of my favorite epitaphs on a tombstone is 'Gone, but not forgotten,'" Broxson said. "It is a fact that most of those folks in those cemeteries are forgotten and there are very few faithful people left that will go back and work on those cemeteries."

Out of the estimated 165 historic cemeteries in the county, at least two are located in Southern Santa Rosa County - Duncan Cemetery located on Fairpoint Drive, across the street from the First Baptist Church and Harper Cemetery located next to Billory Baptist Church off Highway 87 South.

The oldest gravestone at the Duncan location dates back to 1877 and the wooded parcel is still maintained by members of the Duncan family.

Robert Duncan, 72, the site's curator, said he's only had two minor incidents of vandalism in the past five years because he

lives near the property and "keeps a close eye on it." Duncan said the cemetery contains approximately 40 graves sites including that of his great great grandmother, and great grandfather. Duncan claims his family members, who were farmers from Kentucky, were the first to inhabit the area and were given a 300-acre land grant by the federal government in 1888.

"They decided they couldn't grow crops in the sand here and took up sturgeon fishing instead," Duncan said.

Due to its location inside city limits, the Duncan Cemetery would require a cooperative effort between the city and the county, according to Assistant City Manager David Szymanski. However, Duncan Cemetery isn't the only place within city limits to house the remains of Gulf Breeze's earliest inhabitants.

According to Szymanski, who is also a member of the Gulf Breeze Historical Society, Dead Man's Island, Navy Cove and Grassy Point all once served as quarantine locations for people sick with yellow fever. At least three people never made it off the island and were buried there.

Calendar of Events

<p>Thursday, Feb. 1 No meetings scheduled as of press time</p> <p>Friday, Feb. 2 Artist's Night In Navarre,</p> <p>Saturday, Feb. 3 Santa Rosa Democratic Monthly Yard Sale, 8 a.m., 5746 Stewart Street, Milton. For additional information, contact DEC State Committeeman Harold Webb at 850-572-6029 or Martha Smith, DEC Chair, at 850-932-6044.</p> <p>Sunday, Feb. 4 No meetings scheduled as of press time</p> <p>Monday, Feb. 5 Santa Rosa County Commission Committee Meeting, 9 a.m., Commissioner's Board Room, 6495 Caroline Street, Milton</p> <p>City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Gulf Breeze City Hall, 1070 Shoreline Drive, Gulf Breeze</p> <p>Tuesday, Feb. 6 IT Gulf Coast Business Continuity Seminar, 6 p.m., New</p>	<p>World Landing, 600 S. Palafox Street, Pensacola. Seminar cost is \$25. For more information visit www.itgulfcoast.org</p> <p>Republican Club of Santa Rosa County Meeting and Dutch Treat Dinner, 6:30 p.m., Cocadrie's, 8649 Gulf Blvd. Navarre Beach. For additional information please contact Morgan Lamb, president at 939-2409 or morganlamb@bellsouth.net.</p> <p>Wednesday, Feb. 7 No meetings scheduled as of press time</p> <p>Thursday, Feb. 8 Santa Rosa County Commission Regular Meeting, 9 a.m., Commissioner's Board Room, 6495 Caroline Street, Milton</p> <p>Santa Rosa Quilters' Guild Meeting, 9:30 a.m., St. Paul United Methodist Church, 4901 Gulf Breeze Parkway, Gulf Breeze. For more information call 939-5196</p>
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Campbell runs for State Rep. Seat 3

Elizabeth Campbell (D) has declared her candidacy for State Representative District 3. Campbell is a retired Navy Chief with twenty-two years of service. She retired from active duty on March 31, 2006 and hails from a family dedicated to service. She looks forward to serving once again in her home district as State Representative.

Campbell holds a Masters Degree in Aeronautical Science from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and has been working toward another Masters Degree from The University of West Florida in Political Science.

She has been a resident of Florida for twenty years, and Pensacola has been her home for over a decade. Campbell attends

Westminster Presbyterian Church with her mother in Holiday.

Elizabeth is fourth Junior Vice Commander for the Disabled American Veterans, a member of the American Legion, Fleet Reserve Association, and the WAVES of Northwest Florida.

Campbell feels her military responsibilities as "The Chief" forged her ability and determination to work with others and to get the job done, no matter how difficult the task.



Campbell

Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office Report	
Information provided by the Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office.	
<p>FELONIES</p> <p>1/22/07 Matthew, Erik James, 26, W/M, 2400 block of Houston Circle, Gulf Breeze, aggravated battery</p> <p>1/23/07 Stacy III, James Edward, 18, W/M, 8800 block of Arlington Place, Navarre, lewd and lescivious behavior</p> <p>1/24/07 Anderson III, William Monroe, 19, W/M, 2300 block of Frontera Street, Navarre, fraud</p> <p>Krossman, Vincent Andrew, 28, W/M, 2700 block of Benetian Way, Gulf Breeze, violation of probation</p> <p>Paravate, Louis Anthony, 57, W/M, 7500 block of White Sands Boulevard, Navarre, obstruction of justice</p> <p>1/25/07 Bryan, Jeffrey Michael, 25, W/M,</p>	<p>2300 block of Reservation Road, Gulf Breeze, possession of a controlled substance without a prescription</p> <p>Richardson, Connie Joe, 45, W/F, 3200 block of Highway 87, Navarre, violation of probation</p> <p>1/28/07 Rollman II, Floyd William, 29, W/M, 1900 block of Diplomat Street, Gulf Breeze, fugitive from justice</p> <p>DUI</p> <p>1/27/07 Angel, Michael Tod, 41, W/M, 1300 block of Tiger Lake Drive, Gulf Breeze, DUI</p> <p>Brown, Michael Wayne, 33, W/M, 2700 block of Galleon Drive, DUI</p> <p>Moon, Stacy Denise, 28, W/F, 3200 block of Fernwood Drive, Gulf Breeze, DUI</p>