

Household hazardous waste collection in south Santa Rosa

Staff reports
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Residents of south Santa Rosa County have the opportunity this month to dispose of household hazardous waste at no charge without having to drive to the Central Landfill in Milton. Amnesty Day will be held from 8 a.m. to noon, March 29 at the Santa Rosa County South Side Service Center, 5819 Gulf Breeze Parkway in Midway. Amnesty Day is not a recycle day, but a special day for disposal of household hazardous waste that should not be thrown out with household garbage.

Citizens can dispose of up to 5 gallons of the following liquid items at no cost: engine and cooking oil, gasoline, paint, antifreeze, lubricants, greases, solvents, pesticides, fertilizers, pool cleaners and household cleaners. Additionally, computers, cathode ray TVs, monitors, printers, fax machines, DVD/DVR players, typewriters, copy machines, battery backups, fluorescent lights, oil filters, and fire extinguishers will also be accepted.

Residents will be required to remove items from their vehicle. Containers larger than 5 gallons will not be accepted. Please note that tires, scrap metal, limbs, yard debris or household garbage will not be accepted as part of Amnesty Day, but may be taken to the Central Landfill located at 6337 Da Lisa Road in Milton at a minimal charge.

Residents are reminded that they can dispose of hazardous household waste at no charge year-round, Mondays through Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Household Hazardous Waste Center located at the entrance of the Central Landfill.

Two county recycling centers to close

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Santa Rosa County Commissioners voted Feb. 27 to permanently close two of the county's 23 recycle drop-off sites. The Tiger Point Park Road and Five Points/Chumuckla Highway recycling drop off sites will permanently close March 14 due to health and safety risks resulting from illegal dumping.

According to a news release from the county, the sites currently have cameras, but costly lighting and equipment upgrades would be necessary to improve the ability to identify or prosecute violators. Non-recyclables including furniture, household garbage, construction debris and even dead animals are illegally dumped at the sites on a regular basis.

Republican Women name new president, Melvin discusses courthouse

By Shelby Smithey
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District 4 Santa Rosa County Commissioner Jim Melvin discussed the recent courthouse location selection at a Santa Rosa Federated Republican Women (SRFRW) luncheon Feb. 25 at The Club at Hidden Creek.

Melvin, who will be running for election in District 2, said that the center of population in the county is what drove the courthouse location decision.

"A consultant that we hired came back with the recommendation that the board look within a 2-mile circle of the intersection of Avalon Boulevard and Highway 90," Melvin said. "In broad strokes, you could say that the Milton/Pace area is two-thirds of the population and the peninsula is a third so the location fell on that."

Melvin said that roadway



Photo by Shelby Smithey
Ron Beyea, chairman of the Santa Rosa County Republican Executive Committee, introduces newly-installed officers. From left to right: Carol Boston, president, Martha Brenenstahl, vice president, Rebecca Ward, recording secretary and Carolyn Pfeiffer, treasurer.

ratings are what prompted him to prefer the Avalon Boulevard location. However, commissioners voted 3 to 1 in favor of the Highway 90 location.

"I amended the motion that we are not going to buy anything right now," Melvin said. "We identified a piece of property, signed a contract with the seller contingent on the approval of the voters of Santa Rosa County."

Melvin also discussed the county's contract with West Florida Recycling and said that two of the county's recycling collection sites, including the one at Tiger Point Recreation Center,

"West Florida Recycling had a contract with us but they are in default," Melvin said. "You are going to see some signs show up soon at the recycling sites. We are closing them and cleaning

them up because we are on our own right now."

As her last day as president of SRFRW, Martha Brenenstahl discussed her concern with proposed regulation from the Internal Revenue Service - Regulation 134417-13 - that would hinder how political group members can communicate with elected officials.

"I do not support the proposed IRS regulation because it is a restriction on our freedom of speech," Brenenstahl said. "The rule being proposed by the IRS entitled 'Guidance for tax-exempt social welfare organizations for candidate-related political activities' is not guidance at all, but a restriction on our political freedom."

At the conclusion of the meeting, Ron Beyea, chairman of the Santa Rosa County Republican Executive Committee, presented the group's new officers, including new president Carol Boston, Martha Brenenstahl, vice president, Rebecca Ward, recording secretary and Carolyn Pfeiffer, treasurer.



Photo by Bill Arnett
Youth Services Coordinator Krista Jackson checks displays in the kids zone preparing for Navarre Library's celebration of "Read Across America Day" March 3.

By staff reports
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The Navarre Library joined others in the county and across the country in celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday. Theodor Seuss

Geisel was born March 2, 1904 in Springfield, Mass., and the library had special displays and activities ready for the young and young-at-heart Friday, Saturday and Monday.

Navarre Library Youth

Services Coordinator Krista Jackson and a self-professed Dr. Seuss fan said the Dr. Seuss books went fast. "They were getting checked out as quickly as we were putting them out," she said.

The library set up special Dr. Seuss displays to celebrate the National Education Association's "Read Across America Day" to generate enthusiasm for reading and recognizing the talents and genius of Dr. Seuss.

Thousands attend Milton's family-friendly Mardi Gras parade

By Romi White
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Swarms of revelers lined Stewart Street in Milton Feb. 27 in hopes of catching beads and Moon Pies. Main Street Milton, a downtown revitalization organization, hosted their popular annual Mardi Gras parade.

Bands, floats and motorcycle groups gathered beforehand in the north parking lot of Milton High School. Festive music played as longtime parade coordinator Connie Clark positioned the entries and checked the crowds lining up along the route.

"We have a wonderful turnout," exclaimed Clark, who was joined on the Main Street float by three of her grandchildren. "It's a family-friendly parade. I'm really delighted to see so many people lining the street."

At 6 p.m. the procession headed south on Stewart Street amid throngs of people shouting for beads. Children jumped with excitement



Photo by Romi White
Board members were joined by family and friends on the Main Street Milton float.

when they would catch candy, beads or stuffed animals tossed randomly into the crowd.

Judges reviewed 22 entries and selected winners for best business, best nonprofit organization and best overall.

Skateland, a local skating rink, was awarded the trophy for best business entry. The enclosed float blared popular hits played at the rink.

The Main Street Milton

and maritime preservation won the best overall award for their float.

Parade proceeds cover the cost of the parade, including a costly cleanup fee assessed by the city. The remainder will go toward their mission to revitalize the downtown area.

At a post-parade party, board members celebrated the successful event while dining on red beans and rice as happy children played a game of hide and seek at the organization's new headquarters on Escambia Street in downtown Milton.


The group is already making plans for next year. Clark reports city officials are working with her to re-route the parade through the downtown area in the future.

Community Briefs

Create your own living plant plank
Attend a "Living Plant Plank" workshop taught by Sharon Johnson of the Navarre Garden Club, 2 to 3 p.m., April 11 at the Days Inn Navarre Conference Center. Attendees will learn how to make a blooming plants plank to decorate a sunroom, garden wall or fence. Each participant will go home with a plank to display in their own yard. The workshop costs \$10 and covers materials. There are only 30 spots open for the workshop. Reserve your place now by calling 850-396-5494 or email geisele@mchsi.com. The workshop is part of the garden club's annual Spring Fling. Doors opens for shopping at 9 a.m. and includes plant sales, a number of garden related vendors showing their merchandise, the sale of 'gently used' garden and home items and crafts. Luncheon tickets are \$10 with food being served between 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Many restaurants in Navarre will be offering sample portions of their signature dishes. Tickets can be purchased from any garden club member.

Community Emergency Response Training
Navarre CERT will host a Community Emergency Response Team training March 21-23 and March 28-30. It is open to adults and teens of at least 14 years of age. Topics will include first aid, disaster psychology, fire prevention and basic firefighting techniques, disaster preparedness, fire safety, disaster medical operations, light search and rescue and terrorism. Attendance at all six sessions is required to become certified and pre-registration is required. Prior to starting training, participants must complete the Federal Emergency Management Agency Independent Study course IS-317: Introduction to Community Emergency Response Teams www.citizencorps.gov/cert/training_mat.shtm. For more details and to register online, go to www.navarreecert.org. For more information, email training@navarreecert.org or call (850) 939-6973.

Panhandle Butterfly House seeks volunteers
Docent volunteers educate visitors to the Panhandle Butterfly House and help them gain a better understanding of butterflies, gardening, and the natural habitat in which butterflies thrive. Docents greet the public, provide casual interpretations, guide visitors in the outside vivarium with our live butterflies, and manage the butterfly house resources. New volunteers are partnered with experienced docents. No experience is required. The first training class is 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., April 15 at the Navarre Visitor Center located at 8543 Navarre Parkway. After completing the required training course, volunteers are prepared with the tools and knowledge to be successful and have a lot of fun as a docent. Class size is limited and advanced registration is required. For more information contact Mary Derrick at (850) 623-3868 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays or via email at maryd@santarosa.fl.gov.



Navarre Beach Area
Chamber of Commerce

UPDATES

8543 Navarre Parkway • 939-3267

www.navarrechamber.com

Next Navarre Ca\$h Mob:

Friday, March 7th • 11 am – 1 pm

Make plans now to join us at Pet Nation!

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