



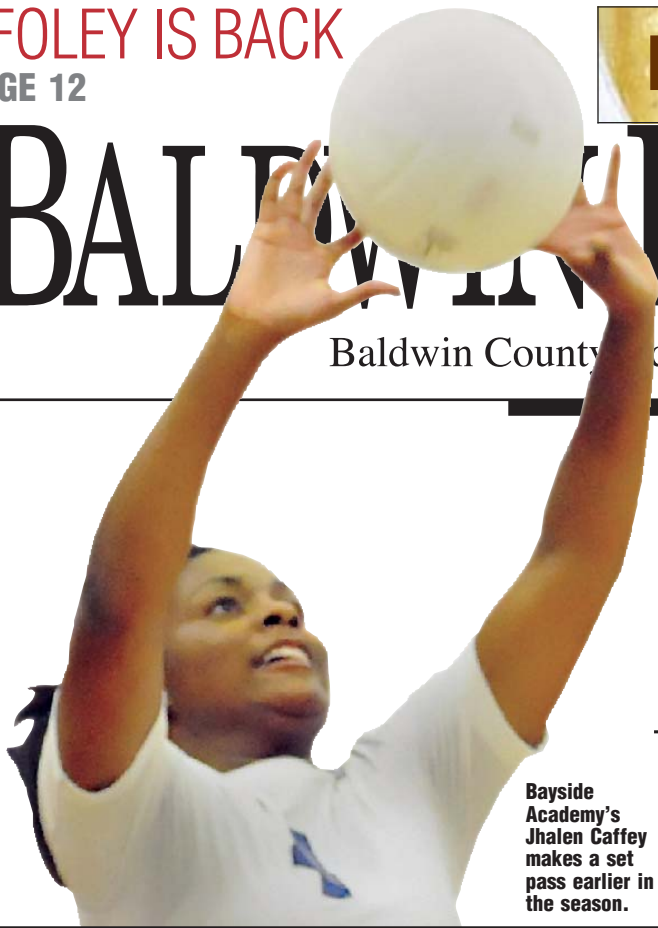
FALL FESTS HALLOWEEN EVENTS PART OF CELEBRATIONS FALL CALENDAR, PAGE 11

BALDWIN REGISTER

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Jackie Byrd Baldwin Editor Phone: 251-937-6677 E-mail: jbyrd@press-register.com



Bayside Academy's Jhalen Caffey makes a set pass earlier in the season.

BAYSIDE SETS EYES ON PRIZE

TOP-RANKED LADY ADMIRALS SAIL THROUGH 3A AREA 1 VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

SPORTS, PAGE 21

Fairhope reduces worker benefits

Mayor says he will veto measure

By RUSS HENDERSON Staff Reporter

FAIRHOPE — During a meeting attended by several upset city staffers Monday, the City Council voted to end the city's health benefit program for retired workers and to increase the amount that current employees must pay toward their health coverage.

Mayor Tim Kant said Tuesday that he plans to veto the council decision this week.

He said the council's "open-ended" efforts to cut expenses in the past several months have become counter-productive.

"If the mayor and City Council thought this way 20 years ago, we wouldn't have the beautiful community we have today," Kant said.

"If we try to put a dollar value on every single thing we do, Fairhope will lose everything people come here for."

It would be Kant's fifth veto.

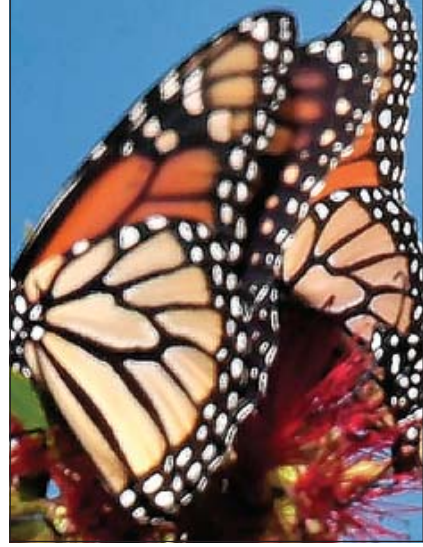
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Photos by JON HAUGE/Correspondent

WINGS OF WONDER

Monarch butterflies gather at a bottle brush Monday at the Grand Hotel Marriott Resort, Golf Club & Spa in Point Clear. The butterflies are on a migratory path to the Sierra Madre Mountains in Mexico. During the month of October, Point Clear and other locations along the Gulf are stopping point for the monarchs' migration as they feed on the nectar of blooming plants.



Spill delays express extension

Traffic counts delayed to 2011 due to reduced tourist numbers

GUY BUSBY Staff Reporter

BAY MINETTE — Tourist traffic reduced by the oil spill will delay work to extend the Beach Express from Interstate 10 to I-65 by at least a year, County Engineer Cal Markert said Tuesday.

Addressing a work session of the Baldwin County Commission, Markert said a traffic study that had been planned for the

summer would not reflect an accurate count of the average number of vehicles.

"The survey was scheduled to be in June 2010. The oil spill hampered and hurt beach-going traffic, which is part of what we needed to study. That was a critical path to getting the whole project done, so that cannot be done until we get that information."

The commission will vote Tuesday on an amendment to the contract with Wilber Smith Associates of Lisle, Ill., to extend the contract to Oct. 28, 2011.

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GULF SHORES

Council: Dunes to get sea oats

By DAVID FERRARA Staff Reporter

GULF SHORES — The City Council agreed this week to put some of the finishing touches on 1.1 miles of dunes along West Beach, spending nearly \$50,000 to plant stabilizing sea oats.

The money being spent on the project comes from a \$1.06 million grant the

city received to prepare for oil landfall from the Deepwater Horizon explosion, city officials said.

This is the second stage of the project, and city officials estimate that the dune repairs should only use half the money, which was part of the \$25 million BP PLC paid the state in May.

See Council Page 4

Fairhope man keyed into life, music on Eastern Shore

By LEIGH T. MOORE Correspondent

The son of restaurant owners, Brett Gambino hasn't strayed too far from the business he grew up in. But as a lifelong musician, he is also building a second business helping local artists record their music.

"I've been in Fairhope since I was 11. I grew up here, graduated from Fairhope High School," he said. "I played music the whole time, but after a while, I decided to go (to back to school)."

He got a technology degree and moved to Atlanta for three years, where he worked with Kodak. But he continued playing music and singing.

"I played in Buckhead every Sunday at the Steamhouse," he said. "I came back to help my parents with the restaurant

Get to Know Brett Gambino



Birthplace: Detroit Hometown: Fairhope Family: Wife, Nicole; children, Reid, Merritt, Benton "Benny" and Evie Occupation: Sales Activities: Music, travel, dining out

(Gambino's) and I stayed with them until they sold it in 2002."

Then he opened his own eatery, Gambino Brothers, which he owned until 2007 when he left the restaurant business to be a food broker with Roma Food.

"Now I supply restaurants," he said. "I work with Greek and Middle Eastern restaurants, but 99 percent of my business is Italian."

And during the time he

was building his career in food service, he was also maintaining a career as a solo musician. He also played with a few bands.

"I was a solo guitarist and singer for 12 years, and I traveled to Nashville some," he said. "While I was in Nashville, I did quite a bit of recording as a studio musician. I played guitar parts on other people's stuff."

He also met Butch Johnson of Muscle Shoals who had his own recording

studio in that historic musical location.

"It's really a small group of us who do this work, and I got to know (Johnson) really well up there," Gambino said. "In 2009, he brought all his equipment and relocated his recording studio to Daphne."

The two reconnected and they are now partners in the Daphne location of Pepperland Studios.

"Right now we're finishing a CD for John Reno (a Fairhope singer-songwriter). I played all the instruments and he'll sell it when he plays and online," Gambino said. "We're working with local people who wouldn't go to Nashville and spend the big money to make a record."

But they're still offering expert knowledge and years of experience working with top artists.

"Butch got a platinum album for a song he wrote for the Backstreet Boys, and he's written songs for Nanci Griffith and Marie Osmond," Gambino said. "He's worked with Percy Sledge and Jimmy Johnson. He's been at it a long time."

When he's not recording or working with restaurants, Gambino said he enjoys spending time with his wife, Nicole, and the two are very involved with Gambino's four children, going out to eat, traveling and attending youth sporting events.

"I've got three playing soccer and the boys just started basketball, so we stay busy," he said. "But I love doing the recordings. I got into it because it's fun, and I would love for it to grow into a full-time job."

Applause

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HistoryNote

After the Baldwin County seat was moved to Bay Minette in 1901, the Daphne courthouse became the Normal School, a training center for teachers, until 1941.

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