

Spout Off

Here's what some folks on the Emerald Coast are thinking today:

I thought that the gyms on Hurlburt and Eglin were for the exclusive use of military personnel and their families and retired Air Force. By what stretch of the imagination are they being turned over to a professional basketball team for a specific number of days? Sounds like there is something rotten in Denmark.

Hey, Charlie Crist, you have been a very naughty boy. Not only did you hug Obama and sign into law car tag fee increases, fishing license fees and sun bed taxes. You now need to cut up your credit card and quit picking on Marco!

If Amendment 8 passes with approval of 60 percent of the voters, how many newly hired teachers will be fired?

As a lifelong conservative, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to President Obama for energizing conservatives around the country like no Republican leader could ever hope to do. Enjoy your congressional super majority while you still can, sir, for their days are certainly numbered.

Blaming all Muslims for the attack on the World Trade Center is like blaming all Christians for the attacks on black churches during the civil rights era or the abortion clinic bombings that happen. These are the actions of terrorists just the same.

When are people going to realize that most of the so-called "homeless" people remain so because of their own preferences?

It's very irritating to hear personal cell phones going off and the music of text messaging in offices. Employee personal cell phones should be put on vibrate! It seems there is no consideration for others anymore.

Everybody's complaining about taxes, and then you hear that 40 percent of Americans don't pay taxes. The Fair Tax Act is what they need to



NICK TOMECEK | Daily News

Volunteer firefighters practice dousing a blaze Saturday during the Northwest Florida Volunteer Firefighter Weekend at Northwest Florida State College. About 200 firefighters received free training from professional instructors.

A HOT TIME

Volunteer firefighters get free training at Northwest Florida State College

By **JEFF BARKER**

Northwest Florida Daily News
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NICEVILLE — A group of volunteer firefighters spent their weekend suiting up and honing their skills, from dousing flames to prying open wrecked cars.

About 200 volunteer firefighters received free training from state-certified instructors during the fifth annual Northwest Florida Volunteer Firefighter Weekend. Wooden pallets and hay were set aflame Saturday in and around the "burn tower" at Northwest Florida

State College. The exercises provided practice to volunteers who see few fires.

"You really get to do the hands-on, so nothing surprises you," said Scott Zamorski, a volunteer with the Almarante Fire Department in Laurel Hill.

As a group of firefighters hosed down some hay, Zamorski said they learned to do a "formal overhaul." They had to dig into debris to make sure there were no more embers.

Joel Richardson, a professional with Escambia County Fire Rescue and one of the instructors, said

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Bullish on the Emerald Coast

Investor Ryan Jumonville says he is confident the area will rebound from the recession faster than other areas

By **MATT ALGARIN**

Florida Freedom Newspapers

DESTIN — Although the economy is stuck in neutral and local real estate markets are sluggish, investor and entrepreneur Ryan Jumonville is not discouraged.

He says difficult times "separate the strong from the weak."

"I really think this region will come back before a lot of the others," said Jumonville, president and CEO of United Networks of America.

"We have the infrastructure here in



RYAN JUMONVILLE

known for years.

But while market conditions look bleak, Jumonville has pushed

forward to acquire several properties at a "discounted rate." In the past year, he has purchased the outdoor shopping mall City Market and the Beach Community Bank building in Destin. He also has bought Uptown Corners in Fort Walton Beach for more than \$1.72 million.

The new owner said he has benefited from Uptown Corners' location near military bases and Uptown Station. He said the traffic through the area is tremendous.

PLEASE SEE BULLISH | B4

'Crazy fun'

Big money is on the line at the Destin Fishing Rodeo

By **TINA HARBUCK**

Florida Freedom Newspapers

DESTIN — From Shark Saturdays to the Grouper Grab to the Snapper Snag, the 62nd annual Destin Fishing Rodeo is ready to go.

"We're full speed ahead," Executive Director Helen Donaldson said. "Private boats are being registered every day and people are real excited about it."

Prior to the publishing of the rodeo guidebook, 42 charter boats and five party boats had pre-paid to participate. Although Donaldson doesn't have a count on the private boats, she said some of them who have registered have never fished in the event.

"I think the tourist development money was a good enticement to bring some new people in," she said.

A few months ago, Okaloosa County's Tourist Development Council agreed to give the rodeo \$70,000 for prize money as a way to draw people to the area after the bad publicity from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

"It's been pretty amazing," Donaldson said. "I think they're excited about the chance to

PLEASE SEE CRAZY | B3

DESTIN FISHING RODEO EVENTS

- Thursday, 6 p.m.: Meet Miss Destin at the Inn on Destin Harbor.
- Sept. 28, 5 p.m.: Rock the Dock Kickoff Party at AJ's.
- Sept. 30, 4 p.m.: Captain and Mate's Party at The Destin History Fishing Museum.
- Oct. 2, 2 p.m.: Rodeo Kids' Kickoff and Wagon Boat Parade at AJ's.
- Oct. 16, 9 a.m.: Rootin' Tootin' Rodeo Roundup at Okaloosa Island Pier.
- Nov. 6, 4 p.m.: Destin Fishing Rodeo Awards at AJ's.

Conservation vs. AC: How cool is it?

I have a friend who used to eat every meal at a fast-food restaurant, giving no thought to where all those boxes and bags ended up.

Twenty years later, she takes empty shampoo bottles to the local co-op and has them filled so as not to increase the clutter in our landfills. Now she would rather eat

extreme. They are returning any extra water in our house to our yard, rather than pouring it down the drain. Even an ice cube has to be carried outside and tossed in the yard.

My husband started it. He lines up the used water bottles with their varying amounts of leftover water on the counter near the patio door.

Every few days, he opens the

and then take the glass outside to dump the undesirable ice.

Daddy wants her to do that, she said.

Now maybe what they're doing makes sense.

Maybe if I typed in "Go green" on the Internet, I'd find pouring water outside on a list of suggested actions we can take. But it seems like we're wasting energy nonning that door open an

turning off lights even when we are sitting in the room.

In his perfect world, we'd be sitting in the living room cooling ourselves with palm leaves while the air conditioner is set at a tepid 85 degrees.

We would let our yard grow into a jungle, sans any pesticides or herbicides, and roll out the red carpet for wasps, fire ants and mosquitoes. I appreciate his concern for our

