The Seacoast Post

Volume 1, Issue 1, May 2025

NEW BUILDING, NEW ERA

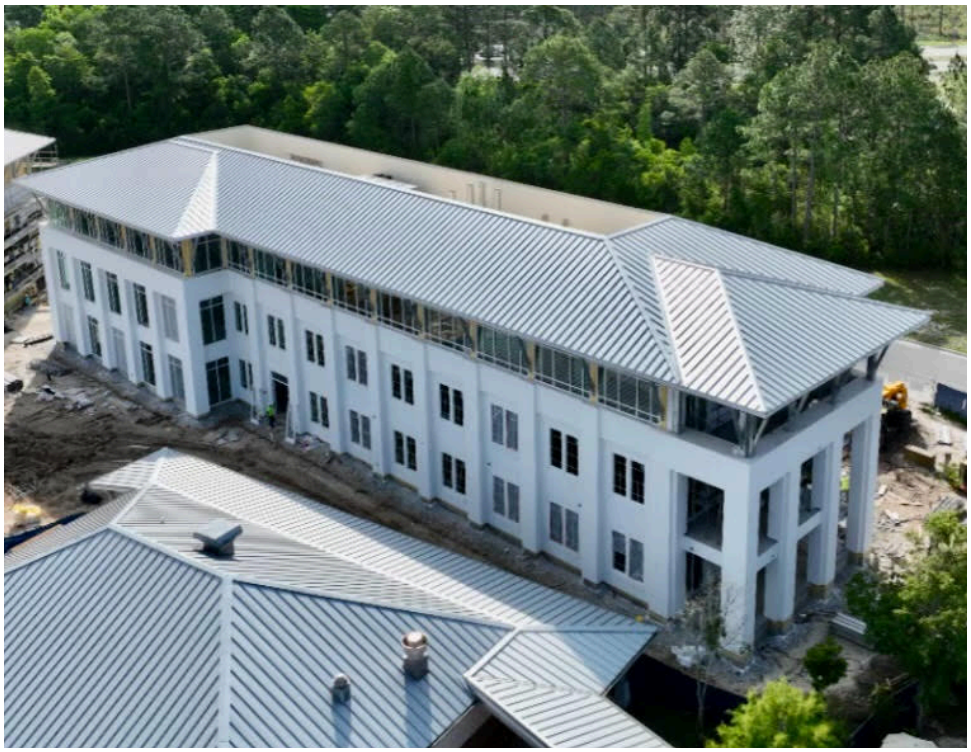


Photo Courtesy of Wharton Smith

Building Futures Close to Home

$9.5 M Grant Fuels Expansion

by Grace Whitlock - Post Staff

Located in northwest Florida, the SEASIDE SCHOOL™ has been granted $9.5 million as a gift to go towards the Seacoast Collegiate High School (SCHS) and Northwest Florida State College (NWFSC) expansion project. This expansion will be critical for high school students attending SCHS. They will be able to take advantage of college classes in their local vicinity to graduate with their associates degree and high school diploma at the same time. As of the last few years, students attending Seacoast (located in Santa Rosa Beach, Florida) had to travel up to Niceville, Florida, to the NWFSC main campus.

Since many SCHS students live up to an hour away from Niceville, the haul was not ideal.

This led to a remarkable idea: what if there was a larger NWFSC campus in Santa Rosa Beach? This question introduced the idea that is now in operation. Expanding the existing SCHS/NWFSC campus introduces more dual-enrolled high school students while simultaneously allowing Northwest Florida students to take classes in Santa Rosa Beach.

“All in all, the $9.5 million grant directly supports SCHS/NWFSC students in their everyday lives.”

SEE EXPANSION, PG. 2

Insider Info!

From the Ground up - New Building Updates

by Avery Porter - Post Staff

Seacoast Collegiate High School’s new buildings are almost finished and ready to greet students in the fall. The current status: the college and high school buildings will be completed by July 15 according to our Executive Director, Dr. Tom Miller and lead Seacoast teachers.

A few facts about the high school building: on the three floors, there will be two science labs, one Innovation Lab, a College & Career Center, a Literacy Lab, a Career and Technical Education (CTE) wing, and twelve more content classrooms. Teachers and students are excited to be in the new building! Student Bayne Thibodeau said, “I’m very grateful for the opportunity to be able to have this brand new college campus available to me and the educational opportunities that come with it.”

These labs, or common areas, will be for student and faculty use and collaboration. College and career resources will prepare all students and graduating seniors. A map with pins to mark where graduated students have moved to, inspiring younger students on their educational paths, will be visible in the College & Career Center. Students can collaborate on STEM and robotics projects. Students will learn and grow in comfortable environments and enjoy the literacy and thinking studio, designed to help with communication, literature, and critical thinking. -

Expansion

CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

The expanded campus is set to open fall of 2025 and construction has been underway since fall of 2023. A project of this size requires a large amount of funding, and a recent source was a $9.5 million grant gifted by Triumph Gulf Coast, according to author Jared Williams' article in Get the Coast. The grant will go towards necessities such as staffing and equipment as well as subject centered common areas.

The students of SCHS/NWFSC remain a priority as all of the funds ultimately go to benefit them. Along with the convenience of no longer driving to Niceville, the new campus will make way for students to get up to 60 college credits tuition free. This can save students about $50,000 on average. All in all, the $9.5 million grant directly supports students



Photo Courtesy of Wharton Smith

.

in their everyday lives. By making higher education opportunities more easily accessible, the SCHS and NWFSC expansion empowers students to dream bigger, achieve more, and contribute to their communities. As the opening of the new campus approaches, it becomes a remarkable testament to what education can look like in the future generations. -

Charting Paths after High School

Students' Horizons - Limitless

by Addy Tollett - Post Staff

As High School graduation approaches, many upcoming students struggle with the thought of their future and what it holds. Some are ambitious as they have clear intentions and plans when it comes to their future education and career path. However, others may feel lost or uncertain about what path they should take.

A survey conducted by YouScience involving 500 students from the graduating classes of 2019 – 2022 found that 37% of the graduates, regardless of their current education or career, are still not sure they are where they want to be. Lots of graduating students are still walking astray and are not prepared for their future and wonder what the next step is.



Photo Courtesy of Janie Green - Sunset on Dune Allan Beach, SRB

The traditional path of a high school education remains the popular choice before attending college. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, whether the path is a university

SEE CHARTING, PAGE 3

Charting

CONTINUED FROM PG. 2

or a community college, 61.4% or 1.9 million students attend college after high school graduation. The pressure in our society to attend college is definitely a challenge as many students believe they will not be able to become successful without a college degree. College provides a multitude of programs and opportunities to enter into career paths with a wide variety of professions. Students looking to pursue professions such as doctors or teachers will need to choose this educational path to achieve success in that specific field.

However, students should realize that there is a diverse range of technical schools, which provide numerous training programs in healthcare, technology, and trade fields for example. Based on what profession one wants to pursue, one may identify what educational or non educational path he or she wants to go down.

Other options outside of college do exist; students do not have to attend college to be successful. They also do not have to attend any sort of school whatsoever. According to Houston Christian University, Entrepreneurship, which is the dynamic of creating, developing and managing a business to generate profit or achieve a social mission, is always an option for young adults with fresh ideas. According to Natalia Lomova at Southern Federal University, seventy percent of young adults assess themselves as ambitious, which is a necessary trait for a business owner. Young adults and newly graduated students have huge potential with their ideas and their dreams, and they may pursue them. It's important that students also seek guidance from parents, guidance counselors, and learned professionals in their field of interest when pursuing an alternative career plan variant from college. With the advantages of an online market, students may also start a business while working a job or pursuing education in the university system or at a technical/vocational school.

"Through the experiences of learning, volunteering, and working a part-time job, students should be able to create a solid understanding of what they like and do not like."

Creating a business is an idea that could spark the interest of students because of the freedom it brings and the control that they would have over their own company.

Finally, with all of these paths that students could potentially choose, the decision is still within them; what they want for their career and in their life, until they retire. Through the experiences of learning, volunteering, and working a part-time job, students should be able to create a solid understanding of what they like and do not like.



Graduating Class of 2025
Photo - SCHS Facebook Page

Students should try a wide variety of extra-curricular activities to determine their interests. Through these opportunities, students should be able to determine their main interests in life, and they would have an idea of what they want to pursue. Therefore, charting one's path after high school is the result of many choices based on one's interests. -

The OG Influencers: Teachers

Teaching is more than academics

by Amelia Goode - Post Staff

Teachers shape our futures in ways that go beyond grades and homework. They have a huge impact on students through academics and school-related tasks; however, the way teachers interact with students every day has more of a lasting impact. Teachers don't just teach subjects, they teach life lessons that help students far beyond the classroom.

SEE TEACHERS, PAGE 4

Teachers

CONTINUED FROM PG. 3

May 2025

Teachers are role models. Students often look up to their teachers, admiring how they handle various challenges, communicate with students and others. Whether it's the way a teacher stays calm during stressful situations, or how they show kindness to everyone, students tend to mimic these behaviors in their own lives. This is especially true for students who admire their teacher and may not have other adults to look up to. When teachers model good habits, they encourage their students to act the same way.

Another important way teachers affect students is through their support. Beyond helping with homework or explaining difficult concepts, teachers often offer emotional support and encouragement. A teacher's kind words can increase a student's confidence, and their belief in a student's potential can inspire a student to work harder. In an article titled “When Teachers and Students Connect Outside of School,” by Danah Boyd it states, “There are countless youth out there whose parents are absent, distrustful, or otherwise sources of frustration rather than support and encouragement. Teens need to have adults on their side.” This kind of encouragement can be very important for students who might not have the support they need at home.

Finally, teachers help students learn important life skills. For example, they teach organization, time management, and communication skills. Teachers are constantly shaping their students in ways that go far beyond academics, leaving an impact on their futures. They also encourage critical thinking, responsibility, and empathy, traits that contribute to becoming thoughtful, successful adults.



Seacoast math teacher, Mrs. Katrina Black. Photo - Seaside Website

During the school year, one of the most meaningful ways students can show appreciation to their teachers is by thinking back on how those teachers have made a difference. A student can take a moment to talk or write to his or her teacher and share something real, like how a class discussion changed his or her perspective, or how that teacher helped during a tough time. This can have a deeper impact than giving a generic card. Teachers don’t always hear how much they matter, so saying something honest and specific can really stick with them.

When it comes to showing respect for future teachers, it starts with one’s mindset and the effort one brings.



Seacoast history teacher, Mrs. Katherine Gallagher with recent graduates, Suki Lin and Lily Howland. Photo - Seaside Website

Being on time, actually listening, and trying one’s best–even when the class is tough–goes a long way. It helps to remember that teachers are people too, not just someone handing out homework and grades.



Seacoast English teacher, Mrs. Janie Green and rising senior, Mireya Holtz. Photo - Seaside Website

Respect isn’t only about following rules; it’s about showing one is ready to learn and open to building a good relationship from the beginning.

By modeling positive behavior and offering support, teachers foster resilience and confidence. Their guidance often inspires students to pursue dreams students never thought possible. Remember: teachers are helping students grow in ways that they will carry with them for a lifetime. -

Movies Today: Theaters vs. Streaming

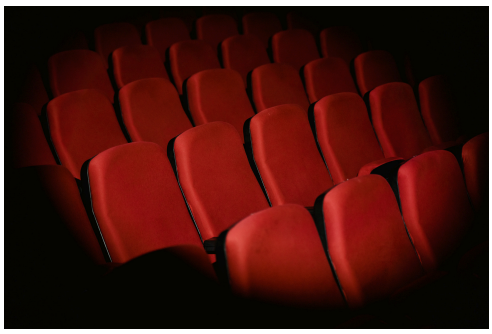
Golden Age of Hollywood...or Netflix?

by Caden Gray - Post Staff



Netflix, Disney+, and Amazon Prime offer instant access to a vast library of movies from the comfort of our homes, so it's easy to wonder if movie theaters are still relevant. After all, who needs to leave their house when one can watch the latest blockbuster on a smart T.V. or even on their phone? But despite the convenience and affordability of streaming, movie theaters have managed to adapt and evolve to offer something that home viewing can't quite replicate.

Movie corporations have recognized the shifting habits of consumers and have begun investing in luxury features that attract audiences back to the big screen. Gone are the days of uncomfortably narrow seats. Today's theaters offer reclining chairs, spacious legroom, even in-theater dining options, and VIP packages offering gourmet meals and drinks. These luxurious experiences compete with the comfort of watching movies at home, making the theater outing more like a special event.



Theaters have embraced cutting-edge technology to provide immersive experiences. According to an article in Variety by Brent Lang and Rebecca Rubin, IMAX offers larger-than-life screens with superior image quality and sound; like they are inside the movie, and 4DX theaters take immersion to the next level, using motion seats, wind, water, and even scents to match the action on screen. These technologies create unforgettable moments, ideal for summer blockbusters packed with thrills, explosions, and epic adventure.

There's still something uniquely magical about seeing a movie on the big screen. The sheer size of the screen, the surround sound, and the collective experience of watching with an audience create an atmosphere that can't be matched at home. It's an experience where laughter, gasps, and even tears are shared.

Today, many forms of entertainment are increasingly individualized, the theater promotes community. As film critic Roger Ebert once said, "The movies are like a machine that generates empathy." Watching a film in a theater allows audiences to feel deeply connected to the story, especially in the presence of others who may be experiencing the same emotions. That sense of unity is particularly poignant during summer, a time often associated with togetherness and celebration. The communal aspect of a theater is something that streaming at home cannot replicate, no matter how high-tech one's TV might be.



SEE MOVIES, PAGE 6

Movies

CONTINUED FROM PG. 5

Movie theaters offer an exclusive theatrical window. Theaters are often the first place to show major films, often months before they are available for streaming. This creates a sense of urgency for film enthusiasts who want to experience the latest releases as soon as possible, especially during the highly anticipated summer movie season, when studios typically release their biggest and most exciting titles. Additionally, there's the cultural and emotional value of the moviegoing experience. For many, going to the movies is a cherished tradition – whether it's a family outing, a date night, or simply a cool, air-conditioned escape from the summer heat.

Overall, the moviegoing experience offers an escape from daily life. Streaming services have changed how we consume movies; movie theaters have proven that they are still worth the trip. Whether it's for the thrill of unique technology, the joy of sharing a laugh. -

Gone Fishing

Summer's Here - Fish our local waters

by Gray Reed - Post Staff

Fishing is a sport and hobby that has been around for centuries. One important reason that fishing has such a huge impact on the economy and enjoyment of the general population is that it's available to people of all ages and living situations. For example, even children in third world countries can have access to some type of fishery. While fishing can become an extremely expensive hobby, at the entry level it is usually very affordable. However, once a beginner catches his or her first fish, it can become a favorite hobby.

Another reason that fishing is so popular is because of its extreme versatility. From small ponds with Bluegill to deep sea fishing with Snapper, there is a wide variety of fish to choose from. There is one major reason that our home, Destin, Florida is called, "the world's luckiest fishing village." Here in Destin, we have "quick and easy access to the deepest depths of the Gulf [that] sets it apart from nearby ports," according to the Destin Fort Walton Beach Florida website. Given that in Destin one can reach many offshore fish only 20 miles out makes our area a hotspot for deep-sea fishing.



Redfish and Trout.
Photo courtesy of Aaron Green.

Although there are a plethora of advantages in catching fish that the ocean in Destin offers, there are also many opportunities within regions of brackish water with a wide variety of organisms that are in the bays due to the mix of freshwater and saltwater. This range adds to the popularity of fishing in the panhandle because it gives the public easier access to good fishing without having a million dollar sportfisher.

"The types of fish that can be caught changes by the season, but there is always something to catch year round."

I personally do a lot of fishing in the Choctawhatchee Bay. There are still a decent amount of fish in our bay and many different ways to catch them. The types of fish that can be caught changes by the season, but there is always something to catch year round.

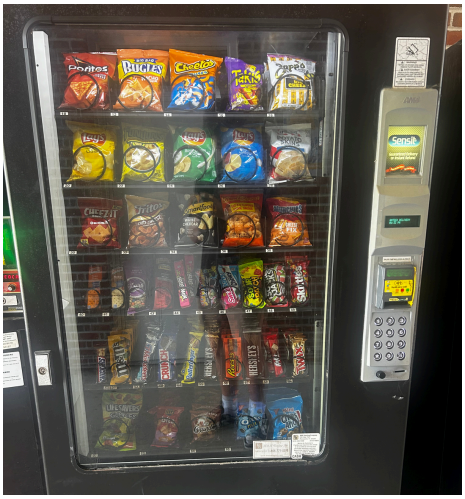
Since the fishing culture is very competitive in the area, there are many different fishing tournaments that people can compete in. Although most of the tournaments are for fun with small rewards, some become very serious. Some earnings are in the tens of thousands of dollars, so at that point it's not only for fun - it's a hefty investment. Fishing commercially is also a good career and is very important in today's economy.

There are many reasons that fishing is important to our area, but the main reason to go fishing is to have a good time. -

Hidden Danger of Vending Machines

Snack source or harmful hazard?

by Sydney Jones - Post Staff



Snack vending machine on our NWFSC/SCHS Campus. Photo courtesy of Barnes Perry, Post Staff.

Vending machines. Simple inventions that are designed for our convenience. But what if this convenience is deadly? More deadly than shark attacks. According to author Hanna Docter-Loeb, in her article on SLATE, “Do Vending Machines Really Kill more Americans than Sharks Every Year,” there have been an average of just over two deaths by vending machines in the U.S. per year since 1978 based on a Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) report. That number doesn’t include injuries. Such unassuming objects become dangerous once the death toll rises. However, according to the CPSC, there hasn’t been a vending machine death since 2008.

The most prominent reasons for the deaths are because people try to get free food or free “stuck” food. People rock the machine back and forth very aggressively. Rarely, will the 1000 pound machine tip too far and fall on the victim. However, if this happens, there is usually not nearly enough time to react and move out of the way, so once it tips, the victim is most certainly doomed to a crushing fate.



Coca Cola vending machine on our NWFSC/SCHS Campus. Photo courtesy of Barnes Perry, Post Staff.

How can consumers prevent history from repeating itself? Society can prevent tragedy by mandating the machine be fixed to the wall or floor with screws. Another option to promote safe use would be to have clear warning labels or signs on the machines to warn all users of the danger of misuse. According to the CPSC and Docter-Loeb’s research, there was a warning label campaign in 1995 after an influx of vending machine-related deaths in the ‘90s. Our vending machines on SCHS/Seacoast campus do have warning labels.

So how dangerous are vending machines? According to Docter-Loeb’s research, “each year, more people are killed by vending machines than sharks.” This should be an eye-opener to two truths. First is that sharks are far more harmless than widely believed, and second, that maybe we should shift our awareness to more common dangers than shark attacks.

How have we not realized that we should be spreading awareness of 1000 pound machine deaths as opposed to shark-related deaths? Vending machines are so unassuming that it leads one to believe that they are simply another everyday appliance. Most believe that shaking a vending machine will lead to nothing more than a free drink or bag of chips, but consequences can be dire. It's time to give our machines a break from the rocking for all of our sakes. -



Vending Machine warning label. Photo courtesy of Janie Green.

The first issue of The Seacoast Post is a new publication created and written by Journalism I students, 2025. The Seacoast Post was created using Canva.