



Newsletter of the Exchange Clubs of the Emerald Coast and Niceville

# NEWS ON THE COAST

Spring 2024

*Exchange, America's Service Club, is a group of men and women working together to make our communities better places to live through programs of service in Americanism, Community Service, Youth Activities, and its national project, the Prevention of Child Abuse.*

Editor: Angie Toole

#### Emerald Coast Exchange Officers

President: Ron Toole  
President-Elect: David Lambert  
Secretary: Angie Toole  
Treasurer: Jennifer Parkin  
Immediate Past President: Shirley Sims

#### Emerald Coast Exchange Officers

President: Angie Toole  
President-Elect: Don Pardue  
Secretary: Adrienne Larson  
Treasurer: Rick Miller  
Immediate Past President: Bill Moomaw

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**SHALIMAR, FL 32579**

**NICEVILLE EC**  
**PO BOX 342**  
**NICEVILLE, FL 32578**

<https://www.exchangecluboftheemeraldcoast.org/>

<http://nicevilleexchange.club/>



This year, Exchange Club of the Emerald Coast brought home seven district awards from the 2024 Florida District Convention.

The club has won:

- Best New Fundraising (Murder by Merlot)
- Best New Americanism Award (Additional scholarships pending for enlisted military child, first responder's child, first responder)
- Best Small Club Fundraising (Bowl-A-Thon)
- Best Small Club Award
- Public Relations Awards
- Best Small Club Bulletin Award
- Best Small Club Program Award

## Exchange Club Family Center of the Emerald Coast for the Prevention of Child Abuse Opening Soon



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# 2024 Field of Valor



Niceville Exchange Club's Americanism Speech Contest winner, Mallory Zamora, gave her speech at the 2024 Field of Valor on Saturday, May 25, with a big group of her family in attendance! Mallory had just walked in her graduation the night before, but honored her commitment to the club to give her speech.

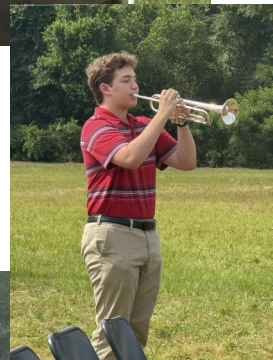


Lieutenant Colonel Daniel E. Gonzalez, battalion commander for the 1st Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) spoke at the opening ceremonies for the 2024 Field of Valor, held at the Air Force Armament Museum.



Names of the fallen from Florida

At right, Isaac Nelms plays Taps on the bugle to conclude the opening ceremonies



Capt. Jonathan Brent Sadler, chaplain of the 2nd BN, 7th SFC(A) 1st Special Forces Command, led the invocation and benediction at the 2024 Field of Valor opening ceremonies at the Air Force Armament Museum. Capt. Sadler served as a pastor for 12 years in Germany and Tennessee before his commission as a Chaplain in the US Army.



# Honoring our Youth—Emerald Coast Exchange



## (Male) Youth of the Year

Miller Lindsley, a senior at Fort Walton Beach High School, was named the 2023-24 (Male) Youth of the Year for the Florida District as well as the Emerald Coast Exchange Club. The son of Bill and Langley Newman Lindsley of Destin, Miller filled his application with activities and awards he has achieved in his academic career as well as an impressive GPA, and was awarded \$3,500 total to further his education, which he plans to pursue at Georgia Tech. He is now eligible to compete for \$15,000 at the National Exchange Club level.

## (Female) Youth of the Year

Arianna Dali, a senior at Choctawhatchee High School, was named the 2023-24 (Female) Youth of the Year by the Emerald Coast Exchange Club. Arianna, who has a 4.77 GPA, is also active in community service, including leading the school's Excel Club (the high school level Exchange) as president. Whether she packed bags for the Children's Advocacy Center, worked a food distribution, or spearheaded an effort to improve the school's Freedom Shrine, Arianna shines in both academics and character. She received \$1,000 to help further her education, which she intends to pursue at University of Florida.



## Accepting the Challenge of Excellence (ACE) Winner

Maddie Bednarski, a senior at Fort Walton Beach High School, was named the 2024 A.C.E. Award winner for Emerald Coast Exchange Club. The Accepting the Challenge of Excellence scholarship is awarded to a local student who has overcome adversity to thrive. Maddie, who wrote about the challenges of being a member of a frequently moving military family, has used these difficulties to fuel her art. She plans to attend Florida State University, and received \$1,000 from the local club to help achieve her secondary education goals.

## Americanism Speech Contest Winner

Fort Walton Beach High School Senior Christian Bailey was named the 2024 Americanism Speech Contest winner for the Florida District Exchange and Emerald Coast Exchange Club. The son of Joe Lee and Monecia Bailey, Christian gave a dynamic speech "Forgotten Founding Fathers" to the club and at the Florida District Exchange Convention. In addition to a plaque commemorating his achievement, Christian received a total of \$3,500 for furthering his education.





KC Zamora was named Rookie of the Year by the Florida District Exchange at their convention this weekend (May 18, 2024) for her work that she's achieved in less than a year of membership. KC has worked in club projects like CIC yardwork, food distributions, and Salute A Veteran, and was the co-chair along with her husband, Joe of the Bowl-A-Thon, where the couple stepped in and made that fundraiser a success. They joined the club soon after their daughter competed in the Americanism Speech Contest in 2023, and they've made Exchange a family activity.

## 2024 Florida District Convention in Vero Beach, FL



Fort Walton Beach High School Senior Christian Bailey won the state level competition at the Florida District Exchange Convention for the 2024 Americanism Speech Contest. The son of Joe Lee and Monécia Bailey, Christian gave a dynamic speech "Forgotten Founding Fathers",



Emerald Coast and Niceville Exchange Clubs were represented by two excellent orators : Christian Bailey and Mallory Zamora. These Americanism speech contestants at the 2024 Florida District Convention in Vero Beach. were inspiring and exciting.

## April: Child Abuse Prevention Month



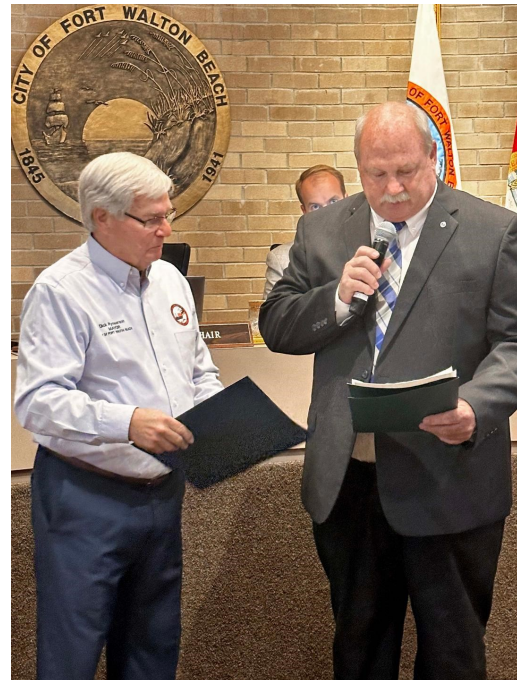
The Okaloosa Board of County Commissioners issued a proclamation on Tuesday to designate April 16, 2024 as “EXCHANGE CLUB CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION DAY”. Child abuse is a serious community problem and finding solutions depends on involvement among people throughout the community, and the Emerald Coast Exchange Club, Niceville Exchange Club, FWBHS Excel Club, Choctaw High School Excel Club and Meigs Middle School Jr Excel Club through its support of parent aide programs, parenting classes, educational programs and community service activities, is assisting in making significant progress in stopping this crime against families and children.



The City of Niceville proclaimed April Child Abuse Prevention Month at a recent meeting. Niceville Exchange Club president Angie Toole and Club secretary Adrienne Larson represented the club and accepted the proclamation from Niceville Mayor Daniel Henkel. Ms. Toole told the gathering about plans for a Child Abuse Prevention Center, with a Parent Aid program, being formed in this area.



Shalimar's Mayor and Town Commission joined with David Lambert, Emerald Coast Exchange Club President-Elect, for the reading of a proclamation. Mayor Franks proclaimed April as Child Abuse Prevention Month and urged all citizens to engage in activities that strengthen families and communities to provide an optimal environment for the development of happy and healthy children.



Emerald Coast Exchange Club President Ron Toole spoke before the Fort Walton Beach City Council meeting about the new Child Abuse Prevention center coming to this area. Mayor Dick Rynearson had given the club representative a proclamation declaring April Child Abuse Prevention Month in the city of Fort Walton Beach

## April: Child Abuse Prevention Month



Ron Toole, Emerald Coast Exchange Club President, and Don “Pockets” Pardue, vice president of Niceville Exchange Club, stand beside the pinwheel garden located at the Okaloosa County Commission offices in Shalimar. Each year, the clubs place pinwheel gardens in public areas, to raise awareness of child abuse during April.

Pinwheel gardens are used to help educate communities about the importance of supporting children and families and to raise awareness for the many local children facing abuse and neglect. Pinwheels are symbolic to the prevention effort and the hope, health and happiness each child deserves. Pinwheel gardens represent our effort to focus on community activities that support families and public policies that prioritize prevention right from the start to make sure child abuse and neglect never occur.



A pinwheel garden was placed at the Children’s Neighborhood, at Children in Crisis, Inc. during the month of April.



# April: Child Abuse Prevention Month



Niceville and Emerald Coast Exchange members cut grass and do hedge trimming and weed removal to help defray costs at the Children In Crisis' Children's Neighborhood, so that the group homes for foster children can focus their funds on things other than landscaping. Each year, leadership at the center estimates volunteers save the organization thousands of dollars by putting boots on the ground and sprucing up the yards.



## UPCOMING YARDWORK DATES

June 15

August 17

October 19

July 20

September 21



# 2024 World's Greatest Baby Shower



Another great evening with Emerald Coast and Niceville Exchange Club working together at the World's Greatest Baby Shower on May 21, 2024. We gave out rubber ducks, Crying Code brochures, locally produced Exchange recruiting trifold brochures, and blue pinwheels to hundreds of new families. The event was held by the Healthy Start Coalition at the Okaloosa Island Convention Center. Emerald Coast will keep the fun going by giving away five backpacks to new dads! Past president Shirley Sims' leadership in this program makes it a special event every year!



Winners of the backpack drawing from the World's Greatest Baby Shower include:  
Robert Kay, DeFuniak Springs  
Cody Geary, Hurlburt Field  
Dayton Glass, Shalimar  
Adam Marcam, Florida  
Nichol Barrow, Navarre







Emerald Coast Exchange Club members Ron Toole, David Lambert and Ken Hair (and Ken's son, Ken) participated in the first annual Ken Hair Golf Tournament which benefited Emerald Coast Children in Crisis, the Childrens Neighborhood. CIC is a frequently supported local organization by the ECEC, because of its association with the mutual goal of the prevention of child abuse.



Niceville and Emerald Coast Exchange Club members enjoyed a club social at Basil and Baxters in March. April's social was held at McGuire's. The next social should also be the installation of officers, to be held on Okaloosa Island.



New grandbaby alert! Skylar Jane Cosma was born on Cinco de Mayo. Her big sister, Olivia, was thrilled to see her! Skylar is the daughter of Bryan and Amy Cosma of San Antonio, and the granddaughter of Ron and Angie Toole.

**SPRING BIRTHDAYS**

**March:** Nick Hopkins

**May:**  
Shirley Sims  
Bill Moomaw

*Let us know when it's your birthday or anniversary, and we'll add it to our newsletter!*



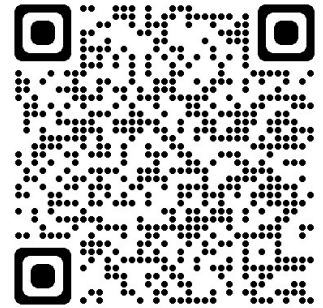
Rich and Adrienne Larson are the proud grandparents of Liam and Elizabeth, twins who were born on May 1, 2024. Everyone is happy and healthy!



# HOW TO JOIN

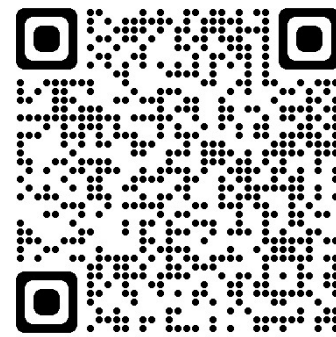
**Emerald Coast Exchange Club** meets every second and fourth Thursday, at 6 pm, at Corner Café, 801 James Lee Rd, Fort Walton Beach, FL.

Join at:  
<https://www.exchangecluboftheemeraldcoast.org/>



**Niceville Exchange Club** meets every second and fourth Tuesday of the month, at Café Bienville, located at 777 John Sims Pkwy E, Niceville, FL

<http://nicevilleexchange.club/Join>



# UPCOMING EVENTS

Niceville Exchange Club Meeting June 4  
Excel Leader Offsite Meeting and Training June 8  
Emerald Coast Exchange Club Meeting June 13  
CIC Yardwork June 15  
Swearing in Clubs' Officers June 15  
ECEC 2024 Board Offsite Meeting June 22  
Niceville Exchange Club Meeting June 25  
Emerald Coast Exchange Club Meeting June 27  
National Exchange Club Convention July 10-13  
Exchange Night Out July 18  
CIC Yardwork July 20  
Niceville Exchange Club Meeting July 23  
Emerald Coast Exchange Club Meeting July 25

Board Training Deadline July 31  
Emerald Coast Exchange Club Meeting August 8  
Florida District Meeting August 10  
Niceville Exchange Club Meeting August 13  
CIC Yardwork/Back to School Party August 17  
Meigs Military Night August 22  
Emerald Coast Exchange Club Meeting August 22  
Excel Clubs Officer Training August 24  
Niceville Exchange Club Meeting August 27  
First Responders Night September 4  
FWBHS Military Night September 20  
CIC Yardwork September 21  
Murder to the Max September 28