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March 27, 2008

Mossy Headz Music Festival
April 4-6
Calendar page **3B**

Island News PAGE ID

- **PBES honors WWII vet**
- **Bubba's Beach**

WEEKEND Weather

THURSDAY 3/27
Partly Cloudy
high 73°
low 61°

FRIDAY 3/28
Partly Cloudy
high 74°
low 63°

SATURDAY 3/29
Scattered Storms
high 71°
low 59°

SUNDAY 3/30
Few Showers
high 75°
low 60°

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"Mailing Statement is on Editorial Page"

FOUR SECTIONS
VOL. 7, No. 13
MARCH 27, 2008

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GBHS, NHS may get AP academies

By VICI PAPAJOHN
Gulf Breeze News
vici@gulfbreezenews.com

Amid meetings to cut bills and refine budgets to allow for deep state cutbacks, Superintendent Johnny Rogers also announced that he is seriously considering the concept of creating an Advanced Placement (AP) Academy within Gulf Breeze High School (GBHS) and Navarre High School (NHS).

Rogers notified GBHS Principal Sylvan Ladner and Bill Emerson, NHS Principal, that this academy idea is now under full review. He instructed them to begin planning and initiating internal discussions to develop the best practices to adopt in order to create the AP academies, according to sources.

According to an email sent out by school board member Ed Gray, the concept is to structure and create a defined academic path for qualifying students to fully take advantage of advanced placement opportunities. The scheduling for such studies will be suited to meet the academic goals of the advanced placement curriculum. Such a schedule will be tailored so that AP courses are taught on a two semester plan to coincide with AP standardized testing schedules in the late spring.

"My goal is to build and promote the academic standing of our high schools," Gray says. "By implementing the concept of advanced placement academies initially at Gulf Breeze and Navarre High Schools we can build upon the concept and create similar academies at the other high schools throughout the county. Other schools

have achieved a lot of success in career development course implementation. The AP academies can set the standard for academic excellence at a level that can become a model for the state."

Gray told parents in the email blast late Monday that another goal he hopes to develop is to seek out and expand the number of certified AP teachers as well as implement incentive plans for success when students reach a level three competency on the standardized tests. Achieving a level three score qualifies the student for college credit and a heavier weighting of the student's grade point average in the eyes of universities accepting new student applications.

Because of this weighting, AP course often have more benefit than dual enrollment classes depending on the student's ultimate college goals.

Family chooses apple pie and baseball

● *Japanese family relocates to area as destination of choice*

By SCOTT PAGE
Gulf Breeze News
Scott@gulfbreezenews.com

The warm climate, aesthetic beauty and friendly residents of Gulf Breeze have always created regional appeal, but now it has earned international attention. Just ask one Japanese family that finally hit the jackpot in the green card lottery last year.

The United States government issues 55,000 green cards every year through



Lisa Newell/Gulf Breeze News
The Hashida family, originally from Tokyo, Japan, are becoming a typical American family, spending evenings watching their sons play baseball.

● See JAPAN, Page 2A ▶

Businesses promote green living

By STEFFANEY CLARK
Gulf Breeze News
news@gulfbreezenews.com

Gulf Breeze residents and businesses are learning that recycling is much more than just sorting trash into paper, plastic and organic. Consignment shops are a great way to recycle one's old belongings, and buy new used items for a fraction of the price of retail.

Elite Repeats in Gulf Breeze has a wide variety of in season clothing with terrific prices.

The shop is a "great way to buy designer clothing at a fraction of the price," says owner Lisa Compton, who found Elite Repeats helpful after losing all of her clothes when her house flood-

ed during Hurricane Ivan.

"The consignor brings in season clothing that they no longer want and we sell it and split the profit," she explains. "Shopping consignment is great because it looks like you spent a lot of money without spending much at all."

Another great way to recycle your used sports equipment is through Fair Play Sport in Gulf Breeze.

"Often times, kids grow much faster than cleats and bats wear out," said owner Cathy Benoit. "If they're still in good condition we buy them and help sell them."

The sports store will also put the items you are willing to sell towards paying for other pieces of equipment in

the store.

"Playing sports is very expensive when you add up rec fees and all the gear needed for most sports," Benoit said.

Fair Play Sports offers sports gear at around half of normal retail price.

"People love when we can help them get great deals, but unfortunately most people don't know about consignment sports shops so they don't get to take advantage of the great prices," Benoit added.

So if you're not in the mood to start sorting your trash, taking advantage of the consignment shops in Gulf Breeze is a great way to earn and save money by recycling used furniture, sports equipment and clothing.

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Franklin Hayes/Gulf Breeze News

Sea Green parking dispute prompts rash of towings

FROM STAFF REPORTS
Gulf Breeze News
news@gulfbreezenews.com

A spat over parking in Sea Green Center and Harbourtown in Gulf Breeze proper has two businessmen threatening legal action against one another. The two neighboring office complexes house popular eateries that draw large numbers of patrons during the lunch and dinner hours, complicating an already compressed parking area shared by the complexes.

It all started when Chris Green, owner of Sea Green Center, had a truck owned by Marty Medve, of Trident Home Loans, towed from the Sea Green Center property. When Medve confronted Green about the towed car, which was in care of Medve's mother at the time, Green called

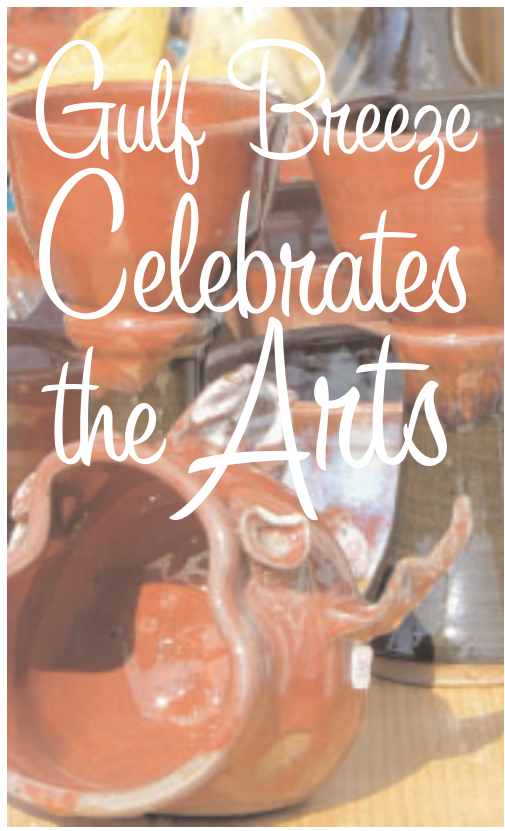
Gulf Breeze Police and filed a trespassing complaint against him. Medve is now threatening to file a lawsuit against Green to recoup the cost incurred from the tow company.

Medve said his lawsuit would be based on a Florida statute that regulates signage for tow-away zones and added that Green has not fully complied with the law.

The statute in question, statute number 715.07, states that "when a person improperly causes a vehicle or vessel to be removed, such person shall be liable to the owner or lessee of the vehicle or vessel for the cost of removal, transportation, and storage; any damages resulting from the removal, transportation, or storage of the vehicle or vessel; attorney's fees; and court costs."

Gulf Breeze Police eventually dropped

● See PARKING Page 2A ▶



Picture courtesy of David Standridge
Thousands attended this year's Gulf Breeze Arts Festival and enjoyed work such as Marilyn Givens' pottery, pictured above.

GB hosts police K-9 trials

By VICI PAPAJOHN
Gulf Breeze News
vici@gulfbreezenews.com

If you see a conglomeration of canine officers, police and sheriff's department vehicles in the Gulf Breeze High School parking lot on Saturday, March 31, do not panic. It is not a huge drug bust going down, it is the 2008 Region I Field Trials of the United States Police Canine Association (USPCA).

Entrants from all over Florida will be participating in the event, and Felony, the beloved Gulf Breeze Police Department canine will participate for the first time. She is under two years of age.

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School board streamlines phone, light bill

The Santa Rosa County School District is looking to trim their budget in more ways than one.

Your mother always told you to turn off the lights when you leave a room, right? But Santa Rosa County School District has not held to that policy, and they never ever turn off their school's computers – not for overnight, not for weekends, and not even over the summer. Now some members of the district's Budget Task Force have done

● See LIGHTS, Page 2A ▶

No hotel for Soundview property

By VICI PAPAJOHN
Gulf Breeze News
vici@gulfbreezenews.com

Though the Gulf Breeze City Council granted conceptual approval of an extended stay hotel for Soundview Drive in early July, the project has stalled.

"We have not heard back from the Maldins," says Gulf Breeze City Manager Edwin "Buzz" Eddy. "They had worked quite a bit with city staff and the council to work out a plan, but the deal did not go through and we have not heard back from them. All the questions we had were mostly answered but there was no formal deal and the project is not moving forward."

Rumors have circulated that the

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