

The Bay Beacon

16 Pages, 2 Sections, 4 Inserts

Wednesday, July 14, 2010

50¢

COMING UP

Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.



"Grease" will be performed July 14-17 as the summer production of the Fine and Performing Arts Division at Northwest Florida State College in the mainstage theater at the college's **Mattie Kelly Arts Center** in Niceville at 7:30 p.m. each night. Tickets: \$20, adults; \$15, youth age 18 and younger.

Call 729-6000 or go online at mattiekellyarts-center.org.

Friday, 5 p.m.



Boy Scout Troop 52 is sponsoring a \$5 spaghetti dinner and a silent auction at the AMVETS Post 78 in Valparaiso. To bid, go to troop52.valp.net/auction.htm.

Saturday, 9 a.m.



The **Eglin Aero Modellers** will host their second fundraiser for the Jacksonville Wounded Warrior Project at the **Mullet Festival site** in Niceville featuring model aircraft of all kinds. There will be plenty of food, cold drinks and a huge raffle with thousands of dollars in prizes. Admission is free.

Saturday, 9 a.m.

Take your dog to **Parkway Veterinary Hospital**, 1101 E. John Sims Pkwy., for a nail trim 9 a.m. to noon. Proceeds benefit **American Cancer Society's Relay for Life**. Dogs should be on a non-retractable leash; cats in a carrier. Rabies certificate or invoice required; "tags" will not suffice. \$8 per pet; \$6 per additional pet. Located at 1101 E. John Sims Pkwy., 678-9733.

Calendar, B-6.

State charges more cities for inmate labor

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

The price of convict labor is rising.

The Florida Department of Corrections stopped providing free prison work gangs to the cities of Valparaiso and Niceville as of last week.

The department offered to resume providing an eight-inmate work crew, plus a guard,

to Valparaiso for \$58,000 a year.

Valparaiso Public Works Director James Valandingham said the inmate crews were a valuable city resource, mowing rights of way, cleaning city parks, and performing other manual labor. The crews nominally work eight- to 10-hour days, four days a week.

Valandingham told city commissioners Monday that the

Okaloosa Correctional Institute, the state prison near Crestview, had been providing the city a "floating" crew of eight prisoners, plus a guard about 20 to 30 hours a week.

Inmate crews work 10-hour days, four days a week.

Valandingham said the \$58,000 fee the state is now

Please see INMATE, page A-2



Beacon file photo

Inmate crew at work last year in Niceville. Guard wears yellow vest.

Window honors firefighters

Artists create pane for Niceville firehouse

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

Don't be alarmed if you see flames in the upstairs window of the Niceville firehouse.

The "fire" is art—a 4-foot-square, stained-glass window made by Bluewater Bay artist Judie Wren and her late husband, Chris. In the midst of the glowing red pane a firefighter holds a small child he rescued from the blaze.

The window was installed in the firehouse on North Partin Drive last month.

Niceville Fire Chief Tommy Mayville saw sam-



Beacon photos by Del Lessard
"Whenever there's a fire, they don't bat an eye, they come in to save you," says Bluewater Bay artist Judie Wren, who, with her late husband, Chris, created this stained-glass window installed in the Niceville fire station last month. Below, Judie Wren works on her latest project in her garage-studio in Bluewater Bay.



ples of the Wrens' artistic stained glass on display at a Niceville glass company a few years ago, while the fire station on Partin Drive was being designed. Mayville contacted the artists and described a memorial window he envisioned for the station. When the city couldn't afford the original estimate of \$8,000, the Wrens agreed to design and build the window for the cost of materials.

The project was to honor the firefighters, said Judie Wren. "Whenever there's a fire, they don't bat an eye, they come in to save you."

After Judie sketched a design from Mayville's description, Assistant Fire Chief Tony Lohrman donned his "bunker gear" and modeled, so the work would accurately reflect such details as the helmet's eagle crest, the gloves, and even an air-tank gauge.

The child in the window was also based on a real person. Wren said she was inside the Tropical Smoothie store in Niceville when a

Please see ARTISTS, page A-5

Tax collector moves to assume all duties for driver's licenses

By Thomas Monigan
Beacon Staff Writer

It's not about saving money, according to state and county officials. It's about convenience.

As the state shifts driver license duties to the tax collector's office in Okaloosa County, it's going to cost you more to get, renew, change or replace a license.

Florida law directs county tax collectors to add a service fee of \$6.25 to about a dozen "transactions," including the Class E license when obtained at a county office rather than a state outlet.

Class E is the "normal" operator's license, costing \$48 for six years, not counting the county fee.

Okaloosa County Tax Collector Chris Hughes says the state-mandated shift is an opportunity to establish "one-stop shops" for license and registration in the county.

This comes from House Bill 5501, a state law enacted earlier this year, which requires transfer of local driver license issuance services from the Florida

Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) to county tax collectors by June 30, 2015.

"This is a customer service issue," Hughes said. "People are coming to the tax collector's office anyway on their birthdays to renew license tags for the vehicles and vessels. So it only makes sense to me that you go to one office, stand in one line and write one check."

Newlyweds Robert and Carissa L'Orange visited the Niceville county tax office earlier this month so they could change the address on their respective licenses.

The couple lives in Choctaw Beach. Robert is part of the family business, L'Orange Automotive, Niceville.

"I'm glad we don't have to go to Fort Walton," he said. "It would take us an hour to get there and back, plus the time you spend waiting."

And the extra \$6.25?

"For the convenience, the time that it saves, it's worth it," Robert said.

House Bill 5501 represents a concept that has been slowly taking shape for years, said David Westberry, DHSMV spokesman.

"The legislation was designed to address the needs of customers throughout Florida," Westberry stated.

Please see LICENSES, page A-2



Chris Hughes



Beacon photo by Thomas Monigan

Robert L'Orange visited the Okaloosa County tax office in Niceville recently to change the address on his driver license. The tax collector plans to assume other driver-license services from the state as well.

Walmart light will change flow of traffic

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

A three-way traffic signal and a new median opening will be installed on Niceville's main thoroughfare—the four-lane segment of State Road 20—at an entrance to the Walmart store that is under construction.

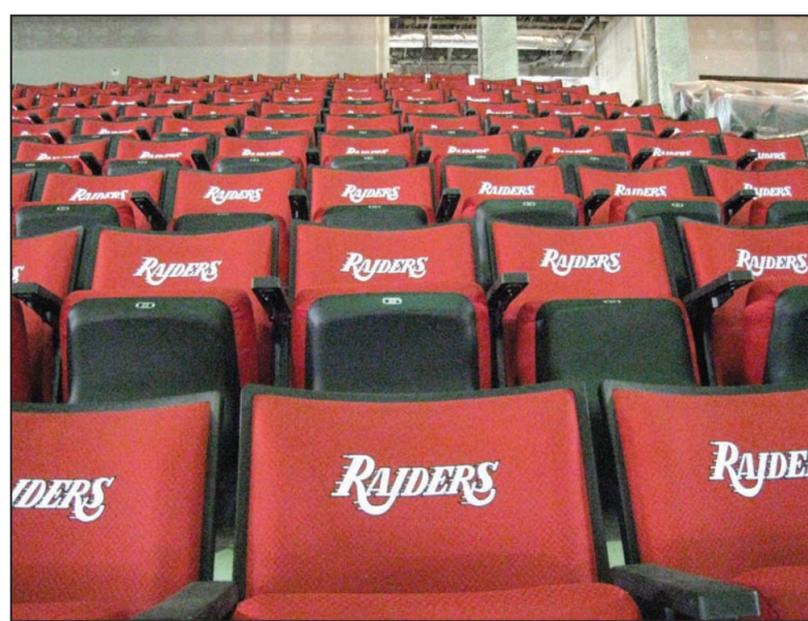
Three existing median openings, or "cuts," will be closed or modified before the Niceville Walmart store opens later this year, ending motorists' ability to

make left turns directly from two nearby side streets, according to the Florida Department of Transportation.

One Walmart entrance will be on the north side of SR 20, also called John Sims Parkway, about halfway between the Century 21 Wilson Minger Agency and Regions Bank branch. The highway carries about 37,500 vehicles a day.

The median separating east-

Please see WALMART, page A-5



Waiting for Raiders

The first basketball game in the nearly completed arena of Northwest Florida State College is scheduled Jan. 5, 2011, a conference game between the Raiders and Pensacola Junior College. The 2,365-seat arena, which will double as a public hurricane shelter, is part of a \$31 million Community Services Complex that also includes classrooms, offices, and a new home for Okaloosa County's Emergency Operations Center and 911 dispatch center. The project is scheduled for completion by October. The new area has twice the capacity of the old gymnasium where the Raiders basketball teams will open the season in November.

INMATE

From page A-1
charging was needed to pay the guard assigned to each crew. The

workers themselves are unpaid. City commissioners Neal Shermer and Diane Kelley said the state's demand amounts to "double-dipping," since tax dol-

lars already pay for their employment.

Valandingham said prison officials told him the fee was necessary because a statewide revenue shortfall is hurting the corrections department like other governmental bodies. Prison officials also told him that there were only three OCI crews available, and that if Valparaiso didn't buy one, other cities would. Fort Walton Beach recently agreed to pay for a crew, Valandingham said.

The city commission will discuss its next step during a budget meeting next week.

Other cities, including Niceville, already pay for convict labor.

Bruce Price, Niceville's public works director, has been paying to "guarantee" the city has at least one prisoner crew four days per week, for the past three or four years. He said Niceville occasionally received an additional crew for free, but that prison officials last week told him that practice would end.

Price said inmate labor has been used in Niceville to help build a boardwalk, to clean up the Niceville triangle, clear retention ponds and drainage areas, and perform other labor

on city land and rights of way. "I don't know what we'd do without them," he said.

Gretl Plessinger, spokeswoman for the Florida Department of Corrections told the Beacon that 71 guards associated with work squads were unfunded by the Legislature this year.

Until July 1, Okaloosa County had use of six "free" work crews from the state prison, and nine paid work crews. Three of the free work crews were cut because of the funding reduction, Plessinger said, while the nine paid work crews are untouched by the cut. While off-site work crews of eight to 10 each require assigning a guard, inside the prison guards can supervise several times that number of inmates, she said.

Inmates, who are required to work, are paid nothing for service to cities, Plessinger said. Inside a prison, inmates may work only two or three hours a day, she said. Only a handful of inmate laborers receive a token salary for work done inside the prison canteen or on work release programs, she said, with a nonprofit organization, Pride, paying them.

Burglars hit 6 docs

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

Six doctor's offices in a medical building in Niceville, were broken into over the weekend, police said.

Stolen from the offices at 1001 W. College Blvd. were money and non-narcotic prescription drugs, according to Lt. Randy Sallee, spokesman for the Niceville Police Department.

Entry was gained by breaking the glass in the office doors, he said. The burglaries were reported at about 6 a.m. Monday.

Damage caused by the break-ins was estimated at about \$2,000, Sallee said.

Facilities manager Andrew Tidwell said those who broke the doors gained access to the office courtyard by scaling a locked iron gate that measures between eight to 10 feet tall. Niceville Glass was called Monday morning and had everything fixed by noon, according to Tidwell.

Anyone with information about the burglaries is asked to contact the Niceville Police Department at 678-4030.

LICENSES

From page A-1

"While reducing the state's costs were a key component of this transition, it was also important to recognize the most efficient and effective way to meet the needs of our customers—regardless of who provided the services."

Closure of the two state-run offices in Okaloosa County are scheduled this way:

—The Fort Walton Beach office, Racetrack Road, will close by Sept. 30. Its operations will be absorbed by the county tax office in Uptown Station, Eglin Parkway. Most of the state staff will wind up in the new office, working for the county.

—The Crestview office, James Lee Boulevard, is scheduled to close by June 30, 2011.

During the period between the closure of the state Fort Walton Beach office and the closure of the state Crestview office, the Crestview office will be the only place new drivers can take a road test in Okaloosa County. After the Crestview office closes next year, tax offices in Niceville, Fort Walton Beach, and possibly Crestview will give road tests, Hughes said.

"Over the past few months in Fort Walton, we have averaged just over four behind-the-wheel road tests each day," stated Westberry. The Crestview average is "just more than two" a day, he said.

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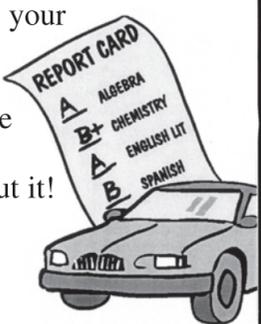
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July 2010

Results are mixed on holiday tourism

By Thomas Monigan
Beacon Staff Writer

Traffic on the Mid-Bay Bridge for the first five days of July was down about 11 percent from last year, according to Jim Vest, bridge authority chairman.

In light of publicity surrounding the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, "I don't think that was much of a surprise, but it might have been a little better than I expected after I talked to the hotel and condo people," Vest said.

Okaloosa's Tourist Development Board conducts regular surveys to gauge average occupancy rates for condos and hotels in Destin, on Okaloosa Island and in Fort Walton Beach.

Two years ago, gasoline that cost \$4 a gallon couldn't keep regional visitors from celebrating Independence Day on the Emerald Coast, even if they had to drive from St. Louis.

But what about this year? Oil from the Deepwater Horizon spill had been leaking for more than 70 days when the July 4th weekend arrived. June passenger traffic at Northwest Florida Regional Airport was off 10.5 percent from the year-earlier period.

Apparently, some beaches suffered more than others from the specter of a toxic tide that could mean death to tourism and the economy it supports. To be sure, Okaloosa and South Walton beaches have seen only scattered tar balls since the spill, and these were quickly cleaned up. For the most part, the area's emerald waters and white-sand beaches have lived up to their reputation.

Still, news about the seemingly endless spill has had its effect. In 2008, the July 4th weekend average was 72 percent, according to TDC boss Mark Bellinger. Last year's number was 63.7 percent, thanks to the national recession. For this year's Fourth, occupancy was 59.2 percent.

"Every single July 4th weekend we usually sell out," said Mike Chouri, general manager of the 600-room Hilton Sandestin. "This year, we were at 60 percent two days before the Fourth, but for the holiday we were sold out."

Chouri and others who depend on tourist-generated dollars are all too aware of how media coverage of the oil spill affects their respective situations.

"Perception of the beaches is a big factor," Chouri said. "What's helping us is a 24-hour webcam on our website, and we also make a 1-minute video report you can see there daily."

Bob Bonezzi of Destin-based Bonezzi Enterprises reported what others also said: Impact from the spill gets worse the farther west you are from Destin.

Bonezzi is the managing partner in three night clubs and seven restaurants, among them several Crab Trap locations.

"At Perdido Key we're off 50 percent and we're still off 25 to



Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

At the public access to Crystal Beach late Friday afternoon, July 2, people could be seen enjoying the sun, water, and a clear, oil-free beach.

30 percent in Fort Walton Beach," Bonezzi said, "but it's not that bad in Destin. ... It's not like dollars are not being traded around town, it's just fewer hands doing it."

At least one published report has indicated that sales at Innerlight Surf & Skate have been down considerably at the Gulf Breeze and Gulf Shores (Ala.) locations west of here.

But in Destin, store manager Blake Brown termed the July 4 weekend "pretty decent ... not quite as busy ... all circumstances considered."

Brown has been at the store about 10 years. "We had good surf and clear beaches all weekend," he

said. "So everything kind of lined up there."

Rain was also part of the holiday weekend here. And for retailers, moderate amounts of rain means more people focused on shopping.

On the south side of the Mid-Bay Bridge, Destin Commons received an extra boost from the release of the long-awaited "The Twilight Saga: Eclipse" at its movie theater.

"I don't want to say we were surprised by how the weekend turned out, because we didn't know what to expect," said Kristina Trujillo, director of marketing for Destin Commons. "We've never been faced with anything like this before."

Truck hits Bluewater woman, 72

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

A Bluewater Bay woman was hospitalized after being struck by a truck in a supermarket parking lot.

Deanna J. Banning, 72, was transported by helicopter ambulance to Sacred Heart Hospital July 6 after being hit in the parking lot of the Bluewater Bay Winn-Dixie, 4512 E. Highway 20, according to the Florida Highway Patrol.



Deanna Banning

Jonathan D. Ball, 35, of Niceville, was driving a 2006 Ford truck west in the lot when he attempted to make a left turn, according to the FHP. Banning walked in front of the truck, according to the FHP. She suffered a severe head injury.

The accident reportedly occurred during a rainstorm.

Alcohol was not a factor in the accident, according to the FHP.

As of Tuesday morning Banning was listed in critical condition at Sacred Heart, according to a hospital spokesman.



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Sewer board eyes 'low' darter numbers

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

The Niceville, Valparaiso, Okaloosa County Regional Sewer

Board is looking for someone to count fish.

The regional utility is working with the Florida Department of

Environmental Protection (DEP) to permit a \$6 million plant modification that will reduce the amount of nutrients in its treated effluent and allow the utility to shrink the amount of leased Eglin Air Force Base land it needs for dispersing the wastewater.

Eglin plans to begin charging full market value for the land, 290 acres, the utility has been using cost-free since the early 1980s. The proposed modification would reduce the land needs for dispersing effluent to 80 acres.

The DEP recently told the regional sewer board that the proposed modifications should reduce nitrates and phosphorus in water sprayed onto the fields and absorbed by the ground.

The state environmental agency told the regional utility that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is investigating whether the sprayfields are polluting East Turkey Creek and



The endangered Okaloosa darter lives in a stream near the sewage sprayfield serving the Twin Cities area.

causing low numbers of Okaloosa darters, a tiny fish listed by the FWS as "endangered." The stream—not to be confused with the Turkey Creek that flows into Boggy Bayou—is near the sprayfields north of College Boulevard off State Road 285 and eventually empties into Rocky Bayou.

An FWS report said the stream had low numbers of darters compared with other darter streams, although the reason wasn't clear.

Sewer board officials cast doubt on the FWS report, saying the agency mistakenly undercounted the fish.

In the past the DEP has fined the regional utility for exceeding the permitted amount of nitrates in groundwater monitored at the sprayfields. The sewer board is operating under a DEP consent order after exceeding the permitted nitrates in groundwater.

One result of the federal FWS concern over water quality in East Turkey Creek is that the

DEP is asking the regional utility to provide a model of the groundwater flow and nutrient content of groundwater at the sprayfield.

Last week the regional sewer board heard an estimate that the requested modeling could cost up to \$79,000. The sewer board asked its own engineering firm, Polyengineering, to get quotes and negotiate with contractors capable of perform the study.

The sewer board is also trying to hire its own expert to count Okaloosa darters in the affected creek. A former expert the board had used in counting darter populations is no longer available.

The regional utility remains optimistic that its proposed modifications—which will substantially reduce the amount of nitrates in treated effluent—will be permitted in time to modify the plant and effluent dispersal system by the fall of next year.

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While the summer sun can be a welcome sight after months of dreary winter, the potentially damaging UV rays can be harmful to both skin and hair alike. Summit II hair salon in Niceville provides products and services to help protect your hair.

Celebrating their 33rd anniversary, Summit II offers treatments to help protect hair from the harshness of the summer sun, ocean air and the salty seawater.

"Beachgoers need to protect their hair color investment," owner Ron Pettis said. "Redken's Chemistry System Hair Recovery Treatment acts as a comprehensive system of products that treat and transform every client's hair needs."

Redken's Color Extend Sun Products acts with an ultra-violet soplexyl, which gently removes minerals, chlorine and salt deposits while repairing hair with Redken's Interbound Conditioning System and Advanced Hydra-Shield complex.

"This is a treatment we sell here in the salon or we can do it for you," Ron said. "We perform it after a normal chemical serv-



Come meet the Summit in Hair II staff. Left to right: Julie, Christina, Tiffany, Debbie, and Ron.

ice but it can be done to anyone's hair at any time to keep your color from changing on you."

Another service to enhance the summer look in your hair is the Pravana "Beach Wave." The Beach Wave represents a

new era in textural movement. It provides soft, resilient and natural waves reminiscent of how beautiful long hair looks after stepping from the water to the beach. The Beach Wave is a low-ammonia, thio-free and damage-free formula that gently reshapes hair into soft and natural undulating waves. It is a color-safe treatment, which includes Pravana's exclusive Keratin Restructuring Serum, infusing hair with a mega dose of human hair Keratin amino acids, and providing deep conditioning and beautiful shine.

The staff at Summit II are always looking for new looks for their clientele in Niceville. Ron and his staff took in the annual Premiere Hair Show 2010 in Orlando. There Ron and his staff learned new techniques, styles and picked up a new Redken color to keep his clients looking fresh and stylish.

"We're going to collect information mainly about new ideas and new trends," Ron said. "All the new styles for the new season."

Along with providing excellent protection for hair, Summit II also prides itself on having close relationships with its



We are proud to introduce Susan Stoner to our team!

clients, or "guests" as they call them. "We feel that this brings our guests into our family," Ron said. "We get to know them better and have a more intimate relationship."

Summit II In Hair sits just east of the intersection of Hwy. 85 and John Sims Pkwy., 101 E. John Sims Pkwy. Walk-ins are accepted on a space available basis. Summit II is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. For information or an appointment, call 678-1977.

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ARTISTS

From page A-1

mother entered the store carrying a 4- or 5-year-old child in the same manner she envisioned for the window. After explaining her purpose, the artist took photos of the girl in her mother's arms. She used the pictures to position the child, whose name she could not recall, in the arms of the firefighter modeled by Lohrman.

"I learned everything I know

by doing," said Judie about her glass work, which she began about 25 years ago. "I drew and painted all my life," she said. She has created at least a thousand stained glass windows, one of which is four stories high (39 feet tall) and 36 inches wide for a Destin-area home. Her decorative windows are based on her own, original designs.

During the three months it took to complete the stained glass window Wren said she would often see a Niceville fire engine drive by her home at lunch time, and she would



Holding his arms as if cradling a child, Niceville Assistant Fire Chief Tony Lohrman modeled for artists Jude and Chris Wren in this photo.

invite firefighters in to see the work in progress in her garage studio.

Judie said her late husband did half the work. He died in November 2008.

"Chris and I did it all together," said Judie. She did the sketch, layout, color selection and glass cutting while Chris ground the edges on each piece of glass and then soldered them into the frame. There are over 400 pieces of glass in the Niceville window, which is 48-by-48 inches square. "Chris never got to see it installed,"

she said "that's the one thing that broke my heart."

The work was completed two years ago, but until early June it was stored, waiting until it was safe to install it in the wall of the still-incomplete second floor of the fire station. The window is protected by hurricane-resistant glass.

Judie said she was thrilled that the window is displayed atop the front of the firehouse. "I wanted them to see it every time they came back to the station," to remind them of "who you are and what you do."

WALMART

From page A-1

bound and westbound traffic on SR 20 will be opened in front of the new store entrance to accommodate traffic governed by the planned three-way traffic signal, according to Tommie Speights, District 3 FDOT spokesman. Before the store opens, the stoplight will be

placed between Wise and Pine avenues, which intersect SR 20 from the south.

The existing median cut at Wise Avenue will be closed, Speights said. As a result, motorists exiting Wise Avenue will be restricted to right turns (eastbound) only. But they will be able to make a U-turn at the new Walmart traffic signal, about 250 feet east of Wise, he said.

A new regular median cut will be opened about 170 feet west of Wise Avenue, at the west entrance to Po Folks, Speights said.

The work will also affect the Pine Avenue intersection with SR 20. "The existing full median opening at Pine will be modified and become a westbound directional median opening with left-turn lane," Speights said. Motorists exiting Pine Avenue

will be restricted to right (east-bound) turns only, he said, but will be able to make a U-turn at the existing Redwood Avenue traffic signal.

Speights said the planned three-way stoplight for Walmart could easily be upgraded to a four-way signal when commercial property on the south side of John Sims Parkway is developed. Ruckel Properties owns the undeveloped commercial

property fronting John Sims between Pine and Wise avenues, opposite the Walmart entrance.

The developer is seeking tenants for two 1.8-acre parcels on the property, which is just north of Plew Elementary School. Developer's preliminary plans show an entrance would be built to intersect John Sims Parkway at the Walmart signal. The entrance would connect to a future east-west service road

Ruckel Properties would build connecting Wise and Pine at the rear of the property.

A second entrance to the new Walmart store is planned at the Redwood/Revell Drive stoplight.

"All roadway improvements will be fully functional when Walmart opens," Speights said. "The developer and permittee will bear all costs associated with these improvements."



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Advertising Feature

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The Inquiring Photographer —Mike Griffith

Should Florida have an immigration law like Arizona's, requiring police to verify the immigration status of people they encounter in the course of their duties, if the police reasonably suspect such people of being in the U.S. illegally?

Location:
Niceville
Public
Library



"Yes, we should. Absolutely. If you come to this country legally, you're good to go."

Marlene Holley, 48, Crestview, Jackson Guard



"Yes. We ought to protect our borders and do the legislation. We can't have people flowing in like a river. What do we have now? Ten, twelve million? How many can we sustain?"

Gus Galoosis, 77, Niceville, retired



"It sounds good to me."

Sam Hayes, 60, Niceville, retired Air Force



"I don't think we need another law. Police should just do it as a regular part of their duties."

Lillian Lewis, 64, Niceville, retired



"We should have the law, but I recognize that illegal immigrants do many jobs that Americans won't do."

Chrystal Moore, 34, Niceville, guest services representative



"Yes, if the police have already stopped or arrested the person for a good reason, but not just to stop people based on racial profiling."

Lee Fryer, 76, Bluewater Bay, retired

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BLOTTER

From page A-7

Oakmont Drive at Bluewater Boulevard, June 27 at 5:57 p.m.

Jonathan Temple Clark, a cook, 21, of 1923 Oak Ave., Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police for DUI on Bayshore Drive at Armstrong Avenue, July 3 at 1:11 a.m. Clark was subsequently arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia, a glass smoking pipe, and was cited for speeding.

Jeffery James Coville, a plumber, 52, of 752 St. John Cove, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies on a charge of DUI at an address in the 700 block of Caribbean Way, Niceville, July 3 at 6:32 p.m. Coville was also arrested on the charges of resisting an officer without violence and for driving on a driver's license expired more than four months.

Thefts

A Niceville resident from the 200 block of Marquette Street reported that unknown person(s) had stolen his son's \$500 dirt bike from the side of the garage door June 22. On June 27 the stolen motorcycle was located and recovered from a wooded area at the end of

Muskegan Avenue, Valparaiso. The motorcycle had been repainted and the seat recovered with a different cloth material.

A Valparaiso resident reported that unknown person(s) stole his new, \$192 skateboard from his unlocked vehicle while it was parked at a friend's home in the 200 block of Yacht Club Drive, Niceville, June 18.

A Niceville resident from the 4200 block of Cougar Circle reported that sometime June 1-17 two rings, valued at more than \$6,000, were stolen from the residence.

A salvage company reported June 17 that several items were stolen from 1050 Bay Drive, Niceville, sometime from May 19. The stolen items were valued at about \$1,600.

On June 30 unknown person(s) stole an unsecured 10-speed mountain bicycle from the front of the Niceville city library, 206 N. Partin Drive. The bicycle was valued at \$100.

A Valparaiso resident reported that unknown person(s) gained access to her

online bank account and made four unauthorized transactions June 18-23. The victim's bank credited the account for two of the transactions, leaving the victim with two other unauthorized transactions totaling \$200 as of June 30. Police were attempting to contact a person in Oviedo, Fla., who received \$180 from one of the transactions.

A woman reported that sometime June 21-22 someone stole \$100 worth of medications from her minivan at an unknown address of 25th Street, Niceville.

A Niceville resident from the 4200 block of Ward Cove reported that sometime June 13-14 unknown person(s) stole a \$500 GPS receiver that was mounted in a boat parked at a dock behind the house.

A Niceville woman reported that unknown person(s) stole her purse while she was dancing at a Destin nightclub, 76 Harbor Blvd., June 17. The victim later found her purse in the women's bathroom but her cell phone, digital camera, \$40 cash, ID and lipstick were missing. A male answered the phone when the victim called her cell phone and he allegedly asked for a reward for its return. The stolen items were valued at \$300.

A Niceville resident from the 700 block of Sunningdale Cove reported that unknown person(s) burglarized his unlocked vehicle while it was parked overnight in the driveway, June 17-18. Reported stolen was a GPS unit, a DVD, a DVD player, a video game system and a cell phone charger, valued together at nearly \$525.

A Niceville resident from the 3000 block of Blue Pine Lane reported that sometime

June 18-21 unknown person(s) stole a \$500 laptop computer from a kitchen table. The victim said the house may have been left unlocked Saturday, June 19.

Other

Pablo Edil Ruiz, 25, of 121 Poplar Place, Niceville, was issued a notice to appear by Niceville police, subsequent to a traffic stop for faulty equipment, June 24, on a charge of possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana.

A 17-year-old Niceville boy was issued a notice to appear by Niceville police June 23 for retail theft. The boy was observed placing a pack of wood-tip cigars in his rear pocket and walking out without paying at Kmart, 1140 E. John Sims Parkway. After being apprehended the boy allegedly made a spontaneous statement, "I'm not the best thief," and later stated he'd attempted to shoplift approximately 10 other times, and had left with store merchandise about eight of the 10 times.

Rebecca K. Szymanski, a student, 18, of 528 Wildflower Court, Niceville, and Hannah P. Simerly, a restaurant employee, 18, of 4703 Knollwood Road, Niceville, were each issued a notice to appear by sheriff's deputies in Destin, June 21, both charged with underage possession of alcohol.

A 15-year-old Niceville boy was issued a notice to appear by Niceville police June 28 on the charges of underage possession of tobacco product and possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana. Police spotted the boy smoking a cigar and subsequently discovered a baggie of marijuana in his pocket and two more cigars.

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Niceville's Newspaper

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(*Includes \$10 user fee that goes to City of Niceville.)
(**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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|--------------------------------|----------------------|
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*Contingent registration for Sep 2-Dec 31, 05. Call for details.
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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 13-year-old Niceville boy, a student, was arrested by sheriff's deputies June 28 on a misdemeanor charge of indecent exposure for an incident that allegedly occurred May 25 at Lewis Middle School.

Cheryl Diana Agerton, 36, of 73 Jackson Ave., Valparaiso, was arrested by sheriff's deputies June 29 on a misdemeanor probation violation charge.

Kevin Charles Woodcock, 30, of 329 Washington Ave., Valparaiso, was arrested by sheriff's deputies June 29 on charges of grand theft, making false statements to obtain credit, and criminal use of personal information of another person without consent.

On July 31, 2009, Woodcock allegedly used his father's personal information to get credit at a Fort Walton Beach jewelry store, then made six purchases between July 31, and Nov. 28, 2009. The victim became aware of the fraudulent transactions when a financial company contacted him about a \$4,510 past due account in his name.

Albert Winston Wright, 47, of 500 Kelly Mill Road, Apt. 130, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies June 29 on charges of burglary to an unoccupied dwelling and petit theft. A Niceville police officer who was helping sheriff's deputies to search for Wright in order to serve an active warrant saw Wright leaving a home in the 1900 block of Oak Street while carrying three DVDs worth \$66 that were taken from the home. The victim stated that Wright had no permission to be in the home nor to take the DVDs. Wright was subsequently arrested for trespassing.

James Richard Ray, 53, of 401 27th St., Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police

June 30 on a warrant for charges of possession of Schedule II controlled substance, oxycodone, and possession of Schedule IV controlled substance, alprazolam. On May 2 Ray was arrested on an unrelated charge and was searched before being admitted to the Okaloosa County Jail. Officers at the jail subsequently found 28 oxycodone pills and eight alprazolam pills concealed in a plastic bag in Ray's sock. Ray allegedly told officers he had a prescription for the drugs, but was unable to produce it.

James Harold Kittrell Jr., 58, of 207 Deer St., Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police on a charge of domestic violence battery that allegedly occurred May 25.

David Dwayne Rafferty Sr., unemployed, 49, of 125 Beal Parkway, #1, Fort Walton Beach, was arrested by Niceville police July 2 on a petit theft charge. On March 26, while employed by Kmart, 1140 E. John Sims Parkway, Rafferty allegedly admitted he stole items valued at \$45 over a period of months.

Scott Eason Bacheller, unemployed, 53, with an at-large address, was arrested by Niceville police July 5 on a disorderly conduct charge.

Zackery Chase Brunson, 18, of 18 Oak Lane, Shalimar, was arrested by Niceville police, subsequent to a traffic stop, July 2, on charges of possession of alprazolam with intent to sell, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

After stopping Brunson's vehicle because he was allegedly not wearing a seat belt and had changed lanes improperly, police initiated a consensual search of Brunson's person after noticing a hypodermic needle in his pocket. Police found 30 Xanax alprazolam pills and a Mylan 2 mg alprazolam (Zan Bar) in a plastic bag under his shirt.

Okaloosa seeks fugitives

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

Name: Nicholas Adam Coleman
Wanted for: violation of probation on the original charge of arson. Coleman's last known address was in Niceville.
Height: 5-feet, 10-inches
Weight: 150 pounds
Age: 25
Date of birth: 10-27-84
Hair: blond
Eyes: blue



Name: Derek Eugene Gunn
Wanted for: marijuana production and tampering with evidence. Gunn's last known address was in Fort Walton Beach.
Height: 5-feet, 9-inches
Weight: 160 pounds
Age: 41
Date of birth: 03-11-69
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)

Cynthia Proctor Bedell, 62, of 105 Safe Harbor Cove, Valparaiso, was arrested by Valparaiso police July 5 on a domestic violence battery charge.

Kevin Scott Bible, 24, of 1012 Everglade Drive, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies July 1 on a charge of failure to appear on the original misdemeanor charge of mispossession of marijuana.

William Blake Dupriest, 25, of 98 Live Oak St., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies July 2 on charges of burglary to a conveyance, possession of burglary tools and possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana. Dupriest was allegedly observed trying to force open a window to break into an unoccupied SUV parked at a beach access on the west side of the Destin Bridge. The intended victims followed Dupriest when he fled in another vehicle and called police.

Ignacio Carmona Garcia, 24, of 1546 Meadowbrook Court, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies July 2 on charges of possession of a forged

driver's license and a fake ID card. Garcia allegedly tried to open a bank account and cash a check at a Bluewater Bay branch bank, 4500 E. Highway 20, and provided the teller a fake "Mexican ID card" and a "Mexican passport" when asked for proof of identification.

David W. Trimm, a golf pro/manager, 59, of 1217 Chantilly Circle, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies July 4 on a domestic violence battery charge.

DUI arrests

William Nathaniel Martin, 53, of 826 Turnbury Cove S., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies for DUI at

Please see BLOTTER, page A-6

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Candidates put forth positions

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

Candidates for the Okaloosa School Board fielded questions at a recent forum sponsored by the Silver Sands Republican Women of Okaloosa County at the Bluewater Bay golf clubhouse restaurant. Incumbent school board members Rodney Walker and Howard Hill spoke, as did Paul Wendel Brock, Walker's challenger in the Aug. 24 primary election. School board member Cindy Frakes is unchallenged and did not attend.

Melissa Thrush, challenging for Howard Hill's current seat, was not invited. According to Silver Sands member Libby Hill, who is also the wife of Howard Hill, the club would have liked to invite Thrush, a registered Democrat. But Republican Party organizations cannot invite non-Republican speakers without losing financial support from the party, despite the fact that school board races are non-partisan elections.



Melissa Thrush

Following the meeting, the Beacon called Thrush and asked questions identical to those asked during the meeting. Each candidate made a brief opening statement. Walker said he has served on the school board for five years, is the current board chairman, and has been in the school district for more than 32 years. "This is a difficult time for the school district and the world," he said. "We are faced with an economic depression as well as an oil spill." As a result, he said, the school district is suffering financially, as are many local families. Brock cited his experience as a retired teacher and athletic coach: "I'm interested in kids, and in helping them build character. I still serve as a Scout leader," as well as in other youth-oriented activities. He said schools should support families and churches to help kids learn to cope with "the effects of our changing cul-

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ture."

Please see HOPEFULS, page B-5

Niceville teen top Eglin youth

Megan Mickley practices ballet on the barre. Megan, a Niceville High School sophomore, was named Eglin Youth of the Year in June.

Beacon photo by Kenneth Books



By Kenneth Books
Beacon Staff Writer

A Niceville teenager was among 53 youngsters recognized at the 2010 Air Force Youth of the Year Award ceremony June 24 in the Pentagon auditorium.

Megan Mickley, 15, a sophomore at Niceville High School whose father, Kevin, is in the Air Force, was honored for her volunteer work teaching dance at the Eglin Youth Center to children aged 3 to 12.

"I dance and teach little kids technique," Megan said. She has been dancing for five years, she said, and teaching it for four.

Lt. Gen. Richard Y. Newton III, the deputy chief of staff for manpower and personnel, hosted the Pentagon event and presented

a plaque to Megan.

This and future youth of the year ceremonies offer a chance to "recognize the talent and potential of our youth," Newton said.

Kevin Mickley, who has been in the Air Force for six years, is leaving the service. He and his wife, Lindsey, have fallen in love with the Emerald Coast.

Megan is no different.

"I love it here," she said. "I love the beach and the small town kinds of things."

Dance has become a major part of Megan's life.

"I want to go to Northwest Florida State College for two years, then transfer to Florida State University and get a BA in dance and theater arts," she said.

Please see YOUTH, page B-2

Who's News

E-mail items to info@baybeacon.com.

Michaela Suzanne Buglewicz, a senior from Niceville studying language arts education in the school of Education and Human Sciences, made the Dean's List/Honor Roll for the spring semester at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Jason W. Davis, Freeport High School Class of 1999 also received a degree from Florida State University with a Bachelor of Science has now been conferred the degree of Juris Doctor by the Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law, Barry University.



Jason W. Davis

Jason received his graduate degree at the commencement ceremony May 15 in Orlando. Jason is the son of Retired Chief Master Sgt. Wayland and Song Davis of Choctaw Beach.

Among the students from Florida Institute of Technology who were named to the Dean's List for the spring semester, which ended in May, are **Robert Russell**, Niceville, biological science, marine biology major; **Jillian Knight**, Niceville, humanities major; and **Barry Dylewski**, Valparaiso, electrical engineering major. To be included on the Dean's List, a student must complete 12 or more graded credits in a semester with a semester grade point average of at least 3.4.

Retirees donate to charity

Eglin Federal Civilian Retiree Association makes a \$120 charitable donation to the Niceville Sharing and Caring with money earned through its annual fundraiser. From left: Nancy Kirkwood, Debbie Keen, Leah Barnett and Dan Peterson. For help with Federal Civilian Retiree issues or information and benefits of becoming a EFCRA member call 882-2720 Tuesday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.



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MATTRESS WAREHOUSE

Aero Club sets fundraiser

By Thomas Monigan
Beacon Staff Writer

After a successful debut last year, the Eglin Aero Modellers are coming back with a July 17 event designed to provide remote-control flying fun for all ages while raising money for the Wounded Warrior Project.

In 2009 this event drew at least 3,000 people to the Mullet Festival site in Niceville, and the Aero Modellers were able to donate \$5,020 to the Wounded Warrior Project.

"We're in a very, very strong military-oriented community and there is already a great awareness of the wounded people coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan," said Jeff Clack, event coordinator.

"The project's motto is 'The biggest casualty is being forgotten,' and we want to remind people: Don't forget these guys



File photo
Members of the Eglin Aero Modellers prepare a model plane for takeoff at last year's fundraiser for the Wounded Warrior Project.

and what they've gone through. Their wounds are not always visible from the outside." Saturday's event is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be remote-control demonstrations throughout the day involving airplanes, sailplanes, helicopters and a turbine jet. There will be a flight simulator where visitors can test their remote-control skills, as well as a glider contest for youngsters.

Delta Airlines pilot Steve Rojecki will conduct a "candy drop" for youngsters by way of his remote control Telemaster, which features a 12-foot wingspan.

Scheduled for noon is a fly-over show by several full-size T-6 Texan aircraft.

There will be plenty of food, cold drinks and a raffle featuring thousands of dollars in prizes, Clack added.

The Eglin Aero Modellers are a private club not affiliated with the military, according to club treasurer Joe Shearer. The club has been around since the early 1970s, Shearer said, and has about 140 members.



Beacon photo by Kenneth Books
Megan Mickley and her father, Kevin, relax at the Eglin Youth Center.

YOUTH

From page B-1

The award she received from the Air Force "means a lot," Megan said. "I worked so hard for so very long. I wasn't expecting any awards. But it's really exciting."

She was nominated by the Youth Center staff for the Youth of the Year honor, which recognizes young people for contributions to their families, youth

programs, schools and communities, said Anne-Marie Wallace, the Air Force chief of child and youth programs.

"She does a lot of work and I know she loves dance," Kevin said of his daughter. The dance is becoming a family affair as well, as Megan is teaching her little sister, Jaiden, 7, techniques in ballet, tap, jazz, hip-hop and other styles. "She's great," Megan said of her sister's ability.

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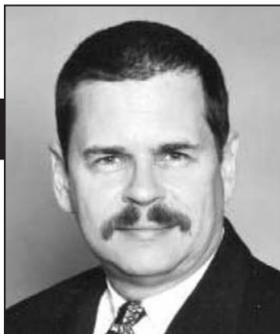
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Beacon photo by Sarah Clauson

Rocky Bayou Baptist wins title

A Rocky Bayou Baptist player slides into third against First Baptist as Rocky Bayou won the Niceville Church League slow-pitch softball title, 9-6, Thursday.



Nationals take District 1 title

The Niceville National 8-9 year old All Stars went undefeated to capture the Florida District 1 championship June 21, defeating Destin, 13-3, Tri County, 8-3 and Niceville American, 13-0. From left: front, Tristan Keith, James Dottaviano, Derek Vogel, Jack Dodson, Blake Robinson and Ryan Thomas; center, Trey Harris, Connor Walsh, Harrison Dorsett, Kyle Castleberry, Coley Embry and Owen Williams; rear, coach Kriengsak Vogel, coach Paul Keith and manager Brian Walsh.

Swordfighters place in tourney

Several members of Okaloosa County's North Bay Society of the Sword competed in the Capitol City Rose Foil and Epee Swordfighting Tournament in Tallahassee on June 26, under the auspices of

the United States Fencing Association.

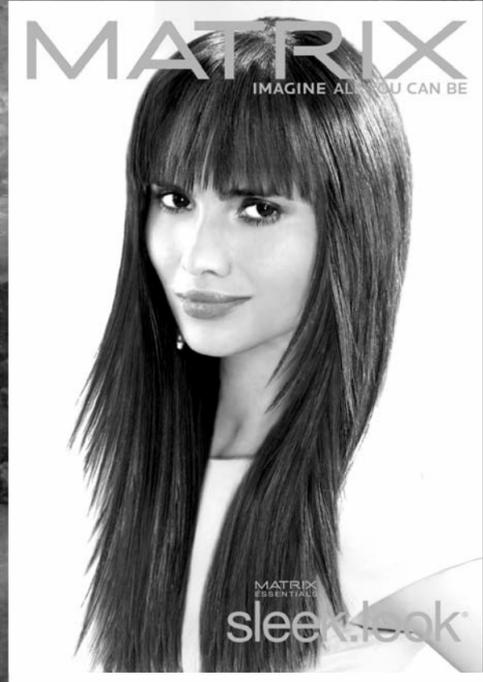
In the Unrated Epee competition, Kara Green and Tom Kaltenbach finished in a tie for third place, with Robert Drake finishing in sixth.

Green then finished fifth in the Rated Epee event. In the Unrated Foil, Green finished in third place with Geoffrey Drake in fifth. Drake also finished in second place in the pool round.



8-year-old Little League champs

The Niceville Little League 8-year-old champions are, from left: front, Jake Runyon, Campbell Taylor, Ethan Parker, Joey Cary and Corey Church; center, Clayton Hoskins, Bryce Ingram, Tristan Martin, Mason Swanick, Jonah Hoover, Parker Porter and Blake Skinner; rear, coach Ron Taylor, manager Ben Porter, coach Ryan Ingram and coach Dave Swanick.



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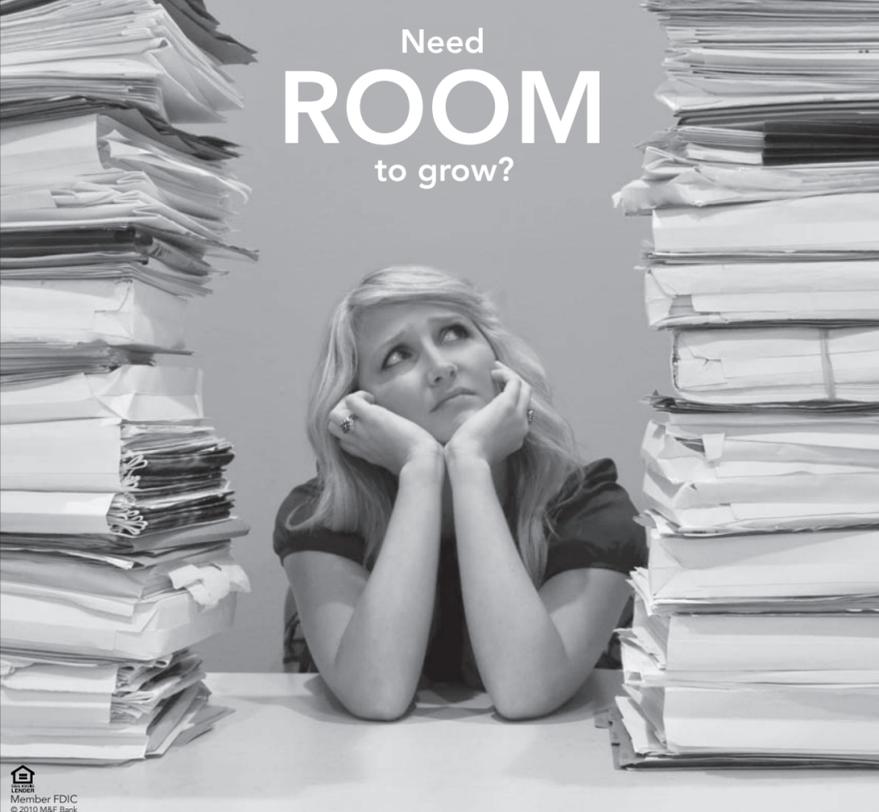
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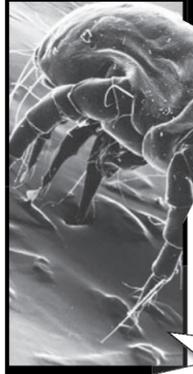
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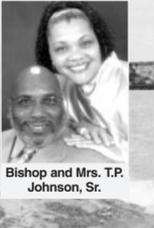
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HOPEFULS

From page B-1

ture." He said that about 30 percent of children today are born illegitimate, and that, "Schools should support families and churches rather than the other way around."

Hill said he has been on the school board since 1996. He said the school district should set high standards and help students to reach them. "We must prepare students for the 21st century," he said, adding that Defense Department officials recently expressed concern whether American students are keeping up with other nations in science, technology, engineering and math.

Thrush told the Beacon, "My experience as a product of the local school system, an engineer and a parent of four children will offer fresh insight to the school board. We cannot allow tough economic times to compromise the quality of our schools. Outstanding public schools attract families and businesses to our community."

Some of the questions and answers meeting were:

1: What do you think about the proposed half-cent sales tax for the Okaloosa School District, which will appear on the November general election ballot?

"I support it," said Walker. The state of Florida, he said, is requiring more "local effort," meaning more local taxation, to help fund education, and will reduce state funding to school districts that do not comply. Contrary to what many people think, said Walker, only 1 percent of Okaloosa school funding comes from the state lottery, which he called "one of the worst things ever" for education, because the state used lottery money to allow other state funds to be diverted away from education.

Most Okaloosa schools are more than 40 years old, Walker said, and need repair or renovation, and the proposed sales tax revenue will be used exclusively for those purposes.

Brock also favors the proposed sales tax. "I'm a taxpayer too," he said, and like most taxpayers, "I'm mad at federal taxation," but voters should not allow their anger at federal or state taxing and spending to keep them from supporting local schools, which need capital improvements. Schools are an important factor in local eco-

Candidates Rodney Walker, left, and Paul Wendel Brock answered questions from those in attendance.

Beacon photo by Mike Griffith



nomie growth, he said, because, "Businesses always look at local schools before deciding whether to locate here." He said schools must have modern equipment to train students for an age in which today's technical knowledge becomes obsolete. "We must train our kids," he said, "or export their jobs to countries like India."

Hill said, "I argued against it" when the tax was first proposed, "because 'tax' is a four-letter word to most people today." People have lost jobs and income in the current economy, he said, while taxation is growing at all levels from federal taxes to Mid-Bay Bridge tolls. He said he would have preferred a 5-year, rather than the proposed 10-year duration of the sales tax. Nevertheless, Hill said, the tax proposal is on the ballot, so the decision will be up to voters, not school board members.

Thrush said, "I believe the voters will determine in August how they are going to pay for the school district's capital expense needs. Eighty-four percent of the district's schools are over 30 years old. There are HVAC repairs, restroom upgrades, roof repairs and parking lot issues. The district's and state's revenue comes solely from property and sales taxes. As these two income sources

continue to decline, education budgets will also see a reduction. We can pay for these emergency repairs now with the half cent sales tax, or continue to deplete dollars from the general fund until a millage rate increase on our property tax is the only option."

2: What do you think about paying high school football coaches more than teachers or principals?

Hill said that high school head football coaches are also athletic directors and football programs save money for the district, because football and many other school activities that surround it help motivate students to perform better and stay in school to participate. "We need a strong athletic program here, including in middle schools," he said.

Brock said, "Athletics are another way to teach kids," especially about "things a teacher can't teach in a classroom." He said that as a coach, he has worked with fatherless kids, teaching them such values as teamwork, honesty, and sportsmanship. He said student athletes tend to have higher GPAs than if they did not participate, and that football generates income. Successful local athletes such as Danny Wuerffel, he said, have brought credit to the community, and

athletic scholarships have brought millions of dollars to college-bound students. However, Brock said, he does not favor treating middle schools as "mini high schools," and said athletics at middle schools should be more low-key, with less pressure on students.

Walker said he said that he and Hill have considered requiring coaches to teach additional classes to save costs, and that further cuts may be necessary in the future. Athletics, he said, contribute to education much as courses in music and art.

Thrush said, "I think we need to have a common sense approach to athletics as a part of education. As a physically active person, I support athletics and its important role in encouraging healthy lifestyles and team participation. However, I recognize the primary role of our educational system is to provide students with the tools necessary to ensure they have a solid fundamental skill set."

A video of the complete meeting, to include all the questions and answers, may be viewed online at www.cvctv.info. Further information about Melissa Thrush is available on her web site, at melissathrush.com.

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Chamber singers seek new members

By Thomas Monigan
Beacon Staff Writer

Christmas might seem like a long way off, but not for the Okaloosa Chamber Singers.

Yes, holiday performances might not be scheduled until the beginning of December, but rehearsals begin Aug. 17. And that means director Dr. Marilyn Overturf has issued a call for new members, and is offering auditions in her Crestview home.

"We generally have from 22 to 24 singers," said Overturf. "We're always looking for someone new, who enjoys it as much as we do."

To audition, call 682-9651, or 543-5673. Rehearsals will be at 7 p.m. Tuesdays at Grace Presbyterian Church, Niceville.

The Okaloosa Chamber Singers will celebrate their 13th season with concerts Dec. 3 at First United Methodist Church in Fort Walton Beach and Dec. 5 at First United Methodist Church in Defuniak Springs.

Three a cappella pieces will begin the program, and the first half will conclude with the centerpiece, Vivaldi's "Gloria."

Christmas carols with audience participation will begin the second half of the program.

"It's great fun," Overturf said. "We love classical music . . . it's a treasure for all of us, and we hope to have people come out and enjoy it along with us."

For more information, visit okaloosachambersingers.org.

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Wyland traveling exhibit

Niceville Public Library will display a Teacher's Discovery Traveling Exhibit through July 17 featuring the paintings of Wyland, the renowned marine life artist. "Dive into Art and Conservation" features four of Wyland's paintings and reinforces the importance of water conservation. This exhibit is free to the public.

Patriotic art at museum

Patriotic Impressions, a new exhibit by the Local Color Artists Group, will be on view at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida through Aug. 28.

This patriotic salute features original works of art in a variety of media created by ten local artists including collage, porcelain, acrylic, watercolor, oils and wood.

Info: 678-2615 or heritagemuseum.org.

Church offers child care

First Baptist Church of Niceville Child Development Center is accepting applications for the 2010-2011 school year. It offers two, three- or four-day classes from infancy-K4 and is a VPK provider. Info: fbniceville.org or 729-6915.

Head start seeks signups

The Okaloosa County Comprehensive Head Start/Early Head Start Program is accepting applications for the 2010-2011 school year. Head Start centers, serving children ages 3 to 5, are located in Crestview, Laurel Hill,

Niceville and Fort Walton Beach. It also serves children ages 6 weeks through 3 years in Crestview and Fort Walton Beach. Info: 678-6893. All services are free to families that meet the federal guidelines or special need criteria.

Dinner, silent auction

Boy Scout Troop 52 is sponsoring a \$5 spaghetti dinner, complete with drink and dessert, 5-7 p.m. Friday, July 16, at the AMVETS Post 78, Valparaiso, with a silent auction from 5-7:30 p.m. Auction items are listed online for bidding at troop52.valp.net/auction.htm.

Pirates at Temple Mound

Fort Walton Beach's Heritage Park and Cultural Center, along with the Friends of the Museums, Inc., present "Pirates: The Last Scourge of the Gulf." The exhibit is scheduled to be on display all summer inside the Indian Temple Mound Museum Lazarus Education Center.

Heritage Park, 139 Miracle Strip Parkway SE, is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The exhibit is included in regular admission to Heritage Park: \$5 plus tax for adults, \$4.50 plus tax for seniors 55-plus and active military, and \$3 plus tax for children 4 to 17. Info: 833-9595.

Local artists display work

Members of the Local Color Artists Club will display their artwork at the Heritage Museum, Valparaiso, through Aug. 28. They have a patriotic theme to follow and there will be 10 or more artists in the club showing several of their paintings.

Art shows at NWFSC

The culminating shows of the 2009-2010 season will be Flight Path in the McLroy Gallery and the works of Owen Mundy in the Holzauer Gallery through July 25. Flight Path is a themed invitational exhibition in which artists will present interpretations, literal and abstract, of flight. Mundy will exhibit several installations including his Military Family Tree, an



Flights of fancy

See "Flight Path," the latest exhibit in the McLroy Gallery, through July 25. Among the displays is this life-size model of a WACO biplane from the 1920s. It can't actually fly.

expanding, interactive project that memorializes family members who have served in the armed forces and queries relationships between military service and class, between peace and violence and between art and community.

Fencing, anyone?

Ever felt like dueling? Or perhaps you are just looking for an athletic hobby with a friendly atmosphere? Maybe you just like doing new things and making new friends? Then you should join the North Bay Society of the Sword Fencing Club. It accepts newcomers of all ages for its beginners' classes and both casual and competitive fencers. All three styles—foil, saber, and epee—are taught as well. It meets in the First Methodist Church Community Life Center, Niceville, at 6 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays. Club equipment is provided for those who do not own fencing gear. Info: Robert Drake, 678-9190, rohio48th@cox.net, or at northbayfencing.weebly.com.

'Grease' coming to town

"Grease" will be performed July 14-17 as the summer production of

the Fine and Performing Arts Division at Northwest Florida State College in the mainstage theater at the college's Mattie Kelly Arts Center in Niceville at 7:30 p.m. each night. Tickets: \$20, adults; \$15, youth age 18 and younger.

Call 729-6000 or go online at mattiekellyartscenter.org.

Alzheimer's nutrition talk

Friday, July 16, 11:30 a.m., learn how to make dining more pleasurable for you and your loved ones from a registered dietitian and share stories with others. Presented by Teri Hefner, MBA, RD, LD, Of Peoples Home Health. Light lunch will be provided. RSVP by July 14: Sterling House Bluewater Bay, 1551 Merchants Way, Niceville, 729-3323.

Aero Club fundraiser

The Eglin Aero Modellers will host their second fundraiser July 17 for the Wounded Warrior Project based in Jacksonville.

The location will be the Mullet Festival site in Niceville. The 9 a.m.-3 p.m. fundraiser will feature RC flight airplane, sailplane, helicopter and turbine jet demonstrations throughout the day and a flight simulator to test your RC piloting skills. Also featured will be a flyover show by the full size T-6 Texan aircraft team. There will be plenty of food, cold drinks and a huge raffle with thousands of dollars in prizes. Admission is free.

Emotional pain seminar

Niceville church of Christ will hold the "Removing Emotional Pain" seminar July 16, 7-9 p.m., and July 17, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The National Director of SFT Awareness, Gary Washer, will present the material and answer questions. Participants will receive the book "Removing Emotional Pain," by Ron Wilkins, a seminar workbook, and lunch will be provided Saturday, noon-1 p.m. At the door or late registration is \$25 for singles and \$35 per couple. Call 678-2911. Tickets can be picked up at Niceville church of Christ, 801 E John Sims Pkwy, Niceville.

Nail trim clinic fundraiser

Take your dog to Parkway Veterinary Hospital, 1101 E. John Sims Pkwy., for a nail trim on Saturday, July 17, 9 a.m.-noon. Proceeds benefit American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. Dogs should be on a non-retractable leash; cats in a carrier. Rabies Certificate or invoice required; "tags" will not suffice. \$8 per pet; \$6 per additional pet. Located at 1101 E. John Sims Pkwy., 678-9733.

Free entry to state parks

In recognition of its 75th anniversary, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Florida Park Service announced the month of July as National Recreation and Parks Month and will offer free park admission to all Florida state parks (except Skyway Fishing Pier) Saturday, July 17. Created in 1935 by the Florida Legislature, Florida's state parks have grown from eight to 160 parks over the last 75 years, and are overseen by the DEP Florida Park Service.

Qigong for health

Are you interested in finding out what Qigong is all about? Do you have some experience but want to learn more? Either way, you should check out this free program being held at the Niceville Community Center on Saturday, July 17, 10 a.m.

Christine Campbell MQP, LMT from the Healing Center in Shalimar will teach this program, sponsored by the Friends of the Niceville Library. To reserve a spot, call the library at 729-4090.

Inventing for kids

As part of the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida's new History Rocks! spring/summer program series for kids, "So You Want to Be An Inventor?" will be offered Wednesday, July 21, 9 a.m.-noon. Cost: \$15 members, \$20 non-members.

Wildlife presentation

Henderson Beach State Park, Destin, will have a wildlife presentation Thursday, July 22, 11-11:30 a.m. as the Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge presents its rehabilitated wildlife. Free with paid park entrance fee.

Architectural history

As part of the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida's new History Rocks! spring/summer program series for kids, youngsters can learn about log cabins, cracker shacks and shotgun houses, which early Florida settlers built, then build their own pioneer house the way Florida settlers did in the 1800s Thursday, July 22, 1-3 p.m. Cost: \$15 members, \$20 non-members.

Travel through time

As part of the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida's new History Rocks! spring/summer program series for kids, youngsters can travel through time. Decide what year and what place you would love to visit as a time traveler. Who would you like to see? If you could ask them one question, what would it be? Friday, July 23, 9 a.m.-noon. Cost: \$15 members, \$20 non-members.

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| <p>PAINT / WALLPAPER</p> <p>Devine Installation, LLC professional wallcovering installation commercial / residential / repair / removal / texture / painting</p> <p>John Devine 850-428-9210 28 yrs. local experience licensed / insured</p> | <p>ADVERTISE HERE!</p> <p>Advertise your business in this size space for only \$18.50 per week. (Minimum 8 weeks.)</p> <p>CALL US at 678-1080 Ad design & layout no extra charge.</p> | <p>PAINTING</p> <p>A+ Professional Painting Where quality makes the grade!</p> <p>Interior/Exterior New Construction Remodels Drywall Repair Popcorn Removal Textured Ceilings Pressure Washing</p> <p>Large & Small Jobs Welcome Free Estimates Call Jim (850) 225-0981 Lic./Ins.</p> | <p>PAINTING & PRESSURE CLEANING</p> <p>Russell's Painting & Pressure Cleaning</p> <p>FREE ESTIMATES Residential Interior & Exterior Painting</p> <p>SPECIALIZING IN PRESSURE WASHING</p> <p>25 Years Experience Senior & Military Discounts References Available</p> <p>897-5632 Licensed & Insured</p> | <p>PAINTING</p> <p>Kenny Wilson Painting</p> <p>30 Yrs. Experience Quality Work & Clean Up A Standard Licensed & Insured</p> <p>368-2710 897-6423</p> | <p>ADVERTISE HERE!</p> <p>Advertise your business in this size space for only \$18.50 per week. (Minimum 8 weeks.)</p> <p>CALL US at 678-1080 Ad design & layout no extra charge.</p> | |
| <p>ADVERTISE HERE!</p> <p>AT YOUR SERVICE advertising makes sense!</p> <p>With prices starting at only \$18.50 per week, advertising in At Your Service is easy AND affordable! Call us at 678-1080 or stop by the office at 1181 E. John Sims Pkwy., Niceville, FL 32578 to take advantage of this incredible bargain!</p> | <p>PRESSURE WASHING</p> <p>E&D Pressure Washing</p> <p>"No Job Too Small!"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Houses Driveways Fencing Docks RVs Decks <p>Licensed & Insured (850) 699-7866</p> | <p>PRESSURE WASHING</p> <p>RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES CONCRETE WALKWAYS • DRIVE THROUGHS • RELIABLE SERVICE</p> <p>All Pro Powerwashing Amazing Results, Every Time (850) 897-5883</p> <p>FREE ESTIMATES Window/Solar Panel Cleaning Roof/Gutter (Soft Washing) Driveways & House Cleaning Gas Station/Under Canopy</p> <p>app1@gmail.com • www.allpropowerwashing.com</p> | <p>SALON</p> <p>Poly Nails Celebrating 10 yrs. in the Niceville Area Gift Certificates Available</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Massage Facials Specialty Nail Arts Waxing (Eyebrows, Legs) Pedicures/Manicures Full Body Detox <p>850-897-1606</p> | <p>SALON</p> <p>TN Nails & Skin Care 17 Years/Niceville Area GIFT CERTIFICATES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specialty Gel Nails Specialty Nail Art Special Spa Pedicure with Manicure \$40 Facials • Eyebrow/Body Wax <p>(850) 678-9493 Palm Plaza Shopping Center M-F 9-6 • SAT 9-4</p> | <p>TREE SERVICE</p> <p>Bayou! The Saw Shoppe Tree Service</p> <p>Don't be fooled by False Ads... Demand Proof of Comp & Liability!</p> <p>Actually Licensed & Insured 678-9339</p> | |

Bear visits Niceville

A black bear was in the oak tree on Bayshore Drive in Niceville last week, according to resident Bonnie Parish. The Parish family first noticed the bear about 2:30 p.m., Monday, July 5, she said, when it was chased up a tree by her two Pomeranians. Florida Wildlife Commission officials advised the family to stay inside and allow the bear to stay or leave at its own discretion.



Key Club tops video competition

The Niceville High School Key Club recently attended the Florida District Key Club Convention in Orlando and won first place in the video competition. From left: Jerral Horton, NHS Key Adviser, Casey DeCarlis, Kenny Nguyen, Lauren Huenergardt, Chloe Schweitzer, Daniel Santasier, Rachel O'Hair, Kayla Jacobson, Jeff Adams and Tim Parsons, Kiwanis Key Club Adviser.



The Beacon's

Real Estate Marketplace

"Where Buyers and Sellers Meet!"



MAGNOLIA PLANTATION Gated Community offers this Executive Custom Built Home with all the detailed upgrades anyone could imagine. 14' Ceilings, Crown Molding Designer Kitchen, Granite, Bull-Nose Corners, Keyless Front Door Entry, Wi-Fi throughout, 40 yr Dimensional Shingles, Circular Drive, Gas Lanterns. The List goes On and On. 4676 Sq. Ft. 5 Bedrooms 4 Bathrooms Built 2007 \$669,000.

SWEET AND LOW - Sweet house, low price! 1435 square feet. 3 Bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Updated Kitchen, Stainless appliances. NEW CARPET installed 7/6/10. Roof replaced 8/2004. HVAC replaced 2010. New sewer line from the house to city sewer. 2007. Covered screen porch-13x34-Could easily be modified to heated and cooled space. MOVE IN READY. Home has 1 1/3 acre. Within walking distance to shops, schools, and eating establishments. MUST SEE!

EXQUISITE CUSTOM BUILT HOME in Magnolia Plantation Mediterranean Village with Crown Molding, Central Vacuum, Can Lighting, Cherry Cabinets, Solid Wood Floors, Family and Dining Room, Green Porch with Wooded windows, Patio area and Fenced Back Yard. Beautifully landscaped. 3/2, Asking \$279,900.

ALL BRICK AND CEDAR (recently painted) 4 Bedroom, 2.5 Baths located Edge Water Village North. Home has numerous upgrades including Roof, Hurricane Impact Windows and So Much More. Inground Pool and play area along with a lovely picnic spot. Call now to see this immaculate home at a very affordable price. 2048 Sq. Ft. \$229,000.

SIMPLE - HOMEY - Fisherman's Delight Choctaw Beach - 100 feet on the Bay and No Flood Insurance required. Home has two separate living areas. First consist of Family Room, Kitchen, Dining, Master bedroom and 2 additional bedrooms, 2 full baths 2nd separate on bottom floor is Family, Kitchen, Dining, 1 Bedroom and Bathroom Handyman special, Roof 5 years old on Workshop and 2 years old on House. Sold AS IS - 1850 sq.ft. \$245,000.

WATERVIEW COVE - Freeport - All Brick, 3 Bed, 2 Bath Located on a Beautiful Landscaped Yard. A Must See! Granite, Cultured Marble, Neutral Colors. Looks and Shows Like New. 1,851 Sq. Ft. \$189,000.

GRAND OAKS, NICEVILLE - Large rectangular lot to build your home with a 25' waterfront lot with dock for your sailboat or boat. Deep water. This community consists of 27 home sites and this lot is the largest one left for sale. \$235,000.

WATERVIEW COVE - All Brick, 4 Bedroom, 2 Bath, Ceramic Tile Floors, Wood Foyer and Carpet. 3 years old. **SHORT SALE \$215,000**

KING'S LAKE Waterfront with Dock, Mobile Home, 3/2, Owner Financing. \$130,000.

PROFESSIONAL OFFICE SPACE for lease - Courtyard Plaza located in BWB next to CVS has Office space available. 1,500 Square feet, 2,300 Square feet, 1,875 Square Feet or 6,000 Square feet. \$13.00 per square plus Cam & Sales Tax.

NEED SOMEONE TO WORK THROUGH YOUR SHORT SALES WITH YOU? CALL JANE

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Beautiful Waterfront Home with Resort Setting 4/4 - 3,600SF - \$698,000 - Web#935

Handsome Rocky Bayou Golf Course Home 3/2.5 - 2,965SF - \$449,900 - Web#955

BLUEWATER BAY AREA

Elegant Home in Desirable Southwind 4/3.5 - 3,207SF - \$489,000 - Web#954

Charming Reflections Unit with Great Amenities 3/2 - 1,562SF - \$149,900 - Web#076

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Marina:
1/1: \$1,400/mo. Available Aug. 1st
1/1: \$1,000/mo. Available Aug. 1st
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| 305 Washington Avenue MLS#532672 \$115,000 1265 square feet | 116 Friar Tuck Drive MLS#532198 \$139,990 1433 square feet | 1609 18th Street MLS#538936 \$194,500 2615 square feet |
| 1812 Huntington Road MLS#539083 \$349,000 2430 square feet | 162 Black Bear Circle MLS#540054 \$377,500 2420 square feet | 1102 Pin Oak Circle MLS#511684 \$399,000 2358 square feet |
| 620 Carr Drive MLS#527491 \$459,000 4135 square feet | 212 Galway Drive MLS#540690 \$499,000 2723 square feet | 170 Lanman Road MLS#536950 \$668,000 3533 square feet |

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Carrie Leugers (974-5436) Mindy Barrett (687-3377) Liz Newberry (687-0776)

SALES PROPERTIES

- Blue Pine Village, Updated, 3/2\$167,900
- Lakeside Condo, 2/2, Ground Floor\$159,000
- End Unit, Marina Cove Townhome, 3/2.5\$199,500
- Newly Remodeled Family Home, Bluewater, 3/2, REDUCED\$210,000
- Marina Cove Townhome, 3/2.5, Views of the Bay\$210,000
- Waterfront, Marina Cove Townhome, 3/2.5\$249,900
- Lido Village, 3/2.5, PENDING\$279,000
- Raintree Estate, Waterfront Home, 3/2\$599,000
- Beautiful Building Lot, Southwind Golf Course\$165,000

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- Furn., Studio, Waterfront, Util Incl\$850
- Furn., Waterfront Condo, 2/1, W/D, Util. Incl\$1,350
- Unfurn., Condo, 2/2, FL Club, Pool\$950
- Unfurn., Condo, 2/2, Lakeside, renovated\$1,100
- Unfurn., 3/2.5, MC Townhouse\$1,600
- Waterfront Townhome, 3/2.5, Garage\$1,700

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DROP IN The Bay Beacon, 1181 E. John Sims Pkwy., Parkway East Shopping Center.
Office hours: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. M-F. After hours, use mail slot in our door.
E-MAIL classified@baybeacon.com Type "Classified" in subject field. (Do not include credit card information. We will call you for credit card info. \$5 processing fee.) **price includes \$5 weekly discount for walk-in or mail-in prepaid ads. Please make checks payable to the Beacon Newspapers.**

Please write ad on form. Include phone number as part of ad. Minimum charge per paper is \$11.00* for up to 10 words. Each additional word 20c. Attach more paper if needed.

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| First Word | | |
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| \$11.00 | \$11.20 | \$11.40 |
| \$11.60 | \$11.80 | \$12.00 |

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Address _____

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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)

Help Wanted

Hiring guest service agents (multi-shift), relief breakfast hostess, relief laundry attendant, house-person, room attendants. Apply in person, Holiday Inn Express, 106 Bayshore Drive, Niceville.

Homes for Rent

3 BR, 2 BA house. 250' from beach. Pool/ hot tub. \$2100/ wk or \$1900/ mo w/ yr lease. gnewman5@charter.net

APARTMENTS, all sizes, Niceville/FWB, starting \$395 to \$750 Military Discount, 699-4011.

Items for Sale

Medical Bed, \$150. China Cabinet, \$80. Both excellent condition. 897-3115

Items for Sale

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Antique oriental teak wood dinner table, 2 captain & 4 reg chairs, 2 leafs \$900 obo. 376-4330

L-shaped sectional sofa- w/ 2 recliners & sofa bed, tweed colored cloth/ \$750; 27" RCA console TV \$125; 376-4330

Townhomes

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Every morning, over 50 spotter planes and helicopters search for oil off the coast, heading to areas previously mapped with satellite imagery and infrared photography. Once oil is found, they radio down to the 6,000 ships and boats of all sizes that are supporting the cleanup effort and working to collect the oil. These are thousands of local shrimping and fishing boats organized into task forces and strike teams, plus specialized skimmers mobilized from as far as the Netherlands.

We have recovered more than 27 million gallons of oil-water mixture from the Gulf. Other methods have also helped remove millions of additional gallons of oil from the water. We've deployed more than 8 million feet of boom to protect beaches and sensitive wildlife areas.

Hurricane Preparedness

In the event of a hurricane, our first priority is keeping people safe. In coordination with the Coast Guard and local officials, we may suspend operations temporarily but have organized to resume them as soon as possible.

Our Responsibility

We have already spent more than \$3.2 billion responding to the spill and on the cleanup, and none of this will be paid by taxpayers. We will work in the Gulf as long as it takes to get this done. We may not always be perfect but we will do everything we can to make this right.

For information visit: bp.com
restorethegulf.gov
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youtube.com/bp

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To report impacted wildlife: (866) 557-1401
To make spill-related claims: (800) 440-0858
www.floridagulfresponse.com

