

Arraignment set for Navarre predator

STAFF REPORTS
Gulf Breeze News
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A March 5 arraignment has been set for Navarre resident Bruno Cannella, 38, arrested for 36 crimes against a juvenile involving sexual offenses. The Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office reported the investigation began when authorities noticed Bruno Cannella, 38, parking at Navarre High School on Jan. 26, and a male juvenile got inside the vehicle.

Investigators confronted Cannella and the juvenile, questioning why Cannella was on school grounds with the young male. Cannella stated that he was helping the juvenile with homework in the vehicle in the mornings before school. According to officials, no sexual activity was observed at the time and Cannella was allowed to leave. Sheriff's officials conducted interviews with the juvenile and he disclosed that the two were involved in sexual activity for the past three years. The juvenile

stated that Cannella had engaged in sodomy with him on at least 12 occasions in locations that included Cannella's home in Navarre, his office in Pensacola, his work van, his personal vehicle and in a vehicle in a side parking lot of the high school. The investigation also revealed that Cannella was formerly a counselor in church youth groups at St. Sylvester's Church in Navarre.

The juvenile victim told investigators that he tried to end the activities with Cannella, but

Cannella said he would kill himself or others.

A judge issued a warrant for the arrest of Cannella on charges including 12 counts of Sexual Battery on a Juvenile, 2nd degree felony; 12 counts of Sexual Offense on a Juvenile 12-15 years of age, 2nd degree felony and 12 counts of Lewd and Lascivious Behavior, 2nd degree felony. Cannella turned himself in at the Santa Rosa County Jail on Feb. 7. He is being held on a \$36,000,000 bond.

Calendar of Events

Thursday, Feb. 22

Santa Rosa County Commission Regular Meeting, 9 a.m., Commissioner's Board Room, 6495 Caroline Street, Milton

School Board Meeting, 10 a.m., School District Administrative Offices, 5086 Canal Street, Milton

Friday, Feb. 23

No meetings scheduled as of press time.

Saturday, Feb. 24

No meetings scheduled as of press time.

Sunday, Feb. 25

No meetings scheduled as of press time.

Monday, Feb. 26

Jack and the Beanstalk Auditions, presented by Broadening Education Thru Arts (BETA), 4 - 8 p.m. with call backs at 8:00 p.m. in the Tiger Point Area of Gulf Breeze. Call 850-529-8838 for appointment time and location.

Children ages 5-16 are encouraged to audition and should bring a one-minute song on CD or Tape to sing and dress comfortably for dance. The cast calls for 7 girls and 7 boys with 8-10 for the chorus.

Tuesday, Feb. 27

City of Gulf Breeze Board of Adjustments, 6:30 p.m., Gulf Breeze City Hall, 1070 Shoreline Drive, Gulf Breeze

Greg Brown,

Santa Rosa County Property Appraiser, will be accepting Homestead and other Exemption applications as well as scheduling appointments in Navarre and Gulf Breeze during the months of January and February 2007. Walk-in appointments are welcome on a first come, first serve basis. To make an appointment, please call 983-1898, for all other services, call 983-1880.

Gulf Breeze Recreation Center, 800 Shoreline Drive (2 to 6 p.m.) and Navarre Library, 8484 James M. Harvell Road, Navarre (9 a.m. to noon)

Wednesday, Feb. 28

Executive Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Gulf Breeze City Hall, 1070 Shoreline Drive, Gulf Breeze

Santa Rosa Island Authority Committee Meeting, 5 p.m., SRIA Administrative Office, 1 Via De Luna, Pensacola Beach

The Santa Rosa Shores Women's Knitting Club, 2 p.m., 3424 Hillside Avenue, Gulf Breeze

Thursday, March 1

No meetings scheduled as of press time.

Midway Fire partners with ambulance service

BY PAM BRANNON
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Midway Fire District's ambulance options just keep growing. A national ambulance service, American Medical Response (AMR), wants to partner with Midway FD in a bid to the county to provide ambulance service countywide. Santa Rosa County asked that bids from anyone interested in providing the service to submit a request for proposal to the county commission by April 3.

AMR presented a proposal at the Feb. 13 Midway Fire District meeting showing how a partnership would work, and the advantages it would offer the residents and staff of Midway Fire District.

Chief Stephen Demeter also presented the study done by the Midway Fire staff over the last month on the feasibility of Midway bidding on the entire countywide contract to provide ambulance services for Santa Rosa County.

Midway Fire Commissioners set a special public workshop meeting to be held Thursday, Feb. 22 (tonight) to discuss both proposals, as well as any others that might come before them by the time of the workshop.

AMR's partnership proposal AMR representative Riley Sayne told fire commissioners that AMR is the largest ambulance service in the nation, transporting four million patients a year. He

said they employ 18,000 nurses and Emergency Medical Technicians nationwide, and have 50 years experience in the business serving 36 states.

"EMS is our specialty," Sayne said. "We have the largest paramedic training program in the country, and those paramedics do not have to even work for us to complete our training. Within a matter of 90 minutes to two hours we can have an influx of 50 additional ambulances into an area if a natural disaster, like a hurricane, hits." AMR representatives said they would place two ambulances in the Midway Fire District; one at Holley-Navarre area, and four more ambulances throughout the county. AMR would pay MFD for every transport they did.

"It is zero transport risk for the district this way," Sayne said. "Every time you do a transport, you know you will definitely get X number of dollars." Sayne said they took last year's Midway Fire medical response runs — which were just over 1,000 — and figured with their formula what that would bring Midway Fire if being paid by AMR. "With 1,000 runs, you would receive \$83,160 for the year. That is all profit, with no cost to Midway at all," Sayne said.

Fire Commissioners were not ready to do answer immediately, stating this was the first opportunity they had to even see the proposal, and they needed to take it home and read it and look at all the other proposals. Fire

Commission Treasurer Clyde Broome asked, "Would it cause a conflict for you all at AMR if we entered the partnership bid with you guys, but also then submitted our own countywide bid and then also the bid we were going to submit from the beginning, for just our own slice of the county down here, separate from you guys?"

Sayne said, "That seems to me like you would just be bidding against yourself. If we submit a bid with a partnership with Midway, then that will be the only bid we make. One of the real benefits of a co-bid with us is Midway gets everything they want and need at no real cost to you. We have put all of our energies and planning into a partnership bid with Midway. We have not even considered putting together any other bid ourselves."

Midway Fire District's countywide bid feasibility

Demeter presented the results of the study done by the District's staff over the past month on the feasibility of Midway FD's bidding on a countywide ambulance service.

"County Commissioner John Broxson said it would be a real test to see if you could take the Midway model and make it work across the county. He said that would be the best solution, and we think we have shown here that can be done," said Demeter.

Demeter and Broome presented a five-year projection, based on ambulance transports from the

county records for the past few years, on what monies Midway FD could put back in to the system. The first year is it proposed to put \$75,000 back into the countywide system, and then each year after to put between \$200,000 and \$250,000 back in.

"These are very conservative figures, also, based on only 60 percent collection of the runs we make countywide," Broome said. Demeter said they would need a loan of \$1.9 million for start up costs, and he had talked to the bankers that day and they had assured him it is no problem for Midway FD to get the money at as soon as the district needs it.

But the biggest problem, the chief said he believes, would be convincing county commissioners that Midway FD could indeed do the job.

"We would have a lot of political legwork to do to convince some of them, at least, that we can do this. We have an advantage because we would just expand to the whole county what we already have in place here," Demeter said.

Thackeray cautioned, "One thing the county's RFP says is that you have to show you have experience in running an ambulance service. And we haven't. I know there are ways around that to show them we have run a first responder service, but we have to keep in mind it will take a lot of documentation to show how we believe we can handle a countywide system."

CENTER: Building comes equipped with generator

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structure, located between Daniel Drive and Shoreline Drive behind the former CVS building recently purchased by Moulton Properties, is capable of withstanding strong hurricanes with its steel and concrete construction. In addition, the building will house a generator for backup power in the event of an outage, nature-related or otherwise. He said the fortified structure has made a drastic difference in insurance coverage.

"In the long run, it will be worth it. My first insurance estimates after Ivan were considerably higher," said Overbaugh. He

said that with building upgrades down to the steel studs that will be used, his insurance rates are now considerably lower.

Overbaugh said his reason for moving to the area in 1998 was caused by health concerns. He was forced to leave his dentistry practice in South Dakota as a result, and "happened to fall into this LCC process."

"When I left the practice, I wasn't ready to do 'nothing,'" said Overbaugh. Four years and several hurricanes later, Overbaugh is ready to supply the demand for area office space. "I really think in the long run, we're running out of space in Gulf

Breeze.

"There's a reasonable demand for office space and we're one of the few that offers the interested parties the ability to purchase their space rather than lease it," Overbaugh said. He said several spaces will be available after the center opens that range from 667 square feet to 1,222 square feet. He added that with the completion of the Daniel Drive extension and the impending completion of the Publix shopping Center, Seashell Collection, Gulf Winds Center will complement the city's business core.

On the heels of the Gulf Winds Center will be another project by

Overbaugh, a 2,400-square-foot building scheduled to begin soon on adjacent property on

Shoreline Drive where the Schroth Realty building and Harry Hamm's Barber Shop currently stand. Overbaugh said the center will include two 600-square foot spaces and a 1,200-square foot space which will more than likely be occupied by

Schroth Realty. He added that a contractor expressed interest in moving into the complex as well. The project will begin soon and will be completed 90 to 120 days from then.

SRC: County was instrumental in producing book

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the timing was right to provide this information in a book format that could be a teaching tool."

The Santa Rosa County School District was instrumental in helping produce the book, serving in an advisory and editing role throughout the two-year process. Clark Youngblood with the Santa Rosa School District said his office plans to work the new material into the eighth grade curriculum this school year once the Florida's Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) is over. He would like to see teachers introduce the book this year and then partici-

pate in a workshop over the summer to develop lesson plans for the 2007-2008 school year.

"It is one of the greatest feelings in the world to have done this," Youngblood said. "A lot of folks have been involved and have put in a lot of blood sweat and tears."

Heritage Publishing Consultants, Inc., of Clanton, Alabama, edited, designed and published the book. David Bice, with HPC, said the project has been an honor for his company. "We've worked on many different projects down through the years," Bice said, "but few, if any, have been as gratifying and important as this one. That's

because this book tells the story from the viewpoint of the veterans themselves. This isn't meant to sway anyone's position, but it is intended to sway the opinion that our military is deserving of our support simply because of the sacrifices made through the years."

In addition to looking at the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine, War Dogs and National Guard, the book also looks at every major war or conflict the United States has been involved in since the Revolutionary War. The wars are written in chronological order, and timelines for each

war are located in the appendix of the book. An index also serves as a compliment to the timelines and as a teaching tool for students and teachers alike.

A military review committee also reviewed the project and several graduate students from the University of West Florida wrote sections of the book.

Copies of the publication are available to the public for \$30 by contacting Nesenson at the Memorial Veterans' Plaza offices at 626-7292 on weekdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. All net profits from the book benefit the Santa Rosa County Veteran's Memorial Plaza.

Gumbo cook-off this Sat.

Do you want to sample the area's best gumbo? Then come Saturday, Feb. 24, from 9 a.m. till 3 p.m. at Gulf Breeze's Shoreline Park to enjoy music, libations, fun and, of course, plenty of gumbo at Gulf Breeze Rotary's Second Annual Gumbo Cook-off. Tickets are \$10 at the gate and enable par-

ticipants to sample gumbo from over a dozen entries!

Proceeds from the cook-off fund college scholarships for local students and local community projects. Come down to show your support for the local Rotary. Rain date will be the following Saturday, March 3.

Former GBHS student killed after being struck in tow

BY BRADLEY "B.J." DAVIS, JR.
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Darrin "Cody" Dykes, 21, a former Gulf Breeze High School student, was killed Monday, Feb. 12 in an auto accident. Dykes was riding in a four-door Chevrolet being towed by James E. Jackson, making a left turn in the intersection on Michigan Avenue and Glass Drive in Pensacola when Luis Ramirez, 20, riding in a Dodge truck, struck the car in tow. The vehicle occupied by Dykes rotated counterclockwise before it came to a stop in the eastbound traffic lanes of Michigan Avenue. Paramedics pronounced Dykes dead at the scene. According to former classmates and teachers, Dykes was remembered for his friendliness and involvement in football.

"It's a sad loss. He was well liked, never caused any prob-

lems. He always had a smile on his face," said former classmate Logan Hundley.

His family described Dykes as a Gator football fan and a dog lover. They also recalled a favorite story of his assistance to Hurricane Katrina victims in New Orleans. A memorial service was held for Dykes on Saturday, Feb. 17 at the Pensacola Beach Elks Lodge. He is survived by his parents, Debi Dykes and Jeff Dykes; his stepmother, Gina Dykes; his brothers, Anthony Jeter, Tobie Jeter, Timothy (T.J.) Jeter, Jeffrey Dykes, Brandon Dykes and Casey Dykes; his grandparents, Doug and Jeanette Dykes, Donald and Shelvadean Nelson; his step-grandparents, Ron and Sue Christian; his special friends, Nick VanHoosen, Steven Buttrick, Nicole St. Aubin, Ashley Barker; his special cousin, Michael Cook; numerous cousins, three nephews and many friends.

Zoo: Rhino on display for 3 mos.

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tion disappeared. Today, less than 15 percent of the 1970 population remains an estimated 10,000 to 11,000 worldwide." Akin further explained that only close to 2,500 Black Rhinos exist worldwide.

Limpopo will be on display

for approximately three months in a portion of the Bactrian camels exhibit. The camels have been moved to an adjacent exhibit to make room until the rhino's housing is completed. For the rest of February, all zoo admissions will be \$2 off.

CITY: Fines not revenue source

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from people that destroy the landscaping when they have an accident," said Gilchrist. "We have other funds for landscape improvement, and I don't know that \$3,000 will make a difference. What I recommend is to put more emphasis on patrol." He suggested nixing the \$3,000 allocation for landscaping and doubling increased patrol funds to \$6,000.

"I'm not enamored with the idea of replacing landscaping. I think all the funds should go to traffic safety improvements," said Council member Tim Hoffman. "It rather falls in line with the whole point of putting the signal camera out there. I'd be in favor of recommending \$6,000 for patrol."

According to staff, the remaining \$3,200 was to be designated for cash reserves.



Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office Report

Information provided by the Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office.

FELONIES

2/13/07
Soles, Audrey Ann, 35, W/F, 6900 block of Sea Turtle Circle, Navarre, larceny, less than \$5,000, possession of a controlled substance without a prescription

Kennedy, Christopher Daniel, 35,

W/M, 2200 block of Paloma Street, Navarre, violation of probation

2/14/07
Bailey, Christopher Eric, 36, W/M, 3000 block of Laurel Drive, Gulf Breeze, possession of marijuana with intent to sell, possession of cocaine

Bourgeois, Aaron James, 21, W/M, 7500 block of Blackjack Circle, Navarre, larceny, less than \$5,000

Ruyf, Lora Lynn, 46, W/F, 2000 block of Government Court, Gulf Breeze, obstructing justice

Schoonmaker, Landon Benjamin, 23, W/M, 1100 block of Gulf Breeze

Parkway, Gulf Breeze, possession of synthetic narcotics, possession of hallucinogen, possession of marijuana with intent to sell

DUI

2/12/07
West, Julia McConnell, 57, W/F, 8400 block of Rynes Circle, Navarre

2/13/07
Decrevel, Shane Trevor, 22, W/M, 2800 block of Gulf Breeze, DUI