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YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS PAPER

March 20, 2008



**City Park Master Plan Workshop**  
Wed. March 26  
6:30 p.m.  
See Story 2A

**Island News** PAGE 1D

- Georgia man drowns
- Bubba's Beach

## WEEKEND Weather

**THURSDAY** 3/20  
Sunny  
high 68°  
low 50°

**FRIDAY** 3/21  
Mostly Sunny  
high 70°  
low 54°

**SATURDAY** 3/22  
Partly Cloudy  
high 71°  
low 55°

**SUNDAY** 3/23  
Mostly Cloudy  
high 74°  
low 52°

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"Mailing Statement is on Editorial Page"

FOUR SECTIONS  
VOL. 7, No. 12  
MARCH 20, 2008

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## Liquor OK

• Non-profits now allowed to have alcoholic drinks at parks, paving way for festivals

BY PAM BRANNON  
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State approved non-profits recently got the green light to allow or sell alcohol at a county park.

Navarre Park will be the first Santa Rosa park to allow alcohol.

"This would allow [non-profit groups] to hold something similar to Evenings in Seville," Commissioner Gordon Goodin said.

The revised ordinance passed by the board would not require any additional actions by interested parties outside of the normal event permitting procedure.

However, not all county commissioners thought it was a good idea to approve the change.

"I have to go on record to say I do not think alcohol should be allowed in any of our county parks," Commissioner Robert Cole said. "Those parks are for families, and serve a lot of children. We have never allowed alcohol in our parks and if we approve the first request we are going to have more parks in here wanting alcohol in their community park. I am voting against it."

But Cole was the only commissioner to vote against allowing park patrons to consume alcohol at an upcoming chamber of commerce event. The other four commissioners voted yes.

The request was brought by the Navarre Beach Area Chamber of Commerce, wanting to let non-profit groups to provide alcohol in the park during special events. They also pointed to the county's Tourist Development Council opening their new building in the park, and events happening in the building that might include the desire to serve wine or beer.

Franklin Hayes contributed to this report.



Picture courtesy of Paul Anderson  
Santa Rosa County Commissioners recently voted to allow park patrons to consume alcohol in county parks.

## Commissioners look to clean house and save money

BY PAM BRANNON  
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Today is the first day of spring and the Santa Rosa County Commission is dedicated to doing some seasonal cleaning. "It's spring, so let's not be afraid to do some spring cleaning," Santa Rosa County Commissioner Goodin told his fellow commissioners last week. "If we have people working for this county who do not have the eye of the tiger anymore, and are not carrying their load, then let's give them the golden handshake and move on. We need to do some cutting, and we should start where there are duplication



Goodin

of services or people who are not earning their paycheck."

Commissioner Tom Stewart said, "We asked the people what do you want - more services or tax relief? I think we got our mandate from the people Jan. 29 when they voted for tax relief. So we have to give it to them."

Commissioners were discussing how to approach next year's budget at their first pre-budget workshop last week.

"We have never done this before," Commissioner Chairman John Broxson of Gulf Breeze explained. "We have usually just waited to hear from our constitutional offi-



Broxson

cers about their department budgets and then waited for a budget proposal from the staff by July 15. But this year we are facing so many cuts from the state, we feel the need to start early to see what we can seriously do to cut back."

Stewart said, "Last year the state cut us about \$2 million in our budget, and it now looks like the state is going to cut is another \$4 million. We cannot continue the level of services we have provided in the past."

Goodin said, "I am not as remorseful as some about government taking less of the people's money. There are places we should have been looking all along, like duplication of services."

"I know, for example, in our dispatch and 9-1-1 services we have a duplication we don't need. Our Public Works department for the county duplicates some ser-

vices already provided by local communities' public works, and inspections is another areas to look at. I think we can get leaner while not getting vulnerable in times of disaster."

Commissioner Robert Cole agreed. "Moving money around in the budget just to balance is just robbing Peter to pay Paul, like we have done in the past. I think if there are Pauls out there that are not putting in a 40 hour week for a 40 hour paycheck, they need to take notice, and they need to go,"



Cole

•See BUDGET, Page 2A ▶

## Gulf Breeze art festival begins this weekend

BY SCOTT PAGE  
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Gulf Breeze Arts, Inc., and the city of Gulf Breeze will host the 14th annual Celebrate the Arts Festival

this weekend at Gulf Breeze High School (GBHS). The two-day family event will begin on Saturday, March 22 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and conclude on Sunday, March 23 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Applications for the festi-

val come from all over the United States and are judged in the following categories: painting, watercolor, graphics, sculpture, fine crafts, mixed media, photography, ceramics, jewelry and literary art. This year 135 entries

have been approved for the festival.

"A good number of them are from within a 100 mile radius of the Pensacola area," said Sue Warner, Director of the 2008 Arts Festival Committee. "But we also have entries from Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Oklahoma, Canada and Minnesota."

Eighteen of the 22 cash award winners from 2007 are returning. Two of last year's winners, Diane Brim and Jerry Lewis of Gulf Breeze, entered the painting category this year.

This year's festival is the first at which the literary arts will be represented. Nelson O. Ottenhausen of Gulf Breeze will be featured as



Submitted photo

Art by Godwin Kou, pictured above, will be on display at the Gulf Breeze art fest.

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## Target plans cause confusion

BY FRANKLIN HAYES  
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At a Navarre Area Board of Realtors' meeting last week, County Commissioner Gordon Goodin said he is privy to information that few else have heard. Goodin says Target, the Minneapolis, Minn. based retailer, will be opening a store in Navarre next to Publix and not in Gulf Breeze, as previously reported.

"The one [proposed] on Blue Angel Parkway [in Pensacola] is a reality," Goodin said. "With the one in Navarre, they're probably looking at late 2009."

As for the Tiger Point site, Goodin says,

•See TARGET, Page 2A ▶

## NAPA robbed at gunpoint by minor

FROM STAFF REPORTS  
Gulf Breeze News  
news@gulfbreezenews.com

A 15-year-old Gulf Breeze High School student was arrested last week for allegedly robbing a NAPA store at gunpoint on March 11. Gulf Breeze News will not reveal his identity because he is a minor.

According to police reports, the suspect brandished a gun in the store, located at 1556 Central Parkway in Gulf Breeze, and demanded money. Witnesses said the suspect then fled on foot with an undisclosed amount of cash.

The suspect was arrested on Friday, the stolen money was recovered and the suspect was charged with one count of armed robbery and wearing a mask to conceal his identity. Investigators say the boy bragged about his accomplishment to peers at school.

Sheriff's office representative Sgt. Scott Haines said he did not know who was the owner of the .25 caliber handgun used during the crime and that there were no charges pending against the boy's parents.

## City looks to replace school fences

BY VICI PAPAJOHN  
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At the Gulf Breeze City Council Executive Committee meeting last week, council members voted to ask the Santa Rosa County School Board to convey an 8 foot strip of property to the city to be used for a brick column and metal upright fence around the perimeter of Gulf Breeze Elementary School (GBES) in place of the old, unsightly chain link fence. The fence would be much like the fence constructed around the Gulf Breeze High School (GBHS) property.

"I know that we had some strength problems with the high school fence," remembered council man Dick Fulford. "And I want to make sure that we built it strong this time."

After the 2005-2006 hurricane season, the fence at GBHS was damaged and required repairs - at the city's expense.

"We will definitely have strength requirements clear in the RFP," said City Manager Edwin "Buz" Eddy. Installing the fence was one of the priorities listed after the community redevelopment meetings held in 2006 when citizens listed the school fencing as "eyesores" at the gateway of the community.

The council also discussed fencing the playing fields and stadium on the north side of Gulf Breeze Parkway.

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