

Hot Pink Weekend strikes at cancer, raises awareness



Southern Miss completes Cox tourney sweep

Nancy Reagan helped shape her husband's legacy **1B**

PENSACOLA PNJ.COM News Journal

MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2016 » PNJ.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

TRAUMA INTERVENTION PROGRAM



PHOTOS BY JOHN BLACKIE/JBLACKIE@PNJ.COM

Escambia County Sheriff's Sgt. Vince Odenbrett chats with Deanna Smith, executive director of TIP (Trauma Intervention Program) Northwest Florida, on Saturday during the 2016 Heroes with Heart gala at the Pensacola Yacht Club.

FIRST RESPONDERS GO BEYOND CALL

TIP volunteers give on-scene emotional aid to traumatized

HANA FRENETTE HFRENETTE@PNJ.COM

In October, Escambia County Sheriff's Sgt. Vince Odenbrett and a fellow deputy were called to the scene of a fatal accident.

While the law officers investigated the circumstances of the accident, family members on the scene were distraught and trying to process the situation, discussing what to do next or whom to call.

Once they reached the hospital, Odenbrett met Deanna Smith, a volunteer from TIP, the Trauma Intervention Program. TIP's mission is to provide immediate, on-scene emotional aid and practical support to traumatized victims and victims' survivors in the first few hours after a traumatic event.

"I explained to her what was going on, the details of the accident," Odenbrett said. "She was able to come in and help console the family, and it was just nice seeing someone there who could help them with background information and all the questions they had."

Since that October fatal accident, Odenbrett and other first responders at the Sheriff's Office have requested TIP on scene dozens of times.

"Sometimes we can become callous and focus on the job intentions and forget the small things," Odenbrett said. "When you have a person that's just lost their partner of 50 years or their child or their best friend, it can take hours sometimes for family or neighbors to get there to the scene, and (with TIP) you are able to have a person who can sit there with them, talk with them and hold their hand."

Odenbrett was among seven outstanding first responders and three firefighters honored Saturday at the Heroes with Heart gala hosted by TIP. The honorees

See Responders, Page 4A



Deanna Smith, executive director of TIP (Trauma Intervention Program) Northwest Florida, speaks to guests Saturday during the 2016 Heroes with Heart gala at the Pensacola Yacht Club.

"She was able to come in and help console the family, and it was just nice seeing someone there who could help them with background information and all the questions they had."

VINCE ODENBRETT, ESCAMBIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S SERGEANT, SPEAKING ABOUT TIP VOLUNTEER DEANNA SMITH

ENERGY

Gulf Power offers solar offset program

Facility to be built in Milton will generate power for 150 homes

CARLOS GIESEKEN CGIESEKEN@PNJ.COM

Gulf Power recently announced a new program that allows customers to offset a portion of their yearly energy consumption with energy produced by a solar facility to be built in Milton.

The Florida Public Service Commission, which regulates utilities, approved the program on March 1.

When construction is completed this fall, the Gulf Solar Energy Share program's 1 megawatt (MW) facility will generate enough power for 150 homes every year.

Each annual subscription is \$99 and would offset 750 kilowatt hours (kWh) per year. Those who commit for five years would be charged a \$89 annual subscription. Individual customers or businesses can purchase multiple subscriptions. The average Gulf Power customer's home consumes between 1,000 and 1,200 kilowatt hours per month.

Subscribers will receive a monthly credit of between \$2 and \$2.50 on their bill for 2016, totaling between \$24 and \$36 for the year.

"They wouldn't do it for financial gain," said Jeff Rogers, spokesman for Gulf Power. "This is for folks who want to do their part; they want to pave the way in Northwest Florida for solar energy."

Since the electricity generated by any facility goes into the power grid and can't be custom-delivered to an individual address, in effect, every Gulf Power customer would benefit from the solar power generation.

"The difference is, this only exists because of the subscribers that built it," Rogers said of the new program. "This is to give somebody the opportunity to directly contribute."

Late this year, the large-scale solar arrays at Eglin Air Force Base, Whiting Field and Saufley Field will go online and produce about 120 MW, or enough to power about 18,000 homes per year.

The program was developed because of customer feedback, Rogers said, and about 400 people have expressed interest in the solar subscription.

A total of 2,880 subscriptions will be sold. When that threshold is reached, more solar panels will be considered.

Dave Robau, executive director of the Gulf Coast Energy Network, said hundreds of similar programs that fall under the umbrella term of community solar are being developed around the country. He is involved in one in Okaloosa County.

"The real benefit is some people may want to do solar but they can't. If you are renting but don't own the property, obviously you aren't going to install panels on the roof," he said. "Without community solar, they will be locked out of the marketplace."

The voluntary programs, which usually vary somewhat from area to area, involve utilities responding to demand among environmentally conscious ratepayers.

"It's a really creative program," he said.

POLITICS

Divide growing between governor, other Republican officials in Florida

GARY FINEOUT ASSOCIATED PRESS

TALLAHASSEE - Since charging into office some five years ago, Florida Gov. Rick Scott has routinely had an awkward relationship with the Republican-controlled Florida Legislature and other GOP officials.

Now, Scott is being handed a string of defeats that could render his final 2½ years in office nearly irrelevant. They could also serve as a reminder that there are limits to how much sway a multimillionaire businessman used to his own way can have over politicians used to compromise and deal-making.

GOP legislators have already rejected Scott's pitch for steep tax cuts and \$250 million for business incentives. They have also scuttled a major gambling deal he negotiated with the Seminole Tribe of Florida and may reject his hand-picked leader for the state's health department. And there is growing talk that if Scott vetoes parts of this year's budget, lawmakers will override him.

The blame for the breakdown has been cast on a multitude of factors, including Scott's seeming refusal to scale back his promises amid signs of the economy soft-

See Scott, Page 2A



AP PHOTO/WILFREDO LEE

Gov. Rick Scott, left, talks with James Allen, CEO of Seminole Gaming, on Feb. 1 at the tribe's headquarters in Hollywood. GOP legislators scuttled Scott's gambling deal with the tribe.

INSIDE

Classified 7-8C Crossword..... 14A Obituaries 11A Sports1C
Comics13A Lottery..... 2A Opinion12A Television..... 14A

To subscribe: (877)424-0028



\$1.25 See 2A for pricing details Copyright 2016