

Project to earn scout Eagle status

By TAYLOR COOPER
tcooper@goldenises.news

St. Francis Xavier Catholic School is looking a little prettier after Robert Sadowski, a Boy Scout in Troop 207, finished his Eagle Scout project to beautify the school grounds.

Robert built a bench and a retaining wall in the kindergarten section of St. Francis and did some landscaping work.

"The wall we built is to help prevent erosion. A raised patio in the area that they have a stone walkway going to, they requested that his project involve that area to prevent the soil from eroding," said Chris Sadowski, Robert's father and assistant scoutmaster of Troop 207.

They approached the pastor of the Catholic church and school, which they are both parishioners of, and asked if they could work on improving some part of St. Francis. Father Tim McKeown sent Robert to talk to the principal of St. Francis school.

All told, the project itself took a little more than 100 hours of work and a little more than \$1,000 in donations from start to finish. Fifteen scouts and adults pitched in and managed to get the work done in an eight-hour session, but Robert also had to handle planning for the project, gathering the tools and materials and documenting everything.

"I got the majority as donations from Home Depot, the tools came from friends and members of the troop," Robert said.

Home Depot donated about \$300 worth of materials and members of the church donated a total



Robert Sadowski talks to a group of people who helped him with his Eagle Scout project at St. Francis Xavier Catholic School in Brunswick recently.

of \$700.

"It definitely helped with organizational skills and leadership. It's a very rare thing, and I'm honored to be joining the ranks of Eagle Scout in the future," Robert said. "(I have) a lot more respect for the people that have to organize and carry out, like, city projects."

The project isn't quite finished. Robby is still committed to pressure washing some parts of the school and he still needs to put his project book together. An Eagle Scout project book is supposed to include the details of the project, what was done, what materials went into it, a breakdown of what time was spent on it and why, among other things.

Once he finishes working

on these, he will go before the Eagle Scout board of review. The board will review his project, his scouting career and hear references from mentors and leaders on character.

Robert said that he would be sticking with the troop for a little while after he earns his award. His brother is also a member of the troop, his father is the assistant scoutmaster and his mother is the troop treasurer, so he wouldn't be able to stay too far away anyway.

"I have a little brother that's still in, so I have to stick around for him, apparently," Robert said.

He said his time in scouting has been immensely valuable.

"Being in scouts is really enjoyable, it teaches you a lot of skills that you

normally wouldn't get elsewhere, and it's given me some of the best brothers that I wasn't born with," Robert said.

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Diversity lunch a chance to learn

By DEBORAH BAYLISS
dbayliss@goldenises.news

The Robert S. Abbott Race Unity Institute will hold its first Unity in Diversity Luncheon of the season.

"This is a great opportunity to meet new friends and gain valuable information about concerns and resources in our community and share in topics of interests of those who respect diversity," said LaTanya Abbott Austin, the great niece of Chicago Defender Newspaper founder, Robert S. Abbott.

The institute, founded by members the Baha'i faith of the Golden Isles, was created for the purpose of fostering relationships between people of varying cultural backgrounds and named for the late publisher, Abbott.

Born on St. Simons Island, Abbott is reported to have started his African-American newspaper empire with a quarter in 1905, influencing the lives of millions in his ceaseless efforts to make the world aware of the atrocities his race endured.

In 1929, Abbott also found-

ed the Bud Billiken Parade that still attracts thousands of participants each year and is reportedly ranked as the second largest parade in the United States.

Stricken with tuberculosis in 1935, Abbott died Feb. 29, 1940, at age 71.

During the event, Brunswick Police Captain, Angela Smith will serve as the guest speaker and will talk about various kinds of fraud and how to guard against becoming a victim.

The topic is timely as some of the latest scams and fraud schemes include advance fee scams. The scam tries to trick people into thinking they have won a lottery prize then offers an opportunity for investment with payment of a small fee.

Charity scams are also common and can occur with the worst kinds of disasters when scammers disguise themselves as a charitable organization, but collects donations they keep for themselves.

The popularity of online dating provides another opportunity and another ave-

nue for becoming a victim of fraud. Scammers create fake profiles on the dating sites and express interest to entice potential victims to send them money.

Scammers also hide behind debt relief.

Pretending to be the Internal Revenue with e-mails that are supposedly from the IRS, scammers try to gain access to financial information so they can steal identities and assets.

In addition to tips on how to protect from fraud, there also may be some discussion about how she and her colleagues at the Brunswick Police Department are working to foster healthy relationships between the police and ordinary citizens.

The luncheon will take place from noon to 1 p.m., Sept. 10 at the Golden Coral, 114 Golden Isles Plaza.

For more information about the luncheon, please contact LaTanya Abbott Austin at RaceUnity@the-abbottinstitute.org, visit the website at www.theabbottinstitute.org or call (912) 996-4500.

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