

PROM: Location being kept a secret

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"First we started doing fundraisers last year — everything from car washes and bagging groceries and selling Junior Class t-shirts. We even held a powder puff football game to raise money. The expenses are many, including renting the place, and valet parking, and food and cake and the DJ and the photographer. And we have the biggest cake ordered this year from Jay's Bakery that I have ever seen."

There are about 360 juniors and about 400 seniors.

"So this could be a really big party," Brothers said.

Aubrey Curington, one of the SGA students planning and working on the prom, said she put in 10 hours his past weekend staining decorations to hang from the ceiling.

"Everyone is working so hard," Curington said. "We do it all. The students have to book the place, find the dance floor, book the DJ, order the cake, plan and make the decorations — everything. Our class president, Colleen Eastburn, has really got everything under control. There are different SGA members in charge of different committees."

Ticket prices are \$35 for single tickets and \$60 for a couple.

"We had to increase the price by \$5 this year because of the valet parking," Brothers said.

"But there is so much more than just the ticket price that goes into prom planning. I have a daughter who is a junior this year and, believe me, there are hair appointments, shopping for dresses, nail appointments, make-up appointments. These girls go all-out for prom. I made my daughter's hair appointment a month ago just to make sure she could get in."

Brothers said there will be lots of limos again this year, from what she is hearing.

"Groups of friends come together in limos and they don't have to worry about parking or driving," she said.

The Florida Highway Safety Patrol reminds students and parents that any driver under the age of 21 who registers a blood-alcohol level of .02 or more will have their license suspended for six months.

"Florida law enforcement has zero tolerance for people who drive under the influence," said Director of Florida Highway Patrol Col. John Czernis.

Safety tips

- Don't drink and drive.
- Don't get into a vehicle with anyone who has been drinking alcohol.
- Keep a cell phone handy in case you need to call parents for help of any kind.



Submitted photo

Several young ladies from Gulf Breeze received honors at the Girls Scouts of Northwest Florida banquet April 24. From left, Bianca Ephraim and Rachel Viglione received Silver Awards, while Michele Legendre, right, won a Gold Award, the highest honor in Girl Scouts. Not pictured are Silver Award recipients Emily Craven, Jennifer Dolfie and Sarah Razek.

VETERAN: 'Navy was not easy back then'

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Charged with both construction and demolition, Robb and the 15th Naval Construction Battalion created landing strips, roads and docks, built headquarters and cleared ravaged Japanese bases throughout the Pacific to literally pave the way for the American troops. It was hot, hard work in foreign terrain.

Robb grew up in rural Pennsylvania and did hard physical labor from the time he was a boy.

"We went to school, but we worked our chores before we got there," he said. The family's dairy cattle and vegetable garden supported the family of six, and Robb remembers his life before signing up as being "very regimental."

"I went to Boot Camp at Camp Parks, and then out to Okinawa. I got there near the war's end in early '45 after advanced military training. I was there 'til we dropped the

bomb."

Robb left Okinawa in spring of 1946, and says now that he remembers that there were still Japanese troops hiding in caves, fighting a war that had ended. Upon leaving Okinawa, Robb joined the fleet onboard a tanker. After advancing through the ranks and supporting the war in Korea, Robb retired in 1963 after 20 years of service.

Robb is proud of his service to the country, and proud of those with whom he served. He had served with the Seabees — men the Navy recruited from across America who built great dams and highways, toiled in the mines and quarries and dug subway tunnels, built docks and even ocean liners and aircraft carriers, and were the salt of the earth laboring since childhood on America's farms.

"Most of the ones I knew are gone," he says quietly with a cough. Robb has battled asbestosis as a result of his service, but you will not hear him complain about that. "Looking

back, Uncle Sam was good to me. If they'd take me back today, I'd go back in. I worked hard, and I played hard. The Navy was not easy back then. If they thought you was wrong about something and you got wrote up and went in before the old man (commanding officer), well, you got three days of bread and water.

"But they was fair. They gave us the G.I. Bill when we got back, and they helped us buy a home, gave us a chance to get educated. And now we got Tricare for life. I got no complaints."

Robb pauses for a moment, looks over towards the window. It's easy to see past Robb's pugilist's nose and a strong, stocky physique and hear that his growl of voice is wavering. "And it's something to see that the vets of World War II had a big part in what this country is today."

His blue eyes are strong and clear, and he has composed himself.

CITY: Ordinance to alter set-back requirements passes unanimously

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"The council needs to take a close look at what this ordinance will say about those disputed riparian rights. I grew up next to Carey Cooper, and I know he tried and again to build a pier and was denied again and again."

Shea stated that he felt Cooper had lost income by not being allowed to benefit from his riparian rights.

"I actually included a letter in the packet to show that Mr. Cooper's case was the impetus for the change. The council felt

that property owners were being denied full benefit of their property, and asked staff to make the changes," replied City Manager Edwin "Buz" Eddy. "We, staff, just somehow didn't take the next steps, but the process began to change as if the ordinance had

been changed."

"It was the intent of the council; I'm sure the tapes reflect that," assured Councilman Carl T. Hoffman.

Council also heard from Matthew Gaetz, attorney for the Frank Boykin family. He read a

letter stating concerns, primarily that the ordinance "does not include requiring consent from adjoining property owners. Consent is a critical element and should be added."

Council passed the ordinance unanimously.

COFFINS: X-Rays show mass

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"We've been researching the small bits of wood off and on," said Joanne Curtin, an associate professor of anthropology at UWF and consultant for the Medical Examiner's Office. "But this is the first in-depth work we've done on the coffins."

Last week, they were able to look into the century or more old coffins and identify some human skeletal remains.

"The X-rays did show that there was human remains in the compacted mass of wood and roots," Curtin said.

At first, it seemed that the find was no more than pieces of a coffin.

"When we found them, they

were very thin so we thought they were a lid or a base of a coffin and the remains had washed away," Curtin said.

Curtin actually helped find the coffins after she was called to the island to analyze a human skull found on the beach.

"There is not much wood left, they are now mostly permeated with roots," Curtin said. "The shape tipped us off. Otherwise, we would have thought they were just masses of decaying wood and roots."

There were six coffins, but three could not be salvaged. They disappeared into Pensacola Bay because of the accelerated erosion of Deadman's Island caused by construction in the bay and storm damage.

ISO RATING: Attractive to new business

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Services Office rates fire protection on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the worst.

Midway Fire District has remained steady with a 5 rating since 2002, a number shared by Gulf Breeze and Navarre Beach fire departments. Holley-Navarre Fire Department, by comparison, carries a 7 rating.

Ratings are determined based on ISO evaluations of the fire department in general, the communications center and water supply. Various insurance com-

panies, including Citizens Insurance, utilize the rating to determine and set rates for homeowners and business insurance.

The primary rating system includes areas within 1,000 feet of a hydrant and five miles of a fire station. Outlying rural areas are rated similarly, but those numbers typically are much higher.

Demeter said homeowners and businesses in the Midway Fire District should contact their homeowner's insurance provider to have their insurance re-evaluated.

Most, but not all, insurance companies will offer lower rates based on the new rating, and homeowners might see a substantial decrease in their fire insurance cost. A lower number also is more attractive to prospective new businesses.

"For a business that wants to locate here or somebody wants to build houses and stuff, it helps to have that low number," Demeter said. "That's an attraction, a plus for the community."

Midway Fire District has worked since 2004 to improve its rating.

CHAVEZ: Only defendant in U.S. legally

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the nine who initially appeared in federal court, prosecutors said Galvan-Chavez was the only one residing in the United States legally.

Evidence supporting the raids and arrests was detailed in a 145-page affidavit that implicated Galvan-Chavez as being the kingpin of a local drug ring.

According to the document, Galvan-Chavez and his associates procured narcotics from Atlanta or Birmingham, Ala. and distributed them in Northwest Florida. The document also stated that informants cooperating with police were able to obtain fraudulent social security cards and guns through Galvan-Chavez' associates.

Galvan-Chavez, Cesar Maldonado-Bazquez, 28; Alejandro Hatem-Hernandez, 28; Antiocho Cabrera-Esquivel, 34 and Jesus Rodriguez-Orosco, 34, faced charges of conspiring

to possess and distribute cocaine and methamphetamine.

Rodriguez-Orosco, Hatem-Hernandez, and Miguel Angel-Gamez, 38, faced charges of committing illegal re-entry to the United States after being denied admission or being deported. José Luis Martinez-Alvarez, 30, and Fernando Alcazar-Carmona, 26, faced charges of possessing fraudulent immigration documents, and José Luis Vieyra-Camarillo, 30, was arrested for being an illegal alien in possession of a firearm.

Goldberg said the government intended to seize the Gulf Breeze Cancun's property after Galvan-Chavez's conviction.

Investigators say they were able to organize several illegal transactions between informants, Hatem-Hernandez and Jesus Rodriguez-Orosco.

In one incident, the affidavit states an undercover informant met with Hatem-Hernandez at Cancun's in Gulf Breeze to discuss the purchase of several fake social security cards.

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