Eugene James holds up his Blood Chit used by drooped pilots to communicate with civilians the pilot may encounter. They were made out of silk so the pilot could unfold it without making noise. There were many types of Blood Chits written in various languages depending on the area pilots were fighting. According to James, the chit he is holding was written in Chinese and basically says he is a U.S. pilot and

**Once a Marine, always a Marine**

By Ramon Rios

MILTON — Eugene “Red” James sat in a comfortable corner chair of his living room watching everyone in the room not saying a word. When everyone had settled, the 97-year-old Marine fighter pilot belted out a song from his Korean War days. It was sung to the tune of “Oh! Top of Old Smokey.”

“Singing that song again,” his daughter Diann VanZwol said. She then asked him to recite “The Corsair” poem as she passed a copy of the book to those in the room.

It was an unexpected surprise from the retired major because recent medical issues had caused memory lapses and speech problems. However, he did not miss a word or beat and there was a noticeable gleam in his blue eyes.

James flew the F4U-1 and F4U-4 Corsairs in 10 combat missions in World War II, along with another 120 combat missions aboard the VF-372 and VMA-312 during the Korean War. James’ pilot logbook shows he had flown the F4U-4 Corsair BuNo 37540, now on display at the Naval Aviation Museum, on six missions.

James was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, a military decoration awarded to any U.S. Armed Forces member who distinguishes themselves in support of operations by heroism or extraordinary achievement while in an aerial flight.

On Feb. 24, 1953, a then-Capt. James participated in a rescue of a downed Marine aviator who was surrounded and being fired upon by enemy troops deep in hostile territory. James conducted a series of daring low-level strafing assaults, intentionally drawing heavy fire to protect the aviator.

**Local author publishes new book of poetry**

By Ramon Rios

MILTON — Kery Jones’ new book, “Something for Everyone: God’s Words of Wisdom,” is a book that he was inspired to write by the Holy Spirit.

Jones’ publisher, Christian Faith Publishing, describes faithBox as a “heart-warming compendium of poems that relay God’s compassion and mercy that all people can partake in.”

Jones was born and raised in Milton. With the exception of the years he spent in the United States Army, he has lived here all his life. “God spoke to my heart to write this book,” Jones said. He has written four books, two of which have been published. This is his first poetry book.

Jones new book is a collection of poems he wrote. Each poem is finished with a Bible scripture that relates specifically to that poem.

Jones was born on February 1961. He graduated from Milton High School in 1978 and enlisted in the Army. He achieved the rank of Specialist Fourth Class and was later a post administrator. “I lived the six years I spent in the Army,” Jones said. “I got to see the world.”

And the world showed him things he could not get used to. “Looking back in my own mind, (God) was the way to go,” Jones said.

**Counties collects record bed tax from Navarre Beach**

By Draywayne Escobedo
descobedo@santa-rosa.com

**Navarre Beach** — It may be small and undeveloped compared to other beaches in Northwest Florida, such as Destin and South Walton.

However, that fact helps make the growth of visitors to Navarre Beach continue to climb. For the past 22 months, the four-mile stretch of barrier island in Santa Rosa County reached $1.3 million in bed tax — a record for the fifth consecutive year. The revenue increased $1.7 million since fiscal year 2014-2015 when it totaled more than $2 million.

Julie White, Santa Rosa County Tourist Development Director, rejoiced at witnessing the bed tax jump by 19.08 percent over the previous fiscal year when it surpassed $3 million for the first time in history.

“Navarre Beach can only be built out so much,” White said. “Never on the island are you going to see it overgrow.”

The beach includes a county park with pavilions and a kayak launch, two marine centers and the largest pier in Northwest Florida at 1,545 feet. Plus, it includes a variety of threatened and endangered wildlife, such as Loggerhead sea turtles and snowy plovers.

Dave Piech, the District 6 Santa Rosa County Commissions, said the increased collection in the tourism development tax assists locals to enjoy more improved amenities.

“Navarre’s natural beauty is still the main attraction from the beach all the way up to the woodlands,” Piech said.

Bob Benacqua, who owns TC’s Front Porch on Navarre Beach Parkway, said people want to relax and they can do that at Navarre Beach.

“We are Florida,” Benacqua said. “We are on the Emerald Coast. We have easy access from Interstate-10.”

**Santa Rosa County Tourism Development Tax**

2015-2016 $2.39 million  
2016-2017 $2.79 million  
2017-2018 $3.27 million  
2018-2019 $3.90 million  
2019-2020 $4.50 million

**Fire Ball: A new collection of poetry titled “Something for Everyone: God’s Words of Wisdom.”**

By Kery Jones

Kery James recently released his newest book, a collection of poetry titled “Something for Everyone: God’s Words of Wisdom.”

Jones said he had a reality check. The people around See POET, A3
Betty L. Maddux 1925-2019

Betty L. Maddux passed away peacefully on Saturday, November 2, 2019, at her residence in Lulu, FL. She was 94 years of age.

Betty was a long-time resident of Lulu and was active in the community. She was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and served as a Relief Society President.

She is survived by her husband of 50 years, John Maddux; her daughter, Sandi Maddux; her son, John Maddux; and her two grandchildren, John and Sarah Maddux.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday, November 6, at 6:00 PM at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Lulu, FL. The funeral service will be held on Thursday, November 7, at 10:00 AM at the same church.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints or to a charity of your choice.

The family would like to thank the nurses and caregivers at the Hospice of the Florida Keys and Monroe County for their care and support.

Condolences may be left online at www.mclainfuneralhome.com.

Sustainable practices are encouraged.
James was a school teacher, a loving husband and father, a minister of the gospel and a veteran of the U.S. Army. Jones left the Army in 1964 and came back to Milton. Jones was quickly hired by an NAS Whiting Field contractor named Dynlectron, then known as Dyncorp. He still works there and credits God for the job.

Jones said God talked to him about writing the book when he was training to fly the Corsair. They were married on Jan. 26, 1947. They settled in Milton and had six children, Dick, Diann, Bobby, Ralph, Randy, and Michael. Jones started James Construction company and never piloted another aircraft.

“Give me my flowers while I live so I can see their fragrance.” The African American saying, “A flower gives its fragrance while it blooms,” was a theme in the book, “Wisdom,” is available at Amazon, book stores, and in Milton.


James trained in Pensacola and NAS Whiting Field before receiving his wings. According to his daughter she was in the first graduating class at Whiting Field in 1943. James then executed a controlled crash landing into the barrier net.

Although Jones was well versed in God’s Word, he realized he was not living those words. He had reached his crossroad. James decided to live by God’s word and it changed his life.

“On Aug. 11, 1983, I gave my life to Christ,” Jones said. “It is the best decision I’ve ever made.” He became a Sunday school teacher, a loving husband and father, a pastor’s wife for all the good things she did for the church and congregation. The pastor gave her the flower her flowers while she lived so she, her friends and family could enjoy and appreciate her good deeds.

“I knew it was God because I was born again and had been studying the Bible,” Jones said. James is a member of the Living GOD’s Standard Community Outreach Church at 6731 Old Highway 90, in Milton.

“Something for everyone: God’s Words of Wisdom,” is available at book stores, Amazon, and other online retailers.
from the better late-than-never file: Florida’s premier agency that researches programs, policies and spending is examining how the state’s Office of Early Learning allocates more than $400 million in funds intended to help make sure “all children are ready to learn.”

The Office of Program Policy Analysis and Governance, accountable to the Department of Education, conducts a review of all funding meant to support early learning programs. Specifically, the office is examining how the state’s Office of Early Learning allocates the funds intended to support early learning programs.

There are a few key points about these funds:

1. The entire contents of Santa Rosa’s Press Gazette are fully protected by copyright, which means that they cannot be reproduced in any form without the consent of the copyright holder.

2. Recognition of the importance of early learning has been growing in recent years. Florida’s commitment to adequately funding and high-quality programs is overdue.

3. The ceremony was conducted at the Sarasota National Cemetery’s Patriot Plaza, which was conceived and funded by Sarasota-based The Patterson Foundation. The plaza is more lovely art and other amenities.

4. The latter problem has been known for years, but efforts to update and explain the distributions have failed to make any significant impact. The essence of his art. When the ceremony was conducted at the Sarasota National Cemetery’s Patriot Plaza, which was conceived and funded by Sarasota-based The Patterson Foundation. The plaza is more lovely art and other amenities.

6. Funding to offset the high costs of child care and pre-kindergarten learning for children is currently provided by a mix of federal, state and local funding sources. The latter problem has been known for years, but efforts to update and explain the distributions have failed to make any significant impact.

7. The latter problem has been known for years, but efforts to update and explain the distributions have failed to make any significant impact. The essence of his art. When

8. The Patterson Foundation. The plaza is more lovely art and other amenities.

9. If Florida is ever to achieve its dream of adequately trained staff; a shortage of household are ill-prepared to learn; a lack of funding to offset the high costs of child care and pre-kindergarten learning for children is currently provided by a mix of federal, state and local funding sources. The latter problem has been known for years, but efforts to update and explain the distributions have failed to make any significant impact.

10. Some programs do splendid work. Others aren’t adequate funding and high-quality program-

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87. The Patterson Foundation. The plaza is more likely to be out of favor for a few years, they aren’t going to call it and say, “Put your money from my fund. I’ll get back to you in a few years to reinvest when the environment is more favorable.” They do it to see they can with those invested dollars in the particular strategy, whether it’s a fortuitous time or not.

88. Working with a fiduciary advisor who is actually investing your assets is a good strategy in this portfolio has some significant advantages.

89. Hopefully, they’ll do things your way. It worked well for Waylon.

90. Margaret K. McDowell, Chief, ADP, author of the syndicated economic column “Arbor Outlook” is the founder of Arbor Wealth Management, LLC, 855-623-2120 (www.arborwealth.net), a fiduciary, “fee-only” registered investment advisory firm located near Sand-

91. Esther Dvorovenko fell in love with Russian dance as a 13-year-old. After her debut as a principal dancer with the Bolshoi Ballet at age 21, she joined the American Ballet Theatre as a soloist and later became a principal dancer. In 2004, she was named a principal dancer with the San Francisco Ballet. She has performed with many of the world’s leading ballet companies, including the Royal Ballet, the Ballet of the State Theatre of Russia, and the Ballet of the Paris Opera. She has appeared as a soloist in the world’s most renowned ballets, including the Nutcracker, Swan Lake, and Giselle. She has won numerous awards and accolades for her work, including the SOFA Fund for Excellence in Dance, the Miami International Film Festival Award for Best Performance, and the Dance Magazine Award for Outstanding Performance.

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**On-the-go sermons**

West Florida Florida churches offer services on audio, video

**I CAN AND I WILL**

**Rickshaw**

A s I wiggle my way through life, I get from God with a passion for serving others, and I try to live the life that God has provided for me in the path of good books, the Bible, and others. I try to surround myself with happy people, and they have days and they need help, and I try to be there for them through that, but you all know the old I’m talking about. It’s the folks who seem to be thick and I’m not, and I don’t know if my very virtual event in their lives be it." When you are happy about "You should be happy, and if you are happy in the middle of the road, in the center, that is confused orlund of the Bible. The books tell us that regardless of what may happen in life, we know that God sees, cares and will always love us on earth.**

**FAITHE BRIEFS**

**Here is a list of schol-"d"ed faith-based services and events. Church announcements written by Faith-"s everywhere on earth.**

**Family History Center offers free genealogy database access**

FORT WORTH BEACH – The local Family History Center is offering a community outreach service for free genealogy database access.

**FORT WORTH BEACH – The local Family History Center is offering a community outreach service for free genealogy database access.**

**Milton. The sermons of the Rev. Steve Warren are based on prayer and the foundation of the Bible, God’s Word. First Church is a small con-"guration of life.**

For more information: faith@firstmilton.org.

BAGADAD UNITED METHOD-"ST CHURCH – Contemporary worship is 8:30 a.m. Sundays in the fellowship hall, and a traditional service is 10 a.m. Saturdays available at NLDTC.**

First Church is a small con-"guration of life.**

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Navigating the challenges of student success stories, service hours and also dentists earn community contributions. They also help the students in academic, social, behavioral, and emotional areas. Their mission is to provide support for students who are involved with the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice.

The role of a student intervention specialist is to offer students academic, social, behavioral, and emotional support. They also help the students earn assignments, plan their services, and help the students stay on track after school hours with tutoring and other opportunities.

Currently there are 177 students in need of mentors to assist them with the process of re-boarding their lives. Freda and Paula are also working on partnering with the University of West Florida Criminal Justice program for their seniors to spend time as mentors while doing an internship.

For more information on how they've spread the word about how beautiful Navarre Beach is (at Navarre Beach).

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY UNDER OPTION CONTRACT**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that The School Board of Santa Rosa County, Florida, proposes to purchase certain real property for public educational facilities, auxiliary facilities, and related institutional uses and purposes under an "option contract" as defined in Section 1013.14, Florida Statutes. The property is located within Navarre, Santa Rosa County, on the south side of U.S. Highway 98—Navarre Parkway near the intersection with Edgewood Drive and approximately 41.03 acres in size. An area map depicting the property is shown below.

A meeting will be held on December 12, 2019, at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, in the School Board Meeting Room, 5086 Canal Street, Milton, Florida, at which time the School Board will consider whether to approve an agreement to purchase the described property.

Any person who decides to appeal a decision made by the School Board regarding any matter considered at this meeting or hearing will need a record of the proceeding. For this purpose, an individual may need to request that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, at the individual's own expense, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. See Section 286.23, Florida Statutes, for a disability, you need special accommodations to receive School Board information or to participate in School Board functions, please call (850) 983-5010 and ask for the School Board's Executive Assistant.

Dated this 5th day of November, 2019

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: Timothy S. Wessolowsky, Superintendent of Schools
Coast Guard, Air Force now searching Gulf of Mexico from Destin to Pensacola

By Jim Thompson
jthompson@nwfdailynews.com

HURLBURT FIELD — A search of the Gulf of Mexico for any sign of a Hurlburt Field airman who fell out of a C-130 transport aircraft late Tuesday morning entered its third day Thursday, with no new information on the airman’s fate.

Meanwhile, Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC), headquartered at Hurlburt Field, used its Twitter social media account Thursday to ask the public for assistance in the search.

“We ask anyone on the water to please stay vigilant and to contact US Coast Guard Sector Mobile at (251) 441-6211,” read part of the AFSOC tweet.

The initial search involved aircraft, boats and personnel from Hurlburt Field, the Coast Guard, Eglin Air Force Base, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and local law-enforcement agencies.

The airman’s name has not yet been released, and requests to the 24th SOW for more specific information on the circumstances of the fall from the C-130 have been rebuffed due to an ongoing investigation into the incident.

As of Thursday afternoon, various Air Force and Coast Guard units were searching an area from Destin westward to Pensacola and extending 26 nautical miles (30 statute miles) into the Gulf of Mexico, according to Coast Guard Petty Officer Sydney Phoenix in the Eighth Coast Guard District Public Affairs Office.

The FWC, which had been assisting in the water search, was performing only land patrols on Thursday, according to FWC spokeswoman Karen Parker.

FWC personnel were surveying beaches along the search area for any sign of the missing airman, Parker explained, as the agency continued working in a “support role” to the Air Force and Coast Guard.

Also on land patrol Thursday were 24th SOW airmen riding ATVs along and west of Navarre Beach. The airmen had been in the same area Wednesday, explaining that they were surveying the shoreline for any signs of the missing airman, and alerting search aircraft and boats to “points of interest” in the water.

In its Thursday tweet asking the public to be vigilant for any sign of the airman, AFSOC also took time to thank the people and agencies who have been involved in the search.

“We appreciate the support we are receiving from our fellow services, partner agencies, and the local community,” the AFSOC tweet noted.

Search continues for Hurlburt airman who fell out of C-130

Airmen on ATVs search the Gulf of Mexico at Navarre Beach Thursday morning. (DEVON RAVINE/DAILY NEWS)
OKALOOSA ISLAND — Tyler Carach is a caped crusader on a mission to thank every law enforcement officer in America.

For the 12-year-old boy from the small north Escambia County community of Bratt, it all started with a trip to the store with his mom, Sheena, in 2016.

“I went to the store with my mom and I saw four deputies,” Carach said. “I asked my mom if I could give them donuts.”

Using his allowance money, Carach purchased donuts and gave them to the deputies, thanking them for their service.

“When I left I asked my mom, ‘Why are they so excited over a snack?’” Carach said. “She said it wasn’t the snack. It was because I took the time to say thank you.”

Since that first encounter, Carach has visited all 50 states to thank law officers and, with the help of sponsors like Dunkin’ Donuts, has handed out more than 90,000 donuts.

These days Carach sports a donut-print cape with the words “I donut need a reason to thank a cop,” which is also the address for his website and Facebook page. He also has a Twitter handle, @donut_boy07, that he uses to help spread his message of gratitude.

On Monday night Carach and his mother were at The Island Beachside Resort on Okaloosa Island with 20 dozen boxes of Dunkin Donuts to share with more than 90 law enforcement officers participating in the U.S. Police Canine national trials, hosted by the Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office.

It was a special night for Tyler, who was turning 12 the next day and who wants to be a K-9 officer when he grows up.

As he spoke to the gathering of officers Monday night expressing his gratitude, they responded in kind by singing “Happy Birthday” to Tyler.

“As Tyler’s mom noted to him three years ago, it’s not the donuts but rather the sentiment and thoughtfulness of the gesture that makes such a difference.”

“It’s very refreshing to see that, especially in the youth today,” said Sgt. Tony Kelly, a K9 officer with the Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office.

“With the climate in law enforcement, it’s nice to see that people still genuinely appreciate us and want to do nice things for us.”

‘Donut Boy’ thanks cops with tasty treats

By Devon Ravine

dravine@nwfdailynews.com

“Donut Boy” Tyler Carach wears a donut emblazoned cape with his motto “I DONUT need a reason to THANK a cop” as he stands next to boxes of donuts he handed out Monday to law enforcement officers participating in the U.S. Police Canine National Trials in Destin. (Devon Ravine photo/Daily News)
Hello, I’m Dallas (A106770)! I’m a female tan wire hair terrier about 6 months old!

Hi there, I’m Dan (A106455)! I’m a male black mouth cur and German shepherd mix about 2 years and 2 months old!

Bow wow! I’m Deli (A106767)! I’m a female lab about 9 months old!

By Dusty Ricketts
ricketts@thedestinlog.com

Each week, Santa Rosa County Animal Services and the Press Gazette share photos and descriptions of several animals in need of immediate adoption. If you are interested in adopting one of them, call Santa Rosa County Animal Services at (850) 464-4545.

RIGHT: Hello! We’re Marcia, Cindy and Jan (left to right)! Marcia (A105932) is a female calico mediumhair about 7 weeks old. Cindy (A105929) is a female pastel calico mediumhair about 7 weeks old. Jan (A105924) is a female seal point mediumhair about 7 weeks old.

Meow, I’m Noodle (A106837)! I’m a male orange and white tabby about 11 weeks old! I have one brown eye and one blue eye.

Hiya, I’m Mighty Mouse (A106905)! I’m a male black feist mix about 9 months old!

Hi, I’m Patches (A106836)! I’m a female calico about 11 weeks old!

Imagine your home, totally organized!
(Available in various styles and colors)

40% off plus free installation

850-779-0647 www.closetsbydesign.com
Serving the entire Emerald Coast

More animals looking for furever homes
Milton is currently accepting kids for city basketball workouts.

The six different divisions are as follows:

- Kindergarten (co-ed)
- First and second grades (co-ed)
- Boys grades 3–4
- Boys grades 5–6
- Boys grades 7–8
- Girls grades 3–5
- Girls grades 6–8

Registration hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. weekdays through Nov. 29 at the Milton Community Center at 850-983-5466. The Milton Community Center is adding a new twist to the program for the 2019–20 season.

The registration fee is $30 per game. Parents will be selecting from their respective teams or a draft process that will follow a brief skills workout.

“We are excited about the upcoming season,” said Robert Arnold, the Recreation and Activities coordinator with the city of Milton Parks and Recreation Department. “We have a great program developing with the city of Milton and are looking to build on what was started last year.

“This new things for this season is the added goals in the gym to help with league practices and as well as every player getting a complete uniform to keep.”

All games will be played at the Milton Community Center. To get more information about the program, visit www.miltonfl.org or contact the Guy Thompson Community Center at 850-983-5466.
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Discover • Relax

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and/or all bids.

On 11/24/2019, 11:00 A.M. CT, by Donald C. LYNWOOD PARK, FAMOUS HOMES, LLC, acting as Court in the above-mentioned cause, the Clerk

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