

COMMUNITY

Vision : A SAFER Santa Rosa

By Sandi Kemp
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Daniel Hahn, the Santa Rosa County Emergency Management Plans Chief Coordinator, is Scottish and sometimes wears a kilt when he gives presentations. Such was the case when he spoke to the Navarre Beach Area Chamber of Commerce members on Friday. "You might remember more because you will remember I'm the guy with the kilt," Hahn told the 100-plus members who attended the monthly chamber meeting, Commerce and Coffee.

Hahn works for Santa Rosa's department of Emergency Management and is the leader of SAFER Santa Rosa, a non-profit whose mission is to, "foster efficient, streamlined service delivery to people affected by disasters, while eliminating unnecessary duplication of effort, through cooperation in the four phases of disaster: preparation, response, recovery, and mitigation." SAFER is an acronym that stands for: Support Alliance For Emergency Readiness.

The board of directors for Safer Santa Rosa has a vision to have a "Serve Day" on Saturday, July 23 where organizations and individuals countywide commit random acts of service. "You might mow an elderly couple's yard or pick up trash or just meet a need in the community," Hahn said. Organizations have told him they may make it an entire week of service. "Serve Day is a great way of showing that

"Wouldn't it be great if we could help someone in need without having to wait for the government to provide the funds?"

—Daniel Hahn, Santa Rosa County Emergency Management Plans Chief Coordinator

Santa Rosa is a community that can come together to help each other," Hahn said.

Serve Day will serve other purposes as well. Hahn said it was a great exercise to get people to work together toward a common goal. "This will also give us an idea of how we can better respond to disasters," Hahn said.

Serve Day is still in the planning stages. The official name of the day has not been decided and there will be T-shirts that sponsors can have their logos on that volunteers will buy. The idea behind the T-shirts is that people will see helpers out in the shirts and wonder what is going on which spreads the word about the day of service. "I'm an advocate for helping people, and that sometimes gets me in trouble," Hahn said.

Safer has other programs for donating funds on a regular basis. "Wouldn't it be great if we could help someone in need without having to wait for the

government to provide the funds?" Hahn was referring to the recent tornadoes in Escambia and North Santa Rosa counties. Santa Rosa County did not qualify for any emergency funds because not enough homes were affected. There is a donate button on the Safer Santa Rosa page on the Santa Rosa County website. Hahn plans on moving the site off the government page soon. John Wilson with Columbus Capital Lending, donated during the chamber breakfast.

"Economies are better in a safe community. Larger cities have funds like this available through government entities and it would be great if Santa Rosa County could have the funds available to front in a disaster without the government involved. Imagine how amazing it would be if Santa Rosa County was known to be the best place to live, not just a particular neighborhood," Wilson said.

Submitted photo
Linda Fusco, Chairman of the Board for the Navarre Beach Chamber of Commerce presented guest speaker, Daniel Hahn, with a handmade mug by Holley Hill Pottery.



Geotech surveys Navarre Beach Bridge



Navarre Beach Bridge was part of NOAA's National Geodetic Survey (NGS) on Saturday. Roy Anderson, Geotech surveyor for NOAA, was updating the bridge's global positioning coordinates disc which, through satellite access, can indicate any shift or movement of the bridge or the surface below the water. The NGS program provides the framework for all positioning activities in the nation. Its vision is for everyone to accurately know where they are and where other things are any time, any place.

Author Spivack addresses Republican Women's Club



Photo by Sandi Kemp
Santa Rosa Republican Women's Club President Rebecca Ward and Vice president Martha Brennstahl flank their guest speaker, author Loren Spivack. Members also purchased his books at the meeting Thursday.

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