

# BOAT: \$18,400 paid to county

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wall and fill the void left by the boat. Ward also said the boat was taken to Brown Marine in Pensacola.

"It should have been removed two and a half years ago... Sea Tow did it the way it was supposed to have been done," Moncreiff said of the maritime assistance service provider.

Santa Rosa County paid Sea Tow \$18,400 to remove the derelict vessel. The boat's legal owner, Relief, Inc, reimbursed

the county government for its expenditure.

"The boat was not insured at the time of the storm because the engines were removed for repairs," said Necie Elizabeth Young, president of Relief Inc. "As such, while the company attempted to insure the boat, we were told that the boat was un-insurable since it was not under power... Due to [Relief, Inc.]'s inability to obtain consent from the homeowner, the company began working with Santa Rosa County for its removal."

Moncreiff said he refused to

approve a contract with another marine towing company because they couldn't provide adequate insurance for his property. The homeowner said the original company couldn't provide an insurance binder naming his property as additionally insured, which Sea Tow was able to do.

To complicate matters, the canals behind Moncreiff's property were too shallow to allow a barge and crane close enough to the boat to remove it.

"I knew the owner and I had even fished off the boat before,"

Moncreiff said of the vessel, which had been moored near his home on Sunset Lane. "I needed to rebuild my house so the boat was not a big concern [at the time]."

Ward said his company had seen its share of large boat removals in the aftermath of hurricanes in 2004 and 2005, but the Young Lady was certainly the most recent hurricane-related derelict vessel he's had to remove.

"If they'd have called me three years ago I could have done it then," Ward said.

## Calendar of Events

**Thursday, July 19**  
**School Board Budget Presentation**, 10 a.m., School District Administrative Offices, 5086 Canal Street, Milton

**Transit Feasibility Study Workshop**, 10 a.m., Commissioner's Board Room, 6495 Caroline Street, Milton

**Friday, July 20**  
**Gallery Night**, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Leave your car in the Jefferson St. or Baylen St. parking garages and stroll down the streets. Three air conditioned trolleys will also be making stops directly in front of or very close to each participant between 6pm and 9pm. Visit [www.artsnwfl.org](http://www.artsnwfl.org) for more information and a complete list of participants.

**Saturday, July 21**  
**Blue Angels Air Show**, 11 a.m., Pensacola Beach

**Northwest Florida Blood Center Blood Mobile**, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., T-Mobile, 3070 Gulf Breeze Parkway, Gulf Breeze

**Sunday, July 22**  
**No Meetings Scheduled as of press time**

**Monday, July 23**  
**Santa Rosa County Commission Committee Meeting**, 9 a.m., Commissioner's Board Room, 6495 Caroline Street, Milton

**Tuesday, July 24**  
**City of Gulf Breeze Board of Adjustments**, 6:30 p.m., Gulf Breeze City Hall, 1070 Shoreline Drive, Gulf Breeze

**Wednesday, July 25**  
**Santa Rosa Island Authority Board Meeting**, 5 p.m., SRIA Administrative Office, 1 Via De Luna, Pensacola Beach

**Thursday, July 26**  
**Santa Rosa County Commission Regular Meeting**, 9 a.m., Commissioner's Board Room, 6495 Caroline Street, Milton

**School Board Budget Public Hearing**, 6:30 p.m., School District Administrative Offices, 5086 Canal Street, Milton

**Sierra Club - Northwest Florida Group meeting**, 6:30 p.m., Downtown Pensacola Library, 200 E. Gregory Street, Pensacola

To submit an event for publication in the calendar, email [news@gulfbreezenews.com](mailto:news@gulfbreezenews.com) with the subject "Calendar." Items must be received one week prior to publication date.

# ATV: County to schedule hearing

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have the inclination to opt out of the law to allow them in the county. But we can see what the public says."

Commissioner John Broxson of Gulf Breeze asked that even if the county decides after the public hearing to allow use of ATV's in some parts of the county that his area of the South end be allowed to ban them. "We are built on sand down there. Our roads and especially off road areas do not lend them-

selves to that kind of enjoyment, and it only causes problems when ATV's are allowed to try to be used on our sand anyplace. So even if the majority of commissioners decide to allow ATV's someplace in the county, I would request that the South end would opt out of the law and not allow use."

Commissioner Don Salter said his county committee is already working on trying to get money from the state for an ATV and 4-wheel drive park. "ATV's and even some 4-wheel

drive vehicles have been causing some problems on our red clay roads here in the North end of the county. Especially when it rains, they go out and make a mud bog out of the roads, and are tearing up some roads, causing us other problems and expense. So we did start investigating the possibility of securing state funds some months ago to build an ATV park on state property just north of Whiting Field."

Salter said there are only three or four such ATV parks in

the state. "The reason is when a county builds an ATV park there are liability problems as well as other complications. But if we can get a park built on state land with some state funds, then the state would be responsible for any liabilities. So we are working on that as a possibility, but not as fast as ATV owners and riders would like, I am sure."

Chairman Stewart requested the county staff and board to look for a date soon for a public hearing on the issue.

# MIDWAY: Unexpected changes rock budget

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appraiser sent final figures for the fiscal year of only a 2.9 percent increase.

Since most of the funding for the Midway Fire District is based on ad valorem taxes, the decrease in property values is drastically and unexpectedly causing some quick regrouping.

"We had based our budget and took on certain responsibilities years ago because of what the consistent growth had been," Broome explained. "We

did not want to take on more than was realistic for future boards to have to face. We were trying to be very responsible. Now all of a sudden some unexpected changes are hitting us, so we have to make some decisions now, before September 2008."

"Also this year the property appraiser is charging the Midway Fire District just over \$58,000 for services. That is something brand new and not budgeted."

"The only agency that will not be billed that I know of is

Holley-Navarre Fire, since they do not get their funding based on property values, but charge by the square footage -- so they don't use the property appraiser's office," Broome said.

If everything stays the same as it is now, in October 2008 the board will be \$40,000 short of paying their bills at the end of the month. The way the funding is set up for the district, no revenue is collected in October each year. That can be 'borrowed' from November's revenues, but then each month the district would be going deeper

and deeper in the red, as Broome's long term projections.

Demeter said they do not want to cut salaries.

At the fire commission meeting Treasurer Broome told the board the options to capture the money needed in 2008 if all things stay the same would include termination of two firefighters, not giving the built-in 5 percent raises to employees they receive each year, and then cut an additional 5 percent off all salaries across the board beginning 2008-2009 fiscal year.

# BOND: New funds could stabilize city coffers

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dollars, storm water another million and funds are due from the community development block grant for the \$300,000 sewer project."

"This bond issuance refinances three loans, a 1998 loan of less than \$2 million, the \$3 million loan from 2003 and a \$5 million Sun Trust loan from 2004," explained Pat Lott, bond counsel, Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone. Eddy explained that the latter mostly covered maintenance and repair expenses after Hurricane Ivan, and were variable rate loans.

"Considering the increase in variable rate loans and given the uncertainty of the market in Florida, it is a good time to get this fixed rate," Lott assured.

Responding to City Councilman J.B. Schluter's inquiry about fees, Lott estimated

costs at "about \$83,000," and bond insurance at another \$144,613.

"The legislature is really making it difficult with all this budget uncertainty," Gilchrist lamented.

### Residents express concern for 'student workers'

Residents Bert and Dot Jordan appeared before City Council to express concern for numerous 'student workers co-habiting in unfurnished town homes on Russ Dr.'

"They are supposedly student workers," Jordan said, "but there are as many as 12 of them together of mixed sexes, with only air mattresses and no furniture. This can't be good for them or for the neighborhood."

Council directed staff to investigate the issue and enforce any codes being sidestepped.

Council anticipates 2008

### budget increases

During budget meetings, staff recommended projected total annual revenue for 2008 at \$5.4 million, as opposed to \$4.8 in 2007. Though projected expenditures for fiscal year 2008 are \$5.1 million, the budget is "theoretically balanced" due to a line item for nearly \$300,000 carrying forward bond-related payments that will not be due in 2008, but will be needed for anticipated payments in 2009.

"We are not going to ignore the fact that this increase will come about during the second year of this bond. We will have that money set aside, so the money will be there," Eddy explained. The allocation for reserves is designated for debt service. In the first year of the bond, only interest payments are made, but the principal payments begin in the second year.

City Councilman Dick Fulford

queried how successful the process had been for the police department to come up with at least 50 percent of their recent pay increase. "I have heard a figure of \$80,000 in increased salaries, and so I am looking for the \$40,000 savings or increase in revenue."

"I think the accident investigation fee will be the best option there," answered Eddy. "And we have a list of 17 suggestions to go through. It is important to note it is a function of U.S. 98 that our per capita budget is much greater than one would assume for our police department. When a wreck occurs, we get 98 cleared. The fee will help compensate us for the manpower and the time it takes."

Council passed Ordinance 08-07 Prohibiting Non-conforming use of Reader board Signs, and Ordinance 09-07, Setback Requirements for Swimming Pools in the TH and RC Zones.

# POPE: GB man given VIP treatment at Vatican

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mally accessible to the general public.

"The whole thing has been kind of surreal," Welch said, describing the day and the cup of coffee that changed his life.

Welch said he was visiting Rome and struck up a conversation with a nun inside a Vatican café. Welch said he exchanged phone numbers and email addresses with the woman he called "Sister

Janet."

Welch said that by the time he returned to his home in Gulf Breeze from his vacation he had an email from Sister Janet that included a picture of herself with the pope. Welch, who is not catholic, said he spoke with the nun on the phone everyday for two months before returning to the independent Roman Catholic state in April.

Welch added that he was

cordially asked to bring a gift for the pope that represented where he was from.

"[Meeting the pope] would be the equivalent to meeting the president," Hunt said. "I would see it as a huge honor. So many people would like to spend time with him or have an opportunity to say hello."

Welch said his gift for Pope Benedict XVI was a framed copy of the sand dollar legend, which makes symbolic connec-

tions between the marine animal and Christianity, and a whole sand dollar skeleton.

In addition to his photo album that includes pictures of various ornate private chapels, religious artifacts and papal meditation gardens, Welch possesses a set of rosary beads that he said was given to him and blessed by the pope.

"That's usually what the pope gives as a gift," Hunt said after viewing Welch's rosary.

## Elected Officials CONTACT

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**HUGH WINKLES, Dist. 2**  
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**Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office Report**

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

**Felonies**

**7/7/07**  
 Mims, Sylvia Ann, 41, B/F, 3000 block of Green Briar Circle, Gulf Breeze, fraud less than \$20000

**7/8/07**  
 Williams, Christian Blake, 13, W/M, 3000 block of Maplewood Drive, Gulf Breeze, battery, aggravated battery

**7/8/07**  
 White, Michael Anthony, 49, W/M, 3000 block of Gulf Breeze Parkway, Gulf Breeze, failure to appear for felony offense

**7/9/07**  
 Dibble, Shannon Michelle, 34, W/F, 5000 block of Capitul Drive, Gulf Breeze, out of state fugitive

**7/10/07**  
 Simmons, Ashley Lynn, 21, B/F,

3000 block of Bob Tolbert Road, Navarre, violation of probation

**7/12/07**  
 Hipsh, Catherine Louise, 20, W/F, 200 block of Firethorn Road, Gulf Breeze, fraud, illegal use of credit cards

**7/14/07**  
 Hawkins III, Percy Lee, 15, W/M, 9000 block of East River Drive, Navarre, possession of cocaine, possession of marijuana, resist officer

**7/15/07**  
 Bathke, Brandon Darren, 20, W/M, 1000 block of Reserve

Boulevard, Gulf Breeze, battery, obstruction of justice

**DUI**

**7/7/07**  
 Eaton JR, John Hart, 52, W/M, 6000 block of Tidewater Drive, Navarre, DUI

Rousse, Christine Marie, 53, W/F, 1000 block of Reserve Boulevard, Gulf Breeze, DUI

**7/8/07**  
 Powell, Martha Claudine, 52, W/F, 2000 block of Ferris Drive, Navarre, DUI