

The Bay Beacon

18 Pages, 2 Sections, 2 Inserts

Wednesday, June 2, 2010

50c

COMING UP

Friday-Saturday, 8 a.m.-noon

Covenant Hospice will hold a **garage sale** at 1419 29th St., Niceville, Friday and Saturday, June 4 and 5, to benefit its non-funded and under-funded programs in Okaloosa and Walton counties.



Info: Lill Jennings, 729-1800.

Monday, 6-8 p.m.

The next **Creative Gardener Series** program will be on Monday, June 7, 6-8 p.m. at the Valparaiso Library. The topic for this



month's program is **Bee Keeping for Plant Health**. Bob Brackin, local apiary specialist, will talk on the essential role bees play in plant health and reproduction.

Info: 729-5406.

Sunday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

The **Auxiliary of Twin Cities Hospital** will bag groceries at **Winn Dixie** in Bluewater Bay Saturday, June 5, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. All proceeds will benefit the Auxiliary's Health Related Scholarship Fund which has awarded \$20,200 in scholarships this year.



Ongoing

The **city of Niceville** is accepting donations for the **"Fallen Soldier" monument** which will be in memory of fallen veterans and positioned outside the Community Center. The monument will be made by "The Large Art Co." The goal is \$4,400; \$2,903 has been raised so far. Send donations to Fallen Soldiers Fund, City of Niceville, 208 N. Partin Drive, Niceville, FL 32578. Call Ron Hall, 259-7794, for further information.

Calendar, B-5.

Tax rolls plummet a 3rd year

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

Okaloosa County suffered a \$1.6 billion plunge in taxable property values last year, the third straight year of declines, and the widest ever, according to figures announced by county Property Appraiser Pete Smith.

The numbers may portend substantial cuts in local-government budgets.

Smith Thursday sent projected preliminary tax rolls for 2010 to the Okaloosa County Commission, the school board, cities, fire districts and others

among the 19 taxing districts that levy on property owners.

Overall, the county's tax rolls shrank to \$14.6 billion, down 10 percent from the \$16.2 billion on the 2009 rolls.

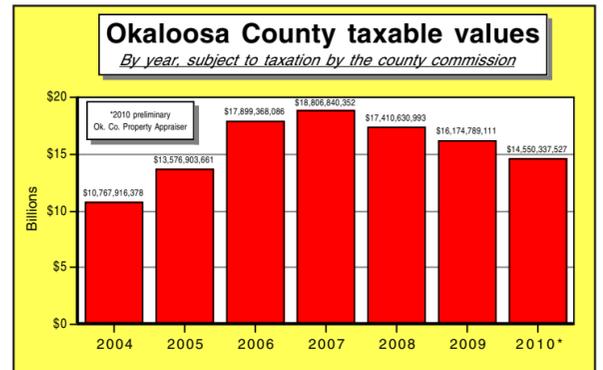
Some taxing districts will suffer even more, particularly those on the beaches, where the second-home and condo markets have been gutted by the recession and tightened lending standards. The Okaloosa Island Fire District will see an 18 percent decline on its tax rolls. The city of Destin posted a 15.4-percent drop.

In the Twin Cities area the drop was less precipitous, though surely painful to property owners and taxing districts alike.

Valparaiso's rolls shrank by 6.6 percent, Niceville's by 4.2 percent; North Bay Fire District's by 4.6 percent, and East Niceville Fire District's by 2.6 percent. The East Niceville district's decline was the smallest, percentage-wise, of any jurisdiction in Okaloosa County.

"Taxing authorities are going to be in a barrel," said Smith, not-

Please see TAX, page A-8



The last full measure



An airman salutes as a bugler plays "Taps" during a commemoration of Memorial Day held Saturday at Heritage Gardens Cemetery, Niceville. Ceremonies were also held Monday at Doolittle Park, Valparaiso, where attendees were addressed by Col. Michael T. Brewer, commander, 46th Test Wing, Eglin Air Force Base. Brewer said that such heroes as Marine Lance Cpl. Phillip Clark, recently killed in action in the Middle East at age 19, are "part of America's next 'Greatest Generation.'"

Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

D-Day vet had no time for fear

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

Sixty-six years ago next Sunday, 19-year-old Pvt. Phil Hooper stormed ashore in the first waves of American troops on D-Day at Utah Beach in Nazi-held France.

Wading from a tiny landing craft onto a Normandy beach June 6, 1944, wasn't how the young soldier had been trained to begin the Allied push to retake Europe from Nazi Germany. Fresh from stateside Army training, the Detroit native had volunteered for the airborne infantry when he arrived in England in 1943. "Many of us were young and looking for a bit of glory with the paratroops," he said.

Hooper was assigned to 101st Airborne Division. The division had four regiments: three were parachute infantry and the fourth was glider infantry. Hooper was assigned to the 327th Glider Infantry Regiment and commenced training in England to land in enemy territory by glider plane. "Not the paratroops we expected to join," Hooper, now 85, recalls.

Towed by C-47s, each American-made glider held 15 soldiers and their light equipment. The fragile craft were made of canvas stretched over metal frames. Most used in combat were so heavily damaged in the assault that they never flew again.

Please see D-DAY, page A-4



Beacon photo by Del Lessard
Phil Hooper with 101st Airborne Division colors. The "Screaming Eagles" led the Allied D-Day assault June 6, 1944.

3rd grade FCAT trend is mixed

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

Third-grade students in Okaloosa County continue to outperform most of their peers in reading and math.

However, the percentage of Okaloosa third graders reading at or above grade level fell slightly this year, as did the state average, according to figures released last week. In math, the year-to-year percentage was flat. And the Okaloosa trend has been mixed over the past six years.

"I know how critical learning to read is," said Schools Superintendent Alexis Tibbetts. Through third grade the emphasis is on teaching students to read, she said, while from fourth grade on, students read to learn.

Tibbetts said additional interventions

are necessary to go beyond the current plateau of student achievement at the third grade level. Budget constraints, however, have made implementing new technology or new teaching techniques difficult, she said.

The Florida Department of Education last week released scores for third-grade students who took the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) this year.

Statewide, 72 percent of public-school third graders in Florida scored at or above grade level (Levels 3, 4 and 5) in reading while 78 percent scored at or above grade level on math, according to the DOE.

Okaloosa County public-school third graders, on average, scored 10

Please see FCAT, page A-8



Summer starts with sun, rain

People flocked to the waterfront, golf courses, and backyard barbecues during the weekend, the unofficial start of summer, taking shelter during thunderstorms but reemerging whenever the sun reappeared. At Lincoln Park in Valparaiso, a family splashes in the cool waters of Boggy Bayou Saturday.

Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

County spending \$2 million in oil fight

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

It is costing Okaloosa County \$2 million to prepare to protect its bay and bayous from the oil that has been gushing into the Gulf of Mexico from the Deepwater Horizon disaster, according to a top county official.

Okaloosa County Commission Chairman Wayne Harris said, it was inevitable that the oil will reach the county's shores.

Harris spoke at a League of Women Voters forum recently in Fort Walton Beach.

He was among three officials addressing the "state of the county" public forum. The others were Okaloosa School

Board Chairman Rodney Walker, and First Judicial Circuit Public Defender James Owens.

Harris briefed attendees on county plans to cope with the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. The central element in the county's plan, he said, is a network of oil booms that have been pre-positioned near Destin at the entrance to the East Pass, the inlet between the Gulf of Mexico and Choctawhatchee Bay and



Wayne Harris
The county's main line of defense, he said, is "Tier One," an arrangement of oil booms designed to guide oil away from the entrance to East Pass and into collection areas where it can be collected by skimming equipment. If oil makes its way into Choctawhatchee Bay, Harris said, additional sets of booms, known as "Tier Two," will be deployed across the entrances of inland waterways, including Boggy Bayou, Rocky Bayou, and Lake Pippin, among others along the Choctawhatchee Bay shoreline.

other inland waterways.

"It's not a question of if, but of when, oil will reach us," Harris told his listeners. He said he does not know when oil will arrive, or what form it may be in when it does, but unless a way is found very soon to stop the undersea leak and collect the oil that has been spilled, it is bound to reach Okaloosa shores eventually.

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County officials have said no effective steps can be taken



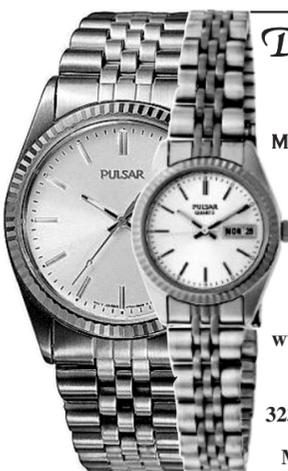
Okaloosa County says it can't prevent spilled oil, if it comes, from polluting its Gulf beaches, including this one on Okaloosa Island, seen last week. At last report, no oil from the Deepwater Horizon disaster has been reported on the county's beaches.

Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

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to protect the county's Gulf beaches from fouling by oil, other than cleaning it up once it arrives.

The county is spending

about \$2 million to "stage" the booms and skimming equipment near Destin, said Harris, and is supposed to be reimbursed from a \$25 million fund provided to the State of Florida from British Petroleum, which leased the rig which began gushing oil off Louisiana April 20 after a fatal explosion. Harris showed slides indicating the planned arrangement of booms at the East Pass, as well as charts showing where additional booms will be placed if needed.

Harris also expressed frustration at the slow pace and bureaucratic obstacles the county has encountered in dealing with federal state, and corporate officials who are supposed to be helping local governments deal with the oil disaster. He said it will be

important for the county to maintain vigilance and pressure on BP, as well as on federal and state authorities. "If you think BP is just going to jump up and do what they should," Harris said, "you must be smoking something."

During the May 22 forum, James Owens spoke about his duties as the Pubic Defender for a four-county judicial circuit. Since being elected to that position, he said, he has laid off some investigators in order to hire more attorneys, and has instituted a policy of having experienced attorneys within his department mentor newer, less experienced lawyers.

In addition, Owens said, he is assigning his most experienced lawyers to the most "high profile" cases, such as homicides, in order to keep pace with a similar policy among prosecutors, thereby helping to "level the playing field" between prosecution and defense and ensure that defendants who cannot afford their own counsel get fair trials.

Rodney Walker said he looks forward to an upcoming election in which Okaloosa voters will decide whether to enact a new sales tax to help pay for construction, renovation and maintenance of local schools.

"I hope it passes," Walker said, because Okaloosa schools have suffered revenue decreases as the state has reduced funding for schools and as enrollment has declined in recent years due to the departure of the 33rd Fighter Wing's combat mission and other factors. About 84 percent of the school district's budget, he said, goes for salaries and other personnel costs, despite recent layoffs of teachers.

State lottery money, Walker said, provides only about one percent of the school district's budget. Although the district has received about \$9 million in federal stimulus money, the federal and state governments have dictated how that money must be spent, leaving little discretion for spending on school renovation or construction.

Although the district plans to close most of Valparaiso Elementary School due to declining enrollment, it will soon need to construct new schools in the northern part of the county, because of a growing population of young families in the north, which is likely to accelerate with the arrival of the 7th Special Forces Group to its new base between Niceville and Crestview. Sixty percent of existing schools in the county, Walker said, are over 40 years old, and require extensive renovation to remain safe and operational.

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New sheriff was taken aback by '09 scandal

Ed Spooner recounts experiences since taking office after Morris arrest

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

Okaloosa County Sheriff Ed Spooner spoke last week of the challenges he has faced since taking over as sheriff in the wake of the scandal last year in which then-Sheriff Charlie Morris was arrested and convicted on federal corruption charges.

Spooner May 25 addressed a meeting on Okaloosa Island of the Emerald Coast Public Relations Organization (ECPRO), a group of public relations specialists from various companies, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies.

Spooner was introduced by Niceville resident Ken Hair, executive director of Children in Crisis, a nonprofit organization that provides foster care to children who have had to be removed from their family homes for various reasons. Hair is also a vice president of ECPRO. Hair praised Spooner's work as sheriff, saying he helped restore public confidence in the office in the wake of the scandal.

Spooner, a veteran police offi-

cer, police chief, and Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) special agent prior to his emergency appointment as Okaloosa sheriff, described his reaction when he was called by the office of Gov. Charlie Crist to fill the vacancy created by Morris's arrest by the FBI Feb. 27, 2009. "My gosh!" Spooner said he told himself, "There's just no way Charlie Morris could have done that!"

Spooner said he was surprised and disappointed as it was revealed that Morris, president of the Florida Sheriffs Association, was found to have led a scheme to pay bogus "performance bonuses" to a select inner circle of sheriff's employees, then required or encouraged those employees to kick back part of their "bonuses" to Morris, who allegedly used the money to fund his gambling trips to Las Vegas and other activities.

Spooner said that after the initial shock, his next reaction to the call was to ask, "Where, what time, and with whom do I meet?"

When he arrived in Okaloosa County, Spooner said, he was



Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

Okaloosa County Sheriff Ed Spooner speaks about his experiences since taking office last year in the wake of the Charlie Morris scandal.

escorted into the sheriff's headquarters by FBI agents, and faced his first tasks—finding out how serious and widespread the corruption was, and whom he could trust in his new organization.

Spooner said the actual investigation of the charges against

Morris and his cronies was done by the FBI and FDLE, while he himself helped as best he could, but focused mainly on helping the sheriff's office recover from the situation and continue providing trustworthy law enforcement to county residents.

Spooner said he was pleased by the integrity and professionalism of the vast majority of deputies and other employees he met after becoming sheriff. "One of the first people I met," he said, "was a deputy who came up to me and said, 'Please tell everyone that we're not all bad.'" Most sheriff's personnel, Spooner said, were shocked about what had happened, and anxious to demonstrate their own honesty, reliability and professionalism.

"My request to the deputies," he said, "was to let the public approach them, answer whatever questions they could, and to let members of the public express their support for the deputies." Spooner said most of the public correctly understood that the corruption was limited to a few individuals, and many people came forward to encourage the remaining OCSO personnel to continue doing a good job.

Spooner said he has been surprised by how long he has been in office as Sheriff. "I expected, at first, that I would simply do the job for a few weeks, then return to the FDLE. Now, 15 months later,

here I am."

Spooner reiterated that he does not plan to run for Okaloosa County sheriff in his own right, an electoral campaign that has drawn a wide field of candidates. He said he will return to the FDLE in November when his term runs out and a new sheriff is elected.

At FDLE, he said, he will either return to supervising training programs as he did before being called to take over the OCSO, or may take over a staff position at FDLE headquarters in Tallahassee.

Spooner said he does not intend to endorse any candidate for the post he holds now. He advises voters, he said, to "look at the qualifications of each candidate, especially what background they have in managing budgets and large organizations," as well as their experience in working-level law enforcement.

Spooner warned the candidates for sheriff to "be careful what you wish for." He compared running for the post to "a dog chasing a sports car—if he's not careful, he just might catch it, and then what will he do with it?"

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(**Includes \$10 user fee plus \$10 fee for players residing outside city limits of Niceville or Valparaiso; both fees go to City of Niceville.)

Late Registration
Thurs., July 29 - 5:30-7:30 p.m. Niceville City Hall
\$25 extra for late registration (after July 24)

Waiting list after July 29 contact Donna Farrell at 897-8626.
Copy of state-issued birth certificate required for players not registered with PAL Soccer in Fall 2009.

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VIP (Children w/ disabilities)	Aug 1, 91-Jul 31, 05
U6	Aug 1, 04-Sep 1, 05*
U8	Aug 1, 02-Jul 31, 04
U10	Aug 1, 00-Jul 31, 02
U12	Aug 1, 98-Jul 31, 00
U14	Aug 1, 96-Jul 31, 98
U19	Aug 1, 91-Jul 31, 96

*Contingent registration for Sep 2-Dec 31, 05. Call for details.
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D-DAY

From page A-1

Despite rigorous glider training in England, not long before D-Day Hooper and the other 1,200 to 1,500 members of the 327th were assigned to arrive by landing craft on D-Day because of a shortage of tow planes.

Asked how he felt being among the GIs to begin the invasion of Europe, Hooper, of Bluewater Bay, said there was no time to feel fear, though his unit suffered many casualties in the Battle of Normandy.

"You don't remember the bad things, only the good things," Hooper said about his wartime experience more than six decades ago. One such memory was his unit's discovery of a huge vat of hard cider at a French farmhouse, and enjoying their find in their foxholes.

After several weeks, Hooper and his glider regiment fought their way to the Norman village of Carentan, where they rejoined the rest of the 101st Airborne.

D-Day was the biggest amphibious invasion ever mounted. It would be

another year before Hitler was dead and Germany surrendered.

On Sept. 17, 1944, Hooper and his regiment boarded gliders in England as part of the invasion of Holland, Operation Market Garden, made famous later by the book and epic movie "A Bridge Too Far."

The fog was so thick that the soldiers couldn't even see their tow planes, Hooper said. He remembers watching one glider nose straight down after it was released from its tow over the landing zone.

Due to the bad weather, the gliders "came down all over the place," he said.

"We came down near Ghent, Belgium," he said. "The pilot was up to his chest in dirt," their craft having landed in a recently plowed field. They were met by British troops already on the ground. One English-speaking man, perhaps a Belgian, asked if any-

one in the plane was from Detroit. "How are the Tigers?" he asked.

Hooper and his comrades rejoined the 101st Airborne in the Netherlands a day or two later.

A few months later, resting in France after fighting in Holland, the division was hastily recalled to the front, driven in open cattle trucks in bitter winter cold over 100 miles to Belgium. There, Hooper and his 101st "Screaming Eagles" made a historic stand at Bastogne in what became known as the Battle of the Bulge, Hitler's last desperate effort to throw back the Allies before they entered the German heartland.

Because there hadn't been time to resupply the unit before it was deployed, many GIs had no weapons or ammunition when they arrived in Belgium, Hooper said. They were issued coats at Bastogne, but some had to scavenge arms and ammo from fallen soldiers. The American troops who were besieged by the Nazis also suffered from lack of food and the coldest winter in many years. At times, two men would share a single K-ration per day.

Hooper remembers experiencing

fear only once during his military service in Europe—at Bastogne when German artillery targeted his unit on an unprotected hillside. He said the trapped GIs had no time to dig foxholes. They hugged the ground so closely during the bombardment that when it lifted, many seemed to have pressed themselves just below ground level, he said.

Hooper was wounded in the head and shoulder at Bastogne, but rejoined his unit inside Germany in January 1945.

Back in the States after the war, Hooper and other members of the 101st Airborne got together in reunions and named themselves the "Nuts Club," memorializing their division commander, Brig. Gen. Anthony McAuliffe, and his famous one-word rejection of German demands to surrender at Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge: "Nuts!"

Hooper and his wife, Helen, went to Europe a few years ago and visited many of the graveyards that hold America's war dead, including the U.S. cemetery in Normandy, France, where nearly 9,400 American soldiers are laid to rest.



Phil Hooper as young GI

SR 285 work set to begin

State Road 285 north of Niceville will be getting a facelift. Crews from Anderson Columbia will soon begin work on a \$2.9 million resurfacing project.

The nine-mile, \$2.9 million project includes repaving the roadway from north of College Boulevard to the Walton County line, replacement of guardrail, drainage upgrades, minor safety improvements and placement of new signs and pavement marks.

The week of June 7, crews will begin clearing the right of way, drainage work and preparing the site, according to the Florida Department of Transportation.

Motorists can expect lane restrictions during construction. However, there will be no lane closures allowed weekdays between 6 a.m. and 8 a.m. and from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., the DOT said.

The project should take about seven months to complete.



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It has been tested by BASF, one of the most respected chemical companies in the world and their findings were that Rhino Shield excels at flexibility, is tear resistant, and has tensile strength, breathability and viscosity.

Additionally, BASF performed an accelerated aging test and found no signs of aging. Rhino Shield has infused tiny 3M ceramic molecules or microspheres, which actually adhere to the walls of your home and become bonded to them. The extra strength to your home insulates it against heat or cold, gives it UV protection against the sun and has sound proofing benefits.

The application process fills in all those little cracks and gives your home a fresh new surface. Rhino Shield has also been awarded a Class A fire rating which means your home will be more protected against fire, and you may qualify for a discount on your homeowners insurance.

Rhino Shield has always been a Green Eco-Friendly product. It is resistant to mold and mildew and will not flake, crack, chip or peel. Rhino Shield can be applied to almost any surface: wood, stucco, brick and block, Hardi-Plank or metal siding.

The secret behind the manufacturer's 25-year warranty is the exclusive first coat of adhesive primer sealer, which is a bonding agent as well as a waterproofing sealer. This penetrating primer provides a sticky layer of adhesion for the durable Rhino Shield ceramic coating to be applied to.

Rhino Shield specializes in the manufacturing and application of long lasting coatings for building exteriors. They are the flagship in the industry. Distribution is through highly skilled dealers throughout the United States.

The PBS show "This Old House" selected Rhino Shield for its Newton project. The show revolved around a restoration of a



A beach house before Rhino Shield.



A beach house after Rhino Shield.

historical home in New England. While Rhino Shield was selected for the job last fall, the episode was shown locally on PBS in January.

Home and Garden Television also invited Rhino Shield to participate in one of its new programs, HGTV Curb Appeal which is being filmed in June and will air in the Fall.

Rhino Shield customer, Mary-Jo Horner, wife of General (ret.) Charles A. Horner, is very pleased to have had Rhino Shield applied to their Shalimar home. "Mike (Redmond) was especially

helpful and informative to work with. "The workers were pleasant, got to work on time, and the work was done in less than the time promised. The house looks excellent; I believe in it (Rhino Shield)—it's an excellent product," concluded Mrs. Horner.

For a personal demonstration and hands on experience with Rhino Shield Ceramic Coating, call Mike Redmond at (850) 424-6829 or visit RhinoShieldGulfSouth.com to schedule an appointment. See for yourself why Rhino Shield's slogan is "Never Paint Your Home Again."

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Into the wild blue simulated yonder

An Air Force F-35 pilot instructor from the 58th Squadron, 33rd Fighter Wing, far left, operates a desktop trainer at Eglin Air Force Base. Using the screen, he can view the actions of a trainee using a nearby simulator. Near left, a computer-generated F-35 over Choctawhatchee Bay in a simulator's cockpit canopy display. The 33rd Fighter Wing, which will train pilots from three services to fly the F-35 fighter jet, held an open house Thursday to demonstrate its equipment and explain its new mission.

Beacon photos by Megan Barys



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"The beach, and going out of town."

Devan Debruhl, 12,
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"The beach, and hanging out with friends."

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Police Blotter

The following accounts of the activities of police are according to records of the Niceville and Valparaiso police departments, the Okaloosa County and Walton County sheriff's offices, other law-enforcement agencies, and the Okaloosa County and Walton County jails.

Arrests

A 15-year-old Niceville girl, a student, was arrested by Niceville police May 20 on a misdemeanor theft charge. On Dec. 14 the girl allegedly stole \$100 from a Niceville resident and spent it on a cell phone.

Grace Monroe Reese, a sales associate, 20, of 1002 Alderwood Way, Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police May 21 on the misdemeanor charges of possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and underage possession of alcohol.

Benjamin Amrut Patel, a retail associate, 18, of 145 Gleneagles Drive, Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police May 21 on the misdemeanor charge of possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana.

Caitlin Denise Jones, 21, of 1551 Hickory St., Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police May 21 on the charge of battery. On Feb. 25 Jones allegedly slapped another woman in the face.

Tess Laurel Smith, 30, of 451 Springwood Way, Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police May 21 on the charge of grand theft auto. On Feb. 20 Smith allegedly stole a family member's car. The stolen Cadillac was recovered Feb. 24 on Lovejoy Street in Fort Walton Beach.

Roger Lee Catron, a Realtor, 59, of 1055 Everglade Drive, Niceville and Erica S. Keaney, an on-air personality for a radio station, 34, of the same address, were arrested by Niceville police May 21, each charged with domestic violence battery.

Casey Michael Chavis, unemployed, 22, of 304 Reeves St., Lot F-1, Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police May 22 on a misdemeanor charge of theft after allegedly being observed shoplifting at Kmart, 1140 E. John Sims Parkway.

Robert Michael Chalavoutis, a clerk, 20, of 1430 30th St., Apt. D, Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police, subsequent to a traffic stop, May 20, on misdemeanor charges of possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Levy Huston Lucas, 49, of 609 29th St., Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police May 18 on the charge of battery on a law enforcement officer.

DUI arrests

Lisa Lynn-Clawson, 46, of 60 Junior Drive, Shalimar, was arrested by Niceville police for DUI on College Boulevard and Hickory Street, May 18 at 5:50 a.m. Lynn-Clawson was subsequently arrested on charges of possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, 20 pills of Advan, possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia. Lynn-Clawson was also cited for failure to maintain traffic in the proper lane.

Thefts

Niceville police seized a phony \$100 bill that a Georgia man tried to pass at a convenience store, 146 N. Palm Blvd., May 24. The man told police that he got the counterfeit from a DeFuniak Springs woman. Tests showed the embedded security thread and a water mark—which showed President Abraham Lincoln rather than Ben Franklin—were both from a \$5 bill.

A Niceville resident from the 600 block of Powell Drive reported May 23 that someone broke into his residence May 22-23.

Unknown person(s) unsuccessfully attempted to pry open the front door of a Niceville business, 208 Government Ave., then broke the glass in the front door and entered the business sometime May 20-21. The victim reported that a 52-inch TV was missing from a back room.

An Alabama company contacted Valparaiso police May 18 to report a Valparaiso resident had purchased \$703 worth of building materials from the company, then had the bank issue a "stop payment" order. The buyer allegedly provided a credit card number after the check payment was stopped but the card was not valid according to the seller. The seller said he had made several attempts to contact the buyer with negative results.

A Valparaiso landlord reported May 20 that unknown person(s) stole \$150 in rent money that a Valparaiso tenant had allegedly hidden outside the landlord's residence May 18, about 3:30 a.m.

Criminal Mischief

A Niceville resident from the 600 block of West John Sims Parkway, reported May 22 that someone had damaged his Jeep. Police are investigating.

A Niceville resident from the 2000 block of Kildare Circle reported that unknown person(s) had "egged" the residence May 21.

Fire Department Reports

Niceville

The Niceville Fire Department responded to the following calls from May 24 through May 28.

- 0 Structure Fire
- 1 Vehicle Fire
- 0 Other Fire
- 0 Illegal Burn
- 0 False Alarms
- 11 Emergency Medical Calls
- 2 Vehicle Crash
- 0 Vehicle Crash with Extrication
- 1 Other Emergency Calls
- 0 Hazardous Conditions

Location	Situation	Date	Time
Hickory/College Boulevard	Vehicle Crash	5/24/10	15:31
SR85N at SR123	Vehicle Fire	5/24/10	16:27
Powell Drive	Medical	5/25/10	00:20
College Boulevard/SR85N	Vehicle Crash	5/25/10	07:53
N. Partin Drive	Medical	5/26/10	08:44
N. Partin Drive	Medical	5/26/10	09:12
Redwood Avenue	Medical	5/26/10	10:27
E. John Sims Parkway	Medical	5/26/10	12:39
Deer Street	Medical	5/26/10	20:25
Linda Court	Medical	5/26/10	20:32
McKinney Street	Medical	5/27/10	14:33
S. Cedar Avenue	Medical	5/27/10	14:52
N. Partin Drive	Medical	5/27/10	17:42
Poplar Place	False Call	5/28/10	03:02
N. Partin Drive	Medical	5/28/10	08:43

Weekly Safety Tip: STOP, DROP AND ROLL. If your clothes catch fire, DON'T RUN. STOP where you are, DROP to the ground, cover your face with your hands, and ROLL over and over to smother the flames. Web Page: <http://www.cityofniceville.org/fire.html>

North Bay

The North Bay Fire Department responded to the following calls May 23 through May 31.

Location	Situation	Date	Time
Saint Joseph Cove	EMS excluding vehicle	5/23/10	11:59
Norwich Circle	EMS excluding vehicle	5/23/10	18:21
East Highway 20	EMS excluding vehicle	5/23/10	18:49
North White Point Road	Medical assist EMS	5/23/10	21:45
White Point Road	Service call	5/24/10	06:53
Ridge Lane	Public service assistance	5/24/10	08:38
Ridge Lane	Assist invalid	5/24/10	10:34
East Highway 20	EMS excluding vehicle	5/24/10	18:56
North White Point Road	EMS excluding vehicle	5/25/10	11:32
Merchants Way	EMS excluding vehicle	5/25/10	21:29
North White Point Road	Medical assist EMS	5/26/10	15:55
North White Point Road	Medical assist EMS	5/26/10	19:51
North White Point Road	EMS excluding vehicle	5/27/10	08:35
Hidden Lakes Court	Medical assist EMS	5/27/10	12:34
Oakwood Circle	Medical assist EMS	5/27/10	18:40
N. North Lakeshore Drive	Medical assist EMS	5/28/10	05:25
Lancaster Drive	EMS excluding vehicle	5/28/10	09:40

Visit northbayfd.org for greater detail of incidents.

Valparaiso Volunteer

The Valparaiso Volunteer Fire Department responded to the following calls during the month of May:

Location	Situation	Date	Time
Kelly Way	Cardiac Arrest	5/1/10	10:58
Okaloosa Avenue	Fall	5/1/10	22:11
Rockford Avenue	Traumatic Injury	5/3/10	19:12
Hidden Cove Way	Sick Call	5/4/10	20:11
Kelly Mill Road	Motor Vehicle Accident	5/7/10	01:59
Chicago Avenue	Unknown Problem	5/9/10	14:23
Illinois Avenue	Breathing Problem	5/12/10	09:14
Highway 85	Motor Vehicle Accident	5/13/10	13:36
Edge Avenue	Animal Bites	5/15/10	00:44
Johnson Avenue	Unconscious	5/15/10	14:00
Edge Avenue	Back Pain	5/17/10	16:14
Jasmine Avenue	Back Pain	5/19/10	02:31
Edge Avenue	Fire Threatening Structure	5/22/10	14:43
Glendale Avenue	Breathing Problem	5/23/10	15:22
Highland Avenue	Eye Problem	5/23/10	20:32
Kelly Mill Road	Sick Call	5/24/10	12:04
John Sims Parkway	Vehicle Lockout Call	5/26/10	13:46
Southview Avenue	Breathing Problem	5/26/10	15:53
Seminole Avenue	Fall	5/28/10	07:31

Spring has sprung! Now is the time to dispose of those unneeded newspapers, magazines and other excess "fuels" that can present a fire hazard. Use caution when disposing of household chemicals to prevent mixing. Test household smoke and carbon monoxide detectors monthly. Check your household fire extinguisher to ensure that it is charged and available for use. Make fire safety a priority! Call your Valparaiso Volunteer Fire Department at 729-5410 if you have questions or concerns.

Other

Damien Alan Ford-Hardy, 19, of 500 Kelly Mill Road, Apt. 135, Valparaiso, was issued a notice to appear by Niceville police May 24 on misdemeanor charges of trespassing and resisting an officer without violence. Ford-Hardy allegedly was located exiting the city's park at Turkey Creek when it was closed to the public, and fled on foot when police tried to get him to stop.

Please see BLOTTER, page A-8

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The Bay Beacon and Beacon Express, incorporating the Bluewater Breeze, is published every Wednesday by Bayou Enterprises Inc. Free total-market home delivery to Niceville, Valparaiso, Bluewater Bay and Seminole, as well as mid-Walton County from Villa Tasso to Basin Bayou, including Choctaw Beach. Subscriptions: One year, standard mail, \$104. One year, electronic subscription, \$52.

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8% tuition hike looms at college

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

The Northwest Florida State College Board of Trustees plans to raise tuition by 8 percent and also raise some student fees in the coming year, if state legislation authorizing the hike is approved by Gov. Charlie Crist.

The increases are needed to continue funding the college despite declining state support, but will still leave NWFSC with the lowest tuition and fees of any of 28 state and community colleges in Florida, said college officials during the trustees' May 25 workshop meeting in Niceville.

Crist authorized the increases Friday by signing the \$70.4 billion 2010-11 budget sent to him by the Florida Legislature.

Gary Yancey, an NWFSC vice president, and college financial officer Donna Utley briefed trustees about the proposed FY 2010-11 budget for the college, and the need for the tuition and fee increases. They said state funding for colleges has declined in recent years as overall state revenue has fallen due to a declining national economy, less tourism, and



Beacon photo by Del Lessard

Completion of a new sports arena, above, and other construction projects will result in a decline in next year's budget of Northwest Florida State College, to a proposed \$81 million.

reduced revenue from sales and property taxes.

The proposed budget, said Yancey, is proposed to be \$81,046,673, less than last year's figure of \$89,266,775. The decrease, said Utley, is mostly due to the completion of construction projects at NWFSC, including the sports arena and community services building, which are nearing completion on the Niceville campus, and the college's new South Walton center, which was completed last year.

In addition to the tuition hike, the trustees plan to implement a 20-cent per credit hour student activities fee and a \$15 per term fee for a new kind of ID card, which students could use for certain campus purchases starting this fall. The college would also double technology fees to 5 percent of

such college's funds coming from other sources. In FY 2006, the state covered 66.7 percent of the cost, but this has declined as state revenue has declined and as legislators decided that students should pay more of their own way through college and reduce the burden on taxpayers.

The proposed budget does not contain any pay raises for college faculty or staff, although it does include a one-time incentive payment to help the college retain highly qualified faculty and staff members without committing itself to permanent pay raises.

Trustee Brian Pennington questioned whether the college can retain a top-quality faculty without such a pay raise. "I'm worried," he said. "I couldn't leave here tonight without discussing that."

Utley replied that NWFSC pays some of the highest salaries among such colleges, despite its comparatively low tuition and fees. "Our goal," said Utley, "is to remain in the top 10 in Florida for faculty salaries, and in the top half for staff salaries." She also said the college will continue to cover health insurance costs for faculty and staff as it does now, despite increased costs for such coverage.

College spokeswoman Sylvia Bryan later told the Beacon that NWFSC has one of the highest percentages of Ph.D. faculty members of any state or community college in Florida.

Okaloosa seeks fugitives

This information is from reports by the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office.

Name: Cassandra Chagares Rasmussen
Wanted for: violation of probation on the original charge of possession of cocaine and possession of drug paraphernalia. Rasmussen's last known address was on Lincoln Drive in Fort Walton Beach.
Height: 5-feet, 2-inches
Weight: 130 pounds
Age: 45
Date of birth: 05-16-65
Hair: red
Eyes: brown



Name: Devin M. Leavelle
Wanted for: violation of probation on the original charges of battery and theft. Leavelle's last known address was in Mary Esther.
Height: 5-feet, 11-inches
Weight: 160 pounds
Age: 42
Date of birth: 05-30-67
Hair: brown
Eyes: brown



This information is from reports by the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office. A reward is offered by Emerald Coast Crime Stoppers, 863-8477, or 1-888-654-8477. Information can also be provided anonymously by texting "TIP214 plus the message" to CRIMES (274637)

BLOTTER

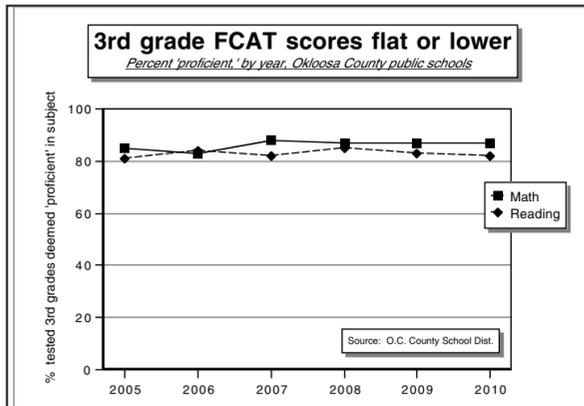
From page A-7

Niceville police are investigating a fight involving two to four people that occurred outside a lounge, 626 W. John Sims Parkway, about 12:50 a.m. May 25. Two of the alleged combatants were treated for their injuries at Twin Cities Hospital.

Valparaiso police and firefighters used fire extinguishers and several water hoses from a

townhome complex to extinguish a small fire in a wooded area between the townhomes and Valparaiso Elementary School, Saturday, May 22, about 2:46 p.m.

Three landscapers on the school grounds reported seeing no one in the area. Police said it was unknown how the fire started but noted the area appears to be an area frequented by children. The area had a barstool type chair, a Transformers lunchbox and several elementary reading books scattered about the wooded area.



FCAT

From page A-1

percentage points higher than the state average in reading scores, with 82 percent ranking Level 3 (on grade level) or higher, down one percentage point from 2009.

In math, 87 percent of tested Okaloosa third graders were at or above grade level, nine points higher than the state average. The Okaloosa math percentage was the same as last year's.

Individual students receive

overall numerical scores of from 100 to 500 on both parts of the FCAT. Only two Florida county school districts (including Santa Rosa) exceeded Okaloosa County's median scale score of 332 in third-grade reading. Meanwhile, only three districts (including Santa Rosa) topped Okaloosa's median score of 355 in math.

Three of the four elementary schools in the Twin Cities scored better than the county or state averages for students achieving at or above grade level, including:

—Valparaiso Elementary, where 90 percent of third graders scored at or above grade level in reading and 94 percent at or above grade level in math.

—Plew Elementary third graders achieved scores at or above in reading, 91 percent and 94 percent in math.

—Bluewater Elementary where 94 percent of third graders were at or above grade level in reading and 90 percent in math.

—Only Edge Elementary scored lower than the county average, although only by a single percentage point in both reading and math scores Level 3 and above. Among Edge third-graders 80 percent scored at or above grade level in reading and 86 percent in math. Both scores had dropped 9 percent from Edge scores in the two subjects the previous year.

Third-grade students who scored the lowest, Level 1, are generally retained to repeat the third grade. They and those in Level 2 get added help.

Since being introduced to FCAT standardized testing in a handful of grade levels in the early 1990s students the program

has expanded to test students each year at every grade level from third grade to 10th grade. For high school students passing FCAT with minimum scores has been a requirement for graduation for several years.

The DOE is expected to release FCAT student scores for other grades in June.

Valparaiso still studies electricity business bid

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

Although no formal vote was taken or final decisions made during Thursday's Valparaiso City Commission meeting, commissioners are still considering whether or under what conditions it might renew the city's franchise agreement with Gulf Power, or whether to form their own electric power utility, buying power from Gulf power and other sources.

Gulf Power's exclusive, 30-year right to sell electric power in Valparaiso is scheduled to expire Aug. 24, 2011.

At a meeting in April, commissioners were asked to provide any comments they have on renewal of the Gulf Power franchise to the city administrator.

For the past several years city commissioners have discussed and studied the possibility of the city assuming the electric power franchise itself. A secret, \$25,000 study completed about three years ago by a legal consultant is said to have determined that city electric customers could save about 30 percent on electric rates if the city held the franchise and bought its power directly from power producers, including possibly Gulf Power. The study authors briefed each commissioner individually on their findings in order to keep the study recommendations from becoming a public document.

The report has also been offered to the two newest city commissioners, Diane Kelley and Neal Shermer, who were not in office when the study was completed and briefed.

City Administrator Carl Scott said he needed to know what direction the city commission wanted him to go in negotiating with Gulf Power. Commissioners were asked to provide their comments directly to Scott.

Separately, Scott has suggested that a long legal dispute between Gulf Power and the city of Valparaiso might be causing the city's cable communications customers to overpay a pole-attachment fee in their monthly bills.

In 2001 Gulf Power and other electric utilities claimed that they are allowed to raise the fees they charge cities for allowing them to hang other cables and wires, such as Valparaiso's cable TV lines, on the power company's poles. Gulf Power raised its pole-attachment fee from \$6.60 per pole annually to \$38 per pole, Scott told commissioners during a meeting April 12.

To comply with the higher rates while a civil case on the legality of the fee wound through the court system, Valparaiso in 2001 began charging its own cable television customers an additional

\$1.65 per month in case the power companies won the case in court. The extra fee was put into an escrow. As of March 31 Valparaiso's escrow account had \$345,350, according to the city clerk.

Scott said the power companies lost their initial court case, although they have appealed to the Federal Communications Commission. He suggested that the city, could reduce the extra fee it was charging cable customer, based on a maximum of \$14.39 per pole fee allowed under the court's ruling.

But City Attorney Doug Wyckoff cautioned commissioners that they couldn't unilaterally stop or change their agreement with Gulf Power to escrow the requested higher fees. Although Wyckoff said the power company's attorneys have been "intractable" on the issue, the mayor asked Wyckoff to update the commission on the legal status of the pole-attachment fee.

Scott Jackson, a representative of Gulf Power, also attended the May 27 meeting, and told the commission that, "Gulf Power is ready to negotiate, whenever you're ready. We're here to save money for you and your constituents. We're not in an antagonistic situation."

Commissioner Thomas G. Miller continued to advocate starting a city power utility. "With the right people," he said, "we can go into the power business." The difference between doing so and buying power from Gulf Power, he said, is that "Gulf Power is answerable to their shareholders, and has to show a profit. Our shareholders are the people of Valparaiso."

Miller said a city utility would save money for Valparaiso residents, as the city's cable TV service does now.

City Attorney Doug Wyckoff recommended the city hire Tom Cloud, a Tallahassee-based attorney who specializes in city power utility issues, and who Wyckoff said would be an ideal choice to study the city's options in detail, make recommendations, and negotiate with Gulf Power on behalf of the city. Wyckoff said Cloud usually charges between \$200 and \$300 per hour for his services.

City Engineer Roy Petrey said he also knows of consultants who can do a detailed study of the pros and cons of starting a city-owned power utility, and help determine if such a utility would actually save city power customers money compared with continuing their contract with Gulf Power. Such a study, he said, could cost the city between \$25,000 and \$75,000, and would therefore be "not for the fainthearted."



Beacon photo by Mike Griffith
Valparaiso City Administrator Carl Scott and Commissioner Neal Shermer share reading material during a meeting last week to discuss Gulf Power's future in the city.

TAX

From page A-1

ing that they have already endured shrinking of state sources of revenue—declining gas and sales tax revenue among them—as well as three previous years of slowed growth or actual declines in taxable property rolls.

"With the political climate," Smith said, taxing authorities "won't want to commit (political) suicide" by raising millage rates during tough economic times. If true, big budget cuts loom.

"We didn't help with \$1.6 billion in declines," said Smith.

The county rolls peaked in 2007 at \$18.8 billion and have fallen every year since for a cumulative decline of 22.6 percent, or \$4.26 billion.

The new tax rolls will mean a loss to the Okaloosa County government of nearly \$5.2 million in revenue assuming the current property tax rate of 3.2899 mills,

according to Gary Stanford, the county's financial services chief. The figure was based on 95 percent of the taxable property roll, he said, the normal budgeting process used by taxing authorities in Florida. The lost revenue comes as no surprise, he said, because Smith had worked hard to keep county officials informed months ago that property values were trending down by an estimated 10 percent. Budget reviews with department heads are scheduled to begin June 2, he said.

"We're shrinking the size of government because of this," said County Administrator Jim Curry. In April he outlined strategies for coping with the revenue losses to county commissioners. Okaloosa County already implemented the first part of the plan with a voluntary separation plan for senior employees that resulted in about 25 employees agreeing to leave early, he said.

Curry said that not only reduces the county's payroll, but

for every senior employee who takes the early out, up to three entry level positions can be funded. Other steps that the county is planning for is the possibility of employee furloughs, then, if still needed, actual employee cuts. Curry said the furlough program is a better strategy than salary cuts, which are hard to recover even after the economy recovers. Every week of unpaid furlough reduces an employee's income by about 2 percent, he said.

The school district, which levies the biggest tax burden on Okaloosa County property owners, faces a larger dollar loss in tax revenue, more than \$11 million because its millage rate is more than twice that of the county commission, 7.639 mills.

A majority of the school board is hoping that voters this summer will approve a referendum that would impose a half-cent, 10-year sales tax to make up for reduced state funding for capital items.

While taxing authorities struggle with the decline, most individual property owners may not enjoy a lighter tax burden. Smith pointed out that under Florida's "recapture rule" many homeowners will actually see their taxable property values rise by 3 percent this year, even if the market value of their homes actually declined.

The Florida Legislature included the recapture rule when they enacted the state's Save-Our-Homes constitutional amendment. The measure, passed when Florida real estate values surged year after year, was meant to protect homeowners from being literally taxed out of their homes by property taxes by limiting annual taxable values to no more than a 3 percent rise. Conversely, the recapture clause was meant to be based on rapidly rising property values.

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Our commitment to the people of the Gulf.

This spill and the hardships endured by Gulf families and businesses never should have happened. The region is home to thousands of BP employees, so we also feel the impact.

We have been paying all legitimate claims for economic loss and will continue to do so. We will not be limited by a spending cap. We have 18 claims offices in operation across the Gulf. More than 9,000 claims have been paid, including millions of dollars to thousands of fishermen.

We've provided \$170 million to support the response and tourism in the region. And our efforts will not come at any cost to taxpayers.

Our commitment to you.

Whether you've been affected personally or you are following this from a distance, we understand that our responsibility includes keeping you informed. You expect us to make this right. We will.

For the most current information, please visit the following BP and joint U.S. Government/BP websites:

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77¢
lb
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Sunnyland Sliced Ham **\$1⁷⁸**
Cooked, 10 oz pkg

Tennessee Pride Roll Mild Sausage... **\$2³⁷**
16 oz pkg

Boneless Beef Stew **\$2⁸⁸**
lb

Armour Lunchmakers..... **95¢**
All varieties, 2-3 oz pkg

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1 lb pkg

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12 oz pkg

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\$2⁷⁸
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\$2⁹⁸
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12 oz, Lucky Charms-11.5 oz,
Cookie Crisp-11.25 oz, Honey
Nut Cheerios-12.25 oz



85¢
Hunts Ketchup
or BBQ Sauce
24 oz

Pillsbury Brownie Classics **89¢**
19 oz box

Bisquick Shake n' Pour Pancake Mix.. **88¢**
5.1 oz btl

Flavorite Peg Candy **85¢**
Assorted Variety, 5.5-16 oz pkg

Flavorite Mustard **85¢**
16-20 oz sqz btl

Nabisco Chips Ahoy Cookies..... **\$2²⁵**
14-15.25 oz

Hunts Snack Pack Pudding & Gel Snacks.. **89¢**
4 ct pkg

Peter Pan Peanut Butter **\$1⁴⁴**
13-16 oz jar

Hunt's Manwich **90¢**
Regular, Bold, or BBQ, 15.5-16 oz can

Chef Boyardee Pasta w/ Meat..... **90¢**
14.5-15 oz can

Rice-A-Roni or Pasta-Roni **87¢**
3.8-7.2 oz box

Shopper Value Salty Snack Chips..... **\$1⁰⁰**
9-15 oz bag, Select Varieties

Hunt's Pasta Sauce..... **85¢**
26-26.5 oz



89¢
Gatorade Thirst
Quencher
32 oz btl



\$8²⁵
Charmin Bath Tissue
Ultra or Regular, 18 roll pkg



\$1⁸⁸
Nabisco
Premium Saltines
16 oz box



99¢
Flavorite
American
Cheese Singles
12 oz pkg



\$1³⁸
Jersey Farm
Milk
1/2 gal



\$2⁹⁸
Blue Bell
Ice Cream
1/2 gal

Flavorite Cheese..... **\$1²⁸**
Chunk or Shredded, 8 oz pkg

Yoplait Yogurt..... **45¢**
Original or Whips, 4-6 oz ctn

Flavorite Butter..... **\$1⁹⁸**
1 lb pkg

Blue Bonnet Spread **66¢**
1 lb pkg

Tropicana Orange Juice..... **\$2⁶⁸**
59-64 oz ctn

Flavorite Crescent or Cinnamon Rolls..... **\$1³³**
8-12.4 oz pkg

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12-16 oz bag

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4.5-6.8 oz

Cool Whip Toppings **89¢**
5.5 to 8 oz bowl

Green Giant Corn on the Cob **\$1³⁵**
6 ct pkg

Blue Bunny Ice Cream..... **\$2²⁵**
55 oz square

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\$3⁹⁹
lb
Large Shrimp
31 to 40 ct

Talapia Fillets **\$2⁹⁹**
lb



\$6⁸⁸
Brill 2 Layer
Confetti Cake
46 oz.

James Spinner Cinnamon Rolls..... **\$2⁹⁸**
22 oz pkg

Harlan and Kyger Meringue Pies **\$3⁵⁵**
8 inch, 28 oz



\$9⁰⁸
Natural Light Beer
24 pk

Yuengling Lager..... **\$8⁹¹**
12 pk

Bare Foot Wines **\$7⁴⁸**
1.5 lt

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College starts 4-day week summer slate

Classes and most college services at Northwest Florida State College will begin a four-day week through July. As was done the previous two years, NWF State College will extend its business hours Monday through Thursday for the two summer months to provide more hours for services such as registration, advising and financial aid and to close most college services on Fridays.

Six of the college's seven locations, including the Niceville and Fort Walton Beach campuses, NWFSC Sikes Center in Crestview, NWFSC Chautauqua Center in DeFuniak Springs and the college's centers at Hurlburt Field and South Walton, will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

The college's center at Eglin Air Force Base as well as the Niceville campus Learning Resources Center and Mattie Kelly Arts Center Box Office will maintain their regular hours and continue to be open on Fridays. The University of West Florida's services at the Fort Walton Beach Campus will also be open on Fridays.

The college's Mattie Kelly Arts Center Box Office on the Niceville campus will be open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Patrons may also continue to purchase tickets to select shows, including the summer musical "Grease," which will be presented at the center on July 14 to 17, through on-line purchase at mattiekellyartscenter.org, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



Flying high

Zac Gadzinski earned the highest rank in Scouting, the rank of Eagle Scout. He is the assistant senior patrol leader in Troop 157, Niceville, and a Junior at Rocky Bayou Christian School. His parents are Len and Pam Gadzinski of Niceville.



From left: AAUW member Regina Scott, Dr. Karyn Combs, and Michelle Severino, Niceville-Valparaiso AAUW President-elect. Combs spoke to the AAUW May 17 about her book, "The African American Quiz Book for all Americans: A Wealth of Knowledge about History & Culture Past & Present."

University Women hear Eglin principal, author Book presents African-American history, culture

The Niceville-Valparaiso branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) May 17 heard Dr. Karyn Combs, author of "The African American Quiz Book for all Americans: A Wealth of Knowledge about History & Culture Past & Present."

Combs has been the principal at Eglin Elementary School on Eglin AFB since 1997, and is also known as Master Sgt. Combs in the Air Force Reserve's 919th Special Operations Wing.

Education is a central theme in her written work and life as a businesswoman and principal, and she teaches human relations and equal opportunity courses to reservists. Dr. Combs presented about her book, which highlights individuals whose achievements and heroic acts have contributed to the United States and includes over 350 questions and answers to stimulate learning and critical thinking.

AAUW is an organization dedicated to advancing equity

for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. At both the national and local levels, AAUW raises funds for scholarships for women of all ages. Any woman who holds an associate's or equivalent, bachelor's, or more advanced degree from a nationally accredited college or university may join AAUW. For more information about the local Niceville-Valparaiso branch, contact Jeanne Besse, Director for Membership-elect, at travelingjeanne@aol.com.

Who's News

E-mail items to info@baybeacon.com.

Terri Younger graduated from the University of North Florida in Jacksonville April 30 with a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy, with an emphasis in bioethics. She is the daughter of



Terri Younger

Carl and Tess Younger of Niceville, a 2007 graduate of North West Florida State College, and a 2005 graduate of Niceville High School

Sean Michael Tabor received his master degree in social science from Florida State University in May. Tabor, a 1992 graduate of Niceville High School, is the son of Joe Ann and Michael Tabor of Niceville.

D. Timothy Herndon, CPA, and **Denise R. Fitzpatrick,** both of Carr, Riggs & Ingram's Niceville and Crestview offices, recently completed an intensive training course in Earned Value Management System (EVMS) Compliance.

The federal government now requires all contracts over \$20 million in total value to manage and report their projects in full compliance with the government's Earned Value Management System process. By completing this course, CRI professionals are now able to assist clients in the development and implementation of EVMS compliance strategies including the creation of process documents to meet the required 32 guidelines.

Shelley Normand of Bluewater Bay has been named executive director of Superior Residences of Niceville. Superior is the new Assisted



Shelley Normand

Please see WHO'S, page B-3

Sponsors sought for fireworks

Niceville and Valparaiso, along with a Fireworks Trust

Fund Committee, are going to light up Bobby Bayou July 4 and seek sponsors to commemorate the first year of donation-funded fireworks.

The city is looking for people and organizations who would like to be a \$250 sponsor for a T-shirt commemorating July 4, 2010.

The sponsor's name would be on the back of the T-shirt, and would entitle the sponsor to receive T-shirts stating that he helped "light up Boggy Bayou."

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HOMEROOM



Florida state winners from Rocky Bayou Christian School are, from left: rear, John Thomas, Christian Yun, Chan-Young Lee, Vic Maranon and Kealan Muth; front, Allison Thomas, Emily Paulson, Christa Daughtry, Maria Denbow, Jenna Lewis and Sharon Muth.

Rocky students score in arts

Rocky Bayou Christian School students participated in the Florida Association of Christian Colleges Fine Arts regional competition in Tallahassee April 23. Competition winners were then eligible to participate in the state

competition in West Palm Beach, FL, May 13-14. Rocky Bayou's state winners are: Monochromatic Drawing, second place, **Christa Daughtry**, sixth grade; Polychromatic Drawing, first place, **Christa Daughtry**, sixth

grade; second place, **Kealan Muth**, seventh grade; third place, **Sharon Muth**, fourth grade; Acrylic Painting, first place, **Emily Paulson**, fourth grade; Sculpture, second place, **Maria Denbow**, sixth grade; Elementary Vocal Solo, third place, **Jenna Lewis**, third grade; Piano Solo, first place, **Amber Grete**, fifth grade; String Solo I, second place, **Allison Thomas**, sixth grade; second place, **John Thomas**, seventh grade; Woodwind Solo, third place, **Chan-Young Lee**, eighth grade; Percussion Solo, first place, **Vic Maranon**, eighth grade; Religious Interpretation, first place, **Jenna Lewis**, third grade.



Beacon photo by Kenneth Books

Balding to Jacksonville U.

Meagan Balding, seated, left, signs a letter of intent to attend Jacksonville University on a softball scholarship. With her, from left, are, standing, Niceville softball coach, Danny Hensley and athletic director John Hicks and, seated, her mother, Brenda Balding. Meagan has .402 with three home runs for the Eagles this year.



Niceville Key Club gives to hospital

The Niceville High School Key Club donated \$1,200 from its recent golf tournament to a cause supported by the Kiwanis Club of Niceville-Valparaiso. The money will be added to Kiwanis' annual donation to the Children's Miracle Network, which benefits Sacred Heart Children's Hospital, Pensacola. From left: Ken Hair, Kiwanis president, Tim Parsons, Service Leadership Program Chair, Jaclyn Daley, 2009-10 Key Club president, Chloe Schweitzer, 2010-11 Key Club president.

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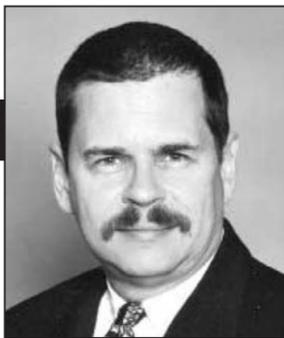
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In the Service

E-mail items to
info@baybeacon.com.

Air Force Reserve Airman 1st Class **Leah M. Hebert** graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

She is the daughter of Monica and Stacy Hebert of Redwood Ave., Niceville.

Hebert graduated in 2009 from Niceville High School, and attends Northwest Florida State College.

Air Force Airman 1st Class **Janae J. Johnson** graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

She is the daughter of Tracy Pugh of Janwood Drive, Mobile, Ala., and Edison Johnson Jr. of Sabal Palm Drive, Niceville.

Johnson is a 2008 graduate of Murphy High School, Mobile.

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Valp. Garden Club installs officers

The newly installed officers of the Valparaiso Garden Club are, from left, Parliamentarian, **Scotta Mahugh**; Chaplain, **Marianne Coil**; Publicity, **Marion Bushey**; Historian, **Carole Smith**; Corresponding Secretary, **June Jones**; Treasurer, **Mary Lee Morris**; Recording Secretary, **Kathy Greski**; Second Vice President, **Darolyn Weiss**; and President **Vivian Justice**. Not pictured is First Vice President, **Anna Belle James**.

Jim 'N Nick's to participate in big barbecue in New York City

This year, 14 of the nation's most respected barbecue restaurants have been invited to showcase their talents and traditions on a world stage in New York City at the Snapple Big Apple Barbecue Block Party. Featured in this select group is Jim 'N Nick's Bar-B-Q, Niceville, which has been selected to participate for the second year in a row.

The Snapple Big Apple Barbecue Block Party will be held June 12-13 and is expected to attract more than 120,000 barbecue aficionados to New York's Madison Square Park. Jim 'N Nick's will showcase their smoked pork hot links paired with another icon of the Southern picnic, fresh-made pimento cheese.

Jim 'N Nick's, began as a father and son restaurant in Birmingham, Ala., 25 years ago and is locally owned by Wayne Lewis, Dave Hudson and Tom Rice.

Correction

A photo last week contained the incorrect outline. The correct photo and outline, "NHS Key Club gives to Kiwanis," is on B-2 this week.



Beacon photo by Kenneth Books

Thanks for all you do

Niceville High School seniors **Jenna Hassell** and **Will Davis** presented a plaque of appreciation for the hard work of the Niceville Public Works Department to **Willie Hines**, repair and maintenance supervisor, and department head **Bruce Price** at last month's meeting of the Niceville City Council.

WHO'S

From page B-1

Living community that specializes in memory care on North Partin Drive, Niceville. Shelley brings with her more than 10 years experience in senior care.

Jennifer Barbero graduated summa cum laude on May 14 from Auburn University with a Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural business and economics. While at Auburn, she was a member of the Auburn equestrian team, the Ag Ambassadors, and Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. Jennifer is a 2006 graduate of Niceville High School and is the daughter of Russ and Anne Barbero.

Michelle Lynn Sanders graduated with honors from Western University of Health Sciences,

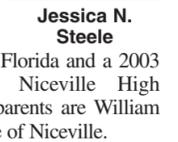


Michelle Lynn Sanders

College of Veterinary Medicine, on May 21, with a Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine (DVM). Dr. Sanders was also inducted into Phi Zeta, the National Honor Society of Veterinary Medicine during earlier ceremonies. She will remain in the Rancho Cucamonga, Calif., area to begin her practice. Michelle is the daughter of Col. (ret.) Bill Sanders and Dawn Sanders of Bluewater Bay.

Jessica N. Steele graduated from the University of Florida

Levin College of Law on May 14. She plans to pursue a career in the field of international human rights. She is a 2007 graduate of the University of Florida and a 2003 graduate of Niceville High School. Her parents are William and Jan Steele of Niceville.



Jessica N. Steele

Bridgeway Center Inc. Associate **Donna Morgan**, Bluewater Bay, was recognized by the Mental Health Association during the MHA of Okaloosa and Walton Counties 52nd Annual Awards Reception.

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Vacation Bible Schools

First United Methodist Church

Get ready to set sail on a grand voyage. That's what's planned during the "High Seas Expedition" Vacation Bible School at Niceville United Methodist Church, June 21-25, 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Children age 4 through completed fifth grade are invited to come on board to explore the mighty love of God. Daily activities include arts and crafts, music, drama, recreation and snacks.

Registration can be completed online at nicevilleumc.org/children. Fees are \$10 per child through June 5 with a family maximum of \$30. After June 5, it is \$15 per child. Scholarships are

available. For more information stop by Niceville UMC at 214 S. Partin Drive, Niceville, call 678-4411, ext. 187, or visit the nicevilleumc.org.

St. Jude's Episcopal Church

St. Jude's Episcopal Church, 200 N. Partin Drive, Niceville, plans "God's Extreme Power" Vacation Bible School for youngsters aged 4 - 11 June 21-25, 5:15-8 p.m. Kids will make cool crafts, learn catchy tunes, play games, make new friends, and be empowered in the love of God. Each evening offers a new Bible story to explore through loads of fun activities. Cost is \$15 per child or \$35 per family and includes dinner each night.

For more information or to register for VBS, call Cassandra Crosby at 678-7013.

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Pre-registration is under way for Galactic Blast Vacation Bible School 2010 at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1407 E. John Sims Parkway, Niceville, June 21-25, 8:30-11:30 a.m. for children 3 years old through fifth grade completed. A donation of \$5 per child with a maximum of \$15 per family is requested at the time of registration. Pre-register during the week through the church office or on Sunday mornings in the Gathering Room. Registrations will also be accepted Monday, June 21. Info: 678-1298.

Engagement

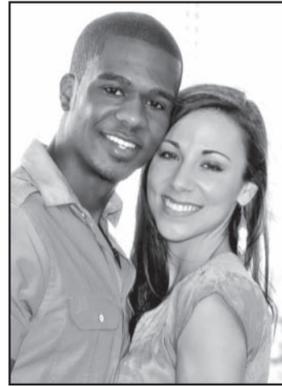
E-mail items to info@baybeacon.com.

Kuhn-Williams

Tina Ann Kuhn and Roy Williams, Jr. will be married on June 4, 2010, at Harry P. Leu Gardens in Orlando, Fla., with a reception to follow.

Tina is the daughter of Daniel P. Kuhn and Chyrell A. Kuhn, of Niceville and a 2003 graduate of Niceville High School.

Roy is the Son of Roy Williams Sr. and Sherri Williams of Crestview and a 2001 graduate of Niceville High School.



Roy Williams Jr. and Tina Ann Kuhn

The newlyweds will honeymoon on a Caribbean Cruise and make their home in Orlando.

Beta Sigma Phi meets over lunch

Members of Laureate Epsilon Sigma Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi met for a social luncheon at the Olive Garden in Fort Walton Beach.

Members and spouses who enjoyed the social were Eunice and Les Whitman, Marge and Robert Ballon, Helen and Jack Martin, Jo Ann and Rethel Jones, Jo and Joe Vest, Margaret and Roger Holley, Doris Olig, Nilah Estep, Linda Michalowski, Angela Budden, and Susan and John Vetter, new members to the chapter.

Members Marge Ballon and Mattie Williams recently attended Beta Sigma Phi's State Convention in Orlando.

Church Briefs

E-mail items to info@baybeacon.com.

Baritone to perform

Baritone Jeffrey Ryne Cherry will present a solo recital at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1407 E. John Sims Parkway, Niceville, Sunday, June 6, 6 p.m.

Cherry graduated May 8 from Stetson University in Deland and is a voice performance major under the study of Dr. Craig Maddox. He has performed major roles in *Die Zauberflote* and *L'italiana in Algiers* and was most recently seen in Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi* as the title role. He has extensive oratorio experience,

including performing the baritone solo in a seven-city national tour of Durufle's *Requiem* with the Stetson University Concert Choir.

He will pursue a masters of music while attending the University of Cincinnati in 2010. Cherry, a 2005 graduate of Niceville High School, is the son of Kandy Cherry of Niceville.

Christian pep rally

Christian Pep Rally, Inc., or CPR, founded by local resident Renee Crosby, focuses on reviving Christian spirit one community at a time.

Two Florida Training Christian Champions conferences are scheduled.

Niceville United Methodist Church will be the site of the first, June 5, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The

keynote speaker is Dr. John Ed Mathison, author of five books whose church was named as one of the most influential in America.

CPR has partnered with the co-founder and senior vice president of the Orlando Magic, Pat Williams, for a conference in Orlando Oct. 2.

The focus of the Training Christian Champions conferences is to unite, inspire and empower Christians in their walk with God. Limited space is available, so tickets should be purchased in advance at christianpeprally.org. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 day of the event at the site.

During the June event, the organizers will accept donations of toiletry items for homeless children in our area.

Winning green thumbs

Members of the Valparaiso Garden Club received honors from the Federation of Garden Club Inc. Florida Flower Show Judges' Council. Kay Parsons, left, club president, won the Esther Brosche Educational Exhibit Award, while Carole Martin won the Tricolor Award in floral design.



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2010

CALENDAR
 E-mail items to
 info@baybeacon.com
 before 5 p.m. Wednesday.

Refuge needs supplies

Several animal welfare agencies need items to help save birds that are endangered by the oil slick approaching the Panhandle. If the slick is diverted, any donated items will be sent to the area where it is expected to make landfall.

Needed are blue Dawn dishwashing liquid, baby blankets, heated blankets or pads; heat lamps and/or bulbs; backyard plastic kids' pools; gauze, bandages, syringes and feeding tubes and saline drips and lactated ringers solution (LRS). Expired medical supplies are fine.



Call Lisa Miller at 974-6584.

Kids on Campus signups

Registration for the Kids on Campus summer enrichment program at Northwest Florida College is in progress at all seven NWFSC locations. Kids on Campus offers youth entering grades three to eight a unique opportunity for fun learning in a college environment with classes in athletics, theater, art and academics. The program offers two sessions at the Niceville campus; June 21 to July 1 and July 12 to 22. Classes are held Monday through Thursday. Registration is on-going until the first session on a space available basis. The course list and registration forms are available at all area elementary and middle schools, NWFSC campuses and centers, and nwfsc.edu/schedule. Info: 729-6086.

Summer kids' breakfasts

Administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service, the Summer Food Service program was established to ensure that low-income children continue to receive nutritious meals when school is not in session.

Free meals that meet federal nutrition guidelines, are provided to all children at approved SFSP sites.

In the Twin Cities area, two schools are participating this summer:

—Edge Elementary School, 300 N. Highway 85, Niceville, June 14-July 30. Breakfast will be served from 7:00 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. Lunch will be served 11:30 a.m.-noon.

—Ruckel Middle School, 201N Partin Drive, Niceville, July 23. Breakfast will be served 7:15-7:30 a.m. Lunch will be served from 12:30-1 p.m.

Dramatics camp set

Northwest Florida State College will offer "Camp Glee," a creative dramatics summer workshop for youth seventh grade through college age, June 14-July 8, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Monday through Thursdays at the college's Niceville campus. Participants will explore choreography, acting, voice, makeup and staging and will star in a production of "100 Years of Broadway," a musical review, July 8 at the NWFSC Mattie Kelly Fine and Performing Arts Center. No prior experience in theater is required and eligible high school and college students may earn college credit.

Call Mary Lou Baker at 729-5832.

'Fallen Soldier' monument

The city of Niceville is accepting donations for the "Fallen Soldier" monument which will be in memory of fallen veterans and positioned outside the Community Center. The monument will be made by "The Large Art Co." The goal is \$4,400; \$2,903 has been raised so far. Send donations to Fallen Soldiers Fund,



Rotary sets golf tourney

The Mid-Bay Rotary Club will have its 12th annual golf tournament June 4 at the Bluewater Bay Golf Course in Niceville. To play, call Steve Gardner at 598-3195. The tournament allows the Mid-Bay Rotary Club to support charitable causes throughout the community and the world.

City of Niceville, 208 N. Partin Drive, Niceville, FL 32578. Call Ron Hall, 259-7794, for further information.

Library to teach French

The Valparaiso Community Library will offer French classes Wednesday and Friday afternoons, 2-4 during the summer for beginners of all ages. Reservations must be made before June 1. The library also offers the Rosetta Stone language program in Spanish. To reserve the Spanish language computer, call the library at 729-5406.

Fine arts exhibition

The Arts and Design Society of Fort Walton Beach, Inc., presents the 18th annual Southeast Regional Juried Fine Arts Exhibition in the McLroy Gallery through June 3. In addition to Best of Show, the juror chooses first, second and third place winners and several honorable mentions. The Holzhauser Gallery will feature 2009 Best in Show (Golden Brush Award) winner Ed Chandler of Fort Walton Beach. Chandler creates extraordinary images in color photography as he juxtaposes extreme close-up shots with vibrant compositions.

Food for Fisher House

A pancake breakfast to benefit Fisher House of the Emerald Coast is scheduled for Thursday, June 3, 6-

9 a.m., at the Magnolia Grill, 157 Brooks St., S.E., Fort Walton Beach. U.S. Rep. Jeff Miller will be a special guest at the event, which will be broadcast live on News Talk 1260/WFTW. The cost is \$5, which includes pancakes, sausage, juice and coffee. Info: 302-0266.

Hospice sets garage sales

Covenant Hospice will hold garage sales at 1419 29th St., Niceville, Fridays and Saturdays, June 4, 5, 18 and 19, 8 a.m.-noon. The sales will benefit its non-funded and under-funded programs in Okaloosa and Walton counties. These programs include bereavement services, children's services, chaplain services and indigent care. Items on sale include: furniture, books, jewelry, housewares and much more! Sorry, no clothes. Info: Lill Jennings, 729-1800.

Rotary golf tourney

The Mid-Bay Rotary Club will have its 12th annual golf tournament June 4 at the Bluewater Bay Golf Course in Niceville.

To play, call Steve Gardner at 598-3195.

The tournament allows the Mid-Bay Rotary Club to support charitable causes throughout the community and the

world.

Patriotic art exhibit slated

The Local Color Artists Group will present "Patriotic Impressions," a new fine art exhibit at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, beginning June 5, featuring colorful, original works of art in a variety of media, created by 10 local artists. All work is available for purchase; a portion of the proceeds will benefit the museum.

Bee keeping seminar

The next Creative Gardener Series program will be on Monday, June 7, 6-8 p.m. at the Valparaiso Library. The topic for this month's program is Bee Keeping for Plant Health. Bob Brackin, local apiary specialist, will talk on the essential role bees play in plant health and reproduction. Info: 729-5406.

Safe boating course

A 5-week public boating course will be conducted Mondays, beginning June 7, 7-8:30 p.m. at the Anchorage building, 404 Green Acres Road, Fort Walton Beach.

The course, conducted by experienced local boaters, covers safe boat handling, good seamanship, rules of the road, aids to navigation and piloting, tips about local waters, and more. It meets all the requirements for the Florida Safe

Boater ID Card, and may entitle boat owners to a discounts on boat insurance. Since its inception, more than 3 million persons have taken the safe boating course nationally.

Class instruction is free, but there is a \$45 charge for classroom materials.

The course is sponsored by the Fort Walton Sail and Power Squadron, a unit of the United States Power Squadrons. Registration may be made through the University of West Florida at their UWF Maritime Education Web site.

Info: Wil Hugli, 863-0874 or fwsp.com.

Auxiliary to bag groceries

The Auxiliary of Twin Cities Hospital will bag groceries at Winn Dixie in Bluewater Bay Saturday, June 5, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. All proceeds will benefit the Auxiliary's Health Related Scholarship Fund which has awarded \$20,200 in scholarships this year.

Club plans flower show

"The Magic of Flowers," a standard flower show, will be presented by the Valparaiso Garden Club Saturday, June 12, 9 a.m., at the George W. Mitchell Building, 459 Valparaiso Pkwy., Valparaiso. The show is free and open to the public.

Info: flower show chairman, Marie Harrison, 678-2842, or VGC president, Vivian Justice at 729-3160.

Sonrise Singers booked

The Sonrise Singers of Bethany Lutheran Church in Austin, Texas, will present their 2010 musical,

"Twitter Me," at all three services Sunday, June 13, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1407 E. John Sims Parkway, Niceville. The services are at 8, 9:10 and 10:30 a.m.

The group is made up of more than 30 high school students who will tour Florida.

"Twitter Me" is a musical about a

group of young people who start receiving the call from Christ to follow him through messages on their cell phones and computers. Each responds in a different way.

Tea Party meetings

The Niceville-Valparaiso Tea Party (a non-partisan, non-profit group of concerned citizens) meets at Niceville City Hall the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 6 p.m. Its next meeting is meeting on Monday, June 14, at Niceville City Hall.

GOP women set forum

Silver Sands Republican Women will present a candidate forum at the Niceville Bluewater Bay Golf Club Restaurant at 5:30 p.m., June 14. Don Amunds and Danny Bennett, candidates for County Commissioner for District 4, will present the forum. There will be an opportunity get personally acquainted with the candidates before dinner is served. The restaurant will offer a special menu ranging from \$10.00 - \$15.00. Guests are welcome. Call 678-2182 for reservations.

Summer reading program

The Niceville Public Library's Summer Reading Program begins with an open house Wednesday, June 16, in the Youth Services area of the Library. Drop in 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. to pick up a reading log and a schedule of all the library's summer events. Light refreshments will be served.

Age 3-kindergarten will meet Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. for stories, rhymes, music, poetry and a take home craft or activity.

Grades 1-3 will meet Wednesdays at noon for stories, music, crafts and activities.

Grades 4 and 5 will meet Wednesdays at 1:15 p.m. for books, book discussion, special guests, crafts and activities.



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Rocky drops spring game

A Vernon High School ball-carrier is toppled by a swarm of Rocky Bayou Christian School football players during Thursday's spring football game in Destin, right. At far right, Rocky Bayou running back Brock Sutton gains yardage under heavy pressure from Vernon High School. The Knights dropped the game, 75-0.

Photos by Scott Schaeffler



Beacon CLASSIFIEDS

<p>Help Wanted</p> <p>NEWSPAPER DELIVERY Earn extra cash of \$45 to \$140 or more each week in your spare time! The Bay Beacon seeks a reliable independent contractor to insert, bag, and deliver newspapers Tuesday night. You must be over 21 and have a reliable vehicle, a good driving record, a Florida driver's license, and proof of current liability insurance. No collecting duties. Earnings vary according to route and work load. Stop by the Bay Beacon for an information sheet and to fill out an application. The Beacon 1181 E. John Sims Parkway, Niceville • 678-1080 (Parkway East Shopping Center across from PoFolks)</p>	<p>Help Wanted</p> <p>Reporter Part-Time The Eglin Flyer and the Hurlburt Patriot base newspapers seek a freelance reporter to write human interest features and cover events on and off base. You must be available most days. We pay \$25 a story and \$5 a photo, when published. Writing experience is essential, as is access to a home computer and a digital camera. Base access essential. Some reporting and photo experience is helpful, but not required. Call Ken Books, 678-1080.</p>	<p>Help Wanted</p> <p>Veterinary Technician Part-time vet tech needed. Applications accepted 357 Valparaiso Pkwy., Valparaiso M&F Bank, Full-time tellers. Accepting applications, www.mfbank.com EOE/FDIC Hiring Guest Service Agent, apply in person, Holiday Inn Express, 106 Bayshore Drive, Niceville</p>	<p>Help Wanted</p> <p>Items for Sale 1985 HONDA PRELUDE, runs great, looks good. \$1500 obo. GOLF CART, great condition, priced for quick sale, \$1500. 642-0680, 678-1959.</p>	<p>Help Wanted</p> <p>Compass Rose RESTAURANT & BAR NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS EXPERIENCED Wait Staff Bartenders Apply In Person at 303 Glen Avenue, Valparaiso Thurs., June 3 ~ 5 p.m.</p>	<p>Help Wanted</p> <p>The more you tell, the more you sell! Call the Beacon at 678-1080 to place your ad today!</p>	<p>Loans</p> <p>RESOLVED BAD CREDIT? BANKRUPT? NEED A LOAN? WE OFFER LOANS UP TO \$500,000 WE HELP YOU RE-ESTABLISH YOUR CREDIT. WE ARE OPEN 24 HRS. 1-877-367-0130</p>	<p>Loans</p> <p>Bad Credit? No Credit? Bankruptcy? We have a loan that is right for you! Apply Today 1-866-360-8289</p>	<p>Loans</p>
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Beacon photos by Kenneth Books

Niceville beats Crestview

The Niceville Eagles charge across the goal line during Thursday's spring football varsity victory over Crestview, left. At right, Niceville wide receiver Hayden Meyer keeps an eye on Crestview defender Micah Keed as he tries to find a way to the goal line. The state runners-up picked up where they left off in 2009, winning handily, 21-8.



Beacon photos by Kenneth Books

NHS JV edged

Niceville High School junior varsity quarterback Andrew Mitchell looks for a receiver as Dean Maraman (79) and Hunter Brock (56) provide strong protection during Thursday's spring football game in Niceville with Crestview, left. At right Niceville JV defenders Chris Chapman (43) and Andrew Watson pressure a Crestview runner. Crestview won the exhibition game, 3-0.



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Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

Secretarial visit

Florida Secretary of Elder Affairs Secretary E. Douglas Beach visited the Senior Center in Valparaiso Thursday, where he chatted with seniors. He said his own interest in helping seniors was partly inspired by a story he heard from a friend, who told him about an elderly woman who constantly played her television, because, she said, "It's the only human voice I hear all day." Beach said programs like the senior center in Valparaiso are an important source of human contact and interaction for older people.

NHS senior earns Harris scholarship

The National Defense Industrial Association, Gulf Coast Chapter, in conjunction with NDIA's Targets, Ranges, and UAVs Division has announced this year's winners of the annual Hugh Harris Scholarship Award.

Each recipient received a \$1000 award. The scholarship was established in 1992 in honor of Hugh Harris, who was a research and development engineer at Eglin Air Force Base. He was recognized throughout the Department of Defense and industry for his advanced ideas and contributions in the development of

unmanned aerial target vehicle systems.

Mark Barrett, Niceville High School, graduated in the top 5 percent of a class of 510 students. His list of accomplishments includes being a member of the National Honor Society and a four-year member of the state runner-up football team. He volunteered in numerous community service events, including Relay for Life, and assisted with the Katrina disaster recovery in New Orleans. He will attend the University of Florida and pursue a major in civil engineering.



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