

Dr. Andrews performs first surgeries at Andrews Institute

STAFF REPORTS
Gulf Breeze News
news@gulfbreezenews.com

Dr. James R. Andrews performed the inaugural surgeries at the Andrews Institute on March 9. Conducted in the Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC) of the Andrews Institute, the first patients were residents of north-west Florida and southern Alabama including a junior college baseball player located within the southeast region.

"They both had injuries to their throwing elbow, so I did a couple of Tommy John's ligament operations," Dr. Andrews said, referring to the intricate surgery that became famous when it was performed on pitcher Tommy John.

The surgery was developed by Frank Jobe for John in 1974. A tendon is removed from the patient's wrist or hamstring and grafted into the elbow, woven in a figure-eight pattern through tunnels drilled in the humerus and ulna bones. The procedure is known for lengthening a pitcher's career.

The Andrews Institute is more than a facility for professional athletes. Dr. Andrews will consult and operate on a number of regional patients and will work with other physicians located at the Andrews Institute in order to provide the same



Dr. James Andrews explains operating procedures to Lisa Newell, co-publisher of the Gulf Breeze News.

high-level quality of care to each individual that is treated. The physicians will utilize the newest techniques, technology and treatment for each and every patient including student athletes, weekend warriors, or persons seeking to improve their general health and wellness.

"Performing these surgeries today was a culmination of three years of hard work to create a world-class facility accessible to all patients seeking orthopaedic care," Dr. Andrews said. "I am proud to have partnered with Baptist Health Care to create a center that will provide the best outcomes for all of our patients—locally, regionally and nationally."

The Andrews Institute is the

only facility of its kind in the United States. The locale of the Institute provides easy access to those that might have ordinarily traveled a long distance to receive care. The Institute also accepts most forms of insurance, therefore expanding the treatment opportunities available to those within the area.

Dr. Andrews said the most important part of the Institute is the staff.

"I've never seen a staff of nurses and medical personnel as proud and enthusiastic to be here," Dr. Andrews said. "The people who work here are more important than the beautiful facility. It's the best of both worlds."

As part of its mission, the

Institute is home to a number of clinical departments in order to provide a one stop shop for its patients. Services include diagnostic imaging, rehabilitation, outpatient surgery and physician consultations. In addition, the complex features an athletic performance center and a research and education institute.

Patients can also seek more than orthopaedic care at the Institute. There are more than 40 physicians on-site that provide consultations in the following medical specialties: Ear, Nose and Throat; General Surgery; Neurosurgery; Optometry; Ophthalmology; Pain Management; Physical Medicine; Plastic Surgery; Primary Care Sports Medicine; Retinal Care; and Vascular.

Each surgical suite is equipped with technology to transfer images through satellite to Dr. Andrews. He then can draw on the monitor to direct the surgeons, much like John Madden does when drawing plays on Monday Night Football, Dr. Andrews said.

"Visualizing goes a thousand times further," Dr. Andrews said of the technology.

Institute is also preparing for its Grand Opening Celebration from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 21. Tours of the facility will be given. For more information, call 916-8700.

Calendar of Events

Thursday, March 15
IMPACT 100 Pensacola Bay Area, a local women's philanthropy group, annual membership announcement meeting from 5 to 7 p.m. at My Spayce at 212 East Garden Street. Details: 444-3838.

Friday, March 16
The Northwest Florida Blood Center and WEAR TV will hold a St. Patrick's Day Blood Drive on Friday, March 16 at WEAR TV located at 4990 Mobile Highway, Pensacola from 7am to 6pm.

All blood types are needed, and an elevated need for all types of O and A blood.

The Panhandle Tiger Bay Club presents Ross Munro, an expert on Asia, to speak about "China vs. America: the Battle for the 21st Century."

The noon lunch meeting is at New World Landing and is open to the public. Cost: \$25 per person including lunch. Reservations are required. Call 497-1684.

Saturday, March 17
Friends of the Gulf Breeze Library Book Sale, 9 a.m., to 3 p.m., Gulf Breeze Library, 1060 Shoreline Drive, Gulf Breeze

Sunday, March 18
No meetings scheduled as of press time

Monday, March 19
City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Gulf Breeze City Hall, 1070 Shoreline Drive, Gulf Breeze

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

A Town Hall Meeting regarding the proposed renewal of the half cent sales tax to benefit the School District. 6 p.m. at the Holley Navarre Middle School Library. Details: 582-0334.

Santa Rosa County Democrats March Pot Luck Dinner and Meeting at Hobbs Middle School, 5317 Glover Lane at 6 p.m. and the program at 7 p.m. All Democrats are invited to attend and bring a potluck dish of their choice.

Reservations for car pooling can be made by contacting Seegar Swanson in the Navarre area, 936-8704 and Martha Smith for the Gulf Breeze area, 932-6044.

Tuesday, March 20
Long Term Recovery Organization, 3 p.m., Conference Room, 6051 Old Bagdad Highway, Milton

Free AARP Tax Preparation: 9:15 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. at Gulf Breeze Library

Wednesday, March 21
Free AARP Tax Preparation: 9:15 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. at Gulf Breeze Library

Thursday, March 22

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

Preschool Story Time, 10:30 a.m. at Gulf Breeze Library

Free AARP Tax Preparation: 9:15 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. at Gulf Breeze Library

Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office Report

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

- FELONIES**
- 3/5/07**
Hull, Stephen Joseph, 29, W/M, 1900 block of Melissa Oaks Drive, Gulf Breeze, aggravated battery, obstructing justice
 - 3/6/07**
Jorden, Edward Curtis, 36, W/M, 5900 block of Congress Street, Gulf Breeze, failure to appear
 - 3/7/07**
Moody, Preston Eugene, 18, W/M, 1700 block of Village Parkway, Gulf Breeze, larceny, less than \$5,000
 - 3/8/07**
Evans, Edwin Tyler, 20, W/M, 1500 block of Cypress Bend Trail, Gulf Breeze, battery
 - 3/9/07**
Bence, James Robert, 21, W?M, 3600 block of Burton Circle, Navarre, aggravated assault
 - DUI**
 - 3/6/07**
West, Grady Dale, 42, W/M, 3000 block of Westfield Road, Gulf Breeze, DUI
 - 3/8/07**
Bolden, Daniel Eugene, 51, W/M, 8100 block of Molina Street, Navarre, DUI
 - 3/11/07**
Canady, Gary Vance, 55, W/M, 6700 block of Sea Gate, Navarre, DUI
 - Parker, Brian Keith, 39, W/M, 5500 block of Maverick Lane, Gulf Breeze, DUI

MIDWAY: Demeter to return before commissioners

Continued from page 1A
events that occur throughout the year," he said.

Demeter also commented that the permit process was impractical in the event of a major disaster like a hurricane when important information needs to be communicated to the general public.

"The reason I supported the ordinance originally is because we do have a lot of people that are aware of what we call clutter on our streets," said

Commissioner John Broxson, whose district includes Midway Fire District. "The fact is our sign ordinances reflect a great caution as far as disturbing the driver while he's trying to drive his car and so forth... I would be very reluctant to see this change at this point."

Three of the four remaining commissioners agreed with Broxson.

"There's too many of these billboards now that have the LED signs and they change,"

said Commissioner Gordon Goodin. "There are a number of businesses from one end of 98 to the other that have the flashing signs and they are a distraction. That's one road that you don't need any more distractions on."

Goodin also added that heavy use of the sign would limit its effectiveness.

"They serve a purpose when we want to keep people's attention. But when they proliferate they lose their effectiveness," he

said. Commissioners and county officials suggested Demeter return with more specific recommendations instead of the blanket amendment to the sign ordinance.

"Instead of [only allowing permits] twice a year, maybe we could do four times a year," Walker suggested.

Demeter said he would return to the board of county commissioners with more specific recommendations at a later date.

TAX REFORM: Proposals could diminish budget

Continued from page 1A

to reel in what Tallahassee lawmakers see as "champagne" spending throughout the state.

Governor Charlie Crist has his own set of reforms he'd like to see come to fruition. One such suggestion includes removing property tax completely and replacing it with the nation's highest sales tax. Another set of options deals

with property assessments and the homestead exemption. Those include:

- A \$25,000 increase to the homestead exemption, raising it to \$50,000

- A \$25,000 tax exemption for businesses

- A 3 percent cap on valuation increases for non-homesteaded properties

- A revision to the Save Our Homes Amendment making the homestead exemption

portable throughout the state. "If these initiatives had been in effect for this current year the county would have reduced their tax intake by \$11.3 million," Haniford said.

Although Santa Rosa County Commissioners agree that property tax reforms are necessary in the near future, but argue that the tax system needs greater equity and fewer restrictions.

"Different counties are at

different stages of their maturity or in their growth pattern or in their ability to adapt to these changes," said Commissioner Gordon Goodin. "It is unlikely that one size fits all 67 counties here."

Commissioners plan to work closely with the FAC and their legislative delegation to minimize financial impacts from the proposed reforms.

TUMOR: Proceeds to pay for travel

Continued from page 1A

"I can't even imagine what they've been through," Williams said. "If I can use my hair cutting ability to help raise some money then that's what I want to do... If one of my grandchildren were that sick I'd feel helpless."

Valin's family also set up an account in her name at AmSouth bank for anyone who wishes to make an anonymous donation. The girl's grandmother, Diane Bicker, will also be selling "Kites for Kylie" in front of the salon on March 17.

Valin's stepfather, Ryan Deffley, said Valin is an artistic young girl who greatly misses being in the company of her

peers and is home schooled due to her condition.

"It puts a burden on her to see our stress level," said Deffley, who estimated their last trip cost the family approximately \$2,000, not including their utility bills and mortgage payments.

"I don't know what we'd do without all the help we've gotten," said Deffley, who owns and is the sole employee of a lawn care business. "It's been real hard on her."

Bicker said her granddaughter was also diagnosed with hydrocephalus, more commonly known as water on the brain, which is the leading cause for brain surgery among children in the United States. During the

last surgery doctors implanted a shunt in Valin's brain to drain the excess fluid into her abdomen, Bicker said.

Pediatrician Dr. Thomas Riney said it is imperative parents provide routine pediatric care to catch similar problems early.

"She'd had routine checkups since she was a baby and the doctors didn't notice it," Deffley said.

Riney, who serves as chairman of the pediatric department at Sacred Heart Hospital, said common symptoms of hydrocephalus are morning headaches or vomiting and severe changes in personality or behavior.

CITY PARKS: Recovered, ready for use

Continued from page 1A

gazebos are built as rectangles, and vented with cupolas that also reduce wind resistance. They are all built to withstand 140 mph winds."

And the handicap-accessible boardwalk and pier at Shoreline Park South is built in separate pieces so that each gazebo stands on its own, each decking section stands on its own independently and they will not pull each other apart. They are built to resist wind and flood dam-

age."

The boat launch was rebuilt with new, massive slabs of concrete designed to resist wave and storm erosion.

The rebuilt Vista Park has additional bracing, and an octagonal head to break the waves.

Wayside Park has a rebuilt fishing pier angled to the northeast. It should take up some of the slack from the demise of the Bridge Pier, previously the most popular fishing spot, according to Pulley. New gazebos and

lighting are also completed at the park.

"Erosion was huge from Dennis and Ivan and wave action broke up the Wayside sea wall. We added riprap the length of the shoreline and built the boardwalk over the sea wall and riprap. The seawall allows continued protection and the boardwalk protects the seawall. I hope we never see another storm, but if we do we'll be ready."

And in the meantime, residents can enjoy the rebuilt facilities.

Elected Officials CONTACT

GULF BREEZE ELECTED OFFICIALS
Write to your City Council Member at:
1070 Shoreline Dr., Gulf Breeze, FL 32561;
or contact the Council by phone at (850) 934-5100

Mayor LANE GILCHRIST
(850) 932-5565
mayor@ci.gulf-breeze.fl.us

Councilmember BEVERLY ZIMMERN
(850) 932-4717
bzimmern@ci.gulf-breeze.fl.us

Councilmember CARL HOFFMAN
(850) 932-4948
choffman@ci.gulf-breeze.fl.us

Councilmember J.B. SCHLUTER
(850) 437-0263
jschluter@ci.gulf-breeze.fl.us

Council Seat D Open

SANTA ROSA COUNTY COMMISSION
Write to your Santa Rosa County Commissioner at: 6495 Caroline Street, Milton, FL 32570; or contact the Commission by phone at (850) 932-1340 or 983-1877

JOHN BROXSON, District 5
(850) 932-2617
comm-broxson@co.santa-rosa.fl.us

GORDON GOODIN, District 4
(850) 939-1274
comm-goodin@co.santa-rosa.fl.us

DON SALTER, District 3
(850) 938-1877
comm-salter@co.santa-rosa.fl.us

BOB COLE, District 2
(850) 983-1877
comm-cole@co.santa-rosa.fl.us

TOM STEWART, District 1
(850) 983-1877
comm-stewart@co.santa-rosa.fl.us

SANTA ROSA COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOLS
Write to your Santa Rosa County School Board Member at: 5086 Canal St., Milton, FL 32570; or contact the Board by phone at (850) 983-5000

ED GRAY III, District 5
(850) 932-6287

JOANN J. SIMPSON, District 4
(850) 994-5446

DIANE COLEMAN, District 3
(850) 939-5538

HUGH WINKLES, District 2
(850) 623-6299

DIANE SCOTT, District 1
(850) 623-0413

FLORIDA STATE REPRESENTATIVES

GREG EVERS (R)
District Office: 5424 Willing Street, Milton, FL 32570
(850) 983-5550
greg.evers@myfloridahouse.gov

DAVE MURZIN (R)
District Office: Suite 22B, 7100 Plantation Road,

Suite 3, Pensacola, FL 32504
(850) 494-7330

C.V. "CLAY" FORD
District Office: 1800
Street, Pensacola, FL 32504
(850) 595-5550

RAY SANSOM (F)
District Office: 348 SW Miracle Strip Parkway, Building C, Suite 12, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548-5257
(850) 833-9328

FLORIDA STATE SENATOR

DON GAETZ (R)
District Office: 217 Miracle Strip Parkway, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548
(850) 897-5747
SunCom 277-5009
don.gaetz.web@flsenate.gov

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

JEFF MILLER (R)
Pensacola Office: 4300 Bayou Blvd., Suite 17C, Pensacola, Florida 32503
(850) 479-1183
Fax: 850-479-9394
Toll Free Phone Number: (866) 367-1614

U.S. SENATORS

Senator MEL MARTINEZ (R)
315 East Robinson Street, Landmark Center 1, Suite 475, Orlando, FL 32801
(407) 254-2573

Senator NELSON, BILL (D)
US Court House Annex, 111 North Adams Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32301
(850) 942-8415
(202) 224-5274