



MAY 2022  
VOL. 2, NO. 7

# BAY Life

PRSR STD  
ECRWSS - EDDM  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Santa Rosa Beach, FL  
PERMIT NO. #11

Postal Customer Local

## It's Almost Time for ArtsQuest!

The Exciting and Historic Arts Experience Returns During Art Month  
Saturday, May 7th | 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. • Sunday, May 8 | 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. | Grand Boulevard

BY LORI LEATH SMITH

As a child growing up in Grayton Beach in the 80s, Jennifer Steele never dreamed she'd one day become the director of a non-profit that would help cultivate the arts in our region. She just knew she loved visiting the little art shop of local Grayton Beach artist Susan Foster where she would buy postcards and photos. Susan's gallery was her first experience with fine art and as much a part of young Jennifer's childhood memories as Grayton Beach itself.

Susan, along with another local Jan Clarke, dreamed of having an art festival with other local artists to help bring the community together to provide a sense of community the art world provides. Susan and Jan began mentioning their arts festival idea to other locals such as Van Ness Butler, and the buzz began with folks coming into the gallery talking excitedly. The Walton County Tourist Development



2019 ArtsQuest in Grand Blvd.

PHOTO BY SHELLY SWANGER

Council, who also administered the festival's first TDC grant, recommended they schedule the event during a slower time of year.

The rest is history. In 1989, with a small community gathering, the first Grayton Beach Fine Arts Festival, now called ArtsQuest, was born! Early organizers chose Mother's

Day weekend with the event becoming one of the first in our area to promote a "shoulder season."

Many locals, all volunteers and names you might still recognize today, were involved in this first endeavor including Jeff Ellis, Chris and Manny Chavez, Malcolm Patterson, Paul Digiamico, Doug Kru-



2011 ArtsQuest in Seaside

PHOTO BY SHELLY SWANGER



2008 ArtsQuest in Grand Boulevard: Cameron Moore, Lee Moore, Jan Clarke (AQ/CAA co-founder), Jennifer Steele, and Julie Steele

mel, Nicky Frye, Jack Houston, Hilda McDonald, Kitty Tyler and several more. Through the years, it evolved into a weekend event and has moved to various locations such as Eden State Gardens, Seaside and The Village of

**ARTSQUEST**  
continued on page 3

Better Together.



Lenny Coughlin  
Niceville  
850-678-0996  
lcoughlin@allstate.com

Allstate  
You're in good hands.

Prices vary based on how you buy. Not applicable in CA. Subject to terms, conditions and availability. Savings vary by state and product line. Castle Key Indemnity Co., Allstate Fire and Casualty Insurance Co., Castle Key Insurance Co., Allstate Property and Casualty Insurance Co. © 2015 Allstate Insurance Co.

## Golden Anniversary: 919th Special Operations Wing

BY DOUG STAUFFER

They say blood runs thicker than water, but I witnessed what happens when colleagues choose to create an enduring bond. With its many branches, this extended family of the 919th Special Operations Wing (SOW) showed the heights achieved through genuine solidarity. I had the distinct pleasure of interacting with one of Okaloosa County's largest families. While they are not literal

**919TH**  
continued on page 2



MATTIE KELLY ARTS CENTER GALLERIES

2022-2023  
SEASON CALENDAR  
OUT NOW

(See back cover for more details)

**HOLT • PHILLIPS**  
SERVICES INC.

**YOUR TOTAL SERVICE CENTER**  
Air Conditioning • Heating • Electrical

**SPRING SPECIALS ARE HERE!**  
March 15th - June 30th

Buy now, pay over time. \*With approved credit. Call for details.

**850.897.5559**

4618 E Hwy 20, Niceville • HoltPhillips.com



CAC058236  
EC13007851

 Community

## 919TH

continued from page 1

siblings, they are affectionately known as “America’s Citizen Air Commandos.”

The future is bright, because we have men and women willing to serve and sacrifice without much recognition. At the outset, may I express a heartfelt thanks to the 919th SOW from each of us?

One word encapsulates this unit: Camaraderie—I sensed this truth at the informal family Wing Day and the formal anniversary banquet. Yet, these two events hardly scratch the surface of who they are and what they mean to all Americans. The close bonds extend from top to bottom—starting with the Wing Commander throughout the entire organization.

They sacrifice to support the nation’s defenses at home and at distant points around the globe. The Wing Commander is Colonel Jason Grandy. He stated, “We perform 13 unique missions and serve as the only Reserve Wing with such a diverse mission. We pride ourselves as quiet professionals; we do not work for the praise, but we want to do a good job, because that is what we do. The human capital in our Wing is exceptional.” Like most true professionals, he leads by example.

The 919th Special Operations Wing, located at Eglin Air Force Base Field 3 (Duke Field), is the only special operations Wing in the Air Force Reserve. The Wing supports the Air Force Special Operations



PHOTO BY SRA DYLAN GENTILE, 919TH SOW  
Trisha Brunson and Teresa Halverson with Col. Grandy

Command (AFSOC) and the Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC). Its taskings include operations, maintenance, security forces, civil engineering, communications, logistics, supply, transportation services and personnel functions. As Colonel Grandy mentioned, it is the most diverse Wing in the Air

Force Reserve Command, performing 13 unique missions.

There are approximately 1,700 members assigned to the 919th Special Operations Wing. Over 1,400 of those are part-time reservists. The Air Reserve Technicians (ARTs) provide the full-time continuity and support to keep the units and members combat-ready. ARTs carry dual status as full-time civil service employees for the U.S. Air Force and participate as reservists. More than 300 ARTs and 47 civilians support the Wing in day-to-day operations.

As the only special operations unit in the Air Force Reserve, the unit has supported Operation Just Cause, Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Operation Uphold Democracy, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation New Dawn. The 919th Security Forces Squadron was the first Air Force Reserve unit to be activated to support Operation Enduring Freedom.

Family Wing Day: The Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce partnered with Duke Field to celebrate its 50th Anniversary. The Chamber’s

business community donated the funds to provide free “Nicecream” from Dippin’ Dots for the attendees of Family Day.

Tricia Brunson, President and CEO of the Niceville Valparaiso Chamber, expressed her appreciation for the 919th: “The mission of Duke Field is to serve, protect and defend our nation. Its proximity to us makes it an integral part of our local economy. They are our friends and neighbors. Their children are students in our schools; their spouses fill employment needs for our businesses, while many reservists work full-time jobs within our community. The 919th Special Operations Wing has been there for us for 50 years, standing ready to keep us safe and our nation strong. They provide us peace of mind while we provide them with a sense of home—a signature asset of Okaloosa County.”

The 50th Anniversary Banquet: “50 Years of Valor” was the theme for the evening as the 919th SOW wrapped up the weekend of celebrations with a formal gala. Lt. Colonel James Wilson, the 919th Chief of Public Affairs, said, “The 919th Special Operations Wing is one of the most decorated units in the Reserve. Since the unit’s activation in 1971, Reservists from Duke Field have earned 20 Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards for organizational excellence. Today’s standards are closely tied to those pioneers who established the Air Force Reserve’s presence at Duke Field more than 50 years ago. This weekend is our opportunity to honor and thank them for showing us what it means to be the ‘Best of the Best.’”

Retirees, former commanders, current leaders and everyone in attendance enjoyed reminiscing and learning about the rich history and mission of Duke Field. Major General Richard S. “Beef” Haddad gave an inspirational speech. Community leaders, Jerry Williams, President/CEO of Eglin Federal Credit Union (EFCU) and the Military Affairs Chair, Teresa Halverson, expressed gratitude for our local military.

The late Brig. Gen. Donald Haugen, the 919th’s founding member, created the 919th Tactical Airlift Group in 1971. Judy Haugen is considered the First Lady of the 919th. She is the mother of retired Lt. Colonel Brian Haugen of the Tay-

lor Haugen Foundation. The evening wrapped up by highlighting several annual award winners from the 919th, with Colonel Grandy bringing the closing remarks.

I caught up with EFCU’s Jerry Williams, a major supporter of the anniversary celebrations like so many other community events. “Our loyalty to the military stems from the fact that EFCU exists because of the military. The credit union was birthed in 1954 because of the military institutions in this area. Many of our employees have worked for the credit union while serving in the Reserve at the 919th. Presently we have two employees in the 919th—they are serving our members one day and our country the next. We are honored to play a small part in such a magnificent endeavor.”

Did you know that Niceville Mayor Henkel is a retired Air Commando? The next time you see him, be sure to express your sincere appreciation for his service.



Published Monthly  
Mailed FREE to the communities  
of Niceville & Valparaiso

P.O. Box 1424  
Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459

**Publisher/Executive Editor**

Lori Leath Smith  
publisher@mybaylifewfl.com

**Director, Advertising Sales**

Scott Miller  
sales@mybaylifewfl.com

**Production & Layout**

Kim Harper

**Writers**

Kenneth Books  
Will Estell  
Doug Stauffer

**To Advertise**

850.688.9886

*Bay Life assumes no financial liability for errors or omissions in printed advertising and reserves the right to reject/edit advertising or editorial submissions.*

© Copyright 2022 Bay Life

# PITELL

LAW FIRM, P.L.



LISA Y. SHORTS PITELL  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

- Wills, Trusts, Estate Planning
- Corporation, LLCs, Business Law
- Taxation law & Tax returns
- Contracts
- Guardianship, Probate & Estate Administration

1402 Cat Mar Rd., Suite B, Niceville, Florida 32578  
850.897.0045 | [LYP@LYP-LAW.COM](mailto:LYP@LYP-LAW.COM)

The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisements. Before you decide, ask us to send you free written information about our qualifications and experience.

## ARTSQUEST

*continued from page 1*

Baytowne Wharf to accommodate its growth.

In the meantime, Jennifer was growing up and witnessing it all happen in her hometown. Today, 34 years since the festival's inception, Jennifer is the Cultural Arts Alliance (CAA) Executive Director and ArtsQuest is one of the largest juried art shows in the region bringing in thousands of attendees from all over. Having evolved into much more than a community gathering, in a VIE Magazine article, Jennifer describes ArtsQuest as "an intricate and beautifully detailed tapestry, woven over the years by locals tooled with varying backgrounds, resources and talents."

Eventually, realizing the need for a non-profit organization to help cultivate the arts in Walton County, the CAA was formed as the official local arts agency. Its vision is to continue to make Walton County a home and destination for cultural and artistic excellence where lives are enriched, the economy is stimulated and the community is strengthened through the arts. It offers support, connection and access opportunities for all forms of art, every variety of maker, all levels of learners, and especially, art lovers all throughout the year.

Through sponsorships, advocacy, funding and education-

al programs, the CAA directly connects people to all things art related. ArtsQuest was the first event the CAA ever produced and has truly become a beloved CAA signature event — one of the most significant ways CAA is able to continue to fulfill its mission. It bridges the gap for those who either lack access to the arts or could uniquely benefit from the experience.

Each year, the CAA produces popular, large-scale events, including the 30A Songwriters Festival, Valentine Tour of Homes, ArtsQuest Fine Arts Festival and the Flutterby Children's Arts Festival; operates The Foster Gallery, a local artist collective showcasing art works from more than 30 local artists in a quarterly rotation; and also presents over 250 exciting and educational art workshops in its offices at the Bayou Arts Center. Further, the CAA recently partnered with the South Walton Artificial Reef Association to launch the nation's first permanent Underwater Museum of Art off the coast of Grayton Beach State Park. Visit [umafl.org](http://umafl.org) to learn more about this Art in Public Spaces program that is expanding the county's artificial reef system. The CAA also provides much-needed arts funding through its Art For All grant program to Walton County's teachers, students, artists and arts organizations.

Still a Mother's Day weekend

tradition, this year's ArtsQuest, May 7 and 8, is being hosted by Grand Boulevard at Sandestin and features exhibiting national, regional and local artists as well as art workshops and live art demonstrations. With continuing support from Visit South Walton and additional support from the Florida Department of State, Division of Arts & Culture and Emerald Coast Magazine, the festival will provide an opportunity to view and purchase original art from more than 100 artists who convene each year from throughout the U.S. They will display their original artwork in various mediums including, but not limited to, ceramics, glass, oil and acrylics, photography, sculpture, metal and wood. They will also compete for awards and cash prizes totaling \$10,000. Further, the festival will offer heritage art demonstrations, a CAA member artist exhibit, a Walton County student exhibit, continuous live music and entertainment and "ImagiNation: where kids rule." A full cash bar will be available throughout the weekend in Grand Park.

You will find this year's featured artist, Orestes Barrios Marañón, who was also the 2021 ArtsQuest 'Best in Show' winner, at the event. His featured piece, "Fable In Eden," is a parody of fables and everyday life, creating stories with each of the characters that live in it. His wide range



PHOTO BY LOVE IS WILD

of work will be on display and "Fable In Eden" is the featured image on all ArtsQuest marketing materials.

An independent engraver, painter, cartoonist, sculptor, designer, set designer and children's book illustrator, Orestes was born in Cuba in 1963, studied at the Provincial School of Arts of Pinar del Rio specializing in plastic arts and graduated from the National School of Arts "Cubancan" in Havana in 1983. Orestes has received more than 20 national and international awards for his artistic work as well as various recognitions for his teaching. He has had eight personal art exhibitions and participated in more than 70 collective exhibitions in Cuba, Canada, Germany, Argentina, Spain, France, Uruguay and the U.S.

ArtsQuest is now part of a full month of art activities in May! Art Month Walton County

is a collaboration of visual, performing and literary arts events presented in diverse formats and venues throughout the county. It includes "Under the Sea"—a fundraiser for the Underwater Museum of Art, Digital Graffiti Festival at Alys Beach, the Longleaf Writers Conference, Music on Main in DeFuniak Springs, Sinfonia Goes Pop, Xanadu—a production from Emerald Coast Theatre Company, gallery events and more.

Would you like to help and join the rich history of volunteers for ArtsQuest? Sign up at [CulturalArtsAlliance.com/volunteer](http://CulturalArtsAlliance.com/volunteer). ArtsQuest will happen rain or shine. Open to the public with only a \$5 admission donation requested, visit [CulturalArtsAlliance.com](http://CulturalArtsAlliance.com) or see the inserted Art Month program for more information. Bay Life looks forward to seeing you there!

**Going out of business SALE!**  
**EVERYTHING MUST GO!**

**Blowout prices continuing into month three!**  
**12 Innerspring Queen Sleeper Sofas in stock Now!**

**NOW 35%-70% OFF**

**COMPLETE BEDROOM SETS**

**EVERYTHING IS IN STOCK AND READY FOR PICKUP**

*Schlatters* furniture

Open Monday - Saturday 10 am - 6:30 pm

**329 Racetrack Rd. NW  
Fort Walton Beach**

 Community

# Heritage Museum of NWF 46th Annual Saturday in the Park!

Join the Heritage Museum of NWF for its 46th Annual Saturday in the Park event, April 30, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Enjoy free admission to the Museum. Come shop from local food and craft vendors as well as the Museum's Bake Sale and Non-profit organizations. The Boneless Grouper fish fry will begin at 11 a.m. hosted by Jerry Spence.

Just for purchasing a fish fry plate, you will get to take home Grandmother Spence's Famous Secret Hushpuppy recipe. Major performances will take place outside beginning at 1:30 p.m. with the mini-musical "Valparaiso." Live music will take place outside all day as well as a Porsche, Corvette and Mustang Car Show. There will be a kids' crafts zone from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and you won't want to miss the Piñata smash starting at 3 p.m. The Fire Dept. will be on site as well as re-enactors and much more! The Annual Saturday in the Park 5K Run/Walk will be held from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. to clear the roads for any event traffic. If you're interested in signing



up for the 5K Run/Walk or in becoming one of our vendors, please call the Museum at (850) 678-2615 to register and pay. The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida is located at 115 Westview Avenue, Valparaiso, 32580. For more information, call (850) 678-2615 or visit us online [heritage-museum.org](http://heritage-museum.org)

## ~ Blessed by Mom ~

To celebrate this Mother's Day, Bay Life asked, "What blesses (or blessed) you about your mom?"



I am blessed to call Brenda Cook my mother! She taught us the importance of serving and showing compassion to others before yourself.

~ Garrett Floyd, Niceville Insurance Agency



I live in this country and enjoy the privileges not afforded to so many. To my siblings and I, she passed her creative spirit, a drive to lead, and a self-propelled motivation to create change. We are blessed to have such a Momma!

~ Shantelle Dedicke, President and CCO, Frances Roy Agency

I am a first generation American and it is because of my mother's bravery and resilient, "never quit" mentality that I

My mother always thinks of others before herself...we love



surprising her or doing things for her because of this. She deserves all the pampering and more!

~ Nathanael Fisher, Emerald Coast Theatre Company

I'm blessed to have my mother's (Sharon Higgs) support throughout all of my life challenges including 23 years in the Marines, and establishing Honeybee Ice Cream and Arcade for



my amazing community.

~ Duke Higgs, Owner, Honeybee Ice Cream and Arcade

My mom, Geraldine Harris, was the best. She loved her three children unconditionally. Her huge amount of love she carried blessed all around her and all who knew her!

~ Jimmie Harris Boisjolie, Lj Schooners



My mom blesses me every day, because she is my best friend, and has love for all of God's animals.

~ Jan Holt, Holt Phillips Services

My mother taught us by example the importance of being gracious and kind. Always full of southern colloquialisms, she was

Continued on page 10

**we protect your business.  
because you've worked  
hard to build it.**

**simple human sense**



**(850) 729-2131**  
[www.nicevilleinsurance.com](http://www.nicevilleinsurance.com)

---

**Auto-Owners**  
**INSURANCE**  
LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

Contact Niceville Insurance to determine eligibility for property insurance in the state of Florida from a member of the Auto-Owners Insurance Group<sup>SM</sup>.

# Deer Moss Creek®

## Meet Our REALTORS®

Helping buyers & sellers with existing homes & new construction



**Dora Cawood**

Rental Manager/REALTOR®

850.678.2223

Dora Cawood, a Northwest Florida native, has been a part of the Ruckel Properties team since 1999. Dora manages RPI's commercial, residential, vacation, and airport rentals. She is a member of the National Association of Realtors®, the Emerald Coast Association of Realtors®, and the International Council of Shopping Centers, which helps her meet customers' rental needs. If you need a location for your business, family, or plane in the Niceville/Valparaiso area, Dora is happy to assist you.



**Stop by to see us today!**

Visit our REALTORS® at  
1413 Clary Sage Lane  
Niceville, FL 32578

Monday - Saturday 12 - 5pm  
Sunday 1 - 4pm  
Central Daylight Time hours

Yeska has been a REALTOR® since 2006, and has both the Seller Representative Specialist (SRS) and Military Relocation Professional (MRP) designations. Originally from Central America, she is bilingual and can easily assist both English and Spanish speaking clients. She values integrity and honesty in every real estate transaction, and builds strong relationships with her customers.



**Yeska Sand**

REALTOR® Hablo Español  
Seller Representative Specialist (SRS)

850.368.5936

**Kelly Shephard**  
REALTOR®

850.543.7353



Kelly has been a real estate agent serving Northwest Florida since 2005. She provides local knowledge and experienced guidance, and prides herself in making each transaction as stress-free as possible. She enjoys helping her customers, now friends, fulfill their home buying and selling needs. Her expertise includes resale, new construction, second home, and investment property purchases, as well as current home listing and sales.

Jodie became a licensed Florida REALTOR® in 2005 and has never looked back. Her greatest pleasure is matching properties with customers and knowing she has provided them with the best service and the best deal possible. She keeps buyers and sellers informed every step of the way, answering questions and explaining what comes next.



**Jodie Snell**

REALTOR®

850.621.6535

**Valerie Waters-Auclair**  
REALTOR®

Military Relocation Professional

850.855.6205



Val understands the stress of relocating frequently and at a moment's notice, having been a military spouse since 1994 through seven moves. She and her family have lived in Niceville since 2004. She is a skilled negotiator for buyers, sellers, and real estate investors. She is passionate and full of energy, and would love to help ease your transition to Okaloosa or Walton County.

Crystal has worked on interior and exterior design elements of many homes, having been married to a builder since 1995. She became a REALTOR® in 2005, and works with both buyers and sellers, but she especially enjoys each step of the new construction process, from dirt to final inspection. You can count on her for honesty, integrity, and most of all, follow-through. Her job is to make your real estate transaction seamless.



**Crystal Tingle**  
REALTOR®

850.218.4618

 Community

# Happenings Around the Bay

## MAY

- 04** | **Walton Area Chamber Power of Business Lunch**  
11:30am | Hotel Effie | Miramar Beach
- 05** | **Concerts in the Village: Shania Twin**  
7pm | MKAF Cultural Arts Village | Destin
- 06** | **J.Leon Sip N' Stroll**  
5pm | J.Leon Gallery and Studio | Miramar Beach



- Mommy & Me Craft & Canvas**  
5pm | Strange Colt Brewery | Niceville
- 10th Annual Rotary Crawfish Bash**  
5pm | Seascape Towne Centre | Miramar Beach
- 07** | **11th Annual Burning Up the Beaches**  
9am | Destin Commons | Destin
- Rubber Duck Race**  
10am | Turkey Creek Nature Trail | Niceville
- Sugar Cookie Decorating**  
12pm | Create with Big Orange House Designs | Niceville
- 07** | **ArtsQuest Fine Arts Festival**  
10am | Grand Boulevard | Miramar Beach
- 08** | **Freeport Republicans Meeting**  
5:30pm | Hammock Bay Clubhouse | Freeport
- 11** | **Second Wednesday Breakfast**  
7:30am | Niceville Community Center | Niceville
- 12** | **Concerts in the Village: Yacht Rock Revue**  
7pm | MKAF Cultural Arts Village | Destin

## FARMER'S MARKETS

- |                                                                                                               |                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Niceville Community - Saturdays</b><br/>May 7, 14, 21 &amp; 28<br/>9am-1pm   Palm Plaza   Niceville</p> | <p><b>Hammock Bay - 1st &amp; 3rd Sundays</b><br/>May 1 &amp; 15<br/>8am   Victory Blvd   Freeport</p> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

- 13** | **Relay for Life of the Emerald Coast**  
6pm | Mullet Festival Grounds | Niceville
- Gilleran's Island Band Live**  
6pm | 3rd Planet Brewing | Niceville
- 13** | **19th Annual Bob Hope Memorial Charity Golf Classic**  
**-14** | Egin Golf Course | Niceville
- 14** | **Opioid Awareness & Prevention Event**  
8:30am | South Walton Boys and Girls Clubs of the Emerald Coast | Santa Rosa Beach
- Rally 4 Rest to Benefit Bed4Me**  
5pm | 3rd Planet Brewing | Niceville
- The Art of Resin Pours with Barbara Suhadolnik**  
11:30am | J.Leon Gallery and Studio | Miramar Beach
- 14** | **Emerald Coast Open Lionfish Tournament and Festival**  
**-16** | 10am | Harbor Walk Village & AJ's Seafood and Oyster Bar | Destin
- 16** | **Walton County Republican Executive Committee (REC) Meeting**  
5:40pm | Hammock Bay Clubhouse | Freeport
- 19** | **Concerts in the Village: Six Piece Suits**  
7pm | MKAF Cultural Arts Village | Destin
- 20** | **Singer-Songwriter Corey Fernandez**  
6pm | 3rd Planet Brewing | Niceville
- 21** | **Emerald Coast MudRun for Orphans**  
7am | Northwest Florida State College | Niceville
- FORE! THE LOVE OF ANIMALS –**  
**Alaqua's Inaugural Golf Tournament**  
8:30am | Windswept Dunes Golf Course | Freeport
- Duchess Live**  
6pm | 3rd Planet Brewing | Niceville
- 26** | **Concerts in the Village: Taylor Dayne**  
7pm | MKAF Cultural Arts Village | Destin
- Wag the Flag | Dog-Harmony**  
Grand Boulevard | Miramar Beach
- 27** | **Rick Esguerra Live**  
6pm | 3rd Planet Brewing | Niceville
- Lawn Games on the Green**  
Grand Boulevard | Miramar Beach
- 28** | **Live Music with Purple Monkey**  
6pm | 3rd Planet Brewing | Niceville

  
**STRATEGY**

  
**DESIGN**

  
**MEDIA**

  
**DIGITAL**



FRANCES ROY

**LISTEN.**

Hello Frances Podcast

**SAY HELLO.**

[hello@francesroy.com](mailto:hello@francesroy.com)

**VISIT.**

[FrancesRoy.com](http://FrancesRoy.com)

**CONNECT.**

[!\[\]\(d2e5b284c269f4b2f9c907005a538352\_img.jpg\)](#) [!\[\]\(ae0cb69bf1ceed0cd9bef15cc7e934b6\_img.jpg\)](#) [!\[\]\(8e1ecd65ddeb882002fb6950496f03ce\_img.jpg\)](#) [!\[\]\(b8f86c7a795f4e16b2bb7ea94070acdb\_img.jpg\)](#)

# Our Hometown Hero: Sal Believes in Giving Back to the Community His Family Loves

By KENNETH BOOKS

Sal Nodjomian and his family could live anywhere in the world. But, after Sal spent his last tour of duty as an Air Force officer at Eglin Air Force Base, they chose to remain in Niceville.

“My wife fell in love with the area,” Nodjomian, 56, said. “My boys weren’t interested in leaving the area. It starts with the people. There are a lot of places you can get access to water, Spanish moss and the beach. This just feels like home.”

Sal and Carla will have been married 30 years in September. They have two boys, both of whom are Niceville High School graduates. Adam, class of 2013, is a civil engineer with a masters in transportation engineering. Jason, class of 2017, is pursuing a doctorate in physical therapy at the University of Alabama.

Retiring in 2012 as commander of the 96th Air Base Wing, Sal cites the “overall quality of life” and the “military attitude, the support and love” the Emerald Coast is known for, as

among the reasons his family settled down here. And that was unique in itself: “This is the longest we’ve ever been anywhere,” the retired colonel said.

It didn’t take Sal long to make his mark both professionally and in service to his newfound home. Shortly after his retirement after 23-and-a-half years in uniform, he began work with Matrix Design Group, Inc., a national company that handles engineering, planning and environmental projects, and started a branch office in Niceville. Three years ago, he was named chief executive officer of the local branch. Since then, he has doubled the size of the local outlet. “We’ve enjoyed a lot of success on the national stage,” he says.

Although he could have remained in the Air Force and possibly earned a star, Sal, a University of Delaware ROTC graduate and native of Baltimore, has no regrets about leaving. “I enjoyed every single assignment I had in the Air Force,” he said. “The Air Force sent me

back to school many times. Compliments of Uncle Sam, I’ve accumulated five master’s degrees. I’m a life learner.”

He also got to see much of the world. He lived in Turkey after the first Gulf War and remained there for about a year, “leaving there speaking Turkish like a native.” He also spent time at the Pentagon, in Alaska and in Virginia. He also spent time in Iraq, which he said was still in the throes of a shooting war, Kuwait, Qatar and “I even dipped my toe in Afghanistan.”

Sal has also found a niche in local politics. He is in his third term on the Niceville City Council, where he served for the past nine-and-one-half years.



Council, which Sal’s son, Adam started.

“Jason served for a number of years,” on the advisory council, Sal says, “which I thought was great.”

He said the advisory council educates young people in civics, the Sunshine Law and other, related topics. Members also visit Tallahassee to see how Florida’s government functions and it’s won at least six statewide competitions, including essays and photojournalism.

Sal is up in the air regarding continuing as a city council member. “I’ll finish my current term, then we’ll see,” he said. “I don’t like to see seats encumbered.”

It’s clear that Sal is proud of his community service.

“I’m such a big fan of giving back,” he says. “I wish more community members would find a way to do that. This community is special. There are so many opportunities to make it even better.”

“I consider it a blessing to be able to serve the city,” he says. His city council service has also given him the chance to mentor the Niceville Youth Advisory

## Military News

**Eglin Air Force Base Claims Air Force Hospital of the Year:** The 96th Medical Group at Eglin Air Force Base claimed four awards recently, including Hospital of the Year, at the 2021 Air Force Medical Service Annual Awards and included individual and team awards. Individual category winners included USAF Biomedical Specialist of the Year - Field Grade Category: Lt. Col. William J. Chalmers III; USAF Diet Therapy Airman of the Year: Senior Airman Maylen J. Dumanas; USAF Physician of the Year - Field Grade Category: Maj. Roselyn Jan W. Fuentes.

This year’s **Air Force Materiel Command Company Grade Officer of The Year** is Eglin Air Force Base’s own **Capt. Troy D. Soileau Jr.** A prestigious major command award, Capt. Soileau performed as the flight commander, 47th Cyberspace Test Squadron, 96th Cyberspace Test Group, 96th Test Wing,

Air Force Test Center, Air Force Materiel Command at Eglin Air Force Base. Capt. Soileau oversaw \$9 million of equip-

ment in support of 12 critical aircraft and weapons cybersecurity test programs. Additionally, as the 96th Cyberspace

Test Group Chief Data Officer, he made strides in transforming how the Group and Wing leveraged large data sources to cre-

ate more lethal weapon systems for the Air Force.

# Bay Buzz



The **Emerald Coast Association of Realtors** recently donated \$1000 to CALM house as well as \$1000 to A Bed 4 Me Foundation. ECAR Niceville Director Tammy Summers and fellow realtors members and members of the board of Directors were there to present the check. The Emerald Coast Association of Realtors cares about its community!

**Niceville** was recently named the **Safest City in Florida for 2022** according to Safewise, an online resource that provides tools and information for safety at home and in the community. Niceville is the

only community in our area to be named to the Safewise Safest Cities list in Florida this year and jumped 14 spots to land at number 1, out of the 143 cities ranked. Safewise cities were ranked based on formulas utilizing FBI crime data as well as median income and poverty data, high school graduation rates, unemployment rates, household access to high-speed internet, redlining practices, and/or city budget allocations. Safewise's data points for Niceville—Population: 16,345; Median Income: \$76,823; Violent Crime Rate 2022, 2021, 2020: 0.6, 0.7, 1.5; Property Crime Rate 2022, 2021, 2020: 2.9, 12.8, 12.0.

The **Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida** presents a **Mother's Day Tea**, Saturday,

May 7, from 1-3 p.m. Members \$20; Non-members \$25. Call (850) 678-2615 to register and pay. 115 Westview Ave., Valparaiso, 32578.

The **Niceville Library Friends** is hosting a **Pop-Up Used Book Sale** in the lobby and bookstore of the Library on Saturday, May 7, including a bake sale. The featured sale items will be DVD, CD and Audio books for \$.50 and children's books for \$.25.

**Attention Golfers, Sponsors and Alaqua lovers!** Save the Date for **FORE! THE LOVE OF ANIMALS** – Alaqua's inaugural Golf Tournament, Saturday, May 21st. 100% of the proceeds go to help comfort and feed all the animals at Alaqua Animal Refuge in Freeport and those yet to experience a second chance. Golf at Windswept Dunes is \$200 per player and \$750 per team! Registration is at 8:30 a.m.; Shot Gun Start at 10 a.m., Yappy Hour and Awards from 3-5 p.m.

next door at Alaqua. To register, sponsor or donate, visit <https://app.eventcaddy.com/events/fore-the-love-of-animals>. Sponsorship Opportunities are available and are designed to give you and your company great exposure including golf entries for individuals and teams, logo recognition, social media platforms and the ability to distribute materials and more.

Bless **CALM**—Crisis Aid for Littles and Moms—and get rid of your unused household items! Bring your furniture and household items to donate and benefit CALM to **VenYou201**, 201 Redwood Ave. Niceville, meeting and event space between May 18-20 for a community-wide rummage sale to be held on Saturday, May 21st. Proceeds from the rummage sale will be used to benefit and support the moms and kids in CALM House. Contact (850) 585-1665 by Tuesday, May 10th to reserve your spot!

In April, **CALM**—Crisis Aid



for Littles and Moms, hosted its 5th annual fundraiser, raising funds for CALM Village, which will assist future residents to achieve self-sufficiency and independent living. The dinner was a sold-out success! Ed Wrann and the John Galt Band entertained over 72 guests who bid on 27 auction items with Emcee and Auctioneer Jeff Jourdan. Attendees feasted on a delicious meal provided compliments of Café Bienville, Toast Wine Bar, Tisano's Italian, 790 and 3rd-Planet Brewery. One20Bistro also provided food.

A whopping \$47,000+ was raised – an amazing amount that will be used to begin CALM Village. For more information, contact [wandanv@cox.net](mailto:wandanv@cox.net) or (850) 543-0534.

The **Florida League of Cities** (FLC), celebrating its 100th anniversary as the united voice for Florida's municipal







36058 Emerald Coast Parkway (Across from Regatta Bay) Destin | 850-837-2600 | [EccoMotors.com](http://EccoMotors.com)

# Bay Buzz



governments, recently recognized **Niceville Councilman Bill Schaetzle** with a 2022 Home Rule Hero Award for his hard work and advocacy efforts during the 2022 Legislative Session. Councilman Schaetzle worked tirelessly throughout the session to promote local voices making local choices, protect the Home Rule powers of Florida's municipalities, and advance

the League's legislative agenda. Home Rule is the ability for a city to address local problems with local solutions with minimal state interference. Home Rule Hero Award recipients are local government officials, both elected and unelected, who consistently respond to the League's request to reach out to members of the legislature and help give a local perspective on an issue. Bill Schaetzle and his wife, Claudene, moved to Niceville in 1999. He was first elected to the City Council in August of 2011.

Dwellics.com recently named **Valparaiso** the **18th best place in America for outdoor living** in its 2022 rankings! Dwellics analyzed more than 50,000 U.S. cities to compile a list of the Top 100: Best Cities for Outdoor Living. Among the ranking factors are the numbers of parks, fields,

playgrounds, hiking trails, and other public outdoor spaces; numbers of trees and amount of open spaces; climate, including temperature, humidity, windiness, and cloudiness; air and water quality and risk of natural disaster.

Suicide is the tenth leading cause of death in the United States, yet suicide is preventable.

**The Florida Panhandle Chapter of American Foundation for Suicide Prevention** invites the community to join them on Saturday, May 21, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., for the Sixth Annual Paddle for Prevention at Juana's Pagodas and Sailors' Grill on Navarre Beach. Registration is \$30 per person. Participants are encouraged to bring their own board, and rentals will be available at the event with all proceeds benefitting AFSP. Official AFSP t-shirts and merchan-

dise will be available for sale, as well as raffle tickets with packages from several local businesses! Visit [AFSP.org/Paddle](http://AFSP.org/Paddle) to register or follow the Florida Panhandle Chapter @AFSP-FloridaPanhandle. To become a sponsor, email [flpanhandle@afsp.org](mailto:flpanhandle@afsp.org).

The **Twin Cities Elks Lodge 2747** located at 224 Seminole Ave. in Valparaiso will host a **Charity Breakfast, Yard Sale and Membership Drive** on Sat. April 30th from 8:30 until 11. Cost of the Breakfast is \$10 and proceeds will be used to defray costs for registration and support transporting 98 children from the Northwest District to a free week of summer camp at the Florida State Elks Association Youth Camp in Umatilla, Fla.

The camp is a beautiful and modern 405-acre complex that

provides a unique camping experience to children aged 9 through 13. The campers stay in one of the 52 modern cabins that have heat, A/C, a full bathroom and sleeps up to 9, including staff. Camp sessions last from Sunday afternoon to Saturday morning and provide campers with housing, food, and of course, tons of fun! Kids from our District will join with 100s of other campers from throughout the State to enjoy a range of activities including archery, swimming, canoeing, arts & crafts, capture the flag, soccer, and of course, climbing at our challenge ropes course! Please come by and enjoy a great breakfast then browse the Yard Sale items for that hidden treasure you have always wanted.



VISIT [MYBAYLIFENWFL.COM](http://MYBAYLIFENWFL.COM) TO READ OUR LATEST ISSUE



# What are YOU waiting for?

## ENROLL TODAY!

## FUTURES | BEGIN HERE

NORTHWEST FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE



CRESTVIEW • DEFUNIAK SPRINGS • FT. WALTON BEACH • HURLBURT FIELD • NICEVILLE • SOUTH WALTON • ONLINE

(850) 502-2895 | [WWW.NWFSC.EDU](http://WWW.NWFSC.EDU)

Northwest Florida State College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award associate and baccalaureate degrees. Questions about the accreditation of Northwest Florida State College may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097, by calling (404) 679-4500, or by using information available on SACSCOC's website ([www.sacscoc.org](http://www.sacscoc.org)). Northwest Florida State College is committed to equal access/equal opportunity in its programs, activities, and employment. Materiales de la Universidad son disponibles en Español llamando a la Ophidian de Admisiones de Northwest Florida State College al 850-678-5111.

Community

BLESSED BY MOM

continued from page 4



quick to remind us "You catch more flies with honey than with vinegar" and "If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all." I've never heard her disparage anyone or pass judgment on poor choices. When my mother says "Bless her heart" she actually means it. "It's not my favorite" is the most she will ever say to show distaste. Her voice stays in my head as I navigate relationships, children and my career and I strive to stay gracious and kind. If I can be half the woman she is, I am truly blessed.

Happy Mother's Day, Callie!  
~ Amy Milligan, Cryo850  
Performance & Recovery



My Mother, Yvonne Bennett (1930-2016), was a sweet woman who rarely raised her voice at her two daughters. She made our childhood amazing and full of happy memories. My little sister passed away in 2000, so I always take comfort in knowing they are together. I love you Mom!

~ JoDell Haverfield, Have  
Travel Memories Vacations

My mom, Claudette Canuel, has blessed me with a tenacity balanced with empathy which



brought my family to live in this paradise.  
~ Greg Durette, Florida Health  
Connector



My beautiful mom encouraged my endeavors, and always with a healthy dose of love. I miss her every day.  
~ Share Norville, Artful Things  
Niceville



My Mom, Carol, was a blessing in so many ways. She was compassionate and loving yet firm. She instilled in me to be a gentleman, to always give my best and to never quit.  
~ Scott Miller, Director of Sales,  
Destin Life/Bay Life



My mother, here from summer of '72, blessed my sister and

me with creative talent and an entrepreneurial spirit of courage running through our veins. She was a lifelong artist and entrepreneur, launching multiple businesses along the way, so that environment was our "norm" as we grew up.

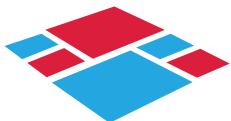
~ Marta Rose-Thorpe, Writer  
and Publisher; A Superior Air  
Conditioning



I am beyond blessed that God chose Rosalia Sacco to be my mom. Her love never waivers. Her love is unconditional.

~ Julie Porterfield, Emerald  
Coast Children's Advocacy Center

VISIT MYBAYLIFENWFL.COM TO READ OUR LATEST ISSUE

  
**MIDBAY**  
Flooring and Blinds  
4510 Hwy 20 East  
Next to Winn Dixie  
850-419-8612  
midbayfloors.com

**Luxury Vinyl Plank,  
Carpet, Tile, Wood,  
Laminate**  
Locally owned and operated!

**15% off  
Installed  
Flooring\***

**FREE  
QUOTES**

**USA Made  
Vinyl Plank Flooring**  
**\$3.69** per sq ft.

  
**MOHAWK**  
Installed Plush Carpet  
Starting at \$2.09 sq ft.

**We do Custom Tile Showers**

**15% off  
Blinds, Shades  
and Shutters**

\*while supplies last  
\*cannot combine discounts



# The Arc of the Emerald Coast Hosts Its 11th Annual Burning Up The Beaches Car Show

May 5-7 | Destin Commons | The Island at Fort Walton Beach

Burning Up The Beaches is a fun-filled weekend with gearheads from throughout the U.S. Participating attendees will enjoy three days of events and show off their cars on the sugar-white beaches of Destin and Fort Walton Beach.

The Island Resort including a DJ at the pool and live music.

Saturday, May 7, is the big show day! The Burning Up The Beaches car show will begin at 9 a.m. at Destin Commons. Valve cover racing will begin at 11 a.m. Participants will enjoy a day of cars, music and more

Registration and information to book your stay at The Island Resort at Fort Walton Beach can be found at [www.burnin-gupthebeaches.com](http://www.burnin-gupthebeaches.com)

All funds raised during Burning Up The Beaches weekend will support The Arc of the

Emerald Coast's mission to provide a path from disability to capability.



es kicks off Thursday, May 5, at 2 p.m. at The Island Resort at Fort Walton Beach. Once checked in, attendees will be greeted with happy hour on the Buccaneer Pirate Cruise which will leave from Destin Harbor at 6 p.m. At 10 a.m. on Friday, May 6, the group will drive in the Main Street Parade in downtown Fort Walton Beach to show off their vintage cars. The celebration will continue with various events hosted at

around Destin Commons. The Main Street Parade and the Burning Up The Beaches car show are open to the public to attend. To participate in the parade, car show, as well as the other activities during the Burning up the Beaches weekend, registration is required.

For those looking for a place to stay during Burning Up The Beaches, The Island Resort at Fort Walton Beach is offering special rates for registrants.



## WHEN ONLY THE BEST WILL DO, OUR AGENTS ARE HERE FOR YOU.

Local Knowledge. Expert Advice. CONSUMER STRONG.



Royce Mitchell  
850-729-0176



Christina Adair  
734-383-3199



Vicki Alexander  
850-217-0587



Cathy Alley  
850-585-2303



Monica Atkinson  
850-525-5811



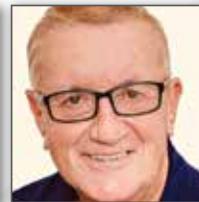
Stephanie Barfield  
850-543-3633



Sharlyn Barger  
850-865-7221



Donna Bennett  
850-585-5746



Roger Bennett  
850-585-6667



Mandy Campbell  
850-902-6911



Lisa Deering  
702-885-1029



Stacey Driver  
850-621-6601



Chanie Erb  
850-585-1665



Amanda Grandy  
850-333-2154



Corin Hogan  
208-691-4186



Tiffany Hedges  
850-585-0020



Barbara Kefferbar  
765-506-1217



Beth Little  
850-543-8617



Amanda Pettis  
850-218-5582



Marion Russell  
850-582-5813



Tammy Summers  
601-597-3777



**BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY**  
HomeServices

PenFed Realty

CONTACT US TODAY

[BHSPENFED.COM](http://BHSPENFED.COM)

ROYCE MITCHELL, LIC. BROKER

1073 E. John Sims Parkway, Niceville, FL | 850-729-0176



©2022 BHH Affiliates, LLC. An independently owned and operated franchisee of BHH Affiliates, LLC. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices and the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices symbol are registered service marks of Columbia Insurance Company, a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate. We are proud to be an equal employment opportunity employer.

 Community

# EOD Warrior Foundation Joins Carry The Load as a 2022 Non-Profit Partner

## Uniting to Restore the True Meaning of Memorial Day

As many readers know, this part of Florida is the home of EOD Warrior Foundation, a military supportive nonprofit based in Niceville. Because of that, the Foundation and the entire EOD Community gather in our area at least once a year to pay tribute to the 343 Men and Women honored on the EOD Memorial Wall on Eglin AFB. EOD Memorial Week kicks off with the EOD Memorial Challenge on Saturday, April 30th.

This year, the event is even more special, because it will be held in conjunction with a Carry The Load rally to honor all those lost. EOD Warrior Foundation has announced Carry The Load as its non-profit partner for the 2022 Memorial May campaign. This partnership creates a valuable collaboration between the Carry The Load's Continuum of Care program and the EOD Warrior Foundation's Pillars of Support programs. In addition, this partnership helps raise awareness and funds that are essential to helping our military, veterans, first responders and their families. "We are honored to part-



ner with Carry The Load and their other non-profit partners to raise awareness and funds for such a worthy cause," says Nicole Motsek, Executive Director of the EODWE.

Join the EOD Warrior Foundation and Carry The Load at the 2022 EOD Memorial Challenge on Saturday, April 30. All Memorial Challenge participants will ruck 4.5 miles, swim a half-mile, and then run another 3.2 miles through Eglin, Range Road, and Rocky Bayou. The course will be lined with 343 signs, each carrying the name, branch, and dates of an EOD

Tech killed in action and being honored for their sacrifice on the EOD Memorial Wall that weekend. This event helps kick off the events of the EOD Memorial Week and will begin at the EOD Memorial at the EOD Schoolhouse on Eglin Air Force Base. It is open to the public and all who are interested in participating are welcome to register.

Supporters are also encouraged to join the EOD Warrior Foundation's team at Carry The Load to raise funds and participate throughout the month of April and May. One hundred percent of funds raised



through EOD Warrior Foundation's team page now through Memorial Day will go directly back to the organization to provide much needed services for our veteran and first responder communities.

**There are two ways to become involved:**

Join and participate in the EOD Memorial Challenge! There are prizes for all ages levels, individuals, and team participation. The Top Team will be honored with their name engraved on a Trophy in the trophy case held on the Quarterdeck of NAVSCOLEOD. This event kicks off the most meaningful week of the year for the EOD Community and is held in honor of the 343 men

and women killed in action. Each participant will be given a name and story of one of these EOD Techs to 'carry' during the challenge and the course will be lined with their pictures and stories, helping to fulfill the sacred vow of We Remember. Registration may be found here or on the EOD Warrior Foundation – Events page.

And, people of all ages can participate by walking with Carry The Load's National Relay team, attending one of its 100 Rally locations, hosting a Carry It Anywhere event, organizing a youth Carry The Flag activity and fundraising for our nation's heroes. "We exist to unite the country through one common purpose of honoring the lives of those who have gone before us," says Stephen Holley, co-founder, president and CEO of Carry The Load and veteran U.S. Navy SEAL. "This spirit of collaboration among our non-profit partners helps improve the lives of so many today and for years to come."

For more information, visit [www.eodwarriorfoundation.org](http://www.eodwarriorfoundation.org).

## Happy Mother's Day



850-279-3886 | [BANKCCB.COM](http://BANKCCB.COM)



*Solar is now chic.*



850-974-ROOF  
[SPECIALTYROOFERS.COM](http://SPECIALTYROOFERS.COM)

Say goodbye to the bulky and distracting panels of the past. The sleek, low-profile design of the GAF DecoTech® Solar System delivers high performance along with curb appeal.

For a limited time, get free gutters with the installation of a solar roof! See website for more details and restrictions. Offer ends 12/31/21.

# Inaugural FORCE BLUE Ocean Conservation School

Military veterans from FORCE BLUE launched their inaugural FORCE BLUE OCS (Ocean Conservation School) for Gold Star families recently at Vortex Springs in Ponce De-Leon. (A Gold Star Family is the immediate family member(s) of a fallen service member who died while serving in a time of conflict.)

The FORCE BLUE OCS program, made possible with support from PepsiCo, NAUI Worldwide and GoRuck, featured 11 Gold Star family “recruits,” ranging in age from age 10 to 23, who participated in three days of dive training, marine conservation education and veteran mentorship.

Marine biologist and New York Times best-selling author (“Blue Mind”) Dr. Wallace J. Nichols was also on hand, joining the cadre of FORCE BLUE instructors to deliver an important parting message to the OCS graduates. “It is not enough simply to be or to become a scuba diver. If you have the ability, you now have the responsibility to put your training to use in service of our oceans,” Dr. Nichols said. “Carry that wonder and awe you experienced here with you.”

FORCE BLUE Executive Director Jim Ritterhoff had high praise, not only for the Gold Star family members who braved unseasonably cold temperatures to don their wetsuits, but also for the Vortex Springs staff and Holmes County resi-



dents who made the weekend possible. “We could not have picked a better spot to hold our inaugural FORCE BLUE OCS,” said Jim. “From the moment Angela (Vortex Spring Owner Angela Dockery) welcomed us home, we felt like a family. And that feeling permeated everything we did.”

Holmes County Commissioner Jeff Good, a retired Air Force veteran, treated FORCE BLUE team members and their recruits to his own home-cooked catfish recipe at Friday dinner. “It’s an honor to have them with us,” said Commissioner Good. “And to be able, in some small way, to give back to those who have served and sacrificed so much for our country.”

FORCE BLUE partnered with the Green Beret Foundation, Pararescue Foundation, EOD Warrior Foundation and Angels of America’s

Foundation, Pararescue Foundation, EOD Warrior Foundation and Angels of America’s

Fallen in selecting the Gold Star children who participated — each of whom received his/her

NAUI Open Water Diver certification and a FORCE BLUE “challenge” coin upon graduation.

FORCE BLUE was formed in 2016 with the goal of addressing two seemingly unrelated issues — the rapidly declining health of our oceans and marine resources and the difficulty far too many servicemen and servicewomen have in adjusting to civilian life once their service ends. It’s the only 501c3 organization in the world that retrains and redeploys former Special Operations veterans and military trained combat divers to work alongside scientists and environmentalists on marine conservation missions.



**Heating - Cooling - Indoor Air Quality**

**Call Today for Service 850-678-9522**

[www.aireserve.com](http://www.aireserve.com)

**\$50 OFF**

**DUCT CLEANING**

Let us get the dirt you can't see!

Serving Walton, Okaloosa and Bay Counties

LIC # CAC1819748  
Family, Locally and Veteran owned



is EXPANDING  
to Fort Walton Beach!

EXCLUSIVE OFFER

New charter advertisers and former advertisers:

25% OFF

IN FORT WALTON BEACH

(Buy 3, get 1 free)

\*\*\*Special Discounted Pricing - Offers Expire 4/30/22\*\*\*

Serving a growing local population  
of over 200,000 people.

U.S. Mail Distribution + Online & Social Media Reach

Niceville & Valparaiso, Bluewater Bay & Hammock Bay, Destin  
South Walton, Miramar Beach, Panama City Beach  
and now... Fort Walton Beach!

MyBayLifeNWFL.com

MyDestinLife.com

SouthWalton.Life

MyPCBLife.com

MyFWBLife.com

Call Scott at (850) 688-9886

 Community

# Coastline K9's New Location Is Officially Open!

BY LORI LEATH SMITH

Congratulations to veteran-owned and operated Coastline K9 on its recent grand opening in Fort Walton Beach! With an elite team of prior military, Special Operations and Law Enforcement K9 handlers, Coastline K9 is a business that provides customized training for dogs and world-class protection dogs for family and other needs.

The trainers work with any breed, any age to be obedient. "But we're not your average protection dog company," said Byron. "Our leadership team is made up of special operations K9 handlers who have trained and utilized protection dogs in some of the most dangerous and demanding circumstances ever." He said because of that, the team understands the importance of security and protection in ways that many have never experienced. "These K9s serve as a personal security guard for you and your loved ones, a loyal companion that can go anywhere with you, and a highly intelligent asset that can adapt and learn new skills," said Byron. "You can enjoy the life you've created for yourself while your protection dog takes on the responsibility of being hyper-vigilant."

"The dog thing found me," said Byron. In fact, Byron, a local who grew up in Destin and Pensacola, joined the military in 2001 and served our country

as a Special Ops Army Ranger. While serving, he participated in the Iraqi and Afghanistan invasions, risking his life to protect ours, as do so many others. "That's why dog training is such a perfect fit," says Byron. "Anything can happen to anyone, and we train our dogs to handle it. That gives me a lot of satisfaction and also utilizes my experience and knowledge."

In 2009, he returned home as an instructor and taught a pre-scuba dive course for the Army's Special Ops Special Forces Combat Dive School on Eglin Air Force Base. Since then, Byron has worked as a contractor, an underwater welder, and in the medical field's emergency services. "Now, I've found another purpose with training these dogs that help so many," said Byron.

Serving clients throughout the U.S., Byron and his partner, Trent McDonald, a well-known veteran dog trainer, expanded Coastline K9 to our area. The business originated in Naples by partner Erick Innis, also founder of the RESCUE 22 Foundation 5013(c). Erick served as Special Operations K9 Handler with his teammate, a Veteran Military Working Dog named Rex. You might have seen the recent movie, "Dog," about Rex. The two served two combat tours together throughout Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom. After military service, Erick be-



gan training law enforcement canines in both the U.S. and Internationally as a civilian.

"The first step is to evaluate your individual needs to find

the right dog and then provide customized training to suit your unique lifestyle." He said the majority of the K9s are imported from Europe, where the

world's best K9s have been bred for decades. "We hand-select the pedigree for excellent temperament—a balance between being loving, loyal and protective—and security attributes to perfectly suit an owner's personality, lifestyle and protection requirements."

Coastline K9 dogs are sourced from its partners in the UK, Holland, Belgium and Ireland. "We rigorously assess all prospects for the qualities and attributes that will perfectly suit your needs," says Byron. Once approved, training begins. When training is complete, your new companion is transported to you anywhere in the continental U.S. and your trainer will spend 3-4 days with you providing hands-on, specialized training.

The new Fort Walton Beach location, the largest on the East Coast is a host each month also to educational seminars for dog trainers that are open to the public. Along with the daily business, it is also a partner of the non-profit Rescue 22 Foundation training service dogs and has become Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office police dog trainers.

Visit [coastlinek9.com](http://coastlinek9.com), [facebook.com/CoastlineK9](https://facebook.com/CoastlineK9) or give Coastline K9 a call at (850) 307-7771. 819 Navy Street, Fort Walton Beach 32547.

VISIT [MYBAYLIFENWFL.COM](http://MYBAYLIFENWFL.COM) TO READ OUR LATEST ISSUE

**Dog behavior problems? Considered dog training?  
Need more information? Let's talk.**

Our team is composed of Special Operations Veterans who have trained and handled K9s in the world's most dangerous and demanding conditions.  
*Anything can happen. Our dogs are trained to handle it.*

**Stay and Train • On/Off Leash Obedience Training  
Puppy Boot Camp • Fix Unwanted Behavior  
We Sell Family Protection Dogs**



**850-307-7771**

[www.coastlinek9.com](http://www.coastlinek9.com)

Instagram: [instagram.com/coastline\\_k9](https://instagram.com/coastline_k9)



# Local Dining, Drinks and Coffee



## JoJo's Coffee and Goodness

Owner and operator Angela "JoJo" Stevenson invites you to enter a cafe and relaxed coffee shop atmosphere for a daily dose of "goodness." Her dream team bakes fresh breakfast and lunch daily—Tuesday-Saturday. Feel free to work on site (free WiFi) or meet up with friends or family. Stop in for Cinnamon Rolls; Scones: Cranberry Orange, Chocolate Caramel and Cheddar Thyme; Strawberry Coffee Cake; Cranberry Orange Muffins; Red Velvet Cookies; Brownies with Espresso Ganache or Caramelitas! Try a Breakfast Special with a piece of Quiche or Kolache-Hashbrown Casserole. Breakfast Burritos are rolled and ready daily! Choose from Andouille, Bacon, Chorizo or Veggie. Or tantalize your taste buds with a made-to-order Breakfast Sandwich on Croissants or Bagel

with two eggs and cheese and then choose if you want to add JoJo's homemade smoked jalapeño beef bologna, bacon, house smoked barbecue or ham! Cinnamon Rolls and Kaloches still hold the top spot for SELL OUTS! Stop in for featured Muffins, Coffee Cake or Pound Cake which go great with Maple Cinnamon Latte or Caramel Macchiato!

Every day is a day for freshly Roasted Coffee and GREAT DOSES OF GOODNESS! Order ahead and pick up some for the office, a gathering or your next meeting! Book online at [bigorangehousedesigns.com](http://bigorangehousedesigns.com).

*Hours 7:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.*

*Tuesday - Saturday*

*(850) 737-6194*

*4652 Hwy. 20 East, Niceville*

*[bigorangehousedesigns.com](http://bigorangehousedesigns.com)*

## LJ Schooners Dockside Restaurant

Welcome to LJ Schooners Dockside Restaurant located at the spectacular Bluewater Bay Marina Complex. The restaurant is named after "LJ Schooner" (the LJ is for Lazy Jack) who was a cherished four-legged icon on Bluewater Bay Marina docks. The open air Oyster Bar and restaurant is open to serve you! Almost all seats offer a magnificent view of the water,



marina and unparalleled sunset with, of course, oysters and a delicious varied menu with dinner specials such as Blackened Mahi and grilled shrimp with hollandaise, served over cheese grits! Join LJ. Schooners for Sunday Brunch, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. and drink your bottomless Mimosas for \$10! Adults \$13.95; Children 7-12 \$4.50; Children under age 6 free.

Join us for our spectacular Sunset Shrimp Boil, last Sunday of the month, April through October and enjoy the most delicious local wild caught shrimp you've ever tasted. It includes Shrimp, Sausage, Corn on the Cob, Potatoes and Bread (Market Price). Call Ahead for To Go Orders. Don't miss the Shrimp Boil entertainment May 29—Coconut Radio! And don't miss all the fun in May: Wednesday Sailboat races at 6 p.m.; Thursday Karaoke/Open Mic 6-10 p.m.; Thursday Throwdown

SUP Races 6 p.m. Live music all month long. (See ad for dates and times.) Call to order take-out and pick-up in the L.J. Schooners Oyster Bar or call when you arrive for curbside pick-up. Dine-in, Pick-up, To-Go

*Oyster Bar Hours, May: Mon-Thurs. 3pm-10pm, Fri.-Sat. 11am to Midnight, Sun. 9am-9pm.*

*Restaurant Hours, May: Mon.-Tues. Closed. Wed.-Sat. 11am-9pm. Sun. 9am-9pm*

*Sunday Brunch 9am-1pm.*

*(850) 897-6400*

*290 Yacht Club Dr., Unit 200, Niceville in Bluewater Bay*



bread, meatball sticks, pizza, Cocoons Famous smoked tuna dip, and crackers/pita chips. There's also salads, build your own pizza, specialty pizzas, pasta/spaghetti, calzones, drinks and desserts.

Every ingredient used has been hand-selected to provide an amazing experience for each recipe. Whether you're just in for a slice of New York style pizza or one of their incredible salads, you're in for a treat. Call to Order or Order Online at [bronzinnis.revelup.online](http://bronzinnis.revelup.online) and have delivered!

*Open Mon. – Sat., 11am – 9pm*

*Dine-In – Pickup – Delivery*

*850-678-7778*

*144 Palm Blvd. N., Niceville*

## Brozinni Pizzeria

Brozinni Pizzeria is a family-friendly pizza place where you can get a taste of New York right here in Niceville. Now featuring the Big Apple's signature crust, their famous buttery garlic knuckles will leave you wanting more, and, wow, what a great menu for pleasing your appetite—appetizers such as buttery garlic knuckles, bread sticks, homemade stuffed pepperoni or sausage sticks, cheese



*We are open and happy to see you!*

**Breakfast: Bakery • Quiche • Breakfast Sandwiches**

**Lunch: Chicken Salad • BLTs • Paninis • And MORE**

*Inside & Outside Seating Available 7:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. Tues. - Sat.*

Worried about getting out? NO CONTACT pick up still available.

Looking for event space? Give us a call!



**Come create with us! ART CLASSES FOR ALL AGES!**

*We do PARTIES! Kid's Birthdays • Girl's Night Out  
Team Bonding • Office Gatherings • We can host HERE!*

FOLLOW US FOR CLASS SCHEDULES:   

4652 HWY. 20 EAST • NICEVILLE • (850) 737-6193

[bigorangehousedesigns.com](http://bigorangehousedesigns.com)



**Pizza Calzones Wings Salads Pasta**

*Get a taste of New York  
right here in Niceville!*

*Every ingredient we use  
has been hand-selected.*

**Dine-In – Pickup – Delivery • Call to Order or Order Online  
Open Mon – Sat 11am – 9pm**

**850-678-7778 • 144 Palm Blvd N., Niceville**

**[www.brozinnispizza.com](http://www.brozinnispizza.com)**

 Off the Hook

# Off the Hook: Spring Fishing

BY CALI HLAVAC,  
TO DO IN DESTIN

We are loving this warm weather and the fish are, too! We've had some rough waters this month, but overall the bite has been decent. The Choctawhatchee Bay is a bit slow this time of year, but the Gulf action has been picking up.

March 1st kicked off Triggerfish season, which many offshore anglers were excited for. In our area, Triggerfish are normally found nearshore and offshore, hanging around artificial reefs and natural bottoms, in depths between 50 to 300 feet. They share the same habitat as Red Snapper and Gag Grouper. So, catching a Triggerfish is usually a sign that additional species are below as well.

The average size of the Trig-



gerfish ranges from 12 inches to 20 inches, with females growing larger. They are a distinctive gray in color and have the abil-

ity to change their color while swimming in open waters. The mouth is small but mighty, containing a set of sharp teeth even the most experienced anglers don't want to mess with. Along with the teeth, Triggerfish have a strong jaw that can make a hook difficult to set.

We like to call them Bait Stealers – which is exactly what they like to do. Triggerfish are aggressive feeders; a plus if you've set out to catch them specifically, but a con if you were trying to reach the Red Snapper or Grouper they hang around with. Shrimp and any sort of cut bait on a circle hook will do the trick as they typically chase anything they perceive as being food. Catch and keep them legally until May 1.

Also, in April, the Cobia will

begin their migration through our area with the warmer water temps. They are best found by sight fishing, running the lengths of the beaches until you spot one, or around buoys, navigational markers, structures or other large fish where they feel safe. An average Cobia is 20-40 lbs., with a 60 lb. fish considered a large catch.

Cobia put up a great fight and are often compared to or mistaken for a shark once they hit the line and take off. You can keep Cobia year-round, with a size minimum of 33" and 2 per boat. They are a tasty, white meat fish with a hint of lemon flavor -great as grilled steaks. This is a season our local anglers look forward to year round!

## Fishing News

### One million registered Florida recreational vessels

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) today announced that Florida continues to lead the nation and has passed the mark of 1 million registered recreational vessels across the state. Florida,

with its great year-round weather and plenty of access to fresh and salt water, is the "Boating Capital of the World." With more people calling Florida home and more vessels on the water, it's important that residents and visitors practice safe boating.

The top five counties for vessel registration in Florida are Miami-Dade (74,622), Pinellas (53,867), Lee (50,304), Broward (47,741) and Hillsborough (41,495).

"Crossing the million mark just confirms what we always knew - Florida is the top state

for boaters. And with more boats on the water, we want to spread the word about boating safety to both residents and visitors enjoying Florida's year-round boating season," said Maj. Rob Beaton, Boating and Waterways Section Leader. "A safe day while boating is a great

day. Nothing can ruin a fun and memorable experience on the water faster than a boating accident."

Boaters are encouraged to wear their life jackets, maintain 360-degree awareness and know the dangers (and penalties) for operating a vessel while impaired.

Visit [MyFWC.com/Boating](http://MyFWC.com/Boating) for boating safety tips. You can even search there for the Florida Boat Ramp Finder to help you find a great place to launch your boat!

### Nets on the Beach?

If you've been getting out to the public beach lately, you might have seen poles and nets that extend from the shoreline out into the water and wondered what it was and what it's doing there. It's actually a NuShore beach renourishment project facilitated by Okaloosa County—porous "groynes" or nets in the form of fencing to capture sand to widen the beach and extend the shoreline seaward. Having kicked off in November 2021, this "fencing" results in sand accumulation that widens the beach and extends the shoreline seaward, thereby renourishing the beaches and increasing coastal resiliency to storms and



- **NEW INVENTORY**  
Stingray - Aquasport - Bulls Bay - Grand Inflatables
- **PRE-OWNED/CONSIGNMENT BOATS**
- **PARTS & ACCESORIES**  
Engel Coolers - Toadfish - Paddle North and more!
- **SERVICE CENTER**



- **Dive Services**
- **Hull Maintenance**  
[www.BWBYD.com](http://www.BWBYD.com)



4612 Highway 20 East Niceville, FL 32578  
(850) 897-4150 | [www.BluewaterBayYachts.com](http://www.BluewaterBayYachts.com)

Continued on next page

# Gov. DeSantis Announces 57-Day 2022 Gulf Red Snapper Recreational Season

Gov. Ron DeSantis recently visited the Destin Harbor and announced that the 2022 Gulf red snapper recreational season will extend for a total 57 days, the longest season since the state assumed management of red snapper. It will include both a summer and fall season.

Those fishing from private recreational vessels in state and federal waters in the Gulf and charter vessels without a federal reef fish permit who are limited to fishing in state waters will be able to participate in the 2022 Gulf red snapper season. “Snapper season is one of the most exciting times to be fishing in Florida, and I am excited to announce the longest season since the state took over management of red snapper,” said Gov. DeSantis. “People travel from all over to enjoy the recreational opportunities we have in Florida that can’t be found anywhere else. Florida is proud to continue providing access and opportunities to all who want to experience the Fishing Capital of the World.”

The 45-day summer season will begin on June 17 and continue through July 31. The 12-day fall season is the longest fall



season since the beginning of state management and spans the following dates:

- October 8-9
- October 15-16
- October 22-23
- November 11-13 (Veteran’s Day Weekend)
- November 25-27 (Weekend after Thanksgiving)

“On behalf of FWC and our Commissioners, we would like to thank Gov. DeSantis for his leadership on this issue,” said Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission Chairman Rodney Barreto. “We are proud to be able to provide fishing opportunities to the residents and visitors of the State, maintaining that Flor-

ida is the Fishing and Boating Capital of the World!”

“Gulf red snapper season is a harvest opportunity that Florida residents eagerly anticipate each year,” said Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission Director Eric Sutton. “Our agency looks forward to providing multiple days of red snapper harvest opportunities in Gulf state and federal waters this season.”

“Up here in the Panhandle, the red snapper is one of our most important fisheries,” said Justin Leake, Owner, Panama City Inshore. “We want to thank you Governor for not only helping to manage these fisheries but also, your clean water initiatives.

What you are doing right now is going to help us have access to these fisheries and ensure that they are here for our kids as well.”

“For decades we have been proud to be known as the worlds luckiest fishing village,” said Jennifer Adams, Director, Okaloosa County Tourist Development. “And as you stand here today in Destin Harbor, you can see why. The impact of fishing extends far beyond our docks. This past year visitors spent more than \$736 million in our community and that money goes directly

back to the local economy.”

If you plan to fish for red snapper in state or federal waters from a private recreational vessel, even if you are exempt from fishing license requirements, you must sign up as a State Reef Fish Angler (annual renewal required) at [GoOutdoorsFlorida.com](http://GoOutdoorsFlorida.com).

Find more on recreational snapper regulations at [MyFWC.com](http://MyFWC.com).



## FISHING NEWS

*continued from previous page*

other erosive events. Designed to help restore Okaloosa County beaches where steady erosion and beach loss has already occurred, “This system actually slows down the sand that may be suspended in the water col-

umn and allows it to accumulate within the system,” said Alex Fogg, Coastal Resource Manager for Okaloosa County, in a YouTube video. “It’s a more cost-effective method of building back the beaches here.”

Each groyne is spaced every 100 feet along the beach and extends roughly 150 feet seaward

from the mean high waterline—each system covering 1,500 feet of beach.

Funded by tourism development dollars, it will likely be taken down soon before turtle season and more visitors hit the beach.



“Just Add Water”

**Mercury Repower and Sales Facility**  
Inboard/Outboard Motor Repair  
Electronic Installations • Trolling Motor Sales  
Trailer Repairs & Services • Marine Flooring

**Nauti Marine Services**  
625 Valparaiso Pkwy, Valparaiso, FL  
Next to Coca Cola plant  
**(850) 678-4747**  
[nautimarineservices@gmail.com](mailto:nautimarineservices@gmail.com)

**LJ SCHOONERS**  
Docksides Restaurant & Oyster Bar



## Sunset Shrimp Boil

Featuring Local Wild Caught Shrimp from Willingham Seafood

**LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH**

Shrimp, Sausage, Corn on the Cob, Potatoes, Bread (Market price)  
Call Ahead for To Go Orders

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT May 29: Coconut Radio 4-8pm**

**Wednesday Sailboat Races 6pm**  
**Thursday Karaoke/Open Mic 6-10pm**  
**Thursday Throwdown SUP Races 6pm**  
**Sunday Brunch 9am - 1pm**

## More Upcoming Fun:

- May 4 Jered Herzog 6-10pm
- May 6 Jody Lucas 6-10pm
- May 7 Ronnie Dean Garrett 6-10pm
- May 8 Wrapped Candies 4-8pm
- May 13 Jackson Bledsoe 6-10pm
- May 14 DJ Chris Saylor
- May 20 Laura Lane Duo 6-10pm
- May 21 Below Alabama 6-10pm
- May 27 David Gautreau 6-10pm
- May 28 LA Strangers 6-10pm
- May 29 Coconut Radio 4-8pm
- May 30 Memorial Day FATHOM 4-8pm

**Oyster Bar Hours:** Mon.-Thurs.3pm-10pm, Fri.-Sat. 11am to midnight, Sun. 9am to 9pm  
**Restaurant Hours:** Mon.-Tues. Closed, Wed.-Sat. 11am to 9pm, Sun. 9am to 9pm, Sunday Brunch 9am to 1pm

Off the Hook

# The 65th Annual Blessing of the Fleet

Destin's 65th Annual Blessing of the Fleet will be held this year on Ascension Day, Thursday, May 26, 2022 at the docks behind Brotula's Seafood House and Steamer Restaurant on the Destin Harbor. The event begins at 4 p.m. with a Captains' Worship and Prayer Service to be held under a large tent. The public is encouraged to attend. Following the service, around 5:15 p.m., local clergy will process to the dock to begin bless-

ing those vessels which have pre-registered. All commercial fishing, safety and recreational vessels that make their living on the sea are invited to participate. Last year 140 fishing boats and vessels were blessed.

A community fish fry will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a suggested meal donation. Many community sponsors help make the Blessing of the Fleet possible. Our special thanks go to Aerial Seafood and Brotula's Seafood



Many local captains, crew and their vessels which make their living on the sea return year after year for their blessing during Destin's long-standing tradition — the Blessing of the Fleet.

**LOCALS MARINE**

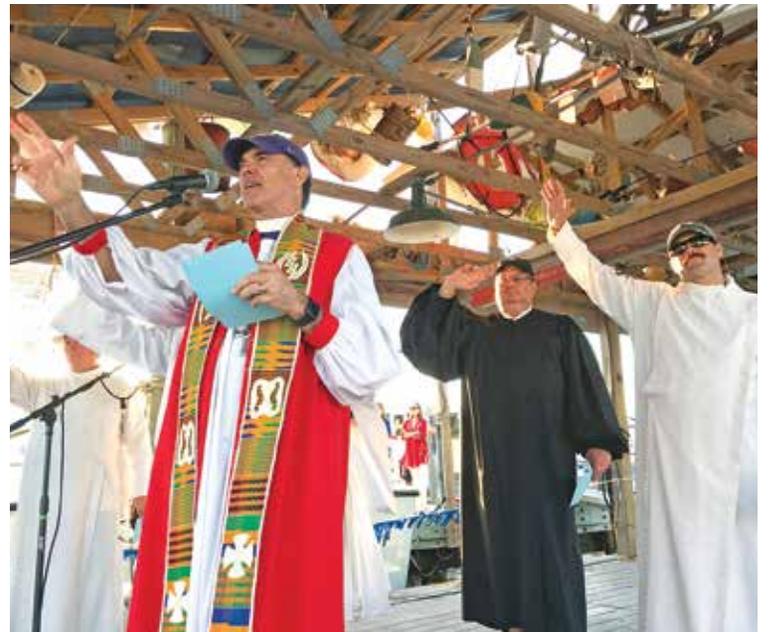
**Full Service Mobile Marine Company**

We provide a wide array of **service and repairs** on any marine vessels and trailers, not just boats.

From simple repairs to the more strenuous labor, we do it ALL.

**(850) 598-8429**

Bishop Philip Jones of the Anglican Mission (in red), Rev. James Calderazzo of Safe Harbor Presbyterian (in black) and Pastor Matt Metcalf of Shoreline Church (far right), along with other local clergy speak prayers of protection over commercial vessels in the line-up.



House and Steamer restaurant for making the fish fry possible. Thanks to the City of Destin, free parking will be available across the street from Brotula's at the City Parking Lot on May 26th from 3 p.m. – until. 65th Annual Blessing of the Fleet tee shirts will be on sale, near the docks on the day of the event.

**To pre-register your vessel:** If you and your vessel make

**Gulf Coast Maintenance & Construction Marine Division**

**DOCKS & SEAWALLS**

**Tired of waiting? Call us today!**

Call Shane for a free estimate.

**850-704-2017**

Email: learywilliam13@gmail.com

Lic# RR282812155

your living on the sea and would like to receive a blessing, please register your watercraft by emailing [immanuel@iacdestin.org](mailto:immanuel@iacdestin.org), or by calling the church at 850-837-6324 with your vessel's name, captain's name, mailing address, email address and phone number.

Also during the week of Ascension Day, "Destin's Week of Blessings" 18-year tradition offers additional faith-focused family-oriented events which create greater opportunities to bless and support the Destin community.

For more information on the Blessing of the Fleet, visit [iacdestin.org/special-events/blessing-of-the-fleet](http://iacdestin.org/special-events/blessing-of-the-fleet), contact Immanuel Anglican Church at [immanuel@iacdestin.org](mailto:immanuel@iacdestin.org) or 850-837-6324. Immanuel Anglican Church is located at 250 Indian Bayou Trail in Destin, just north of the Nancy Weidenhamer Dog Park in Destin.

# Raiders Win The 2021-22 National Championship!

## Coach of the Year Named; New Coach Hired

BY DOUG STAUFFER,  
SPORTS DESK

Youth and inexperience, frequently a recipe for sports disaster, turned into a miracle in the making. Coach Greg Heiar (affectionately called GH) and his youthful Raiders overcame every obstacle. With little experience playing at the college level, the Raiders reached the pinnacle of success—their crowning as the 2022 NJCAA Men's Division I Basketball National Champions! For the third time in school history, the Northwest Florida State College (NWFS) Raiders men's basketball team claimed the cherished title.

The Raiders received an at-large bid to the national tournament, which meant they had to compete head-to-head against the country's top-tiered teams. Over six days, they had to win (and did win) all five games. This turnaround team consisted primarily of freshmen who had never played college basketball. They recorded 25 more wins over the previous year's 6-15 record to finish with a magnificent 31 wins and only five losses.

This team was built from scratch and described as fearless, determined, and tough. The team represents five countries on three continents. Dr. Devin Stephenson said of the program and the college, "To be the best of the best is a standard that we strive for in everything. Unrealistic expectations become the foundation for growth." Dr. Stephenson also took the opportunity to present the AIM award (Advancing Institutional Mission) to Coach Heiar and the Director of Athletics, Ramsey Ross, for their "commitment to improving lives in our community and great efforts to champion NWFS's mission, vision and values."

Deshawndre Washington was named the national tournament's Most Valuable Player. Washington, Brennan Rigby and Kam Woods were all named to the All-Tournament Team. Of course, GH was named Coach of the Tournament as the best bench boss at the national tournament. He was also recognized as the conference and national coach of the year. This championship is NWFS's first men's national title since 2015. Soon after the win, Coach Heiar accepted a position as head coach at New Mexico State. So, how does the future look for men's basketball? Glad you asked!

Guess who is returning to take over the reins? Yes, the coach of the 2015 National Championship team. Coach Steve DeMeo was the Raider's head coach from 2013 to 2019, with an astonishing 170-27 record. During those six years, NWFS was the winningest JUCO men's program. During his tenure at NWFS, Coach DeMeo's teams won five Panhandle Conference titles, four FCSAA state championships, three national final four appearances, and in 2015, the NJCAA National Championship. Under his leadership, the Raiders also made three Elite Eight appearances and a 2017 Final Four appearance. The future? Shining like the sun!

Dr. Stephenson commented on Coach DeMeo's return: "We are pleased to welcome back Coach DeMeo as the men's head basketball coach. Northwest Florida State College strives to produce the best student-athletes in this region by providing them with the support, leadership, and resources they need to excel on and off the court. We are confident that



they will continue to develop and succeed under Coach DeMeo's leadership and are excited to see what is in store for them next season."

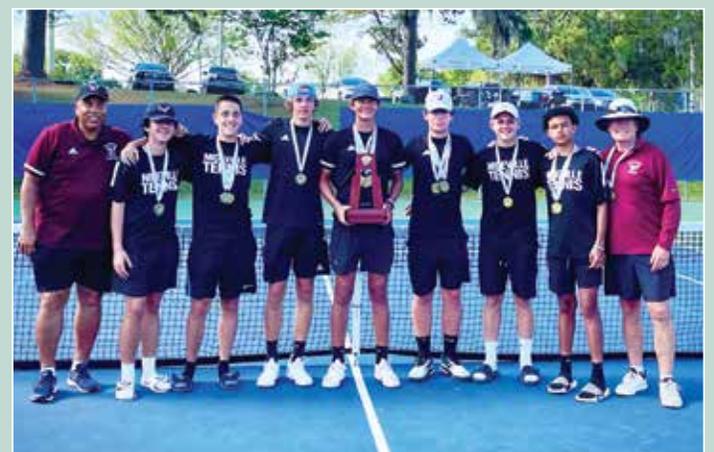
Ramsey Ross voiced the same sentiments: "Our College feels incredibly fortunate to have Coach DeMeo lead our men's basketball program again. His previous tenure here was extraordinary, and we could not be more excited to see what awaits in the next chapter. It was important to us to sustain the tremendous momentum of our men's basketball program from this past season, and we feel bringing Coach DeMeo back to the Raider community does just that."

You can become a part of Raider Nation, too. For more information on Northwest Florida State athletics, visit [NWFRaiders.com](http://NWFRaiders.com) or follow @NWFRaiders on Twitter.



## Niceville High School Tennis Team Update

The Niceville High School Varsity Boys Tennis Team won the District Championship on Tuesday, April 12, in Tallahassee. Senior Blake Forester, Juniors Grayson Dannelly, Porter Devane, & Cooper Seymour, and Freshman Xavier Barbary, Cole Hawkins, & Andrew Roberts all played and contributed points to the overall team win! Go Eagles!



L-R NHS Tennis Assistant Coach Brian Braziel, Cole Hawkins, Cooper Seymour, Porter Devane, Blake Forester, Grayson Dannelly, Andrew Roberts, Xavier Barbary, NHS Tennis Head Coach Chris Poate.

**JOIN NOW AND SAVE!**



JUST  
**\$25<sup>99</sup>**  
Month to Month



**WORKOUT ANYTIME®**

Your Fitness. Your Schedule.

Basic Monthly Membership \$25.99 • Premium \$35.99 • Premium Add Ons \$15.99

Niceville  
850.481.3999

Ft. Walton Beach  
850.533.0555

Destin  
850.428.2333

 Wellness



BY DR. RICHARD CHERN, MD

A lack of energy is one of the most common complaints we hear from new patients before they receive treatment. And, many of the patients who didn't mention fatigue or a lack of energy prior to treatment will tell us how surprised they were at the increase in energy they experience while on hormone therapy. I can also remember that before I started getting my own hormones treated that I needed a nap in the afternoon, especially after lunch. I always thought I had eaten too much or something too heavy. It turns out my hormone levels were just suboptimal.

Keep in mind, my levels were normal. It took a while for me to figure out that normal values

are usually not optimal values. Many physicians and providers still do not understand this. For instance, a reference range or normal vitamin D level is from 30-100. If your level is 31 your doctor will likely tell you that your vitamin D is normal. Well, vitamin D levels under 50 are associated with an increase in breast cancer that is six times higher than those with higher vitamin D levels. Vitamin D levels less than 40 are associated with a 40% increase in all cancers. How do you feel about that "normal" vitamin D level now?

Testosterone for both men and women will increase energy, focus, concentration, libido while reducing cancer, disease, anxiety, depression and more. Yet, most doctors have no clue what an optimal testosterone level is for men or women. Has your doctor ever even tested your testosterone? If not, then do you think they will know how to interpret the results properly?

So if you have noticed that you are taking naps regularly or feel wiped out before your day is done it may very well be an issue



with your hormone levels. Call us for an appointment. We can draw your blood and get your results the same week. Have a consultation with Dr Richard Chern MD or Sue Griffin ARNP and finally find out what has been dragging you down.

Dr Richard Chern, MD provides hormones therapy to men and women from across the country. He is also on staff at BioTE Medical and teaches hormone therapy to new providers including providers here

in the local area. In addition, Dr Richard Chern, MD treats many of the doctors in the local area. Dr Richard Chern MD is a platinum BioTE provider and runs one of the largest BioTE hormone clinics in the country

right here in Miramar Beach. Call Dr Richard Chern MD at The Hormone Restoration Center for an appointment at 850-837-1271.

# I Just Need a Quick Nap

VISIT [MYBAYLIFENWFL.COM](http://MYBAYLIFENWFL.COM)  
TO READ OUR LATEST ISSUE

The **HORMONE** Restoration Center  
Look Healthy. Feel Alive

Remember *feeling young?*  
*Feel it AGAIN!*

Now offering  
**Weight Loss Treatment!**



**BEST IN DESTIN**  
Three Years In A Row!  
Thank you Destin!

**Dr. Richard Chern, MD**  
12889 Hwy 98W, Suite 107B  
Miramar Beach, FL  
850-837-1271



[thehormonerestorationcenter.com](http://thehormonerestorationcenter.com)

## Get the Smile You Deserve

### Smile with Confidence Again

- Are you embarrassed about smiling in front of people?
- Do you ever put your hand up to cover your smile?
- Do you dislike your smile in photographs?
- When you look through magazines, do you envy the models' smiles?
- Do you wish your teeth were whiter?
- Do you think you show too much or too little of your teeth when you smile?
- Would you like to change the way your teeth or gums are shaped?
- Do you have gaps or spaces in between your teeth?

If the answer is "yes" to any of these questions, you may be a good candidate for **A Smile Makeover.**



Call today  
to schedule a personal  
**FREE** consultation

**GULF COAST DENTAL**  
Steven G. Robinette, DDS  
(850) 897-9600  
4566 Hwy 20 East Ste 108  
Niceville, FL 32578  
[gulfcoastdental.com](http://gulfcoastdental.com)



## MEDICAL MARIJUANA



FLORIDA MEDICAL MARIJUANA PHYSICIAN  
CONSULTATION & CERTIFICATION  
850-213-1215

OFFICES IN PENSACOLA, SANTA ROSA BEACH & PANAMA CITY | [THEKAYALIFE.COM](http://THEKAYALIFE.COM)



# Spring Into Fitness



BY LISA LEATH TURPIN,  
HEALTH & WELLNESS COACH

It's spring and not too late to get into fitness. With spring comes more sunshine, warmer weather and the urge to wear less... like tank tops, shorts, sleeveless dresses and swimsuits. So, if you messed up on New Year's resolutions, don't let that hold you back or feel like you have to wait another year to "start." There IS no better time than the present. And the "present" is any day that has a beginning and an end. Knowing what to do makes that hurdle less intimidating. First: Figure out your goals.

According to the Cambridge Dictionary, fitness is "the condition of being physically strong and healthy...usually through exercise and nutrition." Exercise can achieve several outcomes such as, strength, flexibility, cardiovascular endurance, strength endurance, and power/speed. Everyday life calls for a combination of these. If you begin exercising you will be more "fit" to live LIFE. It's actually essential and those that don't exercise choose to create unnecessary obstacles for themselves due to fatigue, tightness, illness and weakness.

A basic fitness lifestyle will focus on being healthy through a

consistent routine of cross-training to achieve a mixture of the above outcomes. An example of cross-training can be rotating through two days of strength training, two days of yoga or Pilates, and two days of sports, swimming, cycling or jogging. The different modalities of exercise will give you different outcomes and the consistency will offer you the improvement overall. Any consistent activity, along with a nutritious and reasonable diet, will help you lose weight if that is your goal. But having strong muscles through strength training will raise your metabolism, thus helping your body burn more calories, even at rest. So, strength training is an important key component to being fit.

All weight bearing exercises, whether it be bodyweight (i.e. yoga/Pilates) or training with free-weights or machines, help build strong bones. This is so very important and the benefits are accumulative. The earlier you start the stronger your bones will be; so, don't wait until a doctor tells you that you have to. Please don't worry about getting bulky from weight training. Most likely, if you feel you are bulky while weight training, you probably have excess fat covering your muscles. It's so extremely difficult to grow big muscles, just ask any bodybuilder. They are extremely dedicated to THE GOAL of building as big of muscles as possible and it does not happen overnight. Your muscles draw in tighter to your skeletal system when you tone and strengthen them. They will begin to take on their shape due to their functional purpose.

For instance, the biceps are



small at the insertion at the shoulder and small at the attachment of the inside of the elbow, yet larger in the middle. Once fat is removed, you will see that definition and the arm, on most individuals, will look lean and slender. Understand, most fat is "subcutaneous," meaning it is just under the skin. So, your body should have this order: bone, muscle, fat, then skin. You can imagine that while you begin strength training, any layer of fat will look more prominent, because it's closer to the skin. That's why a moderate diet helps in your efforts if you give your efforts the deserved time your body needs. In other words, don't give up! Like I have said before, "be active." Just get moving! All movement plays a role in your fitness level.

*Lisa Leath Turpin is a degreed and certified health and fitness lifestyle coach and consultant who has devoted her life to motivating and strengthening the body and mind of others. With over 20 years' experience, Lisa has a B.S. degree in Sports & Fitness Management from the University*

*of Alabama, developed and managed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Health & Wellness Facility and programs in Huntsville, Ala., is board certified by the National Board of Fitness Examiners and possesses certifications from AFAA, Polestar/Balanced Body, Reebok U, SCW Fitness and American Heart Association. She is currently a group exercise leader at Destin Health & Fitness and an independent personal trainer in the Destin area, diversely and extensively trained in classical and modern Pilates, lifestyle management, personal training, group exercise and post-rehabilitation. Have a fitness question for Lisa? Email BeActive850@gmail.com.*



## Take a break from the heat!

Try each of the six services on the CRYO850 wellness circuit with a Day Pass or try any one individual service a la carte.



Thank You for voting us  
**BESTIN DESTIN**  
VP DESTIN MAGAZINE READER CHOICE AWARD \* 2022

PAIN MANAGEMENT

- Whole Body Cryotherapy
- Localized Cryotherapy
- Red Light Therapy
- Far Infrared Sauna
- Vibration Plates
- Compression Therapy

- Pagani Muscle Recovery
- 3D Body Scanner / The POD

- Detoxification / Body Contouring
- Cryo T-Shock Express Facials
- Collagen Enhancement Treatments
- Pure Oxygen Facials

CITY MARKET BAYSIDE, ONE MILE EAST OF DESTIN COMMONS  
4495 FURLING LANE • DESTIN, FL 32541 | (850) 279-4145 • CRYO850.COM

@cyro850

A Personal Trainer, Dedicated to Your Goals.

-Taking New Clients-

Private/Tailored Instruction

-One on One and Small Group Training -Nutrition Help

Call **Lisa Turpin**, Degreed & Certified Personal Trainer

Be Active,  
Stay Active!



  
**LisaTurpinFitness**

850-974-2005



J&J Realty@BluewaterBay, Inc

Welcome to Niceville!

Jim & Jane Rainwater welcome you to our real estate office. We have over 20 years experience selling real estate, residential and commercial, working with buyers and sellers in Bluewater Bay, Niceville, Valparaiso, Destin, Crestview and surrounding areas.

Property Management

Jim Rainwater offers full-time property management services as well. If you are a homeowner with a rental property, Jim can assist you in finding tenants, qualifying tenants and lease preparation.

4400 Hwy. 20 E., Suite 314, Bluewater Bay, Niceville (The old Bluewater Bay Post Office)

Stop by our office today or call Jane at (850) 830-1976 or Jim at (850) 830-9636

janehr@aol.com | NicevilleHomes.com

 Wellness

# It Boils Down to Inflammation



BY KAY LEAMAN,  
HEALTH ARCHITECT

Inflammation is both good and bad. When the body is invaded by foreign bacteria, viruses, chemicals, plant pollen, etc. or an injury occurs, white blood cells release specialized proteins into

our blood and tissues to clean up debris, fight infection and heal damaged tissues. This raises our blood flow, and can cause redness, warmth and swelling.

Acute inflammation is short lived such as when we get a cut or abrasion, broken bone, etc. This type of inflammation is beneficial and necessary. However, when this acute inflammatory response fails to shut off and becomes chronic it wreaks havoc in our bodies.

Chronic inflammation can begin to break down healthy tissue and over time can prematurely age us, damage our DNA and keep us from feeling our best. Issues like allergies, asth-

ma, arthritis, sinusitis, tendonitis, dermatitis, etc. can begin to surface.

Underlying every chronic disease condition is inflammation. It contributes to the onset of cancer, heart disease, type 2 diabetes, asthma, arthritis, cognitive decline, dementia including Alzheimers, auto-immune disorders (when immune system activates inside the body when there are no invaders or injury thereby causing injury) such as celiac disease, rheumatoid arthritis, Hashimoto's thyroiditis, etc.

When dealing with chronic inflammation we can experience symptoms such as fatigue, body pain, depression, anxiety, gastro-intestinal complications (diarrhea/constipation), weight gain or loss, or persistent infections.

So what causes inflammation to become chronic? Smoking, obesity, alcohol, chronic stress, poor diet (refined carbohydrates, fried foods, sugary beverages, margarine, shortening,



lard, red meat) and lack of exercise (lifestyle).

### What can we do to help our body reduce this cycle?

**Exercise.** Get up and walk, stretch and 'just move' your body.

**Eat a Mediterranean diet.** (For a list of foods to incorporate this type of diet into your lifestyle email [hdhl@gmail.com](mailto:hdhl@gmail.com) with Med Diet List in the Subject line.)

**Decrease Stress.** None of us can escape stress but we can learn to recognize and control it. Deep breathing exercises

can stop the stress response and calm us down and this can be done anywhere at any time.

**Turn off the TV!** Listen to your favorite music, sit outside, read a good book, spend time with friends.

**Consume a highquality supplement** containing anti-inflammatory ingredients in their correct forms and amounts (fish oil, lipoid acid, curcumin, ginger, garlic, cayenne, certain mushrooms, etc.).

**Avoid processed foods.** If it has an ingredient list it has been processed. When purchasing these foods look for the package with the least ingredients and avoid colorings, harmful preservatives such as BHS and BHT, etc.

**Be aware of what you put on your skin.** [ewg.org](http://ewg.org) is a great resource to look up ingredients and how they are rated (toxicity level).

*Here's to Your Health!  
HealthyDay HealthyLife,  
[succeed.hdhl@gmail.com](mailto:succeed.hdhl@gmail.com)*



**WAHOOLY™**  
Pressure Washing  
[WahoolyClean.com](http://WahoolyClean.com)

House Washing  
Concrete Cleaning  
Paver Sealing/Cleaning  
Pool Decks & Screen Cleaning

Commercial & Residential  
Licensed & Insured

**850-865-2140**  
Niceville, FL

**Veteran Owned. Veteran Discount.**



**Dominion Tree Service**  
Removal & Trimming  
**(850) 419-8166** Insured

**CLAIMOLOGY**  
"The art and science of fair claim settlements"  
A Public Insurance Adjusting Schoolhouse



For over a decade, Matthew Vanderford has worked in the Construction, Restoration and Insurance Industries as an Insurance Company Preferred Vendor, Insurance Industry Continuing Education Instructor, Public Adjuster/ Policy Holder Advocate and Licensed Contractor. He's proud to call Destin his home, with his wife Candice and four children: Matthew, Blake, Jordan and Scarlett.

**Have Questions about Property Damage or Insurance Policies?**  
**Call Us: (850) 684-4794**  
You could have it answered in one our columns.

**Worship Fundraiser with Rick Pino**  
for Be Generous Inc in Support of Yellow House & Cross Addiction Recovery Homes

**Saturday, May 21, 4-8pm**  
Gates Open 2:30pm for Food Trucks, Shopping, and Seating

**Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation**  
4323 Commons Dr W, Destin, FL 32541

**Artists**  
Rick Pino, Young Bro, Bryann T, Adrion Butler

**Tickets \$45**

*Engage in the Fight*



[begenorousinc.org](http://begenorousinc.org)  
Non-Profit 501(c)3



# Financial Research and Commentary March 25, 2022



BY MAURICE STOUSE, FINANCIAL ADVISOR AND BRANCH MANAGER

## Will Money Become Scarce Again?

It seems that these days everywhere you go there is a shortage of service, a shortage of product or a shortage of labor, or people to help you. Americans have never been in stronger financial shape, savings have never been higher, and it seems like jobs have never been so plentiful. The jobless claims number just reported this week shows the lowest number of claims since 1969 (of course the labor market and population are much larger now). Americans are flush with cash more than ever before. And that has shown up in housing prices, stock prices (in 2020 and 2021) and other asset prices except perhaps for investment grade bonds.

Inflation is a much bigger consideration in investing today than it has been in past decades.

The Federal Reserve and the federal government applied massive stimulus and relief going back almost two years ago as America and the world plunged into the pandemic. Almost 25 million jobs suddenly went away. Restaurants and businesses across the land had to close until further notice. That massive stimulus came in two forms: 1) new spending bills passed and signed by the President and 2) the lowering of interest rates and the buying of Treasuries and mortgage backed (and other) bonds by the Federal Reserve. The latter unleashed almost \$5 trillion dollars of new money into the financial system. That more than doubled what the Fed had done in history to date. And the Fed “printed” about 30% of all money created in the US for over the past 200 years in that short two-year time. That eventually (adding to the supply chain problems) un-

leashed monetary inflation: Too many dollars chasing suddenly fewer goods and services. When considering an investment, we encourage individuals to look at the real rate of return (after inflation) as they make their evaluation.

## The Fed is acting.

Now the Fed is, very carefully, moving to address inflation and has raised its shortest-term rate, known as the Federal Funds rate from 0% to .25%. That is also known as the overnight rate. Banks are an immediate benefactor of this because any funds they park overnight with the Fed start receiving this, vs zero or close to zero. Investors are also seeing an immediate benefit as the yields on money market funds have also increased. We therefore continue to be encouraged by long term opportunities in the banking industry, which is part of the Financial sector of the S&P 500. We think that clients should consider the top 40 largest banks (measured in terms of total deposits) in particular.

## The Fed's balance sheet

The greater impact, we believe, on inflation, and asset prices of all kinds, will be when the Fed begins to reduce the size of its approximately \$9 trillion balance sheet. We feel that has much more impact as it makes money scarcer. The Fed is being, in our opinion, very practical and tactical as it tries to slow the rate of inflation without harming this very strong economy. With the Fed not competing to buy Treasuries and mortgage-backed securities, that could mean less price support and yields could continue to rise. Not good for bond prices but could help slow the rate of inflation. The Fed has indicated that action on the balance sheet could come by May or by summer.

The question becomes, will those two major components increase by the same amount in 2022? We don't think so. We think money will slowly become scarcer and that will mean a lowering of prices for just about everything. We do believe inflation will range from 3-5% by year's end.



*The First Wealth Management is located at First Florida Bank, a division of The First Bank, 2000 98 Palms Blvd, Destin, 32541 with branch offices in Niceville, Mary Esther, Miramar Beach, Freeport and Panama City. Phone 850.654.8122.*

*Raymond James advisors do not offer tax advice. Please see your tax professionals. Email: Maurice.stouse@raymondjames.com. Securities offered through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc. Member FINRA/SIPC, and are not insured by bank insurance, the FDIC, or any other government agency, are not deposits or obligations of the bank, and are subject to risks, including the possible loss of principal. Investment Advisory Services are offered through Raymond James Financial Services Advisors, Inc.*

*The First Wealth Management, First Florida Bank, and The First Bank, are not registered broker/dealers and are independent of Raymond James Financial Services.*

*Views expressed are the current opinion of the author, not necessarily those of RJFS or Raymond James, and are subject to change without notice. Information provided is general in nature and is not a complete statement of all information necessary for making an investment decision and is not a recommendation or a solicitation to buy or sell any security. Past performance is not indicative of future results.*

*Investing involves risk and you may incur a profit or loss regardless of strategy selected, including diversification and asset allocation. Investors should consult their investment professional prior to making an investment decision.*

*Investing in oil involves special risks, including the potential adverse effects of state and federal regulation and may not be suitable for all investors.*

*There is an inverse relationship between interest rate movements and fixed income prices. Generally, when interest rates rise, fixed income prices fall and when interest rates fall, fixed income prices rise.*

*Bitcoin and other cryptocurrency issuers are not registered with the SEC, and the Bitcoin marketplace is currently unregulated. Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies are a very speculative investment and involve a high degree of risk.*

*Investors should consider the investment objectives, risks, charges, and*

*expenses of an exchange traded fund carefully before investing. The prospectus contains this and other information and should be read carefully before investing. The prospectus is available from your investment professional.*

*The companies engaged in the communications and technology industries are subject to fierce competition and their products and services may be subject to rapid obsolescence. Investing in the energy sector involves special risks, including the potential adverse effects of state and federal regulation and may not be suitable for all investors.*






### Your usual?

Familiarity bias means sticking with what you know – but there may be a lot that you don't. Familiarity might be playing a role in some of your decisions.

### Think Before You Act

To help you keep familiarity from overly influencing your financial plan:

- Don't confuse awareness with understanding or expertise. Rely on objective research.
- Take the time to consider your motivations for selecting certain investments or strategies.
  - Don't rule out an investment or financial strategy because it's foreign to you.

Call us to schedule a meeting anytime to receive the objective insight you need to make important decisions surrounding your wealth.



**Maurice Stouse**  
Financial Advisor

**The First Wealth Management**  
A Division of The First Bank, NA  
2000 Ninety Eight Palms Blvd.  
Destin, FL 32541  
**850.654.8122**



**Amy Parrish**  
Financial Advisor

Securities offered through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc. Member FINRA/SIPC, and are not insured by bank insurance, the FDIC or any other government agency, are not deposits or obligations of the bank, are not guaranteed by the bank, and are subject to risks, including the possible loss of principal. Investment advisory services offered through Raymond James Financial Services Advisors, Inc. The First Wealth Management and The First Bank, NA are not registered broker/dealers and are independent of Raymond James Financial Services.

 Business


BY JOE CAPERS,  
INSURANCE ZONE

On June 24, 2021, Champlain Towers South in Surfside, Florida, suffered a collapse of the east wing, killing 98 people. This building was constructed in 1981 with 136 units. Although building failures of this nature in the U.S. are seldom seen, it is important to examine what happened to prevent similar collapses in the future.

The investigators are likely to uncover defects in the original design and construction. Settlement of the site may also be a contributing factor, as may have been the construction of an adjacent development. None of these were under the control of the board. However, there is also clear evidence from the site that some factors within the board's control are likely culprits. The structural deterioration was readily visible in some areas, even to a lay-person and this failure could have been delayed.

The current condo laws in Florida places fiduciary re-

## Condominium Insurance and the Value of a Customized Unit Owners Policy

sponsibilities on Unit Owners and Board Members. It is very important to understand the requirements and design your policy to maximize your condo insurance program protection whether used as your primary, secondary residence or rental. And make sure your packages include Hurricane/Wind coverages and flood insurance as well.

Because the association is responsible for maintaining and insuring the exterior of the building (shell), **Condo Unit Owners need coverage for the replacement cost of Structural Elements Within** – from the paint in, including flooring, fixtures, cabinets, built-in appliances, and more. This coverage amount is arrived at by calculating the cost per square foot to rebuild multiplied by the square footage of the unit. Sometimes the developer will provide this number and typically the range starts at \$60 per square foot, and depending on the quality of construction, that can go up significantly. Your condo policy should always include Special Coverage A. This is broader coverage, changing the policy from a named peril to an open peril policy.

Another important cover-

age to consider is **Personal Property** coverage which is replacement cost on furniture, accessories, clothing, appliances, electronics, and other valuables, basically anything that's not attached. Replacement cost insurance is defined as the cost to replace and/or repair the building with materials of like kind and quality following a loss. If policyholders have replacement cost insurance, they may receive advance payments for the depreciated value for furniture, televisions, clothing and other household items.

**Loss of Use/Loss of Rents** is an important feature as well. Depending on the carrier, they may offer loss of use but not loss of rent. If your unit is damaged and you can't use it for a period of time, you may be able to collect under loss of use if it's your primary or secondary residence. If you're losing out on rental income, check your policy to see if you have the Loss of Rents coverage. You should always make sure you have the correct policy for the right risk.

**Loss Assessment** is another important coverage on condo policies that Florida law requires. Its purpose is to pay up to your loss assessment cov-

erage amount (typically \$2,000) for an assessment levied by the association for covered losses to the common elements. An example of this coverage coming into play was when Hurricane Michael knocked down most of the fencing and damaged the roofs of an administration building and conference center that was covered under the master policy. Because these perils were covered under the association's policy, they had the option to assess each condo owner to help re-coup their out-of-pocket expense.

**Flood coverage**, which is typically a separate policy, is also important. The unit owner should carry flood insurance even if their unit is not on the ground floor. Some condo associations purchase a master program through the National Flood Insurance Program called the RCBAP (residential condominium building association policy). This policy does cover many of the interior build-out items for a unit owner, but it does not cover the personal proper-

ty. So, does the unit owner still need their own condo flood policy? David Thompson, with the FAIA (Florida Association of Insurance Agents) says this: "If there is no RCBAP in place the unit owner needs his own primary flood coverage. If the RCBAP has a large deductible and the unit owner sustained building damage, then their [flood] policy will respond. Should the unit owner be assessed by the association for a flood loss, the unit owner's policy will cover the loss assessment up to their building limit with no deductible. This alone is a compelling reason for all condo unit owners to have their own building flood coverage."

**Liability and Mold and Water Backup**, which are also important coverages on condo policies should be properly structured. And if you rent your unit, always consider excess of higher limits of liability protection. The bottom line is this - when it comes to condo

*Continued on next page*

**insurance zone**  
HOME • AUTO • BUSINESS • LIFE-GET COVERED

HOME • AUTO • WIND • FLOOD  
CONDO • BOAT • UMBRELLA • LIFE  
BUSINESS INSURANCE

**11 YEARS IN A ROW  
BEST  
INSURANCE FIRM  
6 TIME WINNER!  
Customer Service**

**iz**

**GET COVERED with insurance zone**

**on 30A & 98**

**BEST DESTIN**

**2019 BEST**



### EXPAND YOUR BUSINESS PRESENCE WITH A BEACHWORX VIRTUAL MEMBERSHIP:

Permanent street address for creating an online presence with Google My Business.

Optional mail/package receiving and mail forwarding available (additional fees apply).

List your profile in Beachworx's member network – connect with members who need your service.

Be featured in Member Spotlight – a social media feature exclusive to Beachworx members.

Enjoy tax benefits of registering a business in Florida.

More credible than a P.O. Box and safer than using a home address.

No contract agreements.

CALL

**(850) 974-3435**

OR SCAN CODE TO SIGN UP!



Virtual Memberships  
thebeachworx.com

# Sean of the South



BY SEAN DIETRICH

Nobody knows when it started. But it did. The first jar of pickles to appear on Aunt Bee's grave in Siler City, North Carolina, showed up in 1989, the year she died. Legend states that the pickles were probably homemade. Although some claim they were store pickles.

Since that fateful day, nobody has found a good reason to stop leaving pickles. Pickles show up by the hundreds. Maybe even thousands. From all over the United States.

"I think it's just a form of respect," says Billy, age 73, from Bentonville, Arkansas.

Billy traveled 840 miles to Siler City in his 2007 Ford Ranger, which is more rust-colored than green, to deliver a single jar of Kosher Dill Snack'mms to the grave of Frances Bavier, the actress who played Aunt Bee on "The Andy Griffith Show."

"She was America's mom," says Billy. "She was my whole childhood."

The pickles are a salute to

season two, episode 11, "The Pickle Story." In the episode, Aunt Bee makes pickles that taste so bad they could take the paint off navy ships. "Kerosene cucumbers" they were called in the episode.

"That's my favorite episode," says Billy.

"Mine, too," says Billy's brother, Roger, who is busy taking Billy's picture with his phone camera. Roger is 80 this year. He is vaping. His flavor du jour is tropical cherry, and he is puffing so frequently that we are all able to enjoy this flavor with him.

"Best show ever," says Roger between puffs. "Period."

Billy and Roger have visited this cemetery twice before. And they say that each time they come, there are multiple pickle jars sitting on the gravemarker.

"Sometimes there are ten or twenty of 'em," says Billy. "Depending on if it's tourist season or not."

The Oakwood Cemetery is a nondescript burial place, nestled within the black gums and post oaks of the Old North State, with headstones stretching back toward the horizon. You'd never guess that this particular plot belonged to one of America's most beloved celebrities.

There's nothing remarkable about the marker. Nothing glitzy. Nothing fancy. The gravestone looks just like the headstone of, well... Your favorite aunt.

On Aunt Bee's tomb are a



few handwritten postcards, a couple dozen pennies, dragon tears, various trinkets, and I count six jars of pickles. Among the brands represented are: Best Maid, Famous Dave's Spicy, Wickles, Claussen, Mount Olive, and Walmart's flagship brand Great Value.

I read one of the handwritten notes. It's more personal than I expected. "Dear, Aunt Bee... You raised me... I love you." It was signed by a woman from Marietta, Ohio.

Another vehicle pulls up. A Honda SUV. It is a family of five. They are from Salina, Kansas. They have been hanging out in the nearby town of Mount Airy all week, hometown of Andy Griffith. The kids leap out of the dusty vehicle. One of them is carrying a jar of pickles.

"My kids all wanted to bring their own jars," says Melinda (age 44). "And I was like, um, no, guys. Three jars of pickles is expensive. And it's not like Aunt Bee is gonna eat them, since,

you know, she's dead."

Melinda says her kids are religious fans of the show. It all started a few years ago when her husband lost his job. The family had to cancel their movie streaming services to save money. They had nothing to watch.

"So," Melinda explains, "I went to the store and bought a television antenna. Like in the old days."

A local station out of Hutchinson-Wichita played Andy Griffith in all its black-and-white glory. After the very first episode the children were spellbound.

"We plan our whole days around that show," Melinda says. "To my kids, it was like the show was brand new, like it'd just come out."

I watch the children stand reverently before the gravestone of everyone's favorite aunt. Hands in their laps. Heads bowed. They are solemn. Much the same way you'd behave at the graveside of a loved one or a close relative.

And it makes me feel pretty good to be an American right about now. Because say what you will about us, but our country's children know Andy Griffith, Jim Nabors, Frances Bavier, Don Knotts, Ron Howard, and Betty Lynn.

I am a lot like the other people here today; Andy Griffith practically raised me. Our station played two "Andy" episodes every evening after school. I was a fatherless kid who needed someone to pay attention to me, to love me, to teach me, to make me laugh, to show me how to be a man. Andy did this for me. Every weekday at five o'clock.

After all these years, I've never gotten over him. And I don't want to, either.

The words on Aunt Bee's tombstone read: "To live in the hearts of those left behind is not to die."

Would that the same be said of you and me someday.

I left a jar of Vlasic.

## CONDO INSURANCE

*continued from previous page*

insurance policies the average consumer isn't aware of their exposures and responsibilities. You should always talk to an experienced insurance agent so you can make the best coverage decisions for your situation.

*Insurance Zone, founded by Joe and Lea Capers, is a full service commercial and personal lines insurance agency serving Destin, Miramar Beach, Santa Rosa Beach (30A) and Inlet Beach. Visit their Video Library on [www.ins-zone.com](http://www.ins-zone.com) and watch our informative video on 'Condo Insurance Made Easy', or call 850.424.6979 and talk with one of our experienced agents.*

## Bluewater Bay Area Affordable Climate Control Mini Storage

**Increase Your Living Space!**

Store your excess furniture and keepsakes in a climate control unit to protect them from mildew and humidity.

**850-897-3314**  
[pollyconc@cox.net](mailto:pollyconc@cox.net)



Call for reservations and rentals



**Military Discount**

**Move in Special**

Call for Details

- Climate & Non-Climate
- Business & Residential
- Multiple Sizes Available

**10x10 \$98**

**1466 Cedar St., Niceville**

**MIKE CAN DO IT**  
LAWN SERVICE & HANDYMAN

- Landscaping • Lawn Maintenance • Fence Building
  - Fence Repair • House Painting • Flower Beds
  - Mulching • Miscellaneous House Repairs
- Licensed and insured*

**CALL MIKE FOR AN ESTIMATE**

**850-496-3229**

Email [msvenghaus@gmail.com](mailto:msvenghaus@gmail.com)

 Musing


BY PASTOR DOUG STAUFFER

I lost my mom last Mother's Day to complications following surgery. The loss was painful, but I don't believe that future Mother's Days should become a day of sadness and mourning. Quite the opposite! I prefer to consider Mother's Day as a special tribute, remembrance and recognition. My mom was a beloved mother of four and a treasured grandmother, great grandmother, wife and friend.

She was born in Erding, Germany, just outside of Munich, two years before the onset of WWII. She loved to read, and the library was her home away from home. She directly impacted me with that same passion, greatly influencing my life and career. For 20 years, she and my dad were snowbird RVers.

Two months before her death, my mom and dad celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary. Thankfully, my dad will spend this Mother's Day with us here in Niceville. One of the many personalized sympathy

cards expressed the commonly held sentiments about my mom.

"God saw she was getting tired, and a cure was not to be, so he put his arms around her and whispered, 'Come with me.' With tearful eyes, I watched her suffer and saw her fade away. Although I loved her dearly, I could not make her stay.

A golden heart stopped beating, hard-working hands to rest, God broke my heart to prove that He only takes the best."

Truly, heart-rending words to read again! Like so many others in our communities, my mom was a military spouse, and I would be remiss not to remind everyone of their sacrifices during deployments. In 1967, my father was stationed at Andrews Air Force Base and volunteered to go to Vietnam with the 7th Air Force—1967/1968.

My 29-year-old mom was left with three preteen, type-A boys, a new puppy and giving birth to my sister. While my dad was there, the Vietcong attacked every major city and base during the TET Offensive. I am proud of his Bronze Star, but my mom should have received the Parental Distinguished Service Medal for conspicuous gallantry. We must NEVER forget the tre-



mendous sacrifices of those who do not wear the stars, the bars and the stripes, but keep the home fires burning.

To close on a lighter note: here are seven truths my mom taught us:

**1. How to pray:** After spilling grape juice on the carpet, she instructed, "You better pray the stain will come out."

**2. Plan ahead:** "Make sure you wear clean underwear, because you could be in an accident."

**3. Life's paradoxes:** "Keep laughing, and I'll give

you something to cry about."

**4. How to persevere:** "You'll sit there 'til all that spinach is finished."

**5. Spotting severe weather patterns:** "It looks like a tornado swept through your room."

**6. The circle of life:** "I brought you into this world, and I can take you out."

**7. Empathy:** "There are millions of less fortunate children who don't have it as good as you do!"

Pick up the phone or visit your mom this Mother's Day. Tell her that you love her, because you are not guaranteed unlimited opportunities. The Bible exhorts every generation, "Hearken unto thy father that

begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old." (Proverbs 23:22). Happy Mother's Day!

*Dr. Doug Stauffer is pastor of Faith Independent Baptist Church. He was saved July 6, 1980, in Niceville, while stationed at the 33rd Tactical Fighter Wing at Eglin Air Force Base and has now been in the ministry for over 35 years. He has written 20 books including the best selling "One Book" trilogy ("One Book Rightly Divided, One Book Stands Alone, One Book One Authority"); along with several devotionals ("Daily Strength" series); and prophecy books ("Reviving the Blessed Hope, When the End Begins").*

## Publisher's Tribute

Happy Mother's Day to my mom in Heaven! Mom—I know you can hear and I want you to know that you taught me how to have integrity, how to laugh, and how to be classy, caring, passionate, loving, persevering, patient, successful and kind. You taught me how to raise my kids which is invaluable! Most of all, you taught me to love Jesus! I'm so

thankful God gave me to you. Your legacy lives on...

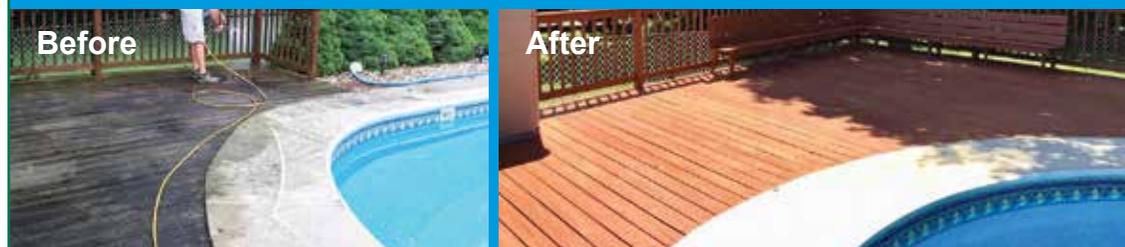
Missing my Mom daily and wishing a Happy Mother's Day to all the other Moms out there! Your contributions are to be revered and, I believe, this is the most important "job" you could ever have!

~ Bay Life/Destin Life  
Publisher, Lori Leath Smith

## Affordable Pressure Washing

See What a Difference We Can Make for You!

Homes • Sidewalks • Patios • Driveways  
Decks • Fences • And More...



15 Years Experience • Locally Owned and Operated  
Call Today to Schedule Your Free Estimate

**\$25 OFF if scheduled by May 31, 2022**

**(850) 688-9886**



*God's Art Show*

Discover Little River Canyon  
Where Alabama meets Tennessee  
Find mountains, rocks and waterfalls  
And rabbits and deer running free.

Hidden underneath the cliffs  
Deep down in the ravine,  
A river flows along its path  
Washing the rocks so clean.

Inhale the beauty of the valley,  
Guarded by the towering heights,  
It takes your breath away to view  
Such magical, natural sights.

Wildflowers in abundance grow  
Not planted there by man  
But springing up to greet the sun  
Because it is the Father's plan.

A union lives amidst this place  
Of nature linked with man.  
The connection is a holy one  
Conceived by God's own hand.

People blending with the earth  
Hearts beating kind and pure  
Proud to live in God's creation  
Trusting it will endure.

Thankful to have come this way,  
Enlightened, we now know  
His timeless love bestows these gifts  
As part of God's Art Show.

by Carolyn Leath, August 17, 2001



# ECTC: Xanadu, You and a Really Big Hairdo

BY ANNA AND NATHANAEL FISHER

What do roller skates, mall hair, leg warmers, jean shorts, neon green and Greek Mythology all have in common? They're just a few of the '80's throwbacks you'll find in ECTC's production of Xanadu! This Tony Award-nominated, hilarious musical adventure is about following your dreams despite the limitations others set for you. The original hit score composed by pop-rock legends, Jeff Lynne and John Farrar rolls along at an upbeat, toe tapping pace. Based on the cult classic movie of the same title which starred Olivia Newton-John and Gene Kelly, Xanadu is hilarity on wheels for anyone who has ever wanted to feel inspired. We are kicking (or should we say skating) it up a notch at ECTC with this production... great costumes, heart pumping music, incredible talent, and fabulous lighting and effects!

Speaking of talent... if you saw The Marvelous Wonderettes, then you know the work of the wonderful and talented actress Arianna Reyher! You'll remember Ms. Reyher as the straight-laced, cat eye glasses wearing ingenue who had a

thing for Mr. Lee. She is playing the lead, Kira, in Xanadu and will make you forget all about Olivia Newton John when you hear her belt out "Xanadu!"

Kevin Ganzekauer hails from Long Island and is flying south for this production to play the role of Sonny. Mr. Ganzekauer's most recent credits include Claude Bukowski in Hair, but we affectionately refer to him as "the guy who did a dive roll, popped back up, and went straight into a jazz turn in his dance audition." His fun and zany energy is perfect for the role of Sonny and will surely



make you laugh as you fall in love with his character.

Our patrons who have been with us for a while may remember the dynamic Adam Silory! Mr. Silory hails from Michigan whose ECTC credits include: First Date, Dancing Lessons, Around the World in 80 Days, The Fantasticks, and Buyer &

Cellar. Mr. Silorey is playing Danny/Zeus in Xanadu and with his sharp comedic timing is sure to bring the laughs!

The rest of the Xanadu cast is a mix of some of your favorite local ECTC actors and a few very talented regional actors we are bringing in just for this production: Fort Walton Beach locals Abigail Huhtala as Melpomene and Hillary Marshal as Calliope join the cast, as well as Meghan Horrigan as Erato and Arin Walker as Eturpboth from Niceville. Samantha Savoie is our Featured Dancer/Aerialist and resides right here in Santa Rosa Beach, while the rest of the cast is rounded out by our out of town talent. Seth Patterson as Thalia (New York, N.Y.) and Josh Hudson as Terpsicore (Eatonton, Ga.).

After May at ECTC we head into all of our summer programming. The Tempest, a part of the Coastal Culture Series through Grand Boulevard, is the free Shakespeare in the park offered on Theatre Thursdays at Grand Boulevard. We also offer a wide variety of summer camps for kids (some of which are already full. So, sign up NOW at [emeraldcoasttheatre.org/summercamp](http://emeraldcoasttheatre.org/summercamp)), and our SummerPOP Fundraising series featuring Peter Lake, Comedy on the Boulevard, Dread Clampitt, and maybe a few other surprises!

Behind the scenes we are working on Season 10, if you can believe it! Though we cannot reveal specifics yet, we can promise you that this next season is going to be bigger and

better than ever! Bigger shows, thrilling musicals, engaging plays, dynamic children's educational programming, and all kinds of great ways for us to show love to our community! We look back on the last 10 years with so much gratitude in our hearts at how you, our community, has supported us.

We are here for you. To entertain you, to enrich our community, to bring joy and life to everyone that comes into our

space at Grand Boulevard in Sandestin. We look forward to seeing all of you here at ECTC!

**In May:**  
**Xanadu, May 13 - 22**

Thursday - Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Matinee Performances Thurs., May 19 & Sundays at 2:30 p.m.

For more information call (850) 684-0323 or visit [emeraldcoasttheatre.org](http://emeraldcoasttheatre.org)

**XANADU**  
**THE MUSICAL**

**ECTC**  
emerald coast theatre company

**LACE UP YOUR SKATES!**  
**MAY 13 - MAY 22, 2022**

This hilarious, roller skating, musical adventure about following your dreams despite the limitations others set for you, rolls along to the original hit score composed by pop-rock legends, Jeff Lynne and John Farrar. Xanadu is hilarity on wheels for anyone who has ever wanted to feel inspired.

Tickets or info, call 850.684.0323 or visit [EMERALDCOASTTHEATRE.ORG](http://EMERALDCOASTTHEATRE.ORG)

Savvy Leigh  
**PHOTO**

**PACKAGES**

Engagement / Couples Session  
\$199  
Up to an hour  
No limit on edited photos

Family Session  
\$230  
1 hour  
No limit on edited photos

Senior Session / Professional headshots  
\$130  
45 minutes  
No limit on edited photos

Newborn / Lifestyle  
\$175  
Up to an hour  
No limit on edited photos

For your life's special moments  
**WEDDING PACKAGES ALSO AVAILABLE**

[WWW.SAVVYLEIGHPHOTO.COM](http://WWW.SAVVYLEIGHPHOTO.COM)

**MUSIC LESSONS**  
**850-231-3199**

Band Instruments  
Piano  
Voice  
Guitar  
Violin  
Cello  
Bass  
Drums  
& More

**Studio 237 Music School**

Education for Performance

**Call Today for your appointment**  
[www.Studio237Music.com](http://www.Studio237Music.com)  
237 Dawson Rd, Santa Rosa Beach, FL

Arts & Music

# MKAF Spring Lineup

On Thursday, April 21, the Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation (MKAF) kicked off the 2022 Spring Concerts in the Village series with the showstopping Michael Jackson LIVE, direct from Las Vegas featuring Santana Jackson, one of the top Michael Jackson tribute artists in the world! The highly-anticipated season includes pop icon, Taylor Dane; fan favorites, Sister Hazel; and the Music of Led Zeppelin featuring Sinfonia Gulf Coast.

“For 27 years, the Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation has been at the forefront of providing arts entertainment and education to Northwest Florida. The annual Concerts in the Village is no exception and we are thrilled to announce this year’s incredible lineup of guest artists,” stated MKAF CEO Demetrius Fuller. “The revenue generated from these events enables us to provide the highest quality of arts education and community engagement throughout Okaloosa, Walton and Bay Counties. Thank you to all of our season sponsors, community partners,



and members! If you are not yet a member, please consider joining,” said Demetrius.

**2022 Season MKAF Concerts in the Village | Destin, FL**

Enjoy a night under the stars at the most beautiful outdoor music venue on the Emerald Coast. Bring a bottle of wine, your favorite craft beer, some delicious snacks, and a blanket or chair. Food and drinks are available for purchase!

Throughout the Spring concert season, concert-goers can expect exciting performances from an incredible lineup of artists.

Thursday, April 21, 2022:  
**Michael Jackson LIVE (Vegas Show)**

Thursday, April 28, 2022:  
**Naturally 7**

Thursday, May 5, 2022:



**Shania Twin (Shania Twain Tribute)**

Thursday, May 12, 2022:

**Yacht Rock Revue**

Thursday, May 19, 2022:

**Six Piece Suits**

Thursday, May 26, 2022:

**Taylor Dayne**

Thursday, June 2, 2022:

**Alter Eagles**

Thursday, June 9, 2022:

**Sister Hazel**

Thursday, June 16, 2022:

**Sinfonia Gulf Coast Performing the Music of Led Zeppelin**

Thursday, June 23, 2022:

**Boogie Wonder Band**

Gates open at 6 p.m. with concerts beginning at 7 p.m. for this come-as-you-are family-friendly outdoor concert series. Bring a lawn chair, picnic, wine or purchase food and beverages on-site prepared by featured restaurants and food trucks.

Purchase tickets online at [MKAF.org/events](http://MKAF.org/events). General admission varies per concert. Children (12 and under), and MKAF members are free.

Those interested in becoming a MKAF member can learn more at [MKAF.org](http://MKAF.org). Children 17 and under must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. All sales are final; sorry, no refunds. Pets, tables larger than two feet, and drones are not permitted. A limited number of VIP tables (provides a reserved table and seating with admission for up to 8 guests) are available. Those interested in sponsoring the 2022 MKAF season, please call 850-650-2226 for details.



**Concerts in the Village**  
mattie kelly arts foundation

**2022 SPRING CONCERTS**

Annual concert series featuring a diverse genre of music suitable for all ages and families.  
Gates open at 6pm | Concert at 7pm



	<b>APR 21</b>	<b>MJ LIVE</b>		<b>MAY 26</b>	<b>Taylor Dayne</b>
	<b>APR 28</b>	<b>Naturally 7</b>		<b>JUN 2</b>	<b>Alter Eagles</b>
	<b>MAY 5</b>	<b>Shania Twin</b> <small>Shania Twain Tribute</small>		<b>JUN 9</b>	<b>Sister Hazel</b>
	<b>MAY 12</b>	<b>Yacht Rock Revue</b>		<b>JUN 16</b>	<b>Sinfonia Gulf Coast performing The Music of Led Zeppelin</b> <small>with Conductor Brent Havens and Vocalist Randy Jackson</small>
	<b>MAY 19</b>	<b>Six Piece Suits</b>		<b>JUN 23</b>	<b>Boogie Wonder Band</b> <small>followed by Silent Disco</small>

PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE AT [MKAF.ORG](http://MKAF.ORG)

FREE for Members - JOIN NOW!

[MKAF.org](http://MKAF.org)

850.650.2226 | [INFO@MKAF.ORG](mailto:INFO@MKAF.ORG) | 4323 COMMONS DRIVE WEST | DESTIN, FLORIDA 32541

# Area Art Classes May 2022

## Artful Things Niceville MAY

Call the gallery at 850-729-2600 to reserve seating for the following workshops:

**7—OPEN AIR ART DAY!** Noon-3pm. Find a Mother's Day gift and enjoy the day with the family! Open gallery, guest artists, hands on activities and demonstrations. Featuring Holi on Wheels food truck, a bee handling demonstration by Bees on the Bayou, local author book signings and live painting!

**12—Encaustic Scenes with Corina Zalace** 10:30-

12:30pm. Create 5-7 scenes using colored wax and unique methods, and take your artwork home the day of! \$47.50, includes supplies.

**13—Acrylic Pour and String Pull** with Debi Profeta 2-4pm. A semi-private workshop with very limited seating; learn to resin pour in black and white on a 10x20 canvas with artist and instructor Debi Profeta. \$37.50, includes supplies.

**14—Acrylic Pour** with Debi Profeta 10:30-2:30pm. Learn to resin pour on a 24x24 canvas with an experienced instructor Debi Profeta. \$77.50

including supplies. Featuring La Chama Venez food truck on site, 11:30-2:30.

**21—Journal Making** with Helene Pappas 10:30-2:30pm. Introduction to making your own personal journal with artist Helene Pappas, where students learn to bind by hand. \$47.50, includes supplies.

**28—Oil Florals the Impressionist Way** with Jeanette Herron 10:30-2:30pm. Artists with some experience working in oils are invited to paint like the masters with award winning artist Jeanette Herron, one of Artful Things Niceville's fea-



tured gallery artists. \$37.50 with own supplies, \$75.00, supplies included.

1087 East, E. John Sims Pkwy in Niceville

## Finding Community Through Art

By ALANNA GRAYCE CAMPBELL

When I moved to Niceville in December of 2021, I was thoroughly excited. Living so near the beach has been a dream of mine for most of my life, and this opportunity was, of course, too good to pass up. So, as my partner and I packed up our life to make the 12-hour haul, I never concerned myself with the fact that I was leaving everyone I knew behind. That was part of the adventure, after all!

To be honest, after arriving here, it took a bit for me to feel like I was lacking friends. The newness and the adventure had yet to wear off. Thankfully, in January of 2022, I found myself pitching myself to Share, the owner of Artful Things Niceville. She saw my experience and talents and brought me on—and the rest is history. That opportunity

has shaped my entire experience of my new home.

As an artist myself, but one who has often tried to take the "safe" route, I had often found myself dreaming of making art my occupation, not just a hobby. Being a full-time creative was never unattainable, but was always made to seem risky. Dangerous, even. The friends and mentors I've found through Artful Things Niceville, however, have made me realize that this place is the perfect environment for my talents to thrive.

The artists featured in the gallery at Artful Things Niceville, as well as the artists who instruct classes there, have become a family for me. Not only do they produce exquisite pieces of artwork, the likes of which I have rarely seen outside of European museums, incredible pieces of literature

and beautifully crafted pottery, just to name a few, the artists and local authors are beautiful people, who want to uplift the community and share the beautiful gift of creativity with others. What more could you want to find in your new community? What better place to find a sense of community, than amongst a group of people who want to unite, share, inspire and create?

For these reasons alone, I encourage you to take some time to visit us at Artful Things Niceville. You'll likely walk away with more than just Niceville's new go-to shop for local books and occasion cards, more than just handmade soaps and jewelry, more than just an experience of beautifully curated artwork from local artists. You'll walk away having met at least one new friend.

**Ongoing Classes:**  
**Rosalyn O'grady – Oil or Acrylics.** Tuesday mornings 10 a.m. – noon, \$20 per session plus supplies. [ogradytr@cox.net](mailto:ogradytr@cox.net). [www.RosalynOgrady.com](http://www.RosalynOgrady.com)

**Theresa McInnis-Watercolor Techniques.** Tuesday afternoons 12:45-3:45pm. \$27.50 plus supplies. [www.TheresiaMcInnis.com](http://www.TheresiaMcInnis.com). Sign up: 850-729-2600.

**Chris Mcloone-Anime & Drawing Basics.** Wednesday afternoons 3:30-4:30pm. \$15, bring a sketchbook and pencil. Sign up: 850-729-2600

**Charlotte Arnold-Open Studio with Live Model** Wednesday mornings 10:30am-1:30pm. Uninstructed-\$15, limited to 6 seats. Bring your own supplies, your medium and an easel. Sign up: 850-729-2600

Tues-Fri 10am – 5pm | Sat 10am – 3pm | *Appointments Available*  
(850) 729-2600 | [artfulthingsniceville.com](http://artfulthingsniceville.com)

**Big Orange House Designs APRIL**

**29—Paint Pour** w/JoJo 10am-12pm

**30—Kidz Paint Pour** 9:30-11:30

**30—Open Studio Leather & Pearls** 12-2pm

**MAY**

**7—Sugar Cookie Decorating** w/Mery

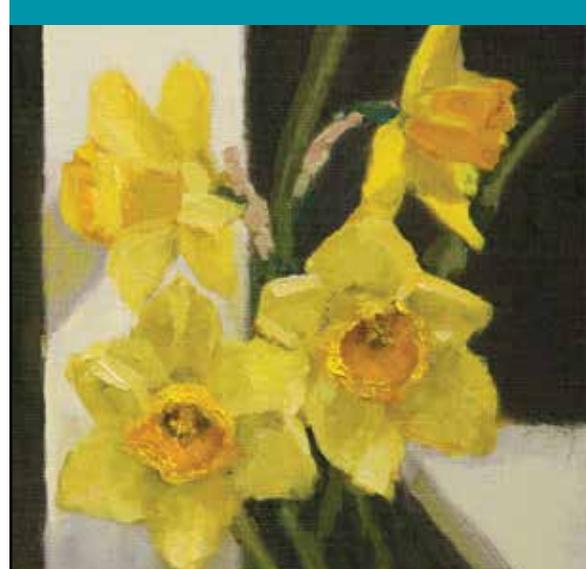
Come decorate a tray of cookies to celebrate **MOTHER'S DAY!**

Check for more May classes at [bigorangehousedesigns.com](http://bigorangehousedesigns.com)

Want to book a PRIVATE TABLE in a class or host a PARTY? Contact JoJo AT 334-320-6658 or [bigorangehousedesigns@gmail.com](mailto:bigorangehousedesigns@gmail.com)

[bigorangehousedesigns.com](http://bigorangehousedesigns.com) | (850) 737-6193.

4652 Hwy. 20E, Pineapple Plaza, Bluewater Bay in Niceville



## Artful Things Niceville

Fine Art, Unique Gifts, Pottery, Jewelry, Local Authors, Art Supplies, Workshops, Ongoing Classes, Children's Activities, Custom Framing

*Experience the Fine Art and Original Works of Gulf Coast Artisans*

1087 E John Sims Pkwy, Niceville

850-729-2600 | [www.ArtfulThingsNiceville.com](http://www.ArtfulThingsNiceville.com)

Tues-Fri 10am-5pm | Sat 10am-3pm

Follow us:



 Arts & Music

# Gulf Coast Jam Brings Country to the Coast

BY WILL ESTELL

If you're a fan of great country music and America's best beaches, you've probably already heard a thing or two about Gulf Coast Jam. What started as a decent size outdoor music festival 10 years ago has now grown into one of the top-ten largest, and most popular, country music festivals in the nation.

Having covered the festival editorially for four years, I can assure you it does not, and will not, disappoint. I've seen everyone from Tim McGraw, Brad Paisley, Luke Bryan and Florida Georgia Line to Riley Green, Big & Rich, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Brothers Osborne and Kid Rock play to Gulf Coast Jam's growing crowds of music lovers. Every single year the shows get better while the crowds get bigger. With attendance topping the 30,000 mark for the headlining shows in 2021, this year's festival is proving to be even more popular, with some ticket packages already sold out months in advance.

Taking place June 2-5 at Panama City Beach's Frank Brown Park, this world-class music festival is just right down the road if you reside anywhere in the vicinity of Destin, Niceville, Fort Walton Beach, South Walton

and the surrounding areas.

Spring 2022 Gulf Coast Jam's headliners encompass some of country's biggest duos, including long-time hitmakers Brooks & Dunn headlining June 5th while the festival will be one of the last venues that local favorites Florida Georgia Line will perform at (having recently announced they are taking a break) on June 4th. Additionally, the newly minted ACM Group of the Year, Old Dominion, will headline on June 3rd.

When asked about some of the highlights of the upcoming 10TH Anniversary festival, Gulf Coast Jam's executive producer, Rendy Lovelady, said, "Florida Georgia Line is not only one of the most-requested acts we've ever had at Pepsi Gulf Coast Jam, but both Brian and Tyler are fixtures on the Florida Panhandle. We can pretty much guarantee a party when they play Panama City Beach!"

As if the top-notch array of festival headliners isn't enough bang for your buck, the 10th Anniversary Jam features a smorgasbord of entertainment that includes some of the biggest names in music—every single night. For the first time in the festival's history, this includes a bonus kickoff show featuring Brett Young on Thursday June



Will Estell with Florida Georgia Line band members.

2nd, included for all of those who purchased a weekend pass.

Thursday night's lineup also includes Jameson Rodgers, Niko Moon and Casi Joy, while Friday night brings to the big stage: Tyler Rich, Jordan Davis, Gary Allan, Randy Rogers Band, Presley & Taylor, Ryan Griffin and Tigerlily. Saturday features well-knowns Chris Janson, Maddie & Tae, Darryl Worley, Frankie Ballard, Steve Moakler, Nate Barnes, and Chandler Flint. Finally the culmination of the entire festival weekend will start Sunday, and includes one of my personal favorites, Georgia's own, Corey Smith, along with Scotty McCreery, Tracy Law-

rence, Confederate Railroad, Mitchell Tenpenny and Elvie Shane.

Having attended and written about concerts by a wide array of artists, the one thing I am always in awe of is that even with today's ever-increasing ticket pricing for single concerts, somehow the producers of Gulf Coast Jam still find a way to offer a remarkable package that allows a concert goer to see in excess of 20 well-known artists, over four days, on a single stage, and make it affordable. I mean where else can you experience all of this music, first-hand, on a \$159 general admission weekend pass? People pay that to see one or two groups at most large venues around the nation.

Festival COO, and Panama City Beach Mayor, Mark Sheldon, agrees that the price has a lot to do with how popular Gulf Coast Jam continues to be, stating, "Four days of fun, sun and great music – you just can't beat that!"

My friend, Craig Campbell, of Campbell Entertainment Group in Nashville, has played an instrumental role in orchestrating various behind the scenes aspects of Gulf Coast Jam since its first year, and he's told me, firsthand, that the talent alone runs well into the multi-millions each year.

Campbell went on to explain, "it's actually because of our great sponsorship by Pepsi, as well as the generous support of Panama City Beach, Jim Beam, Bud Light, and our many other valued sponsors and festival partners that the promoters are able to continually make this one of the most affordable music festivals in the country, year-after-year. That's one of the aspects that Rendy and Mark are most proud of. Bringing great music to Panama City Beach and making it attainable to most everyone."

In addition to weekend passes, Thursday-only tickets are available starting at just \$29 for general admission. This is the first time the festival has offered a one-day pass, though, as I mentioned above, everyone who purchases a three-day ticket will automatically get the fourth night free as a bonus.

Four-day Pepsi Gulf Coast Jam passes were still available at the time of this article. General Admission passes are currently \$159.00 for the full four-day weekend, with special college student passes only \$139.00, and Military, First Responder/Medical Personnel passes just \$129.00.

There's also VIP Pit and Super VIP passes at \$459.00 and \$659.00, respectively. And, trust me they are worth every penny for that location and stage view. There are also very limited numbers of Side Stage passes available for \$1,150.00. All passes are available at [www.GulfCoastJam.com](http://www.GulfCoastJam.com), while they last.

For additional information you can follow Pepsi Gulf Coast Jam on Facebook and Instagram. However, the best way to get in on all the action is simply to grab your tickets and music-loving friends and get to Panama City Beach to experience it all yourself.



## RAIDERS of the LOST ARK IN CONCERT!

*A family friendly event!*

SATURDAY, APRIL 30 | 7:30 pm  
Destin Fort Walton Beach Convention Center  
Tickets: \$29.50 - \$55.00

SCAN HERE FOR TICKETS



SINFONIA BOX OFFICE: 850.460.8800 [SinfoniaGulfCoast.org](http://SinfoniaGulfCoast.org)

VISIT  
[MYBAYLIFENWFL.COM](http://MYBAYLIFENWFL.COM)  
TO VIEW THIS ISSUE ONLINE

# Casey Kearney Highlights Fierce Everyday Women

Nashville recording artist Casey Kearney, a well-known artist with local roots and featured in past Bay Life issues, has proven her songwriting prowess once again in her most recent release, “Was it You Was it Me,” where Casey’s writing skills are front and center. In this country meets sassy rocker hit, she pays homage to the women who bring a little spice to life and proudly own it, and includes a playful warning to men who chose these powerful women—this isn’t your average relationship.

Recorded in Nashville with award winning producer Doug Kahan, the new addition to Casey’s repertoire exhibits Casey’s versatility and complexity as both a vocal artist and songwriter.

er. “It’s a fun song with a great beat that makes you want to sing along,” explains Casey, “but more importantly, I wanted to use the lyrics to tell all the women out there who may not be the stereotypical ‘sweet’ wife and mom... I see you. I am you. And we’re ok - even if they think we’re a little crazy.”

“We can so easily get stuck in the game of comparison, but if all the women I know could only see themselves like I see them- as the strong, spunky, independent women they are, it would change their lives.”

Putting her money where her mouth is, Casey set out to do just that in her soon to be released music video that was produced, filmed and edited by



an all-female team, and highlights 10 gritty women who are breaking stereotypes in their everyday lives. “We have a mom with a toddler on her hip working cattle. A Legislative Chief of Staff who has spent a lifetime supporting her son’s baseball dreams and is his biggest

cheerleader when he takes the field at the University of Alabama each week. A tough as nails championship team roper who owns her own super feminine boutique. A military pilot who didn’t earn her wings until her thirties when she realized she could indeed be anything she wanted to be. Plus, so many more women who have embraced unlikely paths and have extraordinary stories that I can’t wait to share with you.”

“Women are truly breaking stereotypes every single day, just living what they think is their very ordinary lives. But man, this is the good stuff that I want my daughter to see and know is real life.”

The video features each of

these women and many more, doing their thing from driving heavy equipment to driving a Mercedes. However, the music video is just the start. Casey has created an entire social media project dedicated to each of these women, where they will be featured in photos, videos, and interviews about their views on being a strong woman.

Casey’s video on Youtube and Facebook releases in May. Follow her on Facebook and Instagram @caseykearneymusic for the full song project with special features of each woman. “Was it You Was it Me” will be available April 29th on your favorite streaming outlets such as Spotify, Apple Music, Pandora and more.

## Local Coupons

**BROZINNI PIZZERIA**

**\$3.00 OFF YOUR ORDER**  
**\$2.00 OFF SMOKED TUNA DIP**

ONE COUPON PER VISIT

Offer expires 5/31/22  
850-678-7778 • 144 Palm Blvd N., Niceville  
[www.brozinnispizza.com](http://www.brozinnispizza.com)

**BROZINNI PIZZERIA**

**BUY 1 PIZZA RECEIVE ANOTHER ONE 1/2 OFF**

ONE COUPON PER VISIT

Offer expires 5/31/22  
850-678-7778 • 144 Palm Blvd N., Niceville  
[www.brozinnispizza.com](http://www.brozinnispizza.com)

**BROZINNI PIZZERIA**

**\$2.00 OFF CHEESEBURGER**  
**\$1.00 OFF ANY DESSERT**

ONE COUPON PER VISIT

Offer expires 5/31/22  
850-678-7778 • 144 Palm Blvd N., Niceville  
[www.brozinnispizza.com](http://www.brozinnispizza.com)

**HONEYBEE ICE CREAM & ARCADE**

**10% OFF ANY BOBA BEVERAGE**

Offer expires 5/31/22  
703 E John Sims Pkwy E, Niceville  
(619) 565-0365

**SAVVY LEIGH PHOTO**

**\$25 OFF FAMILY PHOTO SESSION**

MENTION COUPON UPON BOOKING

Offer expires 5/31/22  
[www.SavvyLeighPhoto.com](http://www.SavvyLeighPhoto.com) | (205) 567-2779  
[Instagram.com/SavvyLeighPhoto](https://www.instagram.com/SavvyLeighPhoto)

**LJ SCHOONERS DOCKSIDE RESTAURANT AND OYSTER BAR**

**FREE APPETIZER OR DESSERT**

WITH AN ENTREE PURCHASE. ONE COUPON PER VISIT. RESTRICTIONS APPLY.

Offer expires 5/31/22  
290 Yacht Club Dr., Niceville • 850-897-6400  
[www.bluewaterbaymarina.com](http://www.bluewaterbaymarina.com)

**OVERHEAD DOOR GARAGE DOOR TUNE-UP**

**\$59.95 FOR 1 DOOR**

\$19.95 EACH ADD'L DOOR  
PARTS EXTRA IF NEEDED. INCLUDES TORSION SPRINGS ADJUSTMENT, HINGE TIGHTENING AND HARDWARE LUBRICATION.

Offer expires 5/31/22  
850-502-8615  
[destinoverheaddoor.com](http://destinoverheaddoor.com)

**AFFORDABLE PRESSURE WASHING**

**\$25 OFF SERVICES**

CALL TODAY TO SCHEDULE YOUR FREE ESTIMATE!

Offer expires 5/31/22  
Phone: 850-688-9886

**AIRESERV**

**\$50 OFF DUCT CLEANING**

Offer expires 5/31/22  
850-678-9522  
[www.aireserv.com](http://www.aireserv.com)



MATTIE KELLY ARTS CENTER GALLERIES

**2022**

**Arnie Hart**

Student Show: April 1-May 27

Faculty Show: April 1-June 30

**30th Annual Emerald Coast National Juried Art Exhibition**

*Open call to working artists across the country*

Juried by, Dr. Việt Lê, *international artist & scholar, faculty at California College of Arts*

**Best in Show 2021 Emerald Coast National, *My Body is a Battleground***

**Dong Kyu Kim**

*LA-based artist and fashion designer*

Opening Reception: August 26, 6-8 PM

August 26 - October 21

**Degas Pastel Society Biennial Exhibition**

*America's prestigious national Pastel Society*

Opening Reception: November 11, 6-8 PM

November 11 - December 16

**2023**

***Student Life*, by, Dr. Nan Liu**

*Accomplished binational artist, faculty at Florida A&M University*

Opening Reception and Live Demo: January 27, 6-8 PM

January 27-March 31

**Arnie Hart**

Student Exhibition: April 7-May 9

Faculty Exhibition: April 7-June 29

Opening Reception: April 7, 6-8 PM

---

**Hours:** Monday - Friday, 10 AM to 4 PM

**Summer Hours:** Closed on Fridays

Director, J. Wren Supak, MFA & MHR

**Contact:** 850-729-6044 | [artgalleries@nwfsc.edu](mailto:artgalleries@nwfsc.edu)

**Facebook:** @MattieKellyArtsCenterGalleries | **Instagram:** @mkac\_galleriesnwfsc

Mission: MKAC galleries is an academic museum that conducts programs to enhance the educational mission of Northwest Florida State College. Serving as a teaching adjunct to the Department of Art within the college's Division of Fine & Performing Arts and Humanities, the galleries organize exhibitions by established national and international artists across all styles and media. The MKAC galleries is a reputed viable cultural asset for the entire campus and its regional community.

